

Petersberg Climate Dialogue XII: Satellite Event

- Summary -

5 May 2021

Green transition for people, nature and climate



Speakers:

Jochen Flasbarth (GER), Lord Zac Goldsmith (UK), Zhao Yingmin (CHN), Basile van Havre (CBD), Christiane Paulus (GER), Faryde Carlier (COL), Akanksha Khatri (WEF), Andrea Meza (CRI), Elizabeth Maruma Mrema (CBD), Manuel Pulgar-Vidal (WWF International), Yugratna Srivastava (UNEP Youth), moderated by Neville Ash (UNEP-WCMC)

Key take-aways:

Recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic must set the course for a nature-positive, climate-neutral, resilient future. Currently, less than 20% of recovery spending is green – a missed opportunity, as by protecting and restoring the diversity, abundance and connectivity of nature, we tackle hunger, poverty, pollution and climate change.

We must do a better job at bending the curves of global emissions and biodiversity loss. We need a transformative post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as well as ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions and long-term strategies for climate neutrality. Guided by strong policies, committed frontrunners, clear metrics and goals, we can achieve the systemic transformation we need.

We need an inclusive whole-of-society approach across all sectors for coordinated, bold and decisive action. Partnerships and alliances such as the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People and the Global Oceans Alliance as well as commitments such as under the Leaders' Pledge for Nature are crucial.

The EU and its Member States, including Germany, take a leading role and step up efforts against climate change, biodiversity loss and in support of a green recovery. Committed to reducing net emissions by 55% until 2030, the EU is set to become climate-neutral by 2050. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 will unlock at least €20 billion annually for spending on nature.

Nature-based solutions (NbS) across various ecosystems are key building blocks for integrated climate and biodiversity action. They are a great way to act on climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as on conserving and restoring nature, whilst creating jobs and respecting livelihoods of IPLCs. .

Business is not only a driver of climate change and biodiversity loss but also a big enabler. Nature is the basis for economic and social welfare; investing in it could deliver trillions of annual business opportunities and millions of jobs. **Joint action across all 3 Rio Conventions is critical:** Having all 3 Rio COPs this year is a big opportunity for coordination, communication and concerted action; all 3 secretariats are working on a joint narrative.

“Nothing about us without us”: The pandemic is a clear call to protect and support the young generation and children to be born. We need to shift the narrative to young people being enablers and co-creators of change.

4 May 2021

Breakthroughs in the Race to Zero Emissions Vehicles

This satellite event focuses on the transition to Zero Emission Vehicles, and the role of the ambition loop - the relationship between government and business - in driving that transition.

Hosted by High Level Champion Nigel Topping, a series of curated conversations takes viewers on the journey of the ZEV breakthrough challenge. The conversations explore the role of governments through the experience of the UK, Netherlands and Germany; the role of business through the eyes of CEOs of Daimler and DHL; the need for charging as an enabler presented by ChargeUp and the view from the third sector in Germany and globally.

The session explores ways to accelerate the race to zero emission vehicles with a strong focus on the developments in Europe and Germany in particular, elements of the Race to Zero in the run up to COP26 and views from across the value chain. As a summary of the discussions, Helen Clark of The Climate Group discusses her take on the conversations as well as an outlook into what will be needed to accelerate the speed of change and create a more sustainable transport ecosystem.

6 May 2021

Adaptation Action Coalition Health Launch: Building climate resilient health systems

The [Adaptation Action Coalition](#) in partnership with the Governments of Fiji and Spain and WHO, launched a new initiative on building climate resilient health systems. The launch event included participation of five Government Ministers from UK, Fiji, Spain and Egypt; WHO Director General; Senior Government Officials from Bangladesh and Ethiopia, and Civil Society Organizations.

The initiative will encourage and support countries to commit to building health resilience, initially through developing health vulnerability and adaptation assessments, and national health adaptation plans, and proposals for submission to the Green Climate Fund and other donors.

