



#Youth4Climate Live Series

Session Title: Driving Youth Action

Date: August 28, 2020

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

Background

The world has come to a turning point in the fight against climate change, which represents one of the greatest challenges the international community must address for the benefit of present and future generations. In the past few years, hundreds of thousands of young people around the world have mobilized to bring attention to the issue. They demand bolder action to tackle the climate crisis and the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, with a view of ensuring its long-term goals are met. And they seek to ensure the consideration of “intergenerational equity” in climate action. Italy strongly supported the inclusion of this principle in the preamble of the Paris Agreement, as well as the spread of climate change education, training and public awareness to enhance youth participation and skills.

COP26 and its preparatory meetings (including pre-COP and the UNFCCC meeting of subsidiary bodies) are key events to foster ambitious actions by all actors, both public and private, and to bridge the gap between current levels of ambition and what is needed to limit global temperature rise. In this context, several initiatives were recently launched to promote the role of youth in tackling the climate crisis, as main stakeholders and representatives of the interests of future generations. These included the 2019 UN Youth Climate Summit in New York and the “Kwon Gesh” declaration, signed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, which aims to expand the role of youth in the development of national climate policies with the aim to implement the Paris Agreement.

While COP26 and preparatory meetings were ultimately postponed until 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the United Nations and the entire international community have mobilized to maintain momentum towards negotiations. In this context, Italy has reaffirmed its commitment to host the “Youth4Climate” event, along with its Pre-COP26, bringing together nearly 400 young people from all around the globe; as well as to maintain a high level of attention around youth engagement in climate change decision-making in the lead-up to such meetings.





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 theme of the *webinar, Driving Youth Action*, is closely aligned with the theme of International Youth Day on August 12, [Youth Engagement for Global Action](#), and the 31 Days of Youth campaign organized by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. It will focus on *the role of young people and governments in fostering youth action and awareness on climate change*. The event will also address opportunities to further enhance youth participation in decision-making processes domestically and at the international level.

Session Organization

The webinar will be introduced by a video-message from the Italian Minister for the Environment, Land and Sea, H.E. Sergio Costa, outlining the activities and plans Italy is putting in place to foster youth engagement in climate and environmental policies, in the lead-up to Pre-COP26 and the Youth4Climate event to be hosted in Milan next year. The discussion will therefore be guided by the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, who will highlight her office's role in supporting youth action worldwide and promoting awareness and participation, with a special focus on climate change issues.

The session will specifically cover ways governments, the UN and the international community could:

- Enhance the inclusion of young people in policy and decision-making processes in their own countries
- Improve youth involvement and opportunities to advance concrete proposals in the climate negotiations and the international political agenda
- Foster climate change education, training and awareness to build a more sustainable society

Youth speakers will be asked to provide their inputs on the above topics, including by:



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- Sharing their own experience in driving youth action and awareness
- Providing their views on how youth should transform the momentum from last year's global climate mobilizations into concrete proposals

Speakers

Moderators

- Salina Abraham
- Ahmed Badr

High-Level Speakers

- Sergio Costa, Italian Minister for the Environment, Land and Sea (video-message)
- Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth

Youth Speakers

- Ms. Rachele Rizzo (Italy) - Italian Climate Network Youth Section coordinator and contact point to the UNFCCC
- Ms. Heeta Lakhani (India) - YOUNGO Global South Focal Point
- Mr. Ernest Gibson (Fiji) - Member of the UN Secretary General's Youth Advisory Council

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	Minister Costa	Introductory video message
10:10 am	Jayathma	Opening remarks
10:20 am	Youth Speakers	Youth speakers each have a few minutes to introduce themselves, their work, and give their take on how youth should transform momentum from mobilizations into concrete actions and proposals
10:30 am	All Speakers	Interactive Q&A, including dialogue between the speakers and questions from the audience, submitted via



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10:50 am Salina & Ahmed chat
Closing remarks, including interactive feature (i.e. poll, game, etc.), and announcement of next event



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