



# CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2019



## A RACE WE CAN WIN

## Building a Resilient Future

**One-day event that sets out ambitious and transformative actions on adaptation and resilience ahead of the UN Climate Action Summit**

**08:30-18:00, 22 September 2019  
New School University, New York**

The day is being convened by [Global Resilience Partnership](#) and sponsored by [UK's Department for International Development](#) with additional support from [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency](#). It is being hosted by: [Julien J. Studley Graduate Programs in International Affairs](#), and the [Urban Systems Lab at The New School](#).

It is being organized with a wide range of public and private organisations including: [AFSA](#), [Asian Development Bank](#), [Atma Connect](#), [AXA XL](#), [A2R](#), [BSR](#), [CGIAR/CCAFS](#), [CJRF](#), [FAO](#), [Huairou Commission](#), [ICCCAD](#), [ICLEI](#), [ICF](#), [IDF](#), [IFAD](#), [IFRC](#), [IIED](#), [InsureResilience/GIZ](#), [IISD](#), [Mercy Corps](#), [NEF](#), [Oceans Unite](#), [ODI](#), [RCCC](#), [RMEL CoP](#), [SDI](#), [SEI](#), [SIWI](#), [SRC](#), [The Lightsmith Group](#), [SUN](#), [UNCTAD](#), [UNDP](#), [WBG](#), [Wetlands International](#), [WFP](#), and [Willis Tower Watson](#) and many more!

## Concept and Planning Note

### I. Background

We are in a period of increased volatility and unpredictability. Climate-related disasters and shocks are occurring more frequently and chronic stresses are lasting longer. Climate change is directly affecting global systemic risks such as food insecurity and political instability. Extreme weather events are exacerbating resource scarcity, forced migration, political instability and conflicts. If the current approach to resilience building is not re-shaped, the global aspirations toward a resilient future will not be achieved, leaving behind especially the most vulnerable and marginalised communities.

Impacts on health, food security, water supply, transport and economic growth are already happening. These are projected to increase even if the ambition of the Paris agreement to limit the temperature increase to below 2°C is achieved. The IPCC 1.5°C report is clear – people living in developing countries will be hit the hardest. 100 million people are already at risk of being pushed into poverty by climate change by 2030, particularly in sub Saharan Africa and South Asia, increasing to 720 million by 2050. The number of people experiencing severe food insecurity increased by over 120 million since 2014 - a trend that has been attributed to an increase in extreme weather events as well as political instability.

Importantly, the impacts of climate change do not act alone and often present societal challenges through complex inter-relationships with other drivers. Global to local inequalities in processes of trade, land use and resource rights, loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems all present significant challenges to the prosperity of people and the future of the planet. Gender-based inequality is particularly problematic. Women tend to be more dependent on the products of their local production systems for their food security, fuel and other products and services, and thus more vulnerable to the local-scale impacts of climate change, but they are often denied the right to own or control these same resources.

Alongside action to limit emissions and transform towards low carbon development pathways, urgent action on building resilience and adapting to climate change is vital for achieving nearly all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To achieve climate just transition for all, we need a fundamental shift towards resilience-based approaches that promote risk management and diversity in all its forms, seek non-linear transformational change, support local actors to transform their own futures in the face of change, and tackle distant drivers alongside local, context-specificities. This is why action on Resilience and Adaptation is one of the priorities of the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit on 23 September.

## II. Objectives of Building a Resilient Future Day

The purpose of the Day is to reinforce the focus on resilience and the commitments expected to be made at the Climate Action Summit. It will feature innovative, interactive and participatory sessions for participants to share the actions and commitments they are making to achieve a transformative and resilient future. This will enable participants to learn from each other on what they are doing and how to embed resilience into actions to address climate change and achieve the SDGs. The Day has four objectives:

1. To provide the opportunity for **all stakeholders to commit to actions and initiatives** to build a resilient future, and to explore how by breaking out of institutional and sector silos these can be greater than the sum of their parts.
2. To highlight **actions that grassroots organisations are taking**, and how these organisations, and in particular **women**, can be part of decision making to take these actions to scale especially in the Least Developed Countries.
3. To **set out how the latest knowledge and understanding on resilience can be used** to build and invest in adaptive, resilient and transformative communities and economies.
4. To provide a highly interactive space to explore and identify new strategies, collaborations, and **partnerships to advance and track the implementation of the actions and initiatives** announced on the day.

