



# ACTION FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

United Nations High-level Week, 21–27 September, 2019



## CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2019



### Climate Action Summit

23 September • UN General Assembly Hall

#### WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- The world is facing a grave climate emergency. Climate change is progressing even faster than the world's top scientists have predicted and is outpacing our efforts to address it. Bold action and far greater ambition are needed to address climate change and meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. With global temperatures rising and emissions increasing, all countries need to scale up their nationally determined contributions and put us on the pathway to achieve zero-net emissions by 2050.
- It is still possible to limit global warming to 1.5°C, but according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), this would require urgent and far more ambitious action to cut emissions. Reaching the goal of 1.5°C would involve cutting greenhouse emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 and get to carbon neutrality by 2050.
- The Sustainable Development Goals provide a blueprint for the transition needed to a healthier planet and a more just world — for present and future generations. And an ambitious response to climate change is central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Action on climate change must protect the health and well-being of the world's most vulnerable, making sure no one is left behind.
- Given the escalating climate crisis, the UN Secretary-General is convening the Climate Action Summit to increase ambition and accelerate action by countries and other stakeholders, including the private sector. The Summit will demonstrate that we have the knowledge and tools to address climate change and provide the impetus for stronger national climate plans.
- We need bold leadership. We need leadership that taxes pollution not people and ensures that taxpayers are not subsidizing climate change-causing fossil fuels. Taxpayer money should be put to better use, to help people and build a sustainable world. We need leaders to put an end to building new coal plants by 2020. 186 parties have ratified the Paris agreement, the landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future.

#### WHAT IS THE FORMAT AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES?

The Climate Action Summit on 23 September will feature an opening segment, followed by two general sessions in which announcements will be made by both individual governments and by coalitions which could include government leaders alongside leaders from the private sector and civil society.



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The Secretary-General is also hosting the Youth Climate Summit on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September. He has invited young climate champions from around the world to participate, bringing their climate solutions and joining discussions with leaders attending the Climate Action Summit.

## WHAT ARE THE LATEST FACTS AND FIGURES?

- Due to climate change, the world's oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, and sea level has risen. From 1901 to 2010, the global average sea level rose by 19 cm as oceans expanded due to warming and ice melted. The Arctic's sea ice extent has shrunk in every successive decade since 1979, with 1.07 million km<sup>2</sup> of ice loss every decade.
- The World Meteorological Organization expects that 2019 will be in the five top warmest years on record, and that 2015-2019 will be the warmest of any equivalent five-year period on record.
- Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with increased global warming.
- Direct economic losses from disasters were estimated at almost \$3 trillion. Climate related and geophysical disasters claimed an estimated 1.3 million lives between 1998 and 2017. An increase in heat stress could lead to global productivity losses equivalent to 80 million full-time jobs in the year 2030, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- Global climate finance flows increased by 17% in the period 2015–2016 compared with the period 2013–2014. Climate-related financing for developing countries increased by 24% in 2015 to \$33 billion, and by 14% in 2016 to 38 billion.
- Investment in fossil fuels continues to be higher than investment in climate activities. In total, public and private sector investment in clean energy needs to reach at least US\$1 trillion per year by 2030, and more to build climate resilience.
- Investments of only \$6 billion for disaster risk reduction over the next 15 years would result in total benefits of \$360 billion in terms of avoided losses over the lifetime of the investment.
- Globally estimated economic stresses due to climate change project losses of US \$63 billion per year starting in 2010. This impact will rise by more than 100 per cent to USD 157 billion each year by 2030.

**For more information:**

[www.un.org/climatechange](http://www.un.org/climatechange)