



SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

From theory to practice: Integration of climate change and sustainable development planning

Date & Time Slot: **13 July 2016; 6:15 - 7:30 PM**

Venue: **Conference Room D in the UN Conference Building, UN Headquarters, New York**

Context:

2015 was a momentous year for multilateralism and international policy shaping. The decisions made in 2015 carry the world into a new era of environment, development and climate multilateralism. 2015 established our vision of a world that strives towards climate compatible sustainable development and moved us firmly into a new phase of transformational implementation. Governments must now show strong ownership of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement by aligning policies, resources, institutions and legislation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement.

To address the common challenges of climate change and sustainable development, we have to look both at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the post-2015 development outcomes and provisions. Understanding and realizing the requirements and synergies in terms of developing policies and legislation will be vital if the goals of either are to be successfully achieved. Although the SDGs and the Paris Agreement approached their aims from different starting points, they both recognize the need to eradicate poverty, and both require a just transition towards equitable and sustainable economies and societies. By integrating climate change and sustainable development planning in national implementation coherence can be achieved which will benefit the planet, the economy and society.

Background:

Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in New York in September 2015 is the shared vision that will guide international efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development over the next 15 years, supported by the Financing for (Sustainable) Development Process (FfD). Seventeen sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 accompanying targets are at its heart. Over the course of the next couple of years the 2030 Agenda must translate into a strong commitment by all stakeholders to implement the Agenda and achieve the Goals, including Goal 13 on climate change.

At COP 21 in Paris, Parties to the UNFCCC reached a historic agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts

through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. COP21 also mandates countries to strive to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies by 2020.

Intended audience

The side event will be relevant for Member States active in the Agenda2030 and UNFCCC, for UN agencies, policy makers and civil society.

Organisations leading the side event

The event will be co-organized by Climate Action Network, Christian Aid, WRI (CAN), the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS).

Potential speakers

The event will consist of an interactive dialogue between non-state experts and Member States. As such, main speakers will be from CAN, WRI, Social Watch Philippines and government representatives, to present outcomes of the Paris agreement and Agenda2030 and to share ideas, best practice and lessons learned on how to achieve better integration of the climate and sustainable development agenda at the national level.

Moderator:

Susan Alzner, Head of the New York Office, United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)

Specific objectives

- Get clarification on concepts and tools for climate compatible development planning: Nationally Determined Contributions, Low-carbon development strategies, National Adaptation Strategies, National Development Strategies etc.
- To advance discussions on implementation of the SDG and UNFCCC agreement and how to create synergies.
- Highlight successful models of how to align policies, resources, institutions and legislation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement.

Format: 1 hour 30 minute session

Draft agenda:

- Welcoming remarks, context and presentation of the speakers
- David Waskow- Director of WRI’s International Climate Initiative– Clarification of concepts and provisions- looking at the SDG and Paris mandates.
- Lina Dabbagh- Senior Policy Coordinator- Climate Action Network vision on linkages between long-term strategies, NDCs and sustainable development planning.
- Maravic Raquiza- Co-Convenor of Social Watch Philippines: Lessons learned on integrating climate change and sustainable development planning at the national level- focus on adaptation planning.

- Stephan Contius, Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Head of Division (United Nations, 2030 Agenda, Cooperation with Developing and Newly Industrialised Countries), Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety: Lessons learned from Germany
- Mr. François GAVE, Counsellor, Head of Development and Sustainable Development Department, French Mission to the United Nations, New York Closing Remarks – Susan Alzner, Head of the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service NY Office: Lessons learned from France