



**FOR MEDIA:**

**Behind Goal 13: Women Leading the Climate Agenda**

*Panel discussion hosted by the Business & Sustainable Development Commission (BSDC) at COP23 in Bonn, Germany*

**Date: Tuesday, 14 November 2017**

**Time: 10:00 am to 11:00 am**

**Venue: Talanoa Space, Bonn Zone**

*Background:* Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 13 explicitly calls on the world to achieve successful climate action by 2030, however successfully achieving all the Goals will depend on humanity's ability to effectively keep a global temperature increase to 2-degree Celsius increase and uphold the sustainability of our natural resources. The Business & Sustainable Development Commission contends that the achievement of Goal 13 will require the mobilisation of more women to lead for change in their communities and in the world. As a number of studies show, women, who shoulder greater social and economic burdens, are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts. Women's unequal participation in decision-making processes and labour markets exacerbate inequalities and often prevent women from fully contributing to climate-related planning, policy-making and implementation.

*Event:* Through a panel discussion featuring local, national and global women leaders on climate change, the Business & Sustainable Development Commission aims to shine a spotlight on the ways women are leading to achieve global and national climate objectives related to SDG 13, as well as all climate-related Goals. The event is also an opportunity to foster a discussion about what is needed to mobilise others to deliver this ambitious agenda and take on leadership roles.

As part of the session, the Business & Sustainable Development Commission aims to emphasise how women in the Pacific Islands, where climate change is of particular urgency, are leading the charge to protect their homes and communities, and ensuring policy makers remain committed to tackling climate change and building resilience both at home and abroad.

The session further advances the BSDC's efforts to elevate and celebrate the role of women leading to achieve the Global Goals by 2030. The BSDC believes that diversity in leadership, in many forms, is a fundamental key to helping the world find new solutions to the social and key environmental challenges facing us all.

We have been exploring gender balance in leadership as a potential accelerator for companies that align their strategies with the Global Goals. In September 2017, the BSDC released a [discussion paper](#), "Behind Every Global Goal: Women Leading the World to 2030," to explore the following key questions about women's leadership for achieving the SDGs, including effectively tackling climate change and protecting lives and livelihoods. These questions include:

- What is the evidence that shows more gender-balanced leadership teams are important to effectively tackling climate change, and protecting communities, lives and livelihoods from climate change impacts?

- What challenges do women leaders face when stepping up for climate change?
- Who are the unsung women across regions and sectors leading the world to achieve Goal 13 and the other related Goals, particularly women from areas outside of North America and Europe, and in sectors where women leaders are underrepresented, including energy and technology?
- Are there common threads from the backgrounds, experience and skills of current women leaders that future women leaders can learn from to inspire their own leadership journeys on climate change?
- What actions can both women and men take to encourage a greater number of women to lead on the Global Goals from across sectors and industries, including business, government, academia, and civil society?

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Achala C Abeyingha**, Principal Researcher/ Team Leader, International Institute for Environment and Development; Legal & Strategy Advisor to the Chair of the LDC Group in UNFCCC negotiations
- **Monica Araya**, Founder of Nivela and Costa Rica Limpia
- **Sharan Burrow**, International Trade Union Confederation
- **Gail Klintworth**, Business Transformation Director, Business & Sustainable Development
- **Rachel Kyte**, CEO, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll)
- **Astrid Manroth**, Director for Energy Transformative Partnerships, African Development Bank Group
- **Noelene Nabulivou**, Political Adviser to Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA)

For more information, please contact Clare Oh, Director of Communications, at <mailto:c.oh@businesscommission.org>.

#### **About the Business & Sustainable Development Commission**

The Business Commission is a two-year initiative mobilising business leaders to align their companies with the Global Goals. With the leadership of 37 Commissioners from business, finance, civil society, labour, and international organisations, we are bringing together diverse stakeholders to map sector progress and advance blended financing for achieving the Goals by 2030. We are also launching regional reports to show there are compelling SDG business opportunities across sectors and regions. Through our initiatives, we are working with our partners to reach a growing number of CEOs and other leaders who are championing—and aligning with—the business case for the Global Goals. To learn more visit [www.businesscommission.org](http://www.businesscommission.org).