Global Youth Network Summit on Climate Change and Health
An online event organized as part of the HEY Campaign
July 10th, 2020, 9am to 1pm EST

SUMMARY REPORT
The Global Youth Network Summit on Climate Change and Health was organized by The Ashley Lashley Foundation as part of the HEY Campaign, in collaboration with UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Area Office and the Children’s Environmental Rights Initiative.

Word Cloud of the Global Youth Network Summit on Climate Change and Health – 10 July 2020

**Online participants by countries of origin:** Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Grenada, India, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Zimbabwe

**Some comments received:** “Thank you for this excellent Summit. It’s been really powerful to watch so many incredible advocates. Ashley did a phenomenal job facilitating” “Congratulation for the great HEY forum! It was engaging, and the messages from the different speakers were excellent! Both videos, the one on the opening, and the one with the signs where very emotional and with powerful messages.” “Great event set to high standards!” “Extremely interactive, mobilizing and inspiring with pertinent content and outcome messages!” “Looking forward to seeing summary” “Happy to be part of this meeting” “Congratulation HEY! This is absolutely inspiring! PUSH FORWARD!” “Well done all! This was quite refreshing” “Looking forward to future efforts!” “Thank you so much for your insightful remarks and speeches. I will be speaking for many when I say that this session has raised a whole new generation of activism with regards to climate change. Cheers!” “Bravo everyone! Thank you Ashley for bringing us all together.” “Absolutely excellent Ashley! This has been very inspiring!”

**Some statements by online participants:** “Unite behind the science” “We must act now to create a new future that works for all” “Inclusion is key and every single person should care about the impact of climate change” “It’s really important that there is interest by the youth as this is really where the change will come from” “Truly the ball is in our court as the youth impact the world and push for favorable climate change policies.” “We really need to act now to protect the environment”
OPENING SESSION / Watch the video here!

Opening remarks by Ashley Lashley, Miss World Barbados 2018 and HEY Campaign Founder. Introductory remarks by Mr. Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General of the Climate Action Team

✓ Highlight from Mr. Hart’s introductory remarks: Mr Hart identified five areas where the voice of young people can be most effective. Firstly, young people should channel their efforts in terms of influencing the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and let their voice be heard as governments make consequential decisions on climate-related issues. Secondly, they should ensure governments are enhancing their National Determined Contributions to tackle climate change [more information on NDCs available here]. Thirdly, they should support internationalism in the U.N: with climate change, we need countries to work better together. Fourthly, they should continue to be advocates for science. Finally, they should promote local action and solutions.

Unveiling of the HEY Campaign’s video “For every child, there is a healthier and safer future”. Direct link to the video available here!

Intergenerational discussion between Mr. Hart and youth speakers

✓ Question from Lucy Meyer: “While climate action is needed for the entire world’s population, can you tell us about any special efforts to help protect people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups from the dangerous impact of climate change?”

SESSION ONE: A Future for the World’s Children? Watch the video here!

This session introduced the WHO-UNICEF-Lancet Commission recent call for a new global movement to place children at the center of the SDGs and change the way we work on child health in the context of climate change. It included presentations by PAHO/WHO and the Lancet Countdown
on key findings and recommendations from the report *A Future for the World’s Children?* (February 2020) and a child testimony by Licypriya Kangujam.

Facilitator: Dr. Aloys Kamuragiye, Representative, UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Area Office.

Presentations by Dr. Karen Polson, Advisor, Climate Change and Environmental Determinants of Health, WHO/PAHO; and Dr. Nick Watts, Executive Director, Lancet Countdown

✓ **Highlight from Dr. Polson’s presentation:** Dr Polson said that the youth and climate movement is a powerful global force which is casting light on the problems. To further empower this movement, it is critical to find mechanisms through which young people can influence levels of governance and policies to position youth leadership as agents of change for health, the environment and climate change.

✓ **Highlight from Dr. Watt’s presentation:** Dr Watts said he doesn’t think we spend nearly enough time talking about how we can do a better job of including young people in the solution, nor enough time talking about the benefits. It turns out, when you look at the different things to do to respond to climate change, these look like public health interventions. We’re talking about cleaning up the air, making sure that our lungs and our hearts can grow and can breathe properly. We’re talking about healthier, more nutritious diets and all of the good things that come when we invest in local farmers and communities and we start to see fresher, more seasonable fruit and vegetables. We’re talking about building cities and building communities and houses that are designed around people, that aren’t designed around cars, but encourage us to engage in physical activity that create an environment that we want to live in.

