

END OF SCREENING

7:20PM - Introductory words:

Good evening, my name is Marc Jourdan, I am the UN Representative for the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development.

As my colleague Yamile Eusebio, explained at the beginning of the screening, for the second part of this event we have put together a panel of speakers to continue the discussion around some of the themes explored in Fernando Baez's documentary, in particular the topic of climate change and sea level rise.

The participants gathered here tonight include Mr. Fernando Báez, Filmmaker and Director of Lago Enriquillo: A Prelude to Climate Change, Mr. Omar Ramírez, Executive Vice-President of the National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism of the Dominican Republic, his Excellency Ambassador Ahmed Sareer from the Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations and Mr. Jamil Ahmad, the Deputy Director of UNEP New York.

Thank you all for agreeing to be here. (PAUSE)

Fernando, first of all I'd like to thank you, on behalf of GFDD, for allowing us to share this visually stunning but also important film with the audience tonight. It's definitely given us a lot to talk about! (PAUSE)

If you don't mind, for the sake of time I'd like to turn to our speakers for their statements before we open the floor for questions from the audience.

8PM – Omar Ramirez statement

8.10PM – Thank Omar for his words and transition to next speaker

Our next speaker is H.E Ambassador Sareer of the Permanent Mission of Maldives to the UN.

Ambassador, thank you for joining us. Now Ambassador Sareer is not only the PR of the Maldives he is also the Chair of AOSIS. The Ambassador is going to tell us how climate change has affected the island nation of Maldives. Given his additional responsibility as Chair of AOSIS, he will also give us some insight on the position of AOSIS in the lead up to the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Ambassador you have the floor.

8.15PM – Thank Ambassador Sareer and transition to Mr. Ahmad

Our next speaker is Mr. Jamil Ahmad, the Deputy Director of UNEP New York. Mr. Ahmad will provide us with an overview of UNEP's programs as they relate to the issue of climate change, and the tools they offer to promoting understanding and action on climate change, particularly for those regions most vulnerable to its impacts.

8.20PM Thank Ahmad. Transition to Q&A (allow 5 questions).

Question to Fernando Baez:

Over the course of 10 year, you produced more than 100 films on environmental issue in some of the exotic places of the Dominican Republic. How did the recent making of Lago Enriquillo impact your outlook on environmental protection issues and the issue of climate change?

Question to Jamil Ahmad:

Traditionally foreign debt has been exercised by institutions such as the IMF as a way for developed countries to exercise control over developing countries.

Today, developing countries are using their own natural resources to fuel the development of developed countries. It seems fair that developed countries should repay their debt to developing countries by limiting the consumption of fossil fuels. As the Secretariat for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, UNEP has an opportunity to help create this balance.

Can you please explain to us what the 10YFP is and what progress it has made so far to bring about a transition to sustainable consumption and production?

Question to Omar Ramirez:

Over the course of the past year, Member State Delegates have met at the UN to negotiate the Sustainable Development Goals, the successor framework to the UN's current development agenda, the Millennium Development Goals. One of the key differences of this new framework is its universality element, as it will be applicable to all member states.

Within climate change negotiations, the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibility (*Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration confirming that in view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, states have common but differentiated responsibilities*) remains a problem. China, a rapidly industrializing nation, still wishes to be considered a developing country and benefit from the CBDR principle, a big hurdle for countries such as the USA.

What impact (if any) do you think the adoption of this new framework in September will have on the climate negotiations in Paris in December?

Question to Ambassador Sareer:

Fair management of the Global Commons is one of the most important tasks of the 21st century. Countries should not place their own national interests above the global common good.

With that in mind, how optimistic are you that the Paris deal will receive the adequate level of funding from developed countries to protect those countries (SIDS in particular) which are most vulnerable to climate change?

8.45PM: CLOSING

Wrap up session (Concluding Remarks by speakers) & Thanks to all speakers, sponsors and attendees by Marc Jourdan (referencing the book)

Thank the audience for their questions and then remind them that if they have further questions they can raise these with the panel speakers individually.

Thank you to all our panel participants tonight, and in particular Mr Baez for sharing this film which is a great platform for debate.

Thank you all very much for attending tonight's event, in parallel to the General Assembly's High Level Event on Climate Change. Please continue to support climate advocacy by engaging in these discussions at the United Nations in the run up to the Paris meeting on climate change at the end of the year.

Finally, given that we are sitting in the ECOSOC Chamber of the United Nations I thought it would be fitting to leave you with an inspiring quote from His Holiness Pope Francis' recently released Encyclical on climate change, which states:

"The idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology ... is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry at every limit." ... "Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start."