



## Climate Ambition Chat

**Tirana University**  
**Faculty of History and Philology - Konrad Adenauer Room**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023**

### Background information on the activity

UN in Albania and Embassy of Spain share an interest in raising awareness around issues of climate change. Climate Action is central to Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (see Goal 13) Member states to the United Nations made their collective commitment to the goals in 2015 and at the midway point, this year, the Secretary General calls attention to progress, asking all signatories to renew their ambition and reflect on areas where progress is needed to meet the 2030 targets. Climate action is one such area.

On the second semester 2023, Spain assumes Presidency of the Council of the European Union providing an opportunity for diplomatic missions to lead and convene actions around important global and European wide issues. Climate action is a key priority of the program of the current Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU (see Priority 2). The EU Green Deal and promoting policy change and investment into sustainable consumption and production are priorities for the EU, at home and in the accession countries of the Western Balkans.

Science tells us we will cross the 1.5-degree threshold for the first time this is why it is important to highlight solutions that can scale, and lessons learned from positive actions. The urgency of action for Climate Change, articulated in global dialogue, multilateralism and cooperation such as Conference of the Parties, now COP 28, assesses, and promotes progress across the world and what we can learn from each other. This will be the focus of the joint UN Albania-Embassy of Spain action.

Albania submitted its [revised NDC](#) National Determined Contribution – pledge to Climate Change in October 2021.

Key highlights from the NDC

- Albania committed to an unconditional emissions reduction target of 20.9% by 2030 compared to business as usual.
- The country also strengthened measures and policies in mitigation sectors and expanded the scope and coverage of key sectors and gases.
- The revised NDC also includes a significant list of adaptation actions and their co-benefits.

Adaptation and resilience areas in the NDC

- Settlements
- Population

- Tourism
- Agriculture, forestry, and other land use

With over 1.8 billion young people worldwide, youth are critical stakeholders in climate action. However, they often face underrepresentation in decision-making processes due to inadequate technical, political, and financial support. A key success factor for raising climate ambition is to ensure meaningful youth-inclusive processes in climate negotiations and policymaking as well as implementation, monitoring, and accountability.

Targeting youth, the event is co-designed with Albania’s Youth Delegates to the UN, the UN Youth Advisory Group and students from the Tirana and Polytechnic University. It will be run on 23 October, to coincide with UN Week

The Ambassador of Spain, the Minister of Tourism and Environment, UN RC, UNDP RR and University Rector/s will address the event with their key messages. Experts will be invited to inform on the current state of climate change and the importance of collective action. The expected number of participants at the event is around 50.

In addition to the engaging speeches and informative sessions, during the event, the youth and all meeting attendees can capture moments by taking a selfie at a thematic photo booth and spread the word of our commitment to the climate and nature.

Agenda	
Time	Topic
10.00-10.30	<p>Welcoming and Key messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H. E. Alvaro Zalba, Ambassador of Spain</li> <li>• Ms. Almira Xhembulla, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment</li> <li>• Ms. Fiona McCluney, UN Resident Coordinator</li> <li>• Ms. Monica Merino, UNDP Resident Representative</li> <li>• Prof. Dr. Artan Hoxha, Rector of Tirana University</li> </ul>
10.00-11.30	<p><b>Setting the scene:</b> Climate Change -Vital signs NDC Where are we now.</p> <p>Overview of the state of art on Climate Change and Albania Context – NDC. The countdown to COP 28 - Moto - Unite, Act and Deliver to tackle climate change.</p> <p>Keynote speaker: Fatjona Cinaj, Head of Climate Change Directorate, Ministry of Tourism and Environment</p>



	<p><b>Panel discussion on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate promise on renewables, photovoltaics, and youth co-designed smart solar mobile applications for businesses – Mirela Kamberi, UNDP</li><li>• Ecological Monitoring of our seas and modelling of Climate Change Impacts, examples from Karaburun - Sazani Marine Park - Eno Dodbiba, UNDP</li><li>• Climate Hack for a sustainable future, experience in Albania with environmental hackathons, Odeta Cato, UNDP</li><li>• Climate Friendly Tourism through youth lens, examples from eco certification to user experience - Doreid Petoshati, UNDP</li><li>• Youth as climate champions, UN Youth representative</li></ul>
11.30-12.30	Discussions moderated by UN Youth Advisory Group representatives
12.30-12.45	Closing Remarks