Testimony by Licypriya Kangujam, 8-year-old climate activist from India

✓ **Comments from attendees:** “Licypriya you are the best!!!! Yeaah you are smartest” “Great smart & brave little girl...” “Go Licy! You are a very empowered and brave lady” “Wow! Outstanding speech” “An amazing speech!” “Great speech by Licypriya” “Proud of Licypriya” “Absolutely powerful!” “Awesome!” “Amazing!” “Great presentation Licypriya” “That was an amazing speech! Thank you so much for that power” “Excellent statement from her” “Great presentation—very powerful!” “The world needs more Licypriyas... Bravo!”

Discussion

**Presentation of the video: HEY photo campaign – messages by children.** Watch the video [here](#)!

**SESSION TWO: Children’s Environmental Rights** / Watch the video [here](#)!

This session was a contribution to the Children’s Environmental Rights Initiative (CERI), a global initiative conducted under the auspices of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, in collaboration with partners, including UNICEF. Following introductory remarks by a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and a testimony by Sakina Mohsini, a brief
overview of CERI was presented, including how the Youth Summit discussions and call to action will contribute to CERI’s work at the global level. Findings from surveys and consultations carried out with children and youth from the Caribbean and other regions were discussed, as well as additional ways to join CERI’s upcoming activities and work to promote and secure recognition of children’s right to a safe and healthy environment (i.e. online poll, Action Network, Future regional consultations).

Facilitator: Ashley Lashley

Statement by Mrs. Faith Marshall-Harris, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

✓ Highlight from the statement by Mrs Marshal-Harris: Mrs Marshall-Harris said that the participation of children and young people is vital. She urged all of them to be fully involved and to take climate change as an issue that is very important to them. So it is her hope that more and more young people will come on board as climate change activists and right defenders as their voices are the most potent.

Statement by Sakina Mohsini, 16-year-old climate activist from Afghanistan.

✓ Comments from attendees: “Very good work Sakina!!” “Amazing!” “very insightful” “Awesome” “Very interesting... interested in this analysis” “Great”

Presentation by CERI

✓ Get involved: Children and young people were invited to join the CERI Action Network, take the #MyPlanetMyRights online poll (available in English, French and Spanish): bit.ly/2V2FF0J, follow CERI on Twitter @CERI_Coalition and learn more from childrenvironment.org

Discussion

SESSION THREE: Youth testimonies on Climate Change and Health – Asia, Africa, Latin America

/ Watch the video here!

The session included powerful testimonies from young people from three different regions, showcasing the diversity of impacts climate change has on health and hearing the views of young people on how to address them. Testimonies from Afghanistan, Sierra Leone and Bolivia were followed by a Q&A session.

Facilitator: Nurianne Arias, HEY Special Envoy and youth leader in diabetes

Testimonies from Ahmad Idrees Shekaib, medical student and HEY Ambassador for Afghanistan; Alhassan Sesay, Founder of the Sierra Leone School Green Clubs; and Jairo Martinez, Youth Council for Mother Earth leader
Comments from attendees: “Congrats to Bolivia team” “Congrats Bolivia” “Excellent presentation Jairo Martinez”

Presentation of the video: We are HEY! Watch the video here

Comment from Ashley Lashley: “Some of you may still wonder what the acronym HEY stands for. It stands for healthy and environmentally friendly youth. I will share with you a video in which all 18 HEY ambassadors have formulated in their own way their version of the world that is healthier and more environmentally friendly. This is the we are HEY video.”

SESSION FOUR: Our common future must be more inclusive! Watch the video here!

This session was dedicated to exploring challenges faced by children and young people with disabilities living on the frontlines of climate change, and how to build societies that are more inclusive, where everyone feels safe and empowered to be part of the solution. Following introductory remarks by co-hosts Kerryann Ifill and Lucy Meyer, two case studies were presented by youth representatives from Costa Rica and Fiji, in the context of the 44th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, featuring a first-ever panel discussion on the theme “Climate Change and Disabilities” on July 8th.

