

On the occasion of the World Environment Day



WORLD WIDE VIEWS
ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY

PARIS
2015
COP21

English Summary

World Wide Views on Energy and Climate
Consultations held at the United Nations Headquarters
with francophone high school students from the New York area

New York (USA), Friday 5 June 2015

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PROGRAM AND PARTNERS

PROGRAM***Introductory Remarks***

- **Mr. Alexis Lamek**, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the UN
- **Mr. Janos Pasztor**, Assistant Secretary-General on Climate Change
- **H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale**, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, Chair of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors in New York

Awareness-Raising Session

- Short film « Understanding Climate Change » (by Le Monde)
- Short film « Climate Change: what is at stake in the COP 21? » (Nicolas Hulot Foundation)

Simultaneous Workshops

- Commission on water - moderator : **Ms. Noëlla Richard**, United Nations Development Program
- Commission on energy - moderator : **Ms. Marianne Chaumel**, Executive Office of the Secretary General
- Commission on cities - moderator : **Ms. Shamina de Gonzaga**, World Council of Peoples for the United Nations
- Commission on vulnerabilities - moderator : **Ms. Cristina Diez**, ATD Fourth World
- Commission on individual initiatives - moderators : **Ms. Lionelle Ngo-Samnack** et **Ms. Claire Schiettecatte**, International Organization of the Francophonie

Outcome Session

- Opening statement by the Chair, **Mr. François Gave**, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of France to the UN
- Statement by the designated representatives of the Commission on water
- Statement by the designated representatives of the Commission on energy
- Statement by the designated representatives of the Commission on cities
- Statement by the designated representatives of the Commission on vulnerabilities
- Statement by the designated representatives of the Commission on individual initiatives
- Formal adoption of the recommendations
- Closing remarks by **Mr. Benoît Le Dévédec**, Coordinator of the *French Heritage Language Program*
- Closing of the meeting by **Mr. François Gave** and **Ms. Carole Maisonneuve**
- Group photo

PARTNERS

- [French Heritage Language Program](#)
- [Cultural Service of the French Embassy to the United Nations](#)
- [Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations](#)
- [Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations](#)
- [Executive Office of the Secretary General](#)
- [International Organization of the Francophonie](#)
- [United Nations Development Program](#) (PNUD)
- [ATD Fourth World](#)
- [World Council of Peoples for the United Nations](#) (WCPUN)

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The meeting was opened by Mr. Alexis Lamek, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, Mr. Janos Pasztor, Assistant Secretary-General on Climate Change, and H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations, currently Chair of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors in New York.

Far from formal presentations, all guest speakers made introductory statements tailored to the audience, which was composed of young francophone high school students currently enrolled in public schools across New York City associated with the French Heritage Language Program.

All the speakers highlighted both the urgency of acting upon climate change and the need for innovative and legally-binding measures. Mr. Janos Pasztor, Assistant Secretary-General on Climate Change, recalled the dense agenda for the year 2015, a year that was described as ‘critical’ by Mr. Alexis Lamek. Mr. Janos Pasztor mentioned the preparatory negotiations in Bonn for the 21st Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21, which will take place in Paris in December 2015).

Mr. Janos Pasztor linked this milestone COP21 with the post-2015 development agenda that will be adopted in September in New York, one of the landmark agreements of the end of this year. Mr. Alexis Lamek also emphasized how intertwined development and sustainable development were.

While the post-2015 development agenda and the importance of future international agreements lay at the foundation of all three statements, the overriding message was about youth and its instrumental role in raising global awareness and appealing for intergenerational solidarity.

Delivered to an audience composed of a hundred young francophone high school students, the three introductory statements stressed how important it was for future generations to be fully aware of the challenges caused by climate change and of the urgent need for a global mobilization. Only then could we repeal climate change and successfully address its negative consequences, they said.

