

Transformational Changes Needed for a 1.5°C World

UNFCCC COP24 – Katowice, Poland

Global Environment Facility (GEF) Official Side Event

Tue, 11 Dec 2018 - 13:15-14:45

Room: Bieszczady – Zone G

The world is at a critical turning point. The message from science is unequivocal: we are running out of time if we want to avoid making irreversible damage to our global commons, which until now have provided a stable foundation for our societies to grow and develop. We are already seeing the negative impacts of climate change: sea level rise, more extreme droughts, heat waves and storms. The negative impacts often hit the poor and vulnerable the most—exactly those who have contributed the least to creating problem in the first place.

What is needed, building on the findings of the recent IPCC Special Report on 1.5 °C warming, is an urgent and unprecedented transformation in all aspects of our economies. We must begin right now, if we are to have any chance to remain on a trajectory that will enable us to cut current greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030.

This event will bring together top-level scientists, ministers, mayors and business leaders in an interactive session which will explore the actions needed to accelerate this systemic transformation.

Consistent with the GEF’s new four-year investment strategy aimed at catalyzing paradigmatic shifts, the event will focus on two key areas: first, the food system transformation, where an increase in food demand of more than 50% over the coming decades must be achieved, while at the same time the carbon-footprint of food production must be dramatically reduced and its resilience enhanced. Second, urban transformation, where the coming decades offer a one-time opportunity for transformational changes: more than half of the global urban infrastructure the world will need in 2050 is yet to be build. At the same time, we need to fix the existing legacy of massive carbon-intensive and climate-vulnerable urban development.

	PROGRAM
5 mins	<u>Opening remarks</u> Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, GEF
20 mins	<u>Opening Presentations</u> <i>The Global Commons in the 21st Century.</i> Prof. Johan Rockstrom, Co-Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research <i>Highlights from the IPCC’s new 1.5° Report.</i> Dr. Elmar Kriegler, Lead Author, Mitigation Pathways in the IPCC’s 1.5° Report, and Deputy Chair for “Sustainable Solutions” research at Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
45 mins	<u>Panel Discussion</u> <i>Moderator:</i> Jeremy Oppenheim, Managing Partner, SYSTEMIQ <i>Speakers:</i> H.E. Dr Vincent Biruta, Minister of Environment, Republic of Rwanda H.E. Fabiola Martha Muñoz Dodero, Minister of Environment, Republic of Peru Mr. Raphael Edou, Deputy-Mayor, Cotonou, Benin, fmr. Minister of Environment Republic of Benin Mr. Bernhard Stormyr, Head of Sustainability Management, Yara International
15 mins	<u>Q&A from audience</u>
5 mins	Rounding off - Jeremy Oppenheim