

June 'moment' event

Advancing NAPs and climate-resilient recovery under COVID-19

13:00 – 14:50 BST (14:00 - 15:40 CEST)

We have all learned a lot over the past few months. But one of the lessons I've taken away has been the profound connection between the world and its people. The COVID 19 pandemic has shown the far reaching effects that shocks can have; to health, to economies and to future livelihoods.

And while the world reels from the current pandemic, the threat of climate change continues to develop. It has been fascinating to hear today some of the direct challenges caused by COVID - from validation to connectivity. As you know, the pandemic has also impacted the COP directly. COP26 has been postponed to November 2021 but climate change will not wait, and action gets more urgent by the day.

Climate change is already here. Shifting weather patterns, sea level rise, storms and droughts already cause significant loss and damage. And threaten to do more. Climate change threatens to push 100 million people into poverty by 2030. Disasters triggered by weather- and climate-related hazards cost the global economy \$320 billion in losses in 2017 alone. Climate change may depress growth in global agriculture yields up to 30 percent by 2050.

By 2050 the World Bank estimates climate change could contribute to as many as 143 million people becoming migrants in just three regions (Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America), with individuals, families and even whole communities forced to seek more viable and less vulnerable places to live. Heatwaves will increasingly become life threatening.

But we know that there is so much that can be done to help cope with climate change. New crop varieties, improved land use, better building and city design, disaster preparedness, the list could go on.

The economic and personal disruption caused by the pandemic has created a unique moment. We have the opportunity to build back better, not only to rethink energy and make deeper cuts in emissions but also to make the changes required to cope with future change. Ideas will be varied as no two situations are the same. Many have been seen as an impossible dream in the past, such as traffic-free liveable, greener, cooler cities. As businesses recover there will be opportunities to make sure that they reinvest to be more resilient to shocks in the future.

It is true that most of the discussion about building back better is concentrated on a greener future centred around reducing emissions. But it is essential that adaptation plans are woven into all discussions. This is an opportunity to increase ambition and ensure that business as usual remains unthinkable for the future.

This will take organisation, political will and money.

Through our incoming COP Presidency we will push for increased availability, efficiency and accessibility of adaptation and resilience finance.

We will work to improve multilateral development bank and donor delivery of A&R finance consistent with the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Speakers have underlined that we have some way to go in getting access to finance and technical help right.

And we will use our presidency to highlight action through campaigns on disaster risk reduction, resilient infrastructure and to support more resilient agriculture and land use. I agree this action needs to be integrated. It is hard to deliver effective adaptation through siloed projects and processes.

But we cannot do this alone. Over 200 countries and organisations have signed the call for action on adaptation and resilience launched at the UN Climate Action Summit last year, pledging to share and promote best practice in adaptation. The expertise and experience that has already gone into National Adaptation Plans should be part of this as we use the time between now and COP 26 to build momentum towards enhancing climate action.

When we talk about raising climate ambition, we're not just talking about emissions reductions, we're talking about ambition on adaptation and on the means of implementation too.

I look forward to welcoming you all to Glasgow next year, but I also look forward to working together over the next year. Bringing together ideas on practical adaptation, on a clean resilient recovery and helping vulnerable people across the world.