

## USCA ENGAGEMENT AT THE SG'S CLIMATE SUMMIT AND CLIMATE WEEK

## A. Overview of the Secretary General's Climate Summit

The Secretary General's Climate Summit aims to support the ratcheting mechanism of the Paris Agreement. In 2020, the Paris Agreement invites Parties:

- with 2025 targets to communicate new NDCs, for 2030;
- with 2030 targets to either recommunicate them or update them; and
- to communicate long-term (mid-century) low GHG emission development strategies.

The SG's team will select major announcements to be featured 1) **on stage at the UN on September 23** and 2) **at official UN side events on September 21-22**. The selection process for the announcements will begin at the Abu Dhabi Ascent on June 30/July 1. The SG plans to feature both **individual** and **initiative** announcements, which seem to undergo the same selection process. Stage time will be difficult to come by, will not be decided until much closer to the Summit, will have a limited audience and will be decided through a UN-led process that is convoluted and difficult to influence. *Accordingly, we have been advised to aim for the official UN side events. These are high visibility and easier to join.*

**Individual Announcements:** The SG's priority announcements for individual governments<sup>1</sup> include:

- Long-term low GHG emission development strategies that aim for carbon neutrality by 2050;
- Implementation plans or progress; and
- Signals that Parties intend to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs, or climate targets) either through specific actions to further reduce emissions or more ambitious GHG reduction targets.

**Initiative Announcements:** The SG has created several issue-specific or cross-cutting [Summit Tracks](#), led by Parties in cooperation with civil society. The SG aims to catalyze the creation of new initiatives, or the expansion of current initiatives. [NB: Their team flagged the importance of initiatives not being country specific.] Initiatives will be selected based on five criteria:

- **Transformational impact:** to what extent does the initiative set a new precedent in a sector or contribute to dramatically scaling up an existing initiative?
- **Sustainable development co-benefits, addressing political and social issues:** to what extent does the initiative demonstrate inclusiveness and advance sustainable development?
- **Replicable and scalable:** to what extent is the initiative ready to be scaled-up or replicated across sectors or regions?
- **Measurable and implementable:** how do you foresee that the proposed initiative will produce a measurable effect that allows proponents to demonstrate contributions and to ensure accountability against intended outcomes?
- **Innovative and visible:** what approach does the initiative follow to become a competitive, innovative solutions that helps to raise public awareness?

<sup>1</sup> Checking to see if this is only for countries

**Commented [JC1]:** SG told Mary want to see what USCA has planned:

- Do we want to go for official role
- What willing to do?
- What do they need to hear?

Lauren/Reed –

- SG – could convene some other meeting with sr officials and subnationals
- Look into the One Planet Summit

**B. Options for USCA Messaging<sup>2</sup>**

We should determine what *message* the US wants to bring to Climate Week and the Summit, and whether this could be strengthened with an announcement signaling enhanced ambition. Options include:

**1. We remain committed to Paris, and are making progress towards our NDC.**

US states are making progress towards their commitment to the Paris Agreement, highlighting recent implementation actions in our annual report. We would release the report at or just before the Summit. Analysis shows with our 7 new members, we are on track to deliver a 17-24% reduction from 2005 levels by 2025 – well within reach of our target.

**2. We are delivering on our commitments to exceed our NDC. We call on Parties to do the same.**

Given that we are currently close to our target, analysis of our collective emission reductions from pledged actions (e.g. 100% clean energy goals), state climate targets, and/or recently announced mitigation actions may push us past our NDC. We would release the report at or just before the Summit. This shows that states are walking the walk, and ask national governments to be more ambitious.

**3. We intend to ratchet up our ambition in 2020, and call on Parties to do the same.**

USCA could consider signaling that will ratchet up ambition in 2020. This would allow maximum flexibility for a deliberative process through which states can determine in what way the USCA will ratchet ambition. Enhanced ambition could include e.g. implementation actions, additional sectoral goals/commitments, mid-century strategies [for carbon neutrality], or a collective 2030 GHG reduction goal.

**Commented [JC2]:** - Add economic and jobs piece  
- Create enabling environments so can race forward

**C. Options for USCA Collective Participation**

**1. Stage time at the Summit**

Although unlikely, we may be able to get a governor on the main stage. The question is how far are you willing to go to do that? It may require reaching out to the Deputy SG, making a specific announcement (individually or collectively) or creating a new initiative that meets the criteria.

**2. Official UN Side Event (recommended)**

Canada and Mexico are leading a sub-track under the “Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action track”. Canada has offered to work with us to advocate for an official UN side event, likely to focus on North American leadership.

We – individual states or the USCA - could also endorse one of the other initiatives being floated through the Summit Tracks and work with those leads to secure stage time. As one example, the Danish-led workstream on Clean Energy Investments asks partners to support a toolbox,

<sup>2</sup> We are not currently aware of any initiatives that are prepared to make an announcement

that outlines key principles for governments to support mobilizing investments in the clean energy transition. This will give prime ministers a concrete manual to implement after the Summit. They are also seeking independent commitments from all stakeholders to increase or otherwise support clean energy investments.