The intergenerational debt was another issue that was developed at length by all speakers. Mr. Janos Pasztor and H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale both engaged the audience, highlighting scientists’ assertion that today’s youth was the last generation who could possibly overturn climate change and act upon it. As such, they insisted on our collective responsibility to join our strength in order to prevent the irreversible and devastating consequences of climate change.

AWARENESS-RAISING SESSION

The introductory statements were followed by an awareness session. Two short films were screened: one from Le Monde (“[Understanding Climate change](#)”) and another from the Nicolas Hulot Foundation (“[Climate Change: what is at stake in the COP 21?](#)”).

OUTCOME SESSION

Commission on Water

Challenges as identified by the Commission:

- Water is key to sustaining life. Health, ecosystems and the economy depend on its quality.
- Water is at the heart of extreme natural phenomenon such as landslides, flooding and drought.
- Water suffers from high pollution levels.
- Access to water is extremely unequal: 890 millions of people do not have daily access to clean drinking water to cook, drink and wash.

Recommendations :

- ➔ **Conducting and supporting action and awareness-raising campaigns and at all levels.**
- ➔ **Fostering innovative solutions proposed by the youth including the most vulnerable, and developing youth consultation fora.**
- ➔ **Reducing water use and waste.**

Commission on Energy

Challenges as identified by the Commission:

- Air pollution partly results from energy production (industry, motor vehicles ...).
- Energy goes to waste.
- Access to energy is extremely uneven from one country to another.

Recommendations :

- ➔ **Moving towards renewable energies such as wind energy, solar panels, geothermal energy, hydroelectricity and tidal energy.**
- ➔ **Reinforcing energy efficiency by developing sanctions for the least environmentally-friendly industries, instigating limitations on energy use in public buildings, encouraging the use of energy-efficient devices, closing down aged factories and inducing cleaner transportation such as cycling, solar-powered cars ...**
- ➔ **Promoting universal access to energy, particularly by supporting cooperation and technology transfers between developed countries and developing countries.**

Commission on Cities

Challenges as identified by the Commission:

- Insalubriousness is harmful to the environment.
- Cities are responsible for large greenhouse gas emissions.
- There is global pollution in cities: air, water, soils...
- Urban pollution is caused by negligence, among other factors.
- Environmental damage has a multiplier impact on inequalities.

Recommendations :

- ➔ **Encouraging city governments to plant trees in cities and to promote renewable energies.**
- ➔ **Supporting environmental education and awareness-raising campaigns in school and allowing city youth to raise their voice and share their views on city planning.**
- ➔ **Holding businesses responsible for their damage to the environment.**
- ➔ **Ensuring that the highest class of society share the burden by showing solidarity**

Commission on Vulnerabilities

Challenges as identified by the Commission:

- Vulnerability to climate change impedes development.

Recommendations :

- ➔ **Raising awareness on vulnerabilities by introducing environmental education in school curriculum.**
- ➔ **Mainstreaming environmental perspective into public policies.**
- ➔ **Collecting tax from large polluters, especially firms and plants.**
- ➔ **Converting waste into energy.**

Commission on Individual Initiatives

Challenges as identified by the Commission:

- Resource waste (such as water waste) is harmful to the environment.
- Industrialization and modernization are energy demanding.
- A growing population has an increasing impact on the environment.

Recommendations :

- ➔ **Paying due consideration to raising awareness to climate change and to sustainable development.**
- ➔ **Encouraging the development of a less damaging economy.**
- ➔ **Implement sanctions aimed at deterring polluters.**

PARTICIPANTS***Commission on Water*****International High School at Lafayette**

- Farmata Tall
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- Alectus Nadjely
- Peguy Etelien
- Nancy DHaiti
- Djino Weid Thimotis
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Claremont International High School

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Commission on Energy**Bronx International High School**

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|--|--|

Commission on Cities**International High School at Union Square**

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Commission on vulnerabilities**International Community High School**

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Commission on Individual Initiatives

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