

'EDUCATION TO COMBAT THE CLIMATE CRISIS'

Concept Note for Side Event at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2024

Event Date/Time/Venue: Monday 8th July 2024, 1:15-2:30pm Conference Room 6, UN HQ, New York, USA

Speakers:

1. H.E. Ambassador Sheikha Alya Al Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations
2. Mr. Kevin Frey, CEO, Generation Unlimited
3. Ms. Srilata Kammila, Head, Climate Change Adaptation, UNDP
4. Ms. Haya Al Thani, Strategic Partnerships Manager, Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD)
5. Ms. Catalina Duarte Salcedo, Education Specialist, UNICEF Colombia
6. Mr. Darren Karjama, Partnerships and Outreach Specialist, Division of External Affairs, Green Climate Fund (GCF)
7. Ms. Susana Puerto, Head, Youth Employment Accelerator, ILO
8. Ms. Anoushka Sinha, Young People's Action Team Member, Generation Unlimited
9. Ms. Maleiha Malik, PEIC Executive Director, Education Above All Foundation (EAA)
10. Ms. Salwa Al Kuwari, Youth Advocate, Education Above All Foundation (EAA)

Moderator: Mr. George Tavola, Education Above All Foundation (EAA)

Background

Education Above All (EAA), on behalf of a coalition composed of the State of Qatar, UN agencies and partners, proposes to host a side event, entitled "*Education to Combat the Climate Crisis*" during the upcoming High Level Political Forum (HLPF) from 8-17 July 2024 under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

The HLPF 2024 theme this year is "*Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions*". HLPF 2024 will focus on the following SDGs 1, 2, 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all) and 17; as well as, strengthening the means of implementation and revitalising the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Rationale

The climate and environment crisis threatens us all, as our planet's survival is at risk. At the same time, the impacts of the climate and environmental catastrophe are felt more acutely by those communities who are living in conditions of conflict and at the front line of climate and environmental change. As well as threatening lives and livelihoods, the climate crisis has devastating impacts on education for the most marginalised and, in recent years, has disrupted the education of large numbers of children, estimated in 2022 to be nearly 40 million children every year¹. Climate change and the environmental crisis also affects existing and future jobs in multiple ways that include reduced outputs and incomes.

Addressing climate change through education is complex and context specific. These are interlinked issues, that need to be analysed in an aligned discussion in order to find solutions. Nevertheless, there are common ingredients that can contribute to addressing this crisis. In this regard, an inclusive and safe education can be a major contributor to addressing this emergency: through reducing vulnerability and, crucially, improving communities' resilience. It is particularly important that who are closest to the impacts and harms are empowered to produce workable sustainable solution that, in turn, can support countries' stronger sustainable development.

¹ FCDO Policy Paper: 'Addressing the Climate, Environment, and Biodiversity Crises in and through girls' education' Published 08 December 2022

EAA is committed to the provision of quality education across the globe and combatting the climate crisis. EAA has significant and long-term investments in the sector because of the importance of education to human development and sustainability. EAA invests in education in fragile situations, knowing that quality education can contribute to addressing climate and environment crisis and building sustainable peace.

Desired Outcomes

- Education is highlighted as a contributor to addressing the climate crisis
- Examine the relationships between education and the climate emergency
- Discuss the potential of environmental protection and employment opportunities.
- Create new employment opportunities through strengthening the pathway from quality education, training through to sustainable employment as well as exploring how there can be scaling up of climate resistant livelihoods and investment in new industries, technologies and expertise that address the climate crisis.
- Discuss best practices to develop innovative solutions to climate change, with a particular focus on harnessing the knowledge of teachers, students and communities.

Run of Show (75 minutes)

This event will consist of a panel of experts including youth with backgrounds in education and combatting climate change. Panel members will provide thought leadership on the relationship between education for the most marginalised and climate and environmental harms. The panel will also discuss and highlight how the most marginalised at greatest risk of harm as they face climate related harms to their communities, inadequate housing and climate related losses of income without the resilience to adapt. The discussion will also consider how, in the longer term, innovation and new technologies to address climate change can create new opportunities for investment and a growth in green jobs, through a more positive dynamic effect of climate policy.

Duration	Session	Who
5 mins	Session Opening	Moderator (EAA)
5 mins	Welcoming Remarks	Qatar Permanent Rep to UN
5 mins	Keynote Speech	Generation Unlimited CEO
40 mins	Panel Discussion between partners and youth rep	• UNDP • Green Climate Fund • UNICEF Colombia • QFFD • ILO • Generation Unlimited
5 mins	Q&A	All
5 mins	Concrete recommendations related to path forward for Education to Combat the Climate Crisis	All Speakers
5 mins	Final Remarks	PEIC ED (EAA)
3 mins	Closing Comments	EAA Youth Advocate
2 mins	Wrap up and Closing	Moderator (EAA)