

Interview Clippings of Director-General Yvo de Boer

Interviews were conducted on the occasion of the UN Climate Summit in New York.

Responding to Climate Change (RTCC)



<http://gggi.org/un-climate-summit-gggi-director-general-yvo-de-boer-speaks-to-rtcc-on-the-sidelines-of-the-un-meeting/>

UN Climate Summit: GGGI Director-General Yvo de Boer speaks to RTCC on the sidelines of the UN meeting



<http://www.rtcc.org/2014/09/24/un-climate-summit-mandelas-widow-says-leaders-lack-courage/>



UN climate summit: Mandela's widow says leaders lack courage

NEWS: Graca Machel, member of the Elders group, attacks world leaders for weak promises at New York summit

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And Yvo de Boer, who led UN efforts to secure a climate agreement in 2009, told RTCC he felt the meeting should be repeated in the lead-up to Paris next year, to ensure leaders were reminded of their responsibilities.

“I’ll be interested to see if BKM announces another event next September, I think that actually be a would be a very good idea,” he said.

“This is an opportunity to take the process out of its coma for political leaders, but Paris is still quite far away, so if something like this were to happen in September of 2015, just a couple of months before the Paris conference I think that would be a perfect opportunity to really focus leaders at that moment in time on the key political issues that need to be resolved.”

<http://www.rtcc.org/2014/09/23/society-has-mobilised-against-climate-change-hollande/>



Society has "mobilised" against climate change - Hollande
NEWS: The French president said leaders must "define a new economy for the world" as they head towards a global climate deal in Paris next year

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But in an interview on the sidelines of talks here, former UN climate chief Yvo de Boer told RTCC the impact of Sunday's climate march, and the fact so many leaders were taking part, meant part of the summit's goals had already been met.

"I think it's an important moment, in the sense that I believe many politicians left Copenhagen with a climate change hangover, given how that conference went there," he said.

"They were then almost fully taken up by the financial crisis, and basically climate change has been off their radar screens since 2009. I think indications from countries that they want to be ambitious on climate change, they want to take domestic action, and most importantly that they want to see an agreement in Paris next year."

The Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/blog/live/2014/sep/23/un-climate-change-summit-in-new-york-live-coverage>



UN climate change summit in New York – live coverage |
Environment | theguardian.com

Barack Obama, David Cameron and Dilma Rousseff are among leaders in New York today at a climate summit hosted by Ban Ki-moon

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Suzanne Goldenberg in New York has interviewed Yvo de Boer, the former head of the UN climate secretariat that leads the international negotiations. She writes:

"I really see it very much as taking the temperature of politics," Yvo de Boer said. "Political leaders have not been engaged on climate since Copenhagen, and this I think will really be a litmus test to see whether politicians are willing to engage on this topic and whether they see Paris as an opportunity to do something meaningful."

But he is not sure the gathering will do much to put the negotiations on a fast track to a deal at Paris next year.

“One of the problems that I have with this summit is that it doesn’t really have a place in the political process towards Paris. This summit is not about getting clarity from leaders on what they feel are the key corner stones towards getting a Paris agreement... I think at the end of the summit we will not have a clear indication of what the three, four or five issues are.”

De Boer said he would be watching to see whether the US lives up to its very strong language so far – with John Kerry pledging on Monday to put climate change ‘front and centre’ of diplomacy.

“If the US in the rhetoric takes a strong position I think that helps. The problem with the United States is that it often doesn’t go very far beyond the rhetoric. That is, the US is vocal and very demanding in international negotiations and then sips out the door when it is time to sign on the dotted line.”

That was a dig about America’s failure to ratify the Kyoto climate treaty.



Yvo de Boer Photograph: KELD NAVNTOFT/AFP/Getty Images

The Carbon Brief

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/09/behind-the-scenes-at-the-un-climate-change-summit-the-view-from-new-york/>



Earlier in the day, the UN's former top climate official Yvo de Boer told me that he hoped Ban Ki-moon might convene a similar event this time next year, months ahead of the Paris deal. He said countries were waking from a climate "coma", and perhaps needed some intensive care.

"I think that would be a perfect opportunity to really focus leaders at that moment in time on the key political issues that need to be resolved," he said.

The Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/climate-change-response-will-define-this-century-says-obama-1.1939312>



Climate change response will define this century, says Obama

'Nobody gets a pass,' US president tells UN conference in New York

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The summit in New York is designed to add political impetus to the negotiations. Yvo de Boer, a former UN climate chief, said world leaders had not been engaged on climate since the Copenhagen conference debacle in 2009, so the New York summit was useful in "taking the temperature of politics" in the run-up to Paris.

While welcoming the current US "rhetoric", he told the *Guardian*: "The problem with the US is that it often doesn't go very far beyond the rhetoric. That is, the US is vocal and very demanding in international negotiations and then slips out the door when it is time to sign on the dotted line."