



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

Pathways towards transformational climate action: connecting the worlds of research, evaluation and policy for action | WP1965V

1300 – 1545 BST on Wednesday 8 September 2021

To be held virtually

Climate change is a defining issue of our time. It continues to threaten societies globally and its economic, social, and environmental impacts are a challenge for us all. The current status quo of societies' unsustainable systems is a major factor in the problem. Without drastic action today, adapting to these impacts in the future will be more difficult and costly, and the world will struggle to get back on track with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS).

Transformational climate action will require collective action, learning and finding appropriate responses together. However, the worlds of research, evaluation, policy and action operate in silos in many instances, despite many interconnections and potential synergies in evidence production for adaptive, anticipatory and robust climate action. Many practical, political and structural barriers exist to improved collaboration and aligned networks across these fields.

This is the first dialogue, in a series of three, held two months before COP26 in Glasgow. We are bringing together about 50 participants from the worlds of policy, evaluation and research. It aims to clarify what the dimensions of transformational climate action are, situated in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has revealed and exacerbated inequality, poverty, unemployment, and vulnerability.

Questions to address in this and subsequent sessions

What are the pathways and actions that will truly work to mitigate climate change risks and foster systemic resilience? How do societies innovate, experiment, and scale-up effective climate responses as we build back better in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic? What processes will generate enough commonly-held beliefs about how to transform cultures, values and societies – and the will to make these changes happen?

In association with: The International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS), Climate Investment Funds (CIF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), University of Sussex, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), United Nations Development Programme Independent Evaluation Office (UNDP IEO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the International Evaluation Academy.

(Speakers invited and themes proposed * denotes confirmed)

1250-1300

Participants join

1300-1310

Welcome and introduction

*** Nick Linfield**

Programme Director and Head of Policy, Wilton Park

***Rob D. van den Berg**

Professor, King's College, London

1310-1330

1. Transformational climate action? What does this involve?

Small discussion groups will briefly discuss what is meant by transformational climate action based on the provided the Transformational Change Learning Partnership (TCLP) guidance note.

From the five dimensions listed in the Transformational Change Learning Partnership (TCLP) guidance note (Relevance, Systemic Change, Speed, Scale, Adaptive Sustainability):

- a. What is key for you? What is missing?
- b. What would be required to ensure that change is truly transformational?

1330-1420

2. Learnings and achievements of transformation in climate action

Sharing examples of transformational climate action followed by roundtable discussion.

Each speaker to present for 5 minutes initially:

***Peter Newell**

Professor of International Relations, University of Sussex, Brighton

***Mike Ward**

Senior Consultant, Climate Investment Funds, Washington, DC

***Fabrizio Felloni**

Deputy Director, Independent Office of Evaluation, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome

***Girma Earo Kumbi**

Chief Evaluation Officer, African Development Bank Group, Abidjan

Followed by further discussion on: how can key players/actors be convinced of the need for transformational change? How can transformation be planned for? How can it be implemented? What is possible on the ground? How has Covid-19 impacted the transformation? How has equity been incorporated?

1420-1425

Break

1425-1520

3. Pathways towards transformational climate action: overcoming barriers and moving forwards

Introduction and reflections on previous conversation to shape the discussion groups.

***Ali Sheikh**

Member EXCOM, Water Environment Forum (WEForum), Islamabad

***Shehnaaz Moosa**

Director, SouthSouthNorth and Director, Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), Cape Town

Facilitators:

***Linda Morra Imas**

Interim President, International Evaluation Academy (IEAc), Miramar

***Ada Ocampo**

President, IDEAS Centre, Lima

***Geeta Batra**

Deputy Director, Independent Evaluation Office, Global Environment Facility (GEF)

***Neil Bird**

Senior Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London

Questions for discussion groups.

- Moving forwards, what can we learn from the case studies and how they relate to the 5 dimensions?
- What barriers to transformational climate action need to be addressed? Going forward, how to overcome these?
- How can policy, research and evaluation support greater transformational intent?

Followed by feedback and roundtable discussion.

1520-1530

4. Final reflections and next steps

***Paula Caballero**

Managing Director, Lands for Life Program, Washington, DC

***Oscar Garcia**

Director, Independent Evaluation Office (ieo), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York

1530-1545

Optional networking opportunity

For those who can stay on the line an opportunity to continue the conversation informally.

Series goals and objectives:

These dialogues will help create a better understanding of evaluative evidence and research findings which policy makers will be able to apply to make the transformative changes our societies need. Specifically, to:

1. Highlight and share existing knowledge and practical evidence from different actors that can inform more effective transformational action in the climate arena.
2. Strengthen productive linkages between power brokers among climate policymakers [public and private] and evidence-gatherers [researchers, evaluators, policy analysts] in support of transformational climate actions.
3. Determine how to unlock evidence, and how the linkages between policymakers [public and private sector decisionmakers, civil society] and evidence-gatherers can be made to be more productive in support of transformational change in the climate arena.
4. Integrate perspectives and finding high-level consensus and inspiring more impactful evidence-based collaborative action towards transformational change across research, evaluation, policy and action arenas for transformational climate action.

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

Participation in this event is by invitation only.

Enquiries to: transformationalchange@wiltonpark.org.uk