CONCEPT NOTE

THE DECADE OF ACTION: FROM CLIMATE TARGETS TO IMPLEMENTATION

- HOW DIGITALIZATION CAN ACCELERATE THE PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE PARIS CLIMATE ACCORDS AND SDG 13

September 22nd 2021 from 2:30PM to 3:45PM EST
Hybrid side-event at the 76th United Nations General Assembly

OBJECTIVE:
A year into the decade of action, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released their sixth assessment report highlighting the urgency of ambitious action to deliver on the climate goals. While political ambitions are important, it is now imperative that the focus moves from ambitions and agreements to concrete implementation. Technology and the digital transformation can support governments in making their climate ambitions a reality, as well as supporting closely linked issues such as restoring biodiversity.

This multi-stakeholder side-event, in the margins of the 76th General Assembly of the United Nations, will invite key global thought leaders for a roundtable dialogue to discuss the opportunities of digital technology as a means to move from policies to action. The roundtable participants are invited to exchange experiences and ideas on how innovation and digitalization can contribute to achieving the climate goals.

CO-HOSTS:
Denmark
Co-hosts: UN DESA, The World Bank

BACKGROUND:
With less than 100 days before world leaders gather in Glasgow for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), the IPCC released its latest report on climate change. The report highlights how human-caused climate change has increased global temperatures, the effects of which is already being seen around the world. To avert the worst impacts of climate change and adhere to the Paris Agreement of 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, the pressure is on governments to provide clear action plans and drive real world impact.

Governments play the key role in the fight against climate change, from implementing regulations, tax-incentives, and financial support. However, the private sector and civil society also has a major role to play in bringing their experiences, solutions and innovations to the decade of action. Fortunately, governments across the globe are increasingly determined to combine high ambitions in green transition with new technology and e-governance in order to move from targets to action, thereby accelerating the fulfilment of the Paris Agreement and SDG 13. However, the capacity to leverage digital technology for concrete climate action is uneven and challenged by the global digital divide.

There is only one planet and one atmosphere. With speed of action being an apparent challenge, it is important that governments work together and share best practices and effective solutions.

Building on Denmark’s leadership on both climate and digitalization, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark will host this roundtable with experts and representatives of countries eager to share experiences on how digitalization and increasing process efficiency can help lead the way to the road to low carbon.
DRAFT AGENDA:

14:30-14:35: Moderator Ms. Ligia Noronha, Assistant Secretary-General, Head of UNEP’s New York Office, opens the roundtable dialogue event and gives the word to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jeppe Kofod.
14:35-14:40: Opening remark from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jeppe Kofod
14:40-15:40: Roundtable dialogue
15:40-15:45: Closing remarks

SPEAKERS:

Moderator, Ms. Ligia Noronha, Assistant Secretary-General, Head of UNEP’s New York Office

Opening remark from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jeppe Kofod

Keynote by Mr. Elliott Harris, UN Assistant Secretary-General Chief Economist Department of Economic and Social Affairs United Nations

Roundtable participants:

- **UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**, speaker to be confirmed
- **World Bank**, Mr. Edward Olowo-Okere, Global Director, Governance Global Practice
- **Germany**, Mr. Dirk Meyer, Director-General for Central Functions, Administration, Budget, Research, Digitization at the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- **Microsoft**, Mr. John Frank, Vice President, UN Affairs
- **cBrain**, Mr. Morten Østergaard, Climate Advisor. Former member of the Danish Parliament and former Minister