Co-hosts: Kerryann Ifill, President of the Barbados Council for the Disabled and former President of the Senate (2012-2018) and Lucy Meyer, HEY Special Envoy and Official National Spokesperson of the Special Olympics – UNICEF USA Partnership

Remarks by Kerryann Ifill and Lucy Meyer

Highlight from Mrs. Ifill’s remarks: Mrs Ifill said that we as persons living with disabilities must act now to move towards a more inclusive approach to climate change. This means that the resources must not only address those persons who are mobile, those persons who can read, those persons who can hear, but we must also move towards ensuring that all members of our community realize that this affects them. More importantly, not only does climate change effect on persons living with disabilities but including them has potential for change.

Comments from attendees: “I agree” “Agreed” “It’s really urgent Lucy you are strong” “Hi Lucy!” “I thank you for your all efforts and sayings amazing” “Yes it was!” “Kudos to Lucy and Kerryann” “You guys are an inspiration for human beings” “To Lucy, that’s a great message you are putting across for people with disability” “Such an important message, Lucy! Your call to action is loud and clear”

Testimonies by Daniela Gordon, youth activist from Costa Rica, and Ruci Senikula, youth advocate from Fiji

Comments from attendees: “Daniela, thank you it was amazing” “Thanks you Daniela” “Great presentation Daniela” “Thanks you Daniela”
Discussion

SESSION FIVE: Covid-19 and the environment, what’s next? Watch the video here!

The session focused on early lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic from an environmental and environmental health perspective. Expert presentations were delivered by representatives from St George’s University and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Regional Collaboration Centre in Grenada and testimonies were presented by three youth from Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and New-York.

Facilitator: Kevin Manning, University of West Indies, Barbados

Remarks by Dr. Calum Macpherson, Dean of School of Graduate Studies and Director for Research, St Georges University, Grenada

- Highlight from Mr. Macpherson’s remarks: Mr. Macpherson said that the University put together the One Health Programme, as a way in which professionals, scientists, physicians, veterinarian, environmental experts, engineers, all share their knowledge from their particular expertise together. But the intergenerational input of the youth has been missing. We therefore need - just hearing from the inspirational speakers during this Summit - to add their voices to the discussion.

Remarks by Odran Edwards, technical Officer, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Regional Collaboration Centre in Grenada; Coordinator, World Health Organization Collaboration Centre (WHOCC) on Environmental and Occupational Health

Dialogue and testimonies by Tania Khan, student in public health, based on New York City; Shirlyn Simon, Facility Manager in the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs in the twin island of Trinidad and Tobago; Arabelle James-Anglies, Barbados Coordinator of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN)

CONCLUDING SESSION / Watch the video here!

Launch of the Global Children and Youth Appeal on Climate Change and Health

The Appeal is available here on Voice of Youth for signature! The animated, accessible version is available here!
Concluding remarks by Ashley Lashley and Dr. Aloys Kamuragiye, Representative, UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Area Office

✓ Ashley Lashley - Overview
  o In her concluding remarks, Ashley stated that the Global Youth Network Summit on Climate Change and Health has been a great success, illustrating the level of fellowship, participation and interaction of the HEY Campaign, which promotes youth networking across regions towards tackling the root causes of climate change and its impacts of health.
  o She complimented Mr. Selwin Hart for lending his expertise and engagement with young persons in an intergenerational forum that was extremely inspiring.
  o Session 1 provided a comprehensive overview of WHO-UNICEF-Lancet Commission recent call for a new global movement to place children at the center of the SDGs and change the way we work on child health in the context of climate change. Even more inspiring was the testimony delivered by 8-year old Licypriya Kanguram.
  o Ashley lauded the statements and presentations made in Session 2 by Mrs. Faith Marshall-Harris, Sakina Mohsini and the CERI as it relates to children’s right to a safe and healthy environment.
  o In session 3, powerful youth testimonies on the impact of climate change on health were delivered by three youth activists from Afghanistan, Bolivia and Sierra Leone. Ashley was honored that her fellow pageant sister Nurianne Arias, Miss Aruba 2018, accepted her invitation to facilitate this session as HEY Special Envoy.
  o Ashley’s favorite was session 4, which explored the challenges faced by children and young people with disabilities living on the frontlines of climate change and the need to build societies that are more inclusive.
  o Finally, session 5 gave a new perspective and insight into the lessons we are learning through COVID-19 from an environmental perspective.

