

Climate change diplomats identify need for positive collective and individual climate action ahead of UN Climate Action Summit 2019 in New York

GENEVA, Switzerland, September 20, 2019 – A public event yesterday co-organized by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Veritas Global, and the South Centre showcased the perspectives of Geneva-based ambassadors and senior diplomats from developing countries, including Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, and South Africa, on the priorities for the upcoming UN Climate Action Summit. The diplomats taking part in the panel had been deeply engaged in and have led the UN climate negotiations over the past decade.

The panelists highlighted the need for:

- **urgency** in undertaking climate action;
- **inclusive and collective endeavors** that at the same time reflect the different national circumstances and development conditions between developed and developing countries;
- **ambition** in meeting both climate and sustainable development challenges;
- **implementation** of agreed frameworks and commitments (including under the UN Climate Convention and its Paris Agreement);
- **increased provision of financing, technology and capacity building** to developing countries to address climate change and adapt to its impacts.

They also stressed the expectation that the UN Climate Action Summit would result in a renewed spirit of positive collective and individual action and partnership on climate change. It would lead to the implementation of commitments, greater mobilization of public support for national and global action on adaptation and on mitigation. Crucially, the panelists pointed to the need to break the silos that prevent integrated and urgent action on climate change internationally and on the ground.

In a presentation prior to the panel event, George Anjaparidze, CEO of Veritas Global, pointed out that evidence demonstrates that governments' committed climate actions to 2030 are likely to fall well short of the Paris Agreement ambition of limiting temperature increases to 1.5° to 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Without immediate acceleration and scaling-up of global climate finance and resources, the world would be on an emission trajectory consistent with about a 3°C warming, with potentially catastrophic consequences for parts of the world.

“By continuing to delay meaningful action on climate finance, we face a situation where it becomes more challenging, both economically and politically, to achieve the ambitions of the Paris Agreement,” said Mr. Anjaparidze. “As we have seen today, momentum is building among key climate stakeholders. Collectively, we can no longer afford to bury our heads in the sand.”

About Geneva Center for Security Policy

Housed in the Maison de la paix, the GCSP is an international foundation established in 1995, with 52 member states, for the primary purpose of promoting peace, security and international cooperation through executive education, dialogue and applied policy research. The GCSP trains government officials, diplomats, military officers, international civil servants as well as NGO and private sector staff in pertinent fields of international peace and security.

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About Veritas Global

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About the South Centre

The South Centre is the intergovernmental organization of developing countries that helps developing countries to combine their efforts and expertise to promote their common interests in the international arena. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. The South Centre undertakes research and analysis oriented on various international policy areas that are relevant to the protection and promotion of the development interests of developing countries. The South Centre helps the countries of the South to develop common points of view and to work together on major international development-related policy issues. See www.southcentre.int for more information. Tel.: +41227918050; Email: yu@southcentre.int