



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2017 Meeting Convened Under the Auspices of ECOSOC
New York, 10 - 19 July 2017

Side event concept note:

The Global Climate Action Agenda, a solution provider to implement the SDGs

Co-Organizers: France and Italy, and Luxembourg

Context

The **implementation of the Paris Agreement** and the **adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** were two main diplomatic achievements for the United Nations and made 2015 an historic year for the shaping of international policies and responsibilities regarding development, climate, environment and solidarity. These two **Agendas are the foundations of our common roadmap to build a sustainable and peaceful world** for us and the generations to come.

Both the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement set an international frame aiming at increasing our global commitments and actions to ensure the future of our planet. On March, 23rd 2017 the **President of the General Assembly** held a High Level Event on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Agenda to **emphasize the intertwining of Climate Action and Agenda 2030**. On this occasion, the UN Secretary General and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) restated the **importance of the mobilization for Climate action and the SDGs**. They also reaffirmed the **clear symbiosis of these two Agendas** and they stressed the need to link their implementations.

Governments have to take strong actions to honor their commitments regarding the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. They will be fully able to do so only with the **commitment of non-state actors (NSAs)** along their side. Article 6 of the UNFCCC acknowledges the roles of NSAs and the implication of all stakeholders, including civil society's actors: **key to the full implementation of the Parties' decision in the Paris Agreement**. To that end, the **Global Climate Action Agenda (GCCA)** is clearly presented as an efficient tool to be strengthened and reinforced **to lead the climate action** in the framework in the Paris Agreement. Indeed, the **GCAA conveys concrete, reproducible and efficient solutions to fight climate change and help mitigate its effects and promote adaptation solutions to build resilient and sustainable societies on different scales** (local, regional and global). With initiatives dedicated, among other topics, to energy, transport, water, oceans, forests or soils, the GCAA also contributes to SDGs well beyond the sole SDG 13 dedicated to climate. In addition, the majority of the stakeholders committed in the GCAA are also **solution providers and actors of the implementation of the SDGs, in particular local governments, firms and NGOs**. Therefore, the GCAA is a lever to reach the SDGs.

Background

Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in New York in September 2015 is the **shared vision that will guide international efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development** over the next 15 years, supported by the Financing for (Sustainable) Development Process (FfD). **Seventeen SDGs and 169 accompanying targets** are at its core.

France, supported by Italy, has taken the initiative to develop an equivalence table between SDGs and GCAA coalitions showing that both are intertwined and highlighting strong potential synergies. Other governments support this idea like Sweden for example. The CGAA already connects multiple levels of governance and can serve the SDG implementation at the national, regional and international levels.

Since COP21, the importance of NSAs to propose concrete and efficient solutions in addition to the Parties' commitments has been constantly reaffirmed specifically the private sector and local communities. Today, the GCAA, is composed of **77 cross-disciplinary coalitions that help implementing innovative and sustainable actions worldwide.** As a matter of **direct consequence**, the GCAA coalitions are already **helping reaching the SDGs.** They are, furthermore, part of a larger frame which is to **continue increasing the ambition of the Nationally Decided Contributions (NDCs).** The efficient **cooperation between state and non-state actors is critical** to keep NDCs ambition on step ahead. In this context, the GCAA is a genuine solution reservoir for national SDG implementation plans.

Objectives

- Seal the intertwining and mutual strengthening between the GCAA and the SDGs
- Create a solution-oriented dialogue between representatives of GCAA coalitions and stakeholders involved in SDG implementation
- Highlight successful models of GCAA coalitions that can inspire or be directly used for SDG implementation
- Draw recommendations to answer the need to increase the NDCs and to implement the SDGs at the same time

Intended audience

UN Member States committed to the Agenda 2030 implementations and looking for concrete tools and solutions, NSAs specifically from the private sector and local communities and Civil society actors. This side event will also be interesting for UNFCCC and UNDP and other UN agencies policy makers and advisors.

Format 1 hour and 15 minutes discussions.

Potential speakers

This side-event aims at presenting the GCAA initiative leaders that are also helping the implementation of the SDGs. There will be presentations of relevant coalitions and SDG experts and eventually a short Q&A sessions to present best practices, share ideas and lessons learned. Furthermore they will develop a better integration of the climate and sustainable development agendas at the domestic and international level.

Draft Agenda of the Round Table (First Panel Discussion + General Discussion + Q&A)

Moderation: representative of the UN Foundation or a representative of Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions

Introduction : French Minister in charge of sustainable development, Italian Minister (Ministry to be confirmed) and Minister for sustainable development and infrastructure of Luxembourg

Presentations:

- **“PPMC” Transport coalition** (SDG9 reviewed in 2017 and SDG11 on cities) - Patrick Oliva (tbc) co-chair of PPMC
- Rachel Kyte, Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll) – SDG 11
- Peter Thompson, Fidji - TBC
- Gender/risks /vulnerable countries representative –TBC
- Major City representative - TBC

General Discussion on best practices and solutions (30- 40 minutes)