

Delivering Climate Action – for People, Planet & Prosperity
A High-Level Meeting convened by the President of the seventy-sixth session of the UN General Assembly

Tuesday 26 October 2021, 10am-1pm, 3pm-6pm EDT

The COVID-19 pandemic has overwhelmed States' capacities, just when they were needed most to address our climate priorities. Without global solidarity and innovative solutions to tackle COVID-19's impacts, all countries risk losing hard-won development gains, as well as losing the chance to develop the capacities needed to urgently act for our planet's climate health. Moreover, a loss of hope in climate action is at an all-time high globally, especially among youth. A sustained sense of despair, leading to public apathy and inaction, would not augur well for humanity's future, especially at this turning point that will determine our future for the decades to come.

Given the urgency this moment requires, the President of the General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting on *Delivering Climate Action – for People, for Planet & for Prosperity*, focused on the gap between current and required technical, skilling and financial capacities to achieve the 1.5 degrees target and how that gap can be met, through showcasing best practices that simultaneously address climate action and the myriad structural challenges exacerbated by the pandemic. It will also take stock of the ambition-raising initiatives from Member States and stakeholders made along the path to COP26 and help identify areas and sectors where more can be done. Participants are invited to focus on encouraging State Parties and other key stakeholders, including industry and the private sector, to increase ambition across key areas, including:

1. Identify and present solutions towards meeting the technical, financial and skills gaps to achieve the 1.5 temperature goal.
2. Build momentum for partnerships on technical and resource support.
3. Increasing political support for climate finance, especially on adaptation, on the scale and at the pace that is needed for sustainable recovery.

Climate change is the greatest challenge of our time: a crosscutting, multidimensional threat multiplier. The most recent IPCC report confirms that climate change is now rapid, intensifying, and widespread. UNICEF's first children's climate risk index estimates that roughly 1 billion children – nearly half the world's 2.2 billion children – live in countries extremely vulnerable to climate change's impacts. Cumulatively, this signals a moment of reckoning for humanity.

With only a few weeks remaining until COP26, we are in a race to secure consensus to keep the 1.5-degree goal within reach. We must also ensure adequate support is in place for all countries to respond to growing climate impacts, ultimately to maintain hope in our shared future on our blue planet.

While the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change, the UN General Assembly has a critical role in creating a space to foster political consensus, raise awareness, give strategic direction to the UN system and forge multi-sectoral partnerships among the broader global community for the scale and breadth of ambition needed to secure humanity's future.

Provisional Programme

10:00 am – 10:35 am	Opening Segment Presentation of the state of the climate and stage setting remarks.
10:35 am – 10:40 am	Musical Performance
10:40 am – 11.10 am	Fireside Chat: Taking Stock of the Road to COP26 COP26 has been preceded by numerous commitments and ambition-raising initiatives from Member States and stakeholders. This Fireside Chat will offer an opportunity to reflect upon the broad coalitions engaged in this lead up, in order to take their outcomes forward and enhance synergies across efforts. It will also highlight areas where more action can be taken.
11.10 am – 11.25 am	Multi-stakeholder Spotlight Pre-recorded messages from impactful multi-sectoral partnerships.
11.25 am – 12.45 pm	Multi-Stakeholder Panel: Bridging the Gap to the 1.5 Degrees Target Preliminary Guiding questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is needed to exponentially upscale the creation of investable, bankable projects to reach the financing, skilling and technical capacities needed for the 1.5 target and a just transition? - How can we identify and upscale the most effective and innovative green financing instruments? - How can existing technologies for mitigation and adaptation be applied more innovatively to manage trade-offs?
12:45 pm – 1:00 pm	Multi-stakeholder Spotlight
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Break
3.00 pm – 3.15 pm	Multistakeholder Spotlight
3:15 pm – 5:55 pm	Plenary Segment Speakers are invited to focus their statements on contributions to the overall vision, goals and targets of achieving the 1.5 degrees target, including through local, regional and global multi-stakeholder cooperation. Member States are encouraged to describe national and regional challenges, policy responses and commitments, and what more can be done to achieve a transformative outcome at COP26 and beyond.
5:55 pm – 6:00 pm	Closing Segment