This is one of at least four health initiatives that will be launched by the UK COP26 Presidency, who are making health a central pillar of the Climate Change COP, and its 5-year renewal of commitments to the 2015 Paris agreement.

More info at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2021/05/06/default-calendar/adaptation-action-coalition-health-launch>

4 May 2021

10 years to restore our planet! The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a rallying call to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation worldwide

In the framework of the Petersberg Climate Dialogue XII the satellite event “10 years to restore our planet! The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a rallying call to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation worldwide” offered the great opportunity to welcome the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which will officially be launched on June 5th, 2021.

The event was kicked off with the clear message that in the face of the continued climate and biodiversity crisis, ecosystem restoration is more urgent than ever. Following, first-hand insight was provided on how the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2019 as a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, for the benefit of people and nature. Furthermore, the potential of ecosystem restoration as a powerful nature-based solution for climate change mitigation and adaptation was emphasized. In a panel, representatives of the private sector, youth and civil society discussed success stories, key enabling factors for the upscaling of restoration initiatives and their visions for the next 10 years. The strong advocacy of the participants for the upscaling of restoration efforts led State Secretary Jochen Flasbarth to close the event with a call for a “Petersberg Restoration Dialogue”.

The event offered a first introduction to the UN Decade and left participants well equipped to partake in the official launch on World Environment Day (5th of June 2021) and join #GenerationRestoration.

4 May 2021

Adaptation Action Coalition Water Launch: What can we achieve together through the AAC? Water resilience for effective climate adaptation

Global leaders convened for the twelfth [Petersberg Climate Dialogue \(PCD\)](#) on May 4 with the aim of furthering multilateral cooperation around climate action in the lead up to COP26 in Glasgow. This year’s PCD included a series of virtual satellite events to complement the ministerial discussions.

On 4 May, UK’s COP26 President Designate, Alok Sharma, kicked off the [Adaptation Action Coalition](#) Water Launch — organized by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) — featuring ministers from Indonesia, Malawi, Egypt, Costa Rica, The Netherlands, Guinea as the G77 Chair, and the UK. Early on, ministers shared challenges and innovations around climate change and water management from their respective countries as they highlighted the need for the Water Workstream of the Adaptation Action Coalition.

Complementing the line-up were high-level non-state actors from [IWMI](#), [IUCN](#), [UNDP](#), the [Global Commission on Adaptation](#), [WaterAid](#), the [Asian Development Bank](#), [Sanitation and Water for All](#), [UNICEF](#), [CDP](#) and the [Adaptation Research Alliance](#). These presenters and panellists introduced three levers for change as means of advancing water resilience for effective climate adaptation: better information for decision-making, stronger political will, and improved financial flows.

Below are three major takeaways from the satellite event:

- Lack of political will may be the biggest barrier to water resilience, but once prioritised there are high returns to people, nature, and growth.
- A new, practical “Water Tracker” tool is being launched to help countries strengthen water resilience in their national climate planning.
- The Resilient Water Accelerator promises to use climate finance to boost private investment in the water sector from millions to billions.

A full report on the 2.5-hour session will be made available shortly. Highlights from the day’s speakers will soon be found on the [YouTube channel](#) of UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

6 May 2021

Turning the tides: Setting shipping on course to 1.5°C

The event “Turning the tides: Setting shipping on course to 1.5°C” discussed the need for transitioning the shipping sector from fossil fuels to sustainable low-carbon and zero-carbon fuels and technologies. There was general agreement among participants that this will require decisive action by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The IMO agreed in its Initial Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy from 2018 to phase out GHG emissions from international shipping and to reduce them by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 2008 on a pathway of CO₂ emissions reduction consistent with the Paris Agreement temperature goals. To live up to this aspirational goal, so-called “mid-term measures”, such as market-based measures, will be required. The next IMO meeting where a debate on mid-term measures could be initiated will take place in June 2021.

