



LAUNCH EVENT

United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness

Monday, 3 December 2012, 13:15-14:45

Side Event Room 1 (Hall 5, ground floor)

Background

The starting point for addressing climate change is to understand its causes, its immediate and future impacts on our lives and livelihoods, and necessary actions at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels to mitigate climate change and adapt to its adverse effects. As climate change action always starts at the individual level, it is crucial to build the capacity of individuals through climate change education and training, but also to create public awareness on climate change and enable the public to access information on and participate in climate change decision-making. Equally important, capacities of education and training institutions in Member States need to be strengthened to support action in this area.

Parties recognize the key role that climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation on these matters play through their work on the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. At COP 18/CMP 8 Parties will adopt the Doha work programme on climate change education, awareness and public participation as a tool for laying the ground to embark on a new climate change regime after 2020.

As climate change increasingly impacts development and security issues, a growing number of UN organizations work closely with Parties to carry out various activities on climate change education, training and public awareness, public participation and public access to information. In this context the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness is being launched as an innovative coordination mechanism for action on, and the joint mobilization of support for, the work programme under Article 6 of the Convention. The Alliance will maximize synergies among diverse UN organizations and support the efficient use of expertise and available resources.

Purpose

At this side event the UNFCCC secretariat together with senior representatives of the other founding members will launch the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness. High-level representatives from Parties and the Global Environment Facility will highlight examples of successful cooperation with founding members on climate change education and public awareness activities. The Alliance's objectives will be presented and its founding members, including FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNITAR and WMO will showcase how they will provide support to and benefit of this new interagency cooperation. Participants will be invited to share their views on the Alliance's draft framework for action and contribute to its further development.

Agenda

13:15-13:25: Opening remarks

- Mr. Daniele Violetti, Chief of Staff, UNFCCC secretariat
- Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow, Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

13:25-13:50: Cooperation on climate change education and public awareness activities

- H.E. Ms. Fatou Gaye, Minister of Forestry and the Environment, The Gambia
- Mr. Omar Ramírez, Secretary of State and Executive Vice President of the National Climate Change Council, Dominican Republic
- Mr. Anton Hilber, Co-Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's Global Climate Change Programm, Switzerland
- Mr. Tony Carritt, Information and Communications Officer, European Union
- Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility

13:50-14:20: Pledges of support by the Alliance's founding members

- Mr. Alexander Müller, Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, FAO
- Mr. Nick Nuttall, Spokesperson/Head of Media, UNEP
- Ms. Wendy Watson-Wright, UNESCO Assistant Director General and UNESCO/IOC Executive Secretary
- Mr. Daniele Violetti, Chief of Staff, UNFCCC secretariat
- Ms. Jazmin Burgess, International Policy and Research Officer, UNICEF
- Mr. Achim Halpaap, Associate Director, Training Department and Head of Environment Unit, UNITAR
- Mr. Michael Williams, Chief, Communications and Public Affairs, WMO

14:20-14:40: Open dialogue with participants on the development of the Alliance's framework for action

14:40-14:45 Summary and wrap-up