

**Concept Note**  
**Deputy Secretary-General's Virtual Youth Dialogue on Climate**  
**Friday, 17 September 2021**  
**10:10 AM – 11:10 AM Eastern Standard**

The climate crisis is among the most pressing issues facing the world today. The consequences of climate change are more dire than ever before - and the window of opportunity to address them is rapidly diminishing. Young people are at the frontlines of the fight against climate change since they stand to bear the brunt of the extensive, devastating, and irreversible impacts. Younger generations are increasingly aware of the challenges and risks of the climate crisis and recognize the opportunity to achieve sustainable development through climate action.

Over the last several years, the world has witnessed the unparalleled solidarity of young people around climate justice. Whether through education, technology, science, sport, fashion, or law — young people far and wide are utilizing their skills to mobilize climate action.

With less than three months to COP26, the engagement of young people to demand urgent, bold, and ambitious actions on climate finance and adaptation and resilience is critical. Priorities include:

- Delivering on the \$100 Billion Pledge.
- Reaching the 1.5-degree goal.
- Investing in resilience and adaptation.

Only through a meaningful intergenerational partnership with youth can we initiate and mobilize action on the global scale necessary to fight climate change. The United Nations recognizes this and uses its convening power to provide a platform to empower young people and ensure their meaningful and inclusive engagement in decision-making processes surrounding climate action.

The UN's commitment to youth is exhibited through the launch of the Youth Strategy: Youth 2030, the historic 2019 Youth Climate Summit, the establishment of the Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, the Secretary-General's Call to Action: Right of Future Generations, and focus on climate justice. These are just some of the transformative actions demonstrated by the UN to work in solidarity with young people. The leaders of the UN drive progress to address the climate crisis and understand the critical role that young people play in winning the fight against climate change.

This event is part of an ongoing series of monthly dialogues co-convened by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY) and its partners. The dialogue series serves to connect representatives of the youth population with the Deputy Secretary-General to discuss thematic issues ranging from climate to innovation and equality to health. The youth speakers are thematic experts and come from diverse backgrounds and regions. They include but are not limited to representatives from grassroots movements, international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

The overarching goal of the Climate Dialogue is to highlight the agency of young people to push for bold and urgent action from leaders from developed countries to deliver on the \$100 Billion Pledge and allocate 50% to climate adaptation and resilience by the end of COP26.

### **Objectives**

- Provide a platform for young people to meaningfully engage in open and frank dialogue with UN leadership on climate action.
- Provide insights and recommendations to UN leadership on the Secretary-General's climate action priorities, particularly on climate finance and adaptation & resilience.
- Showcase YAG's mandate and progress on the Secretary-General's climate action priorities.
- Showcase youth-led innovation around Climate Finance, Resilience & Adaptation.