The USCA could also expand or launch its own initiative. As one example, we could create a global governors climate initiative – franchising the USCA to other countries. The initiative would support governors in other countries to launch state-focused coalitions within a national jurisdiction, designed to uphold the goals of the Paris Agreement. The USCA would share our lessons in establishing coalitions. The coalitions of states would then work together *within their borders* to fight rollbacks (or work with national governments to raise ambition), accelerate implementation of their climate priorities, and foster multi-state approaches that leverage their collective markets to affect transformational change. [The initiative would not foster sharing of best practices across national borders, which can continue to be led by groups like Under2.]

### 3. Side Event at the Climate Hub (recommended)

The organizers of Climate Week (The Climate Group) have a conveniently located venue for higher-visibility side events called the Climate Hub. A one-hour event costs \$30,000. The We Are Still In Coalition is interested in exploring a side event at the Hub with the USCA. We are still determining whether the location is worth paying for, or sharing the cost with WASI.

US governors may also be able to join one of the Under2-led side events at the Hub (at their invitation, we can facilitate if helpful). These include:

Tuesday, September 24

- Under2 Members Meeting/Breakfast: 8:00 - 9:30 am
- Climate Decade event (may invite U.S. govt speakers): 10:00 am – 12:30pm
- Transparency and Accountability: 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Wednesday, September 25

- Industrial Transition (Focus on India): 3:00 – 5:00 pm

### 4. Regular Side Event (recommended)

We can hold a USCA-only side event, or a joint side event with one of our partners, at an undetermined location in New York City on any topic. It would be informational only, or to release our annual report. No announcement would be needed. We could determine the level of seniority – Governors/CEOs for a bigger event, staff for a smaller event.

*Note: We do not recommend convening a high-level event with ministers as they will be staffing their leaders and likely to be pulled away at short notice.*

D. High-Level Events around the Summit (potential opportunities for individual governors are highlighted and described in detail below)

	Friday, Sept. 20	Saturday, Sept. 21	Sunday, Sept. 22	Monday, Sept. 23	Tuesday, Sept. 24	Wednesday, Sept. 25	Thursday, Sept. 26	Friday, Sept. 27	Saturday, Sept. 28
<b>UNHQ</b>  <b>Note:</b> <b>SDG Media Zone</b> <b>will run all week</b>		<b>Climate Track Sessions</b>  Climate Youth Summit	<b>Climate Track Sessions</b>	<b>Climate Action Summit</b>  UN Global Compact Lunch  UHC meeting	<b>SDG Summit</b>  UN Global Compact SDG Business Forum  World leaders GA speeches		FfD High Level Meeting  UN Global Compact CEO Roundtable	Small Island Developing States High Level Review	
<b>Summits</b>		Global Goals Youth Summit (by JCI)-D1	<b>Social Good Summit</b>  Global Goals Youth Summit-D2  <b>Concordia</b>	Concordia	<b>WEF Sustainable Development Impact Summit</b>  Concordia  Goalkeepers awards	<b>Bloomberg Global Business Forum</b>  Goalkeepers day program			
<b>Thought Leadership</b>						<b>IPCC Oceans / Cryosphere Report</b>			
<b>Public Mobilization</b>	Fridays for Future School strike (TBC)			Idea phase: climate teach ins at schools.		Global Day to Act for the SDGs #Act4SDGs			Global Citizen Festival (Central Park)
<b>Climate Week</b>				<b>Opening Event</b>	<b>Climate Week Hub</b>				
Timing TBD: Solutions Summit (UNF), Equator Prize (UNDP), Champions of the Earth (UNEP), TED We The Future									

**Sunday, September 22:**

**U.S.-China High-Level Dialogue (dinner; approx. 20pax)**

A high-level dialogue in New York alongside the United Nations General Assembly on Subnational climate cooperation between U.S. and China. Leading Participants requested include Vice Premier Han Zheng, Climate Envoy Xie Zhenhua, former Governor Jerry Brown, former Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and other high-level discussants.

**Social Good Summit**

92Y

Hosted by: UN Foundation, UNDP, Mashable

Attendees: 1000 in the room (digital influencers) plus livestream to meet ups in 80-100 countries

Narrative Opportunity: SGS has committed to build the entire program through the lens of climate and sustainability with an emphasis on technology, social movement building and new media. Potentially some opportunities to engage private sector, influencers, thought leaders on-stage to highlight transformative initiatives, but need to balance with corporate sponsors.

Overview: The Summit unites a lively community of global citizens and progressive thought leaders around a common theme: #2030NOW.

**Monday, September 23:**

**Climate Action Summit**

Attendees: Heads of State, civil society, businesses, organizations, youth and other representatives from the public or societies at large.

Opportunity: Highlight the biggest of the big commitments across all tracks.

