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Subject: 2018 Concept Note
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Attachments: [Concept Note FINAL.PDF](#)

Hi,

Just making sure you have the final, Nancy-approved version of the 2018 Summit Concept Note. It was finalized in time for Climate Week, with the general goal of sharing it with potential funders. Matt, feel free to share it with Secretary Laird as it could help address some of his questions.

Best,
Alexa

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GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

— TIME TO ZERO IN —

September 12-14, 2018
San Francisco, CA

“Come join us – entrepreneurs, singers, musicians, mathematicians, professors, students – we need people that represent the whole world because this is about the whole world and the people who live here ... It’s time to act, it’s time to join together, and that’s why at this Climate Action Summit, we’re going to get it done.” – Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., Message to the Global Citizen Festival in Hamburg, Germany, July 2017

Overview

While national governments negotiated the Paris Agreement, the goal – to limit the increase in global temperature to under 2 degrees Celsius – can only be achieved if state and local leaders, businesses, scientists, students, nonprofits and others step up.

The Global Climate Action Summit will convene more than a thousand of these leaders who see climate change as an existential threat and are committed to rolling back the forces of carbonization. Hosted by Governor Jerry Brown, the Summit will underscore the urgency of the threat and channel the energy and idealism of people everywhere to overcome it.

Summit leaders will quantify the carbon emissions sub-national actors have already cut, secure bold commitments from them to do even more, show that decarbonization and economic growth go hand-in-hand, and galvanize a global movement that embraces people from all walks of life.

More than just an event, the Summit will catalyze climate action through 2020 and beyond.

Specifics on the Summit

The Summit will be the first time a U.S. state convenes people from around the globe to support the Paris Agreement. California is well-suited to this role: The economy is sixth-largest in the world, and the state has the most ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets in North America. But this Summit is not about California – it’s about the world.

The Summit will take place in San Francisco, California, on September 12-14, 2018. It will start with an interfaith service in Grace Cathedral and an opening ceremony at City Hall.

The timing is important. In December of 2018, countries will gather at the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change’s annual Conference of the Parties (COP) and begin setting targets for the 5-year period that begins in 2020. The more that sub-national leaders pledge to cut emissions at the Summit next September, the more likely national leaders will be to consider strong decarbonization targets at COP 24 next December.

The plenary sessions will take place at the Moscone Center, with other events occurring throughout the city. Beyond the main agenda, the program will include workshops, exhibits and breakout events in which participants can connect and collaborate with one another. The Summit will also have dedicated spaces that will feature climate innovations, host members of the media and provide a setting for community activities. Organizers are considering other climate-focused events such as a film festival and/or concert.

The months preceding the Summit will feature “Road to” events organized and hosted by some of the groups partnering with organizers, so they can generate momentum for climate action.

Summit Leadership

The Summit is hosted by Governor Brown and the State of California. Three co-chairs as well as a Steering Committee will join Governor Brown to advise on the agenda and generate global support for the Summit. A Host Committee is in formation to support operations and fundraising.

The co-chairs are:

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa;
- Mahindra Group Chair Anand Mahindra; and
- UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change Michael Bloomberg

The planning, organization and execution of the Summit will be led by the Office of Governor Brown. The co-chairs and their respective organizations – UNFCCC, Mahindra Inc., and Bloomberg Philanthropies – will help lead this monumental effort.

In addition, the following entities are serving key roles to make this Summit happen:

- UN Foundation is the fiduciary sponsor for the Summit, and will provide strategic, fundraising and communications support.
- Mission 2020, led by Christiana Figueres, the former UNFCCC Executive Secretary, along with the Governor’s Office will work with experts and organizations to deliver tangible results to be announced before and at the Summit.

Members of the Policy Steering Committee include:

- Helen Clarkson, Chief Executive Officer, The Climate Group
- Aron Cramer, President and Chief Executive Officer, BSR
- Wael Hmaidan, Executive Director, Climate Action Network International
- Mindy Lubber, President & CEO, Ceres
- Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, Leader, Climate and Energy Practice, World Wildlife Federation International, and former President of COP 20

- Mark Watts, Executive Director, C40
- James Grabert, Director, Sustainable Development Mechanisms, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Observer)
- Elizabeth Cousens, Deputy CEO, United Nations Foundation (Observer)

The Steering Committee, co-led by Mission 2020, will advise the Summit leaders on the best ways to mobilize constituencies to tackle climate change – before and during the Summit. In addition, the Steering Committee will help produce:

- An estimate of how much non-state actors have helped cut carbon emissions to date;
- Case studies that show low-carbon transformation in firms and communities; and
- Announcements to cut emissions even more, including joint efforts across industry.

Broader Reach

Summit organizers will build support by partnering with other groups that are enlisting non-state actors in the fight against climate change, such as the Under 2 Coalition, We Are Still In, C40, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, We Mean Business and Climate Action Network International. The team will make special efforts to engage diverse constituencies to build the most robust and inclusive coalition for climate action.

Budget

We anticipate a budget of \$10 million, to include:

- Venue reservations and event production
- Operations and project management
- Development of content and products
- Communications, including traditional and digital media, marketing, and branding
- Partnership engagement and coalition-building
- Fundraising and supporter outreach

Financial Support

The success of the Summit will depend on strong support from individuals, foundations, governments and businesses. Supporters will be able to engage Summit leaders and shape an event that will catalyze climate action worldwide.

We hope you will consider supporting the Summit. To explore opportunities to do so, please contact Allison Wong at awong@unfoundation.org or at (202) 887-9040.