



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

23 May 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to share with you my expectations from the leading countries that I have invited to participate in the Climate Action Summit taking place on 23 September 2019.

Climate change is the defining issue of our time and in 2019 alone, we have seen devastating tornadoes and flash floods in North America, fatal cyclones and tropical storms in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, and a summer heat wave facing Europe that could be more traumatic than that of 2018.

We know the urgency with which we need to act, and that the solutions to climate change are in reach. To drive and accelerate transformative changes on the necessary scale and at the right speed will depend on the determination of global leaders. I am counting on you, once again, to demonstrate the leadership the European Union and your personal dedication to combating climate change.

I write to you today as both a G20 member and as a leader whom I believe can bring the ingenuity needed to transform our economic systems and avert the negative impacts of a world with high levels of carbon emissions — from rising levels of pollution to costly natural disasters. We need to change course by 2020, reduce emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 and achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This is the route to a new, sustainable, resilient and inclusive path of growth and development.

In this context, I am asking all leaders to curtail their countries' current coal capacity and to discontinue the approval of new coal plants beyond 2020.

An announcement by the European Union committing to enhance its Nationally Determined Contributions, while aiming at a target of 55 per cent reduction in emissions, would send a powerful message of leadership and commitment towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. I would also welcome the announcement of the adoption of its strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and carbon neutral economy by 2050.

His Excellency
Mr. Donald Tusk
President of the European Council
Brussels

It is my hope to use this Summit to create a process of increased ambition by focusing on actions that have the ability to transform our societies and put the world on a 1.5 °C pathway.

I look forward to discussing these and other solutions with you at the G20 meeting in Osaka, Japan as we finalize commitments for the Summit.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

with my warmest personal regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres', with a stylized flourish at the end.

António Guterres