

CONCEPT NOTE

Date: Tuesday, July 16th at 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Venue: Conference Room 2 UN HQ Conference Room Building, capacity 300, event will be live-streamed

Event Title: [Disrupting the climate status quo to achieve the Paris Agreement and SDGs](#)

Partners: UNDP, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

Context

The science is telling us that we have a rapidly shrinking window of time to raise mitigation ambition and accelerate climate action, before we face devastating impacts on lives, livelihoods and the achievement of the SDGs. We need bold, transformational shifts in order to successfully cut emissions in half by 2030 and reach zero-emissions by 2050¹, while significantly increasing adaptation and strengthening resilience to the already changing climate. This will require a large-scale disruption in the way we live, do business and develop our societies.

To achieve this, we need to transform our development pathways at an unprecedented scale and pace across all of society. The Paris Agreement placed the world on a pathway towards ambitious and collective action. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or national climate plans provide an unprecedented opportunity to transform our societies. This transformation requires scaling up a wide range of innovative technologies, a massive shift in behavioral change and in investment patterns across all sectors.

Objective

This public event will bring together “disrupters” and change-makers from government, youth movements and various institutions to share their experiences on how to break the mainstream cycle or “status quo” to successfully build social and political momentum to raise ambition and accelerate climate action towards sustainable development. The event will also discuss how implementation and enhancement of NDCs (climate pledges) under the Paris Agreement can provide an unprecedented opportunity to harness and magnify this disruption to transform our development pathways to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. In addition to SDG13, the event will incorporate other HLPF goals under review, including SDG goal 4 on Education and SDG 10 on Reducing Inequalities.

Format

- Panel with interactive participation from the audience
- Event will be live-streamed

Speakers

¹ IPCC Special Report on 1.5oC

Confirmed speakers:

- Moderator: UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner
- H.E. Ambassador Lois Young, Belize
- H.E. Ambassador Thilmeeza Hussain, Maldives
- Jamie Margolin, Youth Activist and co-founder of Zero Hour
- Khyati Rathore, Environmental Defense Fund Youth Fellow
- Dr. Lisa Zaval, Behavioral Psychologist
- Ms. Hindou Ibrahim, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad
- Dr. Katherine Wilkinson, Project Drawdown
- Astrid Schomaker, EC Director for Sustainable Development (floor intervention)