

Mr Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC
Speech to UNESCO Executive Board Members

Key Messages

17 May 2024

- In the coming 18 months, we need a new climate finance deal and updated climate plans (NDCs) from all countries, alongside reports on their current efforts. This involves getting almost 200 parties to agree on many complex issues.
- Our collaboration between UNFCCC and UNESCO helps us reflect on our past and future. We aim to preserve species, habitats, and cultural heritage. For example, the melting glaciers in Nepal's Sagarmatha National Park threaten both local communities and downstream populations.
- Education is key for the future. We need to train the next generation to address climate change in various fields: engineering, medicine, government, and business. Climate education should be part of all school curriculums, this why the UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership, supported by UNFCCC, is so important.
- Arts and culture can inspire climate action. We work with the Entertainment & Culture for Climate Action alliance to promote sustainable practices in creative industries.
- To protect cultural heritage and promote clean energy, we need widespread adaptation and innovation. Technological advances like AI can support these efforts.
- We urge UNESCO and everyone here to deepen their engagement in climate action, preserving our heritage and preparing the next generation to create a sustainable future.