The event was moderated by Mr. Peder Osterkamp, Shipping Lead at COP26 Climate Champions. A welcome address by Mr. Achim Wehrmann (Shipping Director, German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure) was followed by opening addresses by Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary General), Mr. Casten Nemra (Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of the Marshall Islands) and Ms. Johannah Christensen (Managing Director and Head of Projects & Programmes, Global Maritime Forum). The ensuing discussion among panellists involving Mr. Albon Ishoda (Ambassador of the Marshall Islands to Fiji), Mr. Yap Ong Heng (Senior Advisor, Ministry of Transport, Singapore), Mr. Andrew Rakestraw (Senior Adviser, U.S. Department of State), Ms. Petra Wilkinson (Maritime Director, United Kingdom) and Ms. Anita Breyer (Director-General Immission Control and Transport, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany) revolved around the questions why mid-term measures are considered critical to the decarbonization of shipping, what would be needed to accelerate progress in the IMO, and how private sector actors could help in mobilizing government and IMO ambition. We are very grateful to our esteemed guests for sharing their views in this debate.

5 May 2021

Climate Neutrality – From Ambition Raising to Mission Zero

The satellite event „Climate Neutrality - From Ambition Raising to Mission Zero“ hosted by Dirk Messner (German Environment Agency) brought together eight distinguished speakers in three segments to present their views on how the vision of climate neutrality can be implemented.

Where do we want to go: A future global vision towards net-zero

Laurence Tubiana (European Climate Foundation) recapped the development of a global vision for climate manifested in the Paris Agreement and the progress made since: “Paris Agreement is a lone star, is a reference, is a benchmark for action. [...] The problem is commitments and the targets doesn't mean a lot. You have to have trust in the process, that there will be - together with the targets - clear plans to reach these goals. And that comes now, it's not to wait for. We need the plans by Glasgow at the latest.”

Yvon Slingenberg (European Commission) presented the 2050 vision for the European Union and how this vision is implemented: “We've put forward a framework law, so that it is not just a political commitment, that Europe becomes climate neutral, but it is actually enshrined in law. [...] That will help for everyone to see, what the direction of travel is.”

Jennifer Morgan (Greenpeace) emphasized the importance of global justice in the battle of the climate crisis as well as in the recovery of the current pandemic: “What's missing right now is a transformational global cooperation. [...] It's time for that system's change, where well-being of people and the planet actually are the priority and where social justice and climate justice come hand in hand.”

Where are we: The status quo of global climate ambition and efforts

Deborah Ramalope (Climate Analytics) gave an update on the status quo of climate action and the latest political announcements: “There is an improvement, but it is still not sufficient to put us on a 1.5-degree pathway. [...] Countries need to step up ambition, there is no question about it. What we have is far from sufficient of what we’re looking for to align to Paris.”

Sander Chan (Global Center on Adaptation) described the role of non-state action and how it developed since the Paris Agreement: “We’ve seen an enormous growth in non-state climate action over the last five years. [...] The potential of these initiatives alone is many times larger than the combined national commitments under the Paris Agreement.”

How do we get there

Chris Stark (UK Committee on Climate Change) explained, how the UK translated the long-term vision into near-term targets: “Deep emissions reductions now are entirely feasible and in fact they’re appealing for a whole range of reasons beyond just carbon. And they can be achieved largely with technologies that we have at our disposal now.”

Fatima Denton (UNU-INRA) brought attention to the African perspective on low carbon development and co-benefits: “You have to sell the benefits of what a green economy might look like – a growth in employment, improved infrastructure, energy efficiency, prevention of loss of biodiversity and ecosystems. [...] In as much as we need to ratchet up ambition, we also need to ramp up international solidarity. Countries in Africa are not going to be able to give up their resources if they are not incentivized.”

Sigrid Nikutta (DB Cargo) showcased the implementation of a long-term climate vision in a global company in the transportation sector: “We are facing a historic window of opportunity to make things happen. [...] Long term visions need immediate actions. We can only benefit from this momentum if we use all the potential we have at this moment. The major lesson we have learned from the Corona pandemic is that the fastest way to handle a crisis is to make use of all resources we have at hand, use scientific knowledge, paired with economic power, driven by smart policies. There is plenty of potential we need to use more wisely.”