

#Youth4Climate Live Series

Session Title: Driving Nature-based Solutions

Date: September 25, 2020

Time: 16:00-17:00 CEST (10:00-11:00 am EST)

Background

“Our solutions are in nature” was this year's motto of the **International Day for Biological Diversity** to emphasize hope, solidarity and the importance of working together at all levels to build a future of life in harmony with nature. Meaningful transformation is required to achieve such a goal, including the urgency of combating the loss of biodiversity as highlighted by the current pandemic.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) 2019 Global Assessment has informed us that nature, including biodiversity and its ecosystems, and its vital contributions to people are deteriorating worldwide. **The importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans and biodiversity protection, is also recognized by the Paris Agreement** that calls on all Parties to take action to conserve and enhance sinks and reservoirs of the greenhouse gases. Hence, adopting and enhancing measures to halt and revert such trend is crucial.

The evidence and recognition of the role of nature-based solutions for addressing climate change and biodiversity loss have gained significant attention in recent years and are increasingly being integrated into national plans and strategies. Nevertheless, a number of gaps and challenges still remain to be addressed and tackled. Whilst a common definition is yet to be defined and agreed upon at the international level, **nature-based solutions are generally referred to as actions which are inspired by, supported by or copied from nature**. They have tremendous potential to be energy and resource-efficient and resilient to change while providing a range of other benefits related to different policy targets, for instance, health and well-being, biodiversity, urban regeneration, water, storm water and/or wastewater management and climate adaptation and mitigation.

2020 has been defined the ‘Super Year for Nature’ as it was supposed to pave the way for further integration of climate and biodiversity policies and to embed them into long-term development strategies as Paris Agreement signatories are expected to revise their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and invited to present their long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategy by the end of this year. In addition, in preparation for COP15

#YOUTH 4CLIMATE LIVE SERIES

DRIVING MOMENTUM TOWARDS PRE-COP AND COP26



of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to take place from 17-30 May 2021 in China, world leaders will gather on September 30, 2020 in New York during the Summit on Biodiversity, providing a unique opportunity to demonstrate ambition to accelerate action on biodiversity for sustainable development, and thereby give momentum to the development and eventual adoption of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework at COP15.

Two more international events were supposed to be held this year and now postponed to 2021: a World Conservation Congress and a UN Ocean Conference, culminating in the official launch of the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, a key moment to set the world on track towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a renewed political impetus in combating biodiversity degradation and loss.

The Event

The session is part of the *Youth4Climate Virtual Event Series*, an exclusive programme of dynamic and inspiring webinars with empowering content, dedicated to young people and hosted by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, in collaboration with Connect4Climate - World Bank Group and the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, as part of the initiatives organized in the run-up to the 2021 pre-COP26 in Milan, Italy and COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

The scope of the webinar is to share experiences, collect innovative ideas, acknowledge concerns and aspirations of young people when it comes to conserve, restore and use nature in a sustainable manner while enhancing nature-based solutions implementation. It will be hosted on an interactive and accessible platform that will have the capability to provide live translations, screen video content, and incorporate audience-generated questions.

All the contributions from young people along all the Youth4Climate Live Series will be collected in a Summary that will be widely shared and promoted including during the pre-COP26. Youth contributions will be also part of other initiatives that will be presented in the course of the Youth4Climate Live Series.

Session Organization

The dialogue will be hosted and moderated by two champions of youth voices: celebrated poet and social entrepreneur, Ahmed Badr, and Former Youth Coordinator at Global Landscapes Forum, Salina Abraham. It will feature the participation of World Health Organization Special Envoy on COVID-19, **David Nabarro**, and **Christiana Figueres**, former UNFCCC Executive Secretary and currently Vice-Chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, ClimateWorks Board Member, World Bank Climate Leader and Mission2020 Convenor.