✓ Dr. Kamuragiye – Key takeaways
  o From the various sessions, Dr. Kamuragiye picked a few messages, for instance from Dr. Watts on the need to focus on solutions, not only challenges resulting from climate change. The good news is that young people across regions are already implementing these and driving change.
  o Dr. Kamuragiye noted the suggestion by Mr. Selwin Hart for youth to focus on five streams of action [see above]. He also noted the need for more intergenerational dialogue. It is not just about young people driving change, but also conversing with other generations.
  o Young people may also contact various institutions as national, regional, international levels, who can support youth-led actions like this online Summit. He advised young people to reach out to those that could provide support to implement their agenda.
  o Dr. Kamuragiye highlighted that throughout the Summit, presenters stressed the need for inclusion. The Summit showed how young people living with disabilities can make a difference, from the United States to Barbados, Costa Rica and Fiji. Yes, it is possible to have all hands on deck to tackle climate change. If people living with disabilities can make it in spite of the challenges they are facing, there is no excuse for others.
  o Dr. Kamuragiye commended Ashley and her Foundation on behalf of UNICEF. He noted it can be challenging to mobilize young people across the Caribbean and beyond and was excited and heartened to see many young people from all over the world, different continents attending despite the time difference, and seeing activists as young as 8 years old. He said this is really good to see that out there, there are many young people committed and determined to make a change. On the side of UNICEF, he hopes that the HEY Campaign will continue as a movement driven by young people.
**Webinar Q&A**

**Question from attendee:** Do you have any non-profit organizations in Georgia? Are you planning to open/start a campaign in Georgia? It would be really good if you start one. Our youth is not educated about climate change. How may I help you for that campaign?

**Answer from organizers:** Gamarjobat. In most countries there are vibrant youth-led campaigns on climate change. Try to connect with one of these or initiate your own project, even if at small scale. We’re also happy to exchange with you, please contact us by email. One action you may undertake now is to translate the Global Children and Youth Appeal on Climate Change and Health in Georgian. The text is available [here](#), we will upload your translation!

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**Question from attendee:** How do you convince others who do not believe in global warming?

**Answer from organizers:** Difficult question, in spite of the consensus among 97% of scientists that there is human induced global warming! You first need to understand the particular reason why someone is denying climate change. Is it due to a lack of knowledge/information, or a particular issue like fear to lose his/her job, etc? Then try to highlight the benefits of responding to the impacts of climate change, whether in terms of health, environmental protection, economic opportunities, lifestyle, social cohesion, etc. There are many resources available online. For instance, check this [Facebook page](#), which compiles many child and youth-friendly resources including this particular video on Talking about Climate Change.

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**Question from attendee:** Unusual to see Trinidad listed so high... Is that likely because of their oil production industry?

**Answer from organizers:** The WHO-UNICEF-Lancet Commission report includes two country indexes, including one on CO2 emissions/capita, in which Trinidad and Tobago ranks 2nd due to oil production + being a small island. The country’s ranking in the child flourishing index is of course better. According to the report, only 10 countries score well in both indexes, meeting their CO2 emissions reduction targets, while ranking in the top 70 of the flourishing index: Albania, Armenia, Grenada, Jordan, Moldova, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uruguay and Vietnam. More information available from: [https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/future-child](https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/future-child)

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**Question from attendee:** What opportunities does the UN offer for people with disabilities to enhance their activism?

**Answer from organizers:** At country level, it depends on the national context and capacities. At a global level, the United Nations are promoting the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#). On July 8th, 2020, the Human Rights Council held its annual session in Geneva, which included the first ever panel discussion on Climate Change and Persons with Disabilities. You may watch the video record [here](#)!
**Question from attendee:** Has the COVID-19 pandemic done more good than bad for the environment? For instance the significantly reduced emissions in parts of Beijing.

**Answer from organizers:** There are many short-term examples of positive impacts of the pandemic on the environment, which is logical due to the interruption of pollution sources during times of lock-down and border closure. The actual question is what can be the lessons learnt from the pandemic to transform our societies and make them more environmentally friendly. Have a look at the six points proposed by the UN Secretary General on Earth Day, April 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2020.

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**Question from attendee:** How can the youth be sensitised to love and protect their environment with this new technology that is threatening the world?

**Answer from organizers:** It is your view that “new technology is threatening the world”. However, it is definitely a fact that ICTs contribution to global CO2 emissions is significant (up to 4\%) and fast-increasing. This is of great concern. It is also true that we need to develop a culture of care for the environment, including direct interaction with nature.

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Thank you for joining!

We look forward to seeing you on our [Webpage](#) and social media: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#)