



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5 December 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to invite you to participate in the High-level Meeting on the theme “Climate and Sustainable Development for All”, mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/219, which will focus on the protection of the global climate for present and future generations, in the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The meeting will take place on 28 March 2019 at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

2019 will be a definitive year for the international community, providing an opportunity to make concrete progress on both the Climate and Sustainable Development agendas, while the window to preserve opportunities for future generations remains open. As indicated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C*, we are at a pivotal moment in relation to the health and survival of our planet and its environmental systems.

The High-level Meeting will provide a bridge between the United Nations Climate Conference in Katowice, Poland this month; the review of Sustainable Development Goal 13 on Climate Action in the High-level Political Forum in July; and the United Nations Climate Action Summit and High-level Political Forum Summit to be convened during High-level Week in September 2019. The High-level meeting will focus on the following themes:

- Synergies between the Climate and Sustainable Development Agendas;
- Long-term planning and the consideration of future generations in implementation; and
- Means of Implementation — Financing, capacity building, low-carbon technologies.

Your Excellency’s participation in the High-level Meeting would add great value to this event and I look forward to your positive response.

A draft concept note may be found attached. For further information, your office may contact my Senior Adviser, Ms. Hana Alhashimi (hana.alhashimi@un.org; +1(646) 799-1332). I look forward to welcoming you to New York in March.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



4 December 2018

CLIMATE PROTECTION FOR ALL:

High Level Meeting on the Protection of the Global Climate for Present & Future Generations of Humankind in the Context of the Economic, Social and Environmental Dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

28 March 2019, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background and Context

Climate Change and Sustainable Development were the most commonly referenced topic during the general debate of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly in September 2018. Of the 146 Member States that raised both issues, many cited the global climate as the defining challenge of this era. This reflects the nature of climate change as a cross-cutting and immediate threat to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to the survival and wellbeing of island nations and coastal communities.

Climate Change is, moreover, increasingly a direct burden on Member States, with estimated annual adaptation costs of \$500 billion USD, including in the poorest countries. In 2017 alone, natural disasters cost the United States \$306 billion, and Dominica lost five years-worth of infrastructure investment in a matter of hours. The IPCC recently released figures estimate that we may hit the 1.5 degree threshold within the current generation, unless immediate action is taken, while the United Nations Environment Programme Emissions Gap Report estimates that five times the level of current commitments are needed to reach the 1.5 ambition.

Yet climate change can be an opportunity for systemic change to ensure resilient, productive, and healthy environment for present and future generations. Climate Action is inherently linked to the productivity of our economies, the health and wellbeing of our societies and all people, and the preservation of the environment both in the present and the future.

As per UNGA Resolution [A/RES/72/219](#), the President of the General Assembly will convene a High-Level Meeting on the issue of the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind in the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This High-Level Meeting will take an intergenerational approach in highlighting synergies between climate and broader sustainable development goals, both in terms of threats to current and future generations and opportunities arising from climate action. It will focus on means of implementation to build on the outcome of the United Nations Climate Conference in Katowice (COP24), and raise ambition in commitments in preparation for the review of SDG13: Climate Action at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2019, as well as the HLPF Summit and the United Nations Climate Summit in September 2019.



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Objectives

The objectives of the high-level meeting are as follows:

1. Highlight the **interlinkages between climate and economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development** for present and future generations including the synergies between the climate agenda, and Agenda 2030.
2. Promote the **adoption of an intergenerational approach** to climate action, taking into account recent report findings, and including mainstreaming tools, by providing an interface for dialogue and pledges between policymakers, leaders and representatives of present and future generations.
3. Highlight practical and gender/age responsive **means of implementation**, notably:
 - a. Climate Finance
 - b. Low-carbon energy and technologies
 - c. Capacity building
 - d. Adaptation solutions
4. **Build on COP24**, in anticipation of the review of SDG 13 on Climate Action in the High Level Political Forum in July 2019 and under the GA in September 2019, as well as the United Nations Climate Summit in September 2019

Format

The high-level meeting will consist of an opening plenary, high-level segment, two panel presentations, and a closing segment. The PGA will also host an informal working lunch. Participants will include High-Level Government representatives, youth and ageing representatives, private sector, civil society, academia and international organizations.

Draft Programme

10:00am-10:30am	Opening Plenary
10:30am-1:00pm	High-Level Segment
1:00pm-3:00pm	Leaders Roundtables – working lunch
3:00pm-4:15pm	Panel 1: Synergies between Climate and the SDGs
4:20pm-5:35pm	Panel 2: Means of Implementation
5:45pm – 6:00pm	Closing