Note: Summit will be livestreamed. SDG Media Zone will present an opportunity to capture voices not represented in the official program.

**Climate Week Opening Ceremony**

Attendees: Leaders from sub-national governments that are part of the Under2 Coalition

Overview: The Climate Group will invite two or more governors on stage for their Climate Week opening on September 23. We have been told that invitations have been extended to Governors Inslee and Newsom, and they are hoping to recruit a female governor from an Alliance state to join.

**Concordia**

Attendees: Leaders from public, private and non profit sectors

Opportunity:

Overview: Bringing together decision-makers and opinion-formers in the public, private and nonprofit sectors, as well as the next generation of partnership-builders, the Annual Summit will advance critical global discussions and transformed conversations into action.

**Tuesday, September 24:**

**SDG Leaders Summit**

UNHQ

Attendees: Heads of State

Opportunity: Showcase the SDGs as the blueprint for the achieving climate action.

\*I've heard makes more sense to go to the SDG High-Level Event but not sure of timing yet. Governor Ige is big SDG champion so might be nice to have him on stage to share what can be done at state level.

**WEF Sustainable Development Impact Summit**

Hosted by: WEF

Attendees: 700 business, government, civil society and academic leaders from more than 70 countries

Opportunity: WEF plans to bring forward voices on industry/climate. With focus on industry, could MI be good to plug in?

Overview: Accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement commitments requires global dialogue, deeper public-private cooperation and wider application of Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies. Building on the momentum of last year's inaugural summit, the Forum will once again bring multiple voices to the world stage for discussions on sustainable development and to seek solutions to climate change.

**Wednesday, September 25:**

**Bloomberg Global Business Forum**

Hosted by: Bloomberg

Attendees: Public and private sector leaders (expecting 400 CEOs)

Opportunity: Bloomberg plans to focus part of its forum on climate finance. Showcase green bank work or consider something on pensions, which CT Green Bank thinking about.

Overview: The third annual Bloomberg Global Business Forum will convene the most important global leaders from public and private sectors to discuss and address these challenges to shared prosperity, and build crucial partnerships between business and government to ensure its continued success.

ANNEX 1: UPCOMING MILESTONES

Date	Event	USCA Activity
June 12	SCC workshop	Considering a check-in with Canada
August 8	IPCC report on lands	Release fact sheet and/or hold event on USCA leadership on NWL
August	SAFE fine rule released	USCA releases joint letter [including announcement of 177 expansion]
September 9	USCA Meeting	Finish strategy, goals/workplan, ambition for 2020, tee up GOV mtg?
September 22	High-Level US-China Dialogue (TBC; dinner)	USCA join dialogue
September 23	SG’s Climate Summit	Release annual report (or 1-2 weeks earlier); consider stage time
September 23-25	Climate Week Kick-off and Hub	Gov for opening event, other side events, event at Hub w/WASI
September 21-25	Events around SG Summit	See table; consider placing govts/staff
October/November	US Clean Energy Delegation to China (TBC)	US states and businesses could join a trade delegation to China to explore trade opportunities around climate and clean energy
December 2-13	COP25	High-level event, side events, meet with Brazilian state climate initiative

## ANNEX 2: ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON THE SG CLIMATE SUMMIT

## SG Summit key messages:

- A leap in **collective national ambition**
- Plans that are implementable, scalable and replicable and have the potential to get us in line with the commitments of the Paris Agreement
- Initiatives with potential for **transformational impact**: Ambition on climate action (mitigation/adaptation) either setting a new precedent in a sector, regionally or internationally or dramatically scaling up an existing initiative

## Summit Tracks:

1. **Mitigation Strategy** (strategies mainly for the major emitters)
2. **Social and Political Drivers** (cross-cutting, including health and just transition and consider gender, climate and security and others)
3. **Youth and Mobilization** (mobilizing youth and civil society in support of the Summit)
4. **Energy Transition** (including boosting renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy storage, access and innovation as well as mobilizing investment)
5. **Resilience and Adaptation** (integrating climate risks into public and private sector decision-making to assure sustainability of food, water and jobs for the future as well as to prevent disasters and to allow a quick recovery after disasters especially of the most vulnerable groups)
6. **Nature-based Solutions** (forests and land-based ecosystems, smart agriculture and food systems, regenerating life in rivers, lakes and oceans and enabling all people - and families - to connect to nature)
7. **Infrastructure, Cities and Local Government** (scaling ambitious commitments on low-emission and resilient infrastructure, specifically land-based transportation, buildings, water and waste systems and the requisite private and multilateral development bank financing. This track will also mobilize cities and subnational governments and necessary resources to develop and finance Paris-aligned plans and budgets)
8. **Climate Finance and Carbon Pricing** (delivering on commitments of providing USD 100 billion annually by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation)
9. **Industry** (creating stronger commitments from the hard-to-abate sectors and build on positive momentum in areas such as shipping)