



Young UN

Agents for Change

PRESS STATEMENT

22 September 2019

Open Letter to the UN Secretary-General on Climate Action, sent on Thursday, 19 September 2019

We, members of the [Young UN: Agents for Change](#) network, are encouraged by the overwhelming response to our [Open Letter](#) to the UN Secretary-General calling for even stronger climate action in the UN system. The letter gathered signatures from nearly 2000 UN system employees in three days, demonstrating the strong support among UN employees for bold climate action at the UN and our collective commitment to change.

The letter was sent to the Secretary-General on Thursday, 19 September with 1709 signatures and remains [open for signature](#). The action points proposed in the letter support the UN Secretary-General's leadership in tackling the climate crisis and his [call for action](#): *"We have the tools to answer the questions posed by climate change, environmental pressure, poverty and inequality. They lie in the great agreements of 2015 – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. But tools are no use if you don't use them. So, today, and every day, my appeal is clear and simple. We need action, ambition and political will. More action, more ambition and more political will."*

We are pleased that the office of the Secretary-General issued a statement to [Reuters](#) welcoming our initiative on climate action in the UN system, and reaffirming that "The Secretary-General is committed to lead by example and calls for transformative action to address the climate crisis, including on the part of the UN system and Secretariat itself."

Young UN is ready to work together with the UN Secretary-General, colleagues and partners, including [Greening the Blue](#), through our inter-agency and interdisciplinary global network, to accelerate climate action in the UN system. Building on constructive input from colleagues, an online action hub will be launched to harness this momentum. The hub will serve to spark new conversations and thinking among UN colleagues and experts, gather examples of best practices and co-design stronger policies and actions for UN offices around the world.

The open letter is available in English, French and Spanish [here](#).

For further enquiries, please contact: young.un.info@gmail.com.