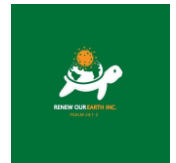
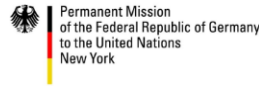


INVITATION



The Governments of Belize, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Morocco, Nigeria, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Turkey, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Foundations, UN Water, International Organization for Migration, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Renew our Earth Inc. cordially invite your esteemed Delegation to a virtual High-Level Event

Theme:

Building Back Better: Risk-informed COVID-19 Recovery and Rehabilitation and Strengthening Resilience to Climate Change-Related Disasters in Africa and the Caribbean

Date:

Thursday, 23 July 2020

Time:

10:00am – 12:30pm

Venue:

[Online Platform – Please click to register](#)

Tentative Programme and concept note are attached herewith, for ease of reference

RSVP: Mr. Samuel Victor MAKWE: makwesamuelvictor@gmail.com

Concept Note for the side event ON:

BUILDING BACK BETTER: RISK-INFORMED COVID-19 RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION AND STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED DISASTERS IN AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Date: 23 July 2020

Time: 10am: -12:30pm

Registration link:

https://unfoundation.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gcIFFYgdSFOhS3Qs54OrFw

Setting the Scene

The COVID-19 pandemic has overwhelmed health systems and the ensuing socio-economic disaster has exacerbated poverty and inequality within and across countries. The impact of the disaster has set back the progress made towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including countries in Africa and the Caribbean. It has also increased the vulnerabilities of countries and the poorest segments of societies, in these regions, to several other related disasters.

2. The impact of COVID-19 pandemic has become a social and economic disaster and many countries are grappling with climate change-related disasters in the middle of a devastating pandemic. Climate change-induced disasters have continued to hit countries and communities, devastate peoples' livelihoods, spur large-scale displacements, and weaken critical infrastructures, including health systems. Climate change is also aggravating natural variability and increasing water related disaster risks as 40% of the world's people are affected by water scarcity, and the increasing incidences of flooding threaten to destroy water points and sanitation facilities as well as contaminate water sources. As these climate change related disasters increase in frequency, intensity and variability, countries in Africa and the Caribbean increasingly bear the brunt.

3. As world leaders continue to strategize on how to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that disaster risk reduction and resilience building are at the core of national recovery and rehabilitation efforts. It has also become necessary to urgently strengthen community resilience to climate change-related disasters, better assist affected communities to build back better in the aftermath of these disasters, and support developing countries to make policy and investment decisions that reduce existing disaster risk and prevent the creation of new disaster risk.

4. Resilient recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 will not be possible without conscious efforts to boost global resilience on all fronts, social, economic and environmental. It is important to take strategically calculated and measurable collective actions to support the efforts of countries and communities in special situations. It is also pertinent that all countries develop multi-hazard disaster risk reduction strategies, as per Target E of the Sendai Framework, and address systemic risk and potential for

cascading impacts within and across systems, as well as deepen international cooperation as provided for in Target F of the Sendai Framework.

Objectives of the event

5. The event will bring together representatives of Governments, UN Agencies, and development and humanitarian partners, and encourage the exchange of views, sharing of experiences, and setting of common goals and targets in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly those related to sustainable cities, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement. Accordingly, the event is expected to provide platform for participants to:

- a. Highlight challenges that most African, Caribbean and small island developing States face when confronted by climate change related disasters, and how the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating their vulnerability and exposure;
- b. Articulate possible solutions to the effects of climate related disasters on people in vulnerable situations and how to address these challenges;
- c. Reflect on how to ensure that the effect of COVID-19 and the increasing frequency of climate related disasters do not result in leaving people from the affected countries and communities behind in the global efforts to achieve Agenda 2030 and other global and regional development agendas; and
- d. Make connections among various development frameworks including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Samoa Pathway, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (in particular Goals 1, 11, and 13)

Guiding Questions

6. Participants are encouraged, in their interventions, to address any or all of the following guiding questions:

- a. How can African and Caribbean countries develop and implement policies and programmes to strengthen preparedness, build resilience, reduce forced migration and reduce disaster risk as part of the decade of action and delivery for the SDGs?
- b. What international support do African and Caribbean countries need in terms of capacity, knowledge, access to latest science and technology, and financing instruments, to develop and implement multi-hazard and multi-sectoral disaster risk reduction strategies that include climate and pandemic risks, among others?
- c. How can we capitalize on our efforts to build back better from the COVID-19 disaster to reduce systemic risks, strengthen resilience to climate change related disasters, and support the implementation of national priorities for sustainable development?