Dr. Nabarro will be invited to illustrate the links between destruction of biodiversity and COVID-19 outbreak, and their impacts on human health while sharing the lessons learned and how to build upon through green COVID rescue plans; Ms. Figueres will address how biodiversity and climate change policies and related strategies can be further integrated through nature-based solutions and how the youth community can help and support biodiversity priorities and ambitions reach a 'Paris Agreement moment', both locally and internationally.

Young people will be asked to address one or more of the following areas:

- exploring relations among climate change, nature and health;
- building back better through natural solutions that strengthen the resilience of our communities;
- protecting, conserving, and restoring nature and ensuring its sustainable use through youth-led local and global action.

By highlighting one or more of the following aspects:

1. Lesson learnt: building upon progress made during pre-COVID, what are the lessons learnt from COVID-19, also including the new methods of engagement it offers, in relation to:
 - One-Health – the interlinked nature of planetary and human health
 - Political agendas, priorities and social change at a national level
 - Global crises: Biodiversity loss and climate change
2. Proposal: how we can further mainstream biodiversity considerations into climate and development strategies; as well as COVID-19 recovery plans
 - Are there good examples of nature-based solutions in COVID-19 recovery plans? What are the factors of success? Which narrative, framing or method of advocacy has been most successful in showcasing their importance? Where does youth inclusion fit into these conversations?
3. Mobilization: how we can mobilize young people to protect, conserve, restore and sustainably use natural resources.
 - Is the current global pandemic influencing policy discussions? And how ?
 - Building upon examples of youth action and related successful stories before COVID-19 outbreak, what are the high priority areas where youth can mobilize for the greatest impact?
 - In which areas and fields, are youth already taking the lead with nature-based solutions?



#YOUTH 4CLIMATE LIVE SERIES

DRIVING MOMENTUM TOWARDS PRE-COP AND COP26



Speakers

Moderators

- Salina Abraham
- Ahmed Badr

High-Level Speakers

- **David Nabarro**, WHO Special Envoy on COVID-19
- **Christiana Figueres**, former UNFCCC Executive Secretary and currently Vice-Chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, ClimateWorks Board Member, World Bank Climate Leader and Mission2020 Convenor

Youth Speakers

- **Archana Soreng** (India), Environmental activist, former president of the TISS student union and member of the newly established of Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **Vanessa Nakate** (Uganda), Climate justice activist, Founder of the Youth for Future Africa and the likewise Africa-based Rise Up Movement
- **Claudél Pétrin-Desrosiers** (Canada), President of the Quebec Association of Physicians for the Environment (AQME) and board member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)

Video- messages

H.E. Lord Zac Goldsmith, Minister for Pacific and the Environment, United Kingdom

H.E. Mariangela Zappia, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in New York

Joint-message by **Yulin FU**, **Qianlu WANG** and **Lei WANG**, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China

Proposed Run of Show

Moderators Salina Abraham and Ahmed Badr will open the event and guide the conversation between the live guests while encouraging interaction with the young audience. Introductory remarks from high-level speakers will spark a dynamic discussion between three representatives of the global youth climate movement about their perspectives on how to foster youth action and engagement.

10:00 am Salina & Ahmed Welcome and introductions by the moderators

10:05 am HL Speakers Opening remarks by each of the HL Speakers



#YOUTH 4CLIMATE LIVE SERIES

DRIVING MOMENTUM TOWARDS PRE-COP AND COP26



10:20 am	Youth Speakers	Youth speakers each have a few minutes to introduce themselves and their work
10:40 am	All Speakers	Interactive Q&A, including dialogue between the speakers and questions from the audience, submitted via chat
10:50 am	Salina & Ahmed	Closing remarks, including interactive feature (i.e. poll, game, etc.), and announcement of next event



UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
PRE-CONFERENCE
ITALY 2021
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UK



Office of the
**Secretary-General's
Envoy on Youth**



CONNECT4CLIMATE



A PARTNERSHIP OF
WORLD BANK GROUP



**YOUTH4CLIMATE:
DRIVING AMBITION
ITALY 2021**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UK