

Panel Session IV: Playing for the Planet: How Youth and Sports can unite to deliver on the Global Goals

Short description:

If we are to deliver on the sustainable development goals, young people need to be at the heart of the conversation. This panel session will showcase how the combination of sports, video gaming, youth and education are coming together to inspire young people into action as part of UN Environment's new agenda on education and youth.

At this event, representatives from the International Olympic Committee, the Scouts and games industry experts will be sharing the action they are undertaking in this arena. UN Environment will also be sharing their findings from their new Play for the Planet report which will outline ways within which the gaming industry can support the environmental dimensions of the SDGs. The recommendations will range from green nudges, taking funding to scale, shifting to clean energy and addressing their e-waste footprint.

To open the session, it will likely following this order:

- 1) Introductory remarks
- 2) Comments from each of the panellists following a question by the chair
- 3) Q&A discussion, either in the room or online from questions coming in to the room
- 4) Key action points / recommendations agreed at the end.
- 5) Closing remarks from My Siim Kiisler, President of the UN Environment Assembly and Minister of Environment for Estonia.

The kind of discussion that is likely to arise at the session is:

- How can gaming inspire young people to act more sustainability? Is this really able to make a difference and shouldn't kids be spending more time off games and more time in nature?
- Given the Scouts movements comes from nature, how can it use the strength of its movement to raise awareness about the risk to nature in the world?
- What are governments doing to address this issue? If it's a priority then shouldn't this be given a higher profile at events like these?
- What is the Olympics movement doing to mobilise not just it's sports, but it's sponsors to act in this arena?

**THINK
BEYON**

**LIVE
WITHIN**

Panellists:

- (Closing Remarks) Mr Siim Kiisler, President of the UN Environment Assembly and Minister of Environment of Estonia: Estonia has one of the most dynamic gaming industries in the world and has been a big supporter of the environmental education agenda. The Minister will give closing remarks for the session.
- Ms Beatrice Allen, International Olympic Committee Member: The International Olympic Movement has been supporting UN Environment's Clean Seas campaign, bringing on board sports and national Olympic committees to commit to reduce marine litter. This is part of a wider commitment towards sustainability that the Olympic family is supporting.
- Jake Manion, Creative Director, The Internet of Elephants: The games industry reaches 1 in 3 people on the planet and have unprecedented access to the attention of young people. James is creative and product director for the Internet of Elephants who have produced award winning games around the theme of conservation.
- The World Organisation of the Scout Movement: The Scout movement of 51 million young people from across the world is currently reviewing its entire environment programme, with partners at UN Environment and WWF. They will share the plans they have for inspiring young people.
- Susan Gardner, Director of Ecosystems Division UN Environment: UN Environment currently works with some 830 Universities from across the world providing support for green campuses and course curricula. It is now expanding its work to create a new Youth and Education Alliance, partnerships with the Scouts and the gaming industry with the aim of creating a new movement for action with young people and education institutions. UN Environment has commissioned a new report on how the gaming sector can influence the behaviour of young people to act in support of the environment, the findings will be shared at this event.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature: IUCN, the global authority on the status of the natural world, has been working with IOC since 2015. IUCN will speak about the important bond between sports and nature but also the potential impacts that sport venues can have on biodiversity. On this occasion IUCN will launch its report Mitigating biodiversity impacts of new sports venues.
- Chair: Alastair Leithead, BBC Africa Correspondent