Expected Outcomes

7. It is expected that the side event would:

- a. Raise awareness, augment commitment, and deepen dialogue among Member States, including representatives of the most affected African, Caribbean and small island developing States and development partners, as well as key stakeholders, on mainstreaming resilience to climate change-related disasters in the COVID-19 recovery and rehabilitation plans; and
- b. Synthesize views expressed by participants and present the key messages as possible policy recommendations for mitigating climate change disasters and addressing the consequences of climate change on the socio-economic livewire of communities.

Format

8. It is envisioned that the event would be comprised of four segments:
 - a. An opening segment with keynote addresses by high level participants;
 - b. A panel session with experts' presentations on the various aspects of the overarching theme of the event;
 - c. Interactive session/sharing of perspectives and brief comments by participants;
 - d. Response by the panellists and closing remarks.

Expected Participants

9. It is expected that the event would be attended by:
 - a. Representatives of UN Member States;
 - b. Representatives of relevant UN entities, and other International Organisations;
 - c. Representatives of Africa and Caribbean regional and sub-regional organisations;
 - d. Representatives of major development partners;
 - e. Representatives of major Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Private Sector, Academia, and Interfaith communities.

PROGRAMME

BUILDING BACK BETTER: RISK-INFORMED COVID-19 RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION AND STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED DISASTERS IN AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Date: 23 July 2020 | Venue: Online Platform (see below) | Time: 10:00am-12:30pm

Registration link:

https://unfoundation.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gcIFFYgdSFOhS3Qs54OrFw

OPENING SEGMENT:	
<i>Moderator: Barr. Ugoji Eze, Main Representative, BEFA Women and Child Care Foundation</i>	
10:00 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.	Opening remarks by the President of the UN General Assembly
10:05 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.	Remarks by the Assistant Secretary General Selwin Hart, on behalf of the UN Secretary-General
10:10 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Remarks by Hege Røttingen, Deputy Director, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Section for Partnerships, Governance and Development Financing
SECOND SEGMENT:	
<i>Panel discussion on options and strategies for building back better and strengthening resilience to climate change-related disasters in Africa and the Caribbean</i>	
<i>Moderator: Mr. Thure Krarup, Executive Director for Sustainable Development Initiatives, UN Foundation</i>	
10:20-10:25a.m.	Mr. Xavier Castellanos Mosquera, Under Secretary General, National Society Development and Operations Coordination, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
10:30-10:35a.m.	Ms. Dina Ionesco, Head - Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division, IOM Headquarters - Geneva
10:35-10:40a.m.	Mr. Amjad Abbashar, Director, UNDRR Regional Office for Africa
10:40-10:45a.m.	Mr. Olcay Ünver, Vice-Chair, UN-Water
10:45-10:50a.m.	Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, PR of Germany/President of the UNSC
10:50-10:55a.m.	H.E. Ambassador Ana Silvia Rodriguez Abascal, Perm. Mission of Cuba
10:55-11:00a.m.	H.E. Ambassador Omar Hilale, PR of Morocco to UN and Co-Chair of the GoF for Climate
11:05-11:10am	Mr. Werner Obermeyer, Director of WHO Office at the United Nations
11:10-11:15a.m.	Jessica A. Bell, Senior Programme Officer, Nuclear Threat Initiative
11:15-11:20am	Rev. Paul de Vries-New York Divinity School
THIRD SEGMENT:	
<i>Sharing experiences and good practices in building back better and strengthening resilience to climate change-related disasters</i>	
<i>Moderator: Mr. Thure Krarup, Executive Director for Sustainable Development Initiatives, UN Foundation</i>	
11:20-12:00a.m.	Brief Statements by Member States, Observer States and other participants
12:00-12:10a.m.	Response by the Panelists
CLOSING SEGMENT:	
<i>Moderator: Barr. Ugoji Eze, Main Rep. BEFA Women and Child Care Foundation</i>	
12:10-12:15	Closing Remarks by Ambassador Sampson Iteboje, Charge D'Affaires, Nigeria Permanent Mission