



Official COP25 Event
Enhancing NDCs and Raising Ambition:
Partnerships for Delivering UNDP's Climate Promise
11 December 2019, 11:45 – 13:00; Conference Room 5

Background

Climate change presents the single biggest threat to sustainable development and is already causing unprecedented impacts that disproportionately burden the most vulnerable. Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, countries unanimously agreed to work toward global temperature goals that would limit rise to “well below” 2°C, while “pursuing efforts” for 1.5°C. A key principle in the Paris Agreement is that no country should backslide on its intentions, which were put forward in climate action plans known as “Nationally Determined Contributions”, or NDCs. However, the assessment of current NDCs show that the collective level of pledges is not sufficient to put the world on track to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. The transformative climate action required needs a global commitment to raising ambition, articulated in the next generation of NDCs, to create economic drivers that shift investments away from fossil fuel use and carbon-intensive practices.

Specifically, achieving the Paris goals will require an emissions peak as soon as possible, followed by sharp reductions in GHG emissions. To do this, raising ambition on energy is paramount, given that the sector is a major underpinning of the development agenda. Today energy accounts for 60% of GHG emissions, and 80% of CO₂ emissions. According to the IPCC, the energy sector must be decarbonised by 2050, and renewable energy deployment and ramped-up energy efficiency are key avenues to reach this goal.

High ambition in 2020 is fundamental to get on track to 1.5°C and counter a trend of rising emissions.¹ As its contribution to this effort, UNDP launched its Climate Promise in September 2019 during the UN Climate Action Summit. The Climate Promise aims to support 100 countries in enhancing their national climate pledges by 2020, with demonstrated increase in ambition. Working closely with partners, UNDP's goal is to support these countries to access the necessary support for inclusive and transparent NDC enhancement processes, prioritizing countries with high ambition, SIDS and high emitters. It is a direct contribution to the NDC Partnership and Climate Action Enhancement Package.

Among immediately available solutions to tackle both mitigation and adaptation strategies are renewables, and countries are reflecting this in their NDCs. IRENA's analysis shows that out of the 156 NDCs submitted, 135 countries mention renewables. But there is significant untapped renewable potential in current NDCs to raise climate pledges. IRENA and UNDP are therefore joining forces under the Climate Promise to help realise this potential.

¹ After being static from 2014 to 2016, global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions rose to historic highs in 2018 according to the IEA 2019 [Global Energy and CO₂ Status Report](#), driven by higher energy consumption.



About the event

The objective of the event is to dive a bit deeper into the details of what will be delivered under UNDP's Climate Promise, with a focused discussion on the future of NDC implementation and the role of renewables and energy transitions. The event targets Government representatives and other partners working on enhancing their NDCs, to provide information and demonstrate what is already being done, what is planned, and identify what is needed to raise ambition and strengthen partnerships for successful delivery of the Climate Promise.

Draft Agenda

Subject to change

Moderator – UNDP Administrator

11:45 – 11:52 **Welcome and introduction to the Event: Mr. Achim Steiner**, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme

11:53 – 12:00 **Keynote: Mr. Francesco La Camera**, Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency

12:00 – 12:50 **Interactive Discussion: What do countries need to increase ambition? How can we leverage available solutions, such as in the energy sector, to deliver the necessary ambitious climate action?**

Interactive discussion with Countries and partners, moderated by UNDP Administrator

- H.E. Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Environment, Rwanda
- H.E. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica
- H.E. Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
- H.E. Jens Frølich Holte, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Ms. Esline Garaebiti, Acting Director General of Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology & Geo-hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management, Vanuatu
- Mr. Chiagozie Udeh, Chairperson, Plant-for-the-Planet Global Board

12:50 – 13:00 **Wrap up on looking ahead and Q&A**

Practical information for speakers (to be adjusted once we agree on details)

With the roll out of the Climate Promise, the event will set the stage for Partners and Governments to discuss what is being done in Countries to accelerate ambition on NDCs and how partners can play a key role in delivering tailored support to countries to deliver new NDCs by 2020. It will combine high-level interventions with interactive dialogue, with the objective to dive a bit deeper into the details of what will be delivered and how.

The session will be a discussion with panelists made of up Countries and key Partners (approximately 40-45 mins) and will focus on two key questions. First, ***“What do countries need to increase ambition?”*** this will discuss some of the concrete needs and specific services being delivered under the Climate Promise. It will then dive a bit deeper into the energy sector, exploring ***“How can we leverage available energy solutions to deliver the necessary ambitious climate action?”*** The format of the session is Davos-style, with partners seated in chairs on stage, using handheld microphones. The Administrator will begin by asking each panelist one specifically tailored questions, with the respondent having 3-5 minutes to answer. If time allows, the Administrator will ask a follow-up question, and/or also allow other panelists to respond.

Scenario (to be confirmed, depending on the venue)

- All speakers are seated in assigned seats in the front at the beginning of the event at 11,45am.
- Session to begin at 11,45 (exact time subject to change). It will begin with a welcome address by UNDP's Administrator, highlighting UNDP's Climate Promise, which sets the stage for the conversation with partners.
- This will be followed by a keynote speech from the IRENA DG to discuss the particular role of the energy sector in helping to deliver the Climate Promise.
- UNDP's Administrator will then introduce an interactive dialogue and invite panelist to join the Administrator on stage. He will engage in a conversation with panelist, inviting each to respond. The conversation will last approximately 40-45 minutes.
- The Moderator will thank panelists and introduce the Q&A segment (Panelist and Administrator will remain on stage). Q&A segment will last approx. 10-15 minutes
- The Moderator will close the session