

## High Level Political Forum (HLPF) Side Event

### Concept Note

**Title: *An Intergenerational Dialogue: A Greater Role for Youth and Civil Society in Climate Action (SDG 13)***

*Date, time and Venue:*

**Tuesday 16 July, 13.15-14.45, Conference Room 7, UN Headquarters**

*Organiser and partners:*

**Ireland, Marshall Islands, Namibia, Nigeria, European Economic and Social Committee**

#### *Draft Running Order*

<b>13:15-13:17</b>	Welcoming remarks by H.E. Ambassador <b>Geraldine Byrne Nason</b> , Permanent Representative of Ireland
<b>13:17-13:20</b>	Introduction of all panellists by Mr. Cillian Lohan, <b>CEO of Green Economy Foundation and Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (Moderator)</b>
<b>13.20-13.35</b>	<b>Leaders Introductory Remarks (3 minutes each)</b> <b>Minister Seán Canney, T.D.</b> Minister of State, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (Ireland)  <b>Minister Katherine Zappone T.D.</b> Minister, Department of Children and Youth (Ireland)  <b>Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands</b> , H.E. Ms. Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua  <b>President of the General Assembly-elect</b> , H.E. Ambassador <i>Tijjani Muhammad-Bande</i> , Permanent Representative, <b>Nigeria</b>  <b>Permanent Representative of Namibia</b> , H.E. Mr. Neville Melvin Gertze
<b>13.35-13.50</b>	<b>Future Leaders Introductions and questions</b>  <i>Five young leaders will give remarks for two minutes each and pose a question to our current leaders</i>
<b>13.50-14.05</b>	<b>Responses by leaders and dialogue with youth delegates</b>
<b>14.05-14.35</b>	<b>Moderated discussion between panel and audience on youth engagement in climate action</b>
<b>14.35-14.45</b>	Concluding remarks: <b>Panel of Leaders</b> and closing summary by moderator.

#### **Background**

Ireland and the Marshall Islands are co-leading a preparatory work stream on the topic of “Youth Engagement and Public Mobilisation” for the 2019 UN Secretary General’s Climate Action Summit which will take place in New York on 23 September. We are delighted to be working in a coalition with the UN Youth Envoy, Nigeria and Namibia and others in this endeavour. The Summit aims to

raise worldwide ambition for climate action and the Paris Agreement. As part of this work, we have been stressing the need for genuine engagement between leaders, youth and civil society on the issue of climate action, in the context of the recent unprecedented mass mobilisation of young people on the issue.

The UN will host a Youth Climate Summit on 21 September in New York, organised by the Youth Engagement and Public Mobilisation coalition, which will prepare youth input into the Climate Action Summit on 23 September. It will showcase the excellent grassroots work of youth around the world on climate action. That event will be attended by 650 young people from around the world. A major set piece of the Youth Summit will be a high-level “Intergenerational Town Hall Meeting”, which will include Heads of State and Government and other leaders discussing climate action with youth representatives. Another major initiative that Ireland and the Marshall Islands are working on is a “Youth and Civil Society Pledge”, which UN member states, regions and cities would sign up to, in which they would commit to consulting youth and the public in the formulation and implementation of climate action policies. The event would take the opportunity provided by the review of SDG 13 (Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts) to discuss the role and views of youth and civil society in relation to SDG 13 and will act as a preparatory event for the Climate Action Summit and Youth Climate Summit 2019.

#### ***Format of Event***

Our event at this year’s HLPF will take the format of an intergenerational dialogue and is a preparatory event in advance of the UN Youth Climate Summit taking place in September. Key stakeholders will include representatives of UN member states, regions, cities, youth delegates and other members of civil society.

The event will start with the moderator Cillian Lohan introducing the panel of current leaders. He will then hand over to them to make short remarks of about 3 minutes of the topic of youth and public engagement on climate action. The leaders will draw from experiences in their own countries, point to how youth are engaging in policy and where we can do better. They will also touch on initiatives such as the Youth Climate Summit coming up this September. Following these remarks, they will be followed by the youth representatives who will make a brief statement (2 minutes) and pose a question to the leaders. From the youth side we hope to hear of current engagement and what climate action young people would like to see from current leaders. We will hear some existing best practice, such as the example of Denmark’s Youth Climate Council. This would be followed by an interactive discussion between the future leaders and current leaders on the issue of youth engagement in climate action, which would be opened up to the floor by the moderator. To conclude, the moderator will sum up the discussion and close the event.

#### ***Expected Outcomes***

The event will not only facilitate a discussion around the role of youth and civil society in implementing SDG13, it would also provide an opportunity to highlight some interesting actions/best practice taking place in different member states. Potentially some of these actions could be replicated or scaled up.

The aim is to collect useful ideas on how to include youth and civil society in climate action at international, national and sub-national levels. In addition, the outcome will be a useful preparatory moment for the 2019 Youth Climate Summit. The event would also provide an opportunity for the

members of the Youth Engagement and Public Mobilisation Work Stream to highlight our work on Climate Action Summit and in particular highlight the “Youth Climate Summit” to be held on 21 September and the “Youth and Civil Society Pledge”. Finally, the side event would further act as a tool for empowering people through inclusiveness by serving as a preparatory meeting for the Climate Action Summit itself and the quadrennial Leaders Level HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly which will also take place this coming September.

**ENDS**