



An HLPF 2019 Side Event

Youth Aspirations & Climate Urgency

**“A conversation on the hopes and demands of grassroots
activists in a world threatened by climate crisis”**

**11 July 2019
14.00 - 15.30 Hrs**

**Commonwealth Joint Office
685 Third Avenue, Suite 1102
New York, NY 10017**



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

ABSTRACT

Organized by youth, this side event brings young people into a conversation about their hopes & aspirations in a world that is threatened by the adverse effects of climate change and threats to environment, ecology, society and economy. The event aims at providing a platform for activists to discuss and explore how are they responding physically, emotionally and economically in a world that faces rising temperatures that will lead to extreme weather events with the potential to wreak havoc on the future of young people.

BACKGROUND

The event will have young grassroots activists from different regions of the world. It aims to create a dialogue amongst various stakeholders for building youth resilience towards climate change & discuss the loss of youth confidence in global leadership for climate action. The event will also underscore the needs of youth from least developed countries and small island developing states and discuss strategies for reducing risks posed to their futures due to rising temperatures and sea levels. The speakers will also address climate resilience through sustainable agriculture principles & the potential to combat climate change and achieve food security through sustainable farming practices.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Greater emphasis on increasing participation, including youth participation in global decision making.
- Enumerate the best practices for resilience and increase adaptive capacities of youth towards adverse effects of climate change.
- Accentuate the strengthening of societal structures necessary for physical and mental well-being amongst young people.
- Underline the need for climate mitigation through sustainable agriculture
- Consolidation of civil society relationships, alliances and networks from around the world, specifically including young people to work towards greater participation in realizing the goals of SDG 13.



September Kelokelo from Papua New Guinea, has graduated with a Diploma in Electronics Technology. The current changes in weather patterns, which are causing unexpected environmental effects that especially threaten small islands, has driven her to get actively involved in environmental issues.



Santiago Corrales is a student at Don Bosco Technical Institute, Panama City, Panama. He is presently the president of the Eco Club in the institute. He strongly believes that “we need a human heart to take care of God’s creation”. He is working to bring people together as a team to address the many environmental issues he is locally facing in Panama.



Rebecca Petz is currently studying for the master program in ‘Peace & Conflict Studies’ in, Germany. She has been researching the impact of climate change on natural resources, and how this leads to conflict. Rebecca firmly believes that climate change is impacting the future of young people, and hence, governments and large industrial companies must be held accountable for their inaction.



Abigail Gyabaa is from, Ghana. Africa is a ‘young continent’ and Abigail is keenly aware that climate change is negatively impacting the possibilities and opportunities available to young people in Africa. She is a member of Don Bosco Youth Network West Africa (DBYN) and is actively engaged in addressing environmental concerns.



William Keyah, is from Kenya. He currently works across the East African Countries of Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan in promotion of Sustainable Agriculture among small holder marginalized households. He is a small holder farmer, passionate about sustainable agriculture and concerned about climate change effects.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

WELCOME

H.E. Mr. Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia
Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Samoa

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

H. E. The Most Reverend Bernardito Auza
Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Fr. Savio Silveira SDB
Founder, Don Bosco Green Alliance

PANELISTS

September Kelokelo, Environmental Activist, Papua New Guinea
Santiago Corrales, President, ITDB - Eco Club, Panama
Rebecca Petz, Student Researcher, Germany
Abigail Gyabaa, Don Bosco Youth Network West Africa, Ghana
William Keyah, Sustainable Agricultural Practitioner and Trainer, Kenya

OPEN HOUSE RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAY FORWARD CONCLUDING REMARKS