## III. Format of the Day

The day will highlight the critical importance of building resilience and the urgency to take action and will consist of three parts:

- I. **Opening Plenary** to set out the challenges to building a resilient future from high level, business, academic and community speakers.

- II. **Interactive parallel sessions** focusing on the actions stakeholders are taking to building a resilient future. The themes for these sessions are detailed below.
- III. **Closing Plenary** that will consist of two parts:
  - i. **Identifying the next steps** for the whole community to deliver on the actions and commitments they are making on building a resilient future.
  - ii. **High level messages** for the UN Climate Action Summit and beyond

There will be opportunities for side events over lunch time. English will be the primary language of the event. Simultaneous translation (French and Spanish) is being explored for the plenary sessions. CART is planned for all sessions and ideally sign language where possible.

## Parallel Sessions

While thematically clustered the sessions will be designing around **five cross-cutting principles**:

- All speakers to **focus on the actions** their organisations are committing to undertake to build a resilient future, including gender transformative climate actions.
- To be **fully inclusive and diverse** – actively involving youth, women, people living with disabilities, and indigenous communities with diversity across regions.
- To identify how **working across sectors and institutions** can break through conventional siloes to build transformative pathways toward a resilient future.
- To focus on **local level actions**, and how global, regional and national actions can have really impact on the lives of local communities and businesses especially in LDCs.
- To explore what **innovations** are needed to deliver transformation, and the **resources** (financial and human) that will be required to deliver actions and initiatives.

## Seven Action Sessions

Seven sessions will be run throughout the day with the following themes:

### 1. Building resilient food and agriculture systems

This will include actions on small-scale agriculture and building the capacity of small-scale food producers and agribusiness to be able to access finance (grants and loans); initiatives of the private sector toward building inclusive and resilient value chains; local to global actions on restoring degraded land and halting further land-use change and degradation; and will showcase actions that emphasize both food security and nutrition.

### 2. Preventing disasters in a changing climate

The will highlight the actions governments and other actors are taking to act ahead of extreme weather, and illustrate how they are ensuring early warning systems are centred on making the last mile communities who are on the frontlines of climate change the first mile. It will also explore how financing mechanisms can be connected to effective early warning systems (e.g. through forecast-based finance).

### 3. Financing a resilient future

This will include actions on increasing finance for resilience from public and private sector, and innovative technologies, tools, and finance mechanisms. The session will explore not only how to

make sure that the finance is increased but also how to make it accessible to finance adaptation and resilience building at the local level (i.e. ‘money where and when it matters’).

#### **4. Resilient cities, infrastructure and energy systems**

This will include actions focusing on the built environment and the ecosystem services they depend upon so they are resilient, not excluding informal settlements and slum communities with their specific needs and priorities. This session will also include actions to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience for transport infrastructure that connects people and freight markets, vulnerable rural and urban communities, including energy system transformations in both.

#### **5. Working with nature to build resilience**

This will include actions on nature based solutions to build long term resilience. It will explore actions based on nature that can build resilience to extreme events, that can preserve and restore land, freshwater and marine ecosystems while tackling issues of food and water insecurity, employment, equality and equity, among others.

#### **6. Resilience programming and building capacity**

This will include actions on- best resilience practice and knowledge across sectors and on building the capacity of developing country organisations and governments to advance action on resilience.

#### **7. Climate, Stability and Conflict**

This will highlight actions on an integrated approach to building resilience in fragile and conflict-affected contexts to benefit people who are especially vulnerable to changing threats, shocks and stresses. It will include how initiatives addressing conflict, climate, and fragility are relevant not only for effective humanitarian assistance, but are needed to help achieve the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

### **IV. Audience and Registration**

This will be an open meeting but [registration](#) is essential to secure a place. The target audience is representatives from: businesses and investors, philanthropists, international finance institutions, local and national governments, knowledge and research organisations, local and grassroots organisations and international NGOs. The event would be open to the media.

### **V. Venue**

The New School are providing their state of the art University Center (14th Street and Fifth Avenue) as the venue for the day.

**Registration for the day is essential at  
<http://resilientfuture2019.eventbrite.com>**

**If you are interested to help us shape the day, please contact  
[abrainich@globalresiliencepartnership.org](mailto:abrainich@globalresiliencepartnership.org)**