

## **the mass dialogues 2009: a global initiative to inspire and empower**

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the mass dialogues 2009 are a web 2.0-enabled global outreach initiative from the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Through a series of live interactive web-based meetings, they will educate, inspire and empower young people on climate change.

### **Invitation to participate**

On behalf of Organisation International de la Francophonie (OIF) and 2degreesC, I am writing to invite your participation in the mass dialogues 2009 – a global outreach initiative to inspire and empower young people on climate change.

From December 7-18, 2009, more than 180 countries and 15,000+ members of civil society will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, for the the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Young people have for a long time been participants in the UNFCCC. Over time, they have contributed child and youth perspectives to the international climate negotiations and to a broader global audience through their outreach, media and policy advocacy activities. Through their creativity and inspiration, they have helped foster deeper commitment to resolving the climate crisis.

Young people will once again participate in this year's negotiation, but this time, in greater numbers than ever before. Thousands of young people from all over the world are expected in Copenhagen. They will engage in learning, advocacy, media outreach and networking – all aimed at ensuring the global response to climate change is a strong one.

the mass dialogues are an effort to bring the youth experience in Copenhagen to the world. We will reach more than 5,000 young people (and possibly many thousands more) from 30+ countries in a series of interactive dialogues with youth participants in the negotiations. This is an ambitious target, but an achievable one.

The dialogues offer a unique opportunity to drive young person interest in climate change, as a topic, and in youth citizenship. Participants will learn about the

international climate process and the essential role of young people in it. This will undoubtedly be a great opportunity for education, inspiration and empowerment.

the mass dialogues is being convened by the Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF), a subsidiary body of the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF), with the technical support of the Unité Jeunesse (Youth Unit) of the Francophonie, an entity under the Direction de la Planification Stratégique (DPS) of the OIF, and in partnership with 2degreesC.

We are presently inviting additional partners to the project – specifically:

- funding partners (still seeking ~US\$24,000 cash)
- outreach partners to promote the project to youth/educational networks around the world
- event organizing partners to convene youth participants in 30+ countries around the world
- event participants (in Copenhagen)

For more information, see the mass dialogues 2009: concept note (below) or contact one of:

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If interested in participating in the mass dialogues 2009, please contact either of us at your earliest convenience.



David Noble, 2degreesC

Moussa SINON, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie



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### **concept note**

Young people are very concerned about all the damage caused by climate change around the world (disease, hunger, conflict, floods, cyclones...). They want to be agents for change and would like their viewpoints and experiences to be taken into account in all climate change initiatives. For that reason, a conference of youth organizations has been organized prior to each United Nations Climate Change Conference since the COP 11 held in Montreal. Young people want to be heard more and to be better informed so they can act with the technical experts and politicians to address climate issues. Combatting climate change is everybody's business (young and old alike), and there is an urgent need to take young people into consideration since their future is becoming increasingly uncertain.

Aware of the desire of thousands of young people to take part in the conference, the Youth Unit organized a videoconferencing session during the COP 14 in Poznan, Poland, which it facilitated jointly with the Director of the IEPF, Ms. Fatimata DIA TOURE of Poznan, and Mr. Yadh LABBENE, an expert from Tunis, with the active participation of 44 young people from 17 countries. 2degreesC also delivered a multi-lingual series of web-based videoconference from the Poznan negotiations.

Furthermore, since 2006, the IEPF and the Youth Unit have allowed young Francophone heads of associations to participate in international conferences on the environment (climate, biodiversity, desertification) by asking them to cover events on the *Jeunes* (youth) portal of Médiaterre ([www.mediaterre.org/jeunes](http://www.mediaterre.org/jeunes)).

In August 2009, the Youth Unit, in partnership with the IEPF, also organized the second École d'été des jeunes francophones sur l'environnement et le développement (Francophone youth summer school on the environment and development), whose main theme this year was climate change. Approximately 40 young people from 20 countries received training on the issues of COP 15, and some of them will take part in the Mass Dialogue operation in Copenhagen.

On the strength of these experiences, the IEPF and 2degreesC are organizing the mass dialogues 2009 – a series of online interactive meetings between youth participants in the Copenhagen climate negotiations, and groups of online youth participants from around the world.

The project aims to deliver a series of web-based meetings that will engage more than 5000 online participants (and possibly many more) in 30+ countries. Online participants will be able to interact directly with youth and other expert participants at the Copenhagen negotiations.

## **1. Objectives**

- Enable thousands of young people to hold a dialogue with professionals, experts, and young people physically present at the conference;
- Extend the learning, inspiration and sense of empowerment from youth participation in the climate negotiations to thousands of young people from all over the world
- Encourage the sharing of national initiatives through a global dynamic supported by thousands of young people so they can use the issues involved in the negotiations as a starting point to explore together the role that they can play.

## **2. Beneficiaries**

- The direct beneficiaries will be the young people and students who will be educated on climate-related issues.
- The indirect beneficiaries will be the young people and organizations involved in climate change education and environmental protection in general.

## **3. Anticipated outcomes**

- Over 5,000 young people from at least 30 countries are made aware of climate change issues and are directly informed of the COP 15 negotiations;
- Young people share a vision of the development of a climate change strategy,
- The worldwide network of young people involved in combatting climate change is reinforced through a program of consistent action.
- Web-based meetings are broadcast on Médiaterre and other partner Internet sites and reach several thousand Internet users.

## **4. Process**

- At the COP 15 site

- Virtual connection with the different sites in the various countries for dialogue on climate change
  - Daily conference facilitated by national and international experts from the public sector and from civil society
  - Guests of honour from the political scene
  - Dialogue between the young participants.
- In at least 20 countries: a university, conference or videoconference room will be used as a participation framework for youth associations and movements. At the same time, young people attend a presentation on climate change and projection of films and are connected to the COP 15 site.
  - In at least 10 other countries with easy Internet access, associations are getting together and mobilizing young people to promote group or collective participation.
  - Any young person around the world who is connected to the videoconferencing system can take part.
  - In at least two countries: a university, conference or videoconference room will be used as a participation framework for IEPF partners, Médiaterre members, or sustainable development practitioners that have benefited from IEPF programs.

**5. Dates and duration of the mass dialogue:** December 5 to 18, 2009.

- Five two-hour sessions during COP 15.

See appendices for the sequence of events in a typical session.

**6. Locations**

Three locations (or zones) are planned:

- Bella Center in Copenhagen (<http://www.bellacenter.dk/english/>)
- 30 countries
- Internet

**7. Potential partners**

*Financial and technical partners*

- Institut de la Francophonie Numérique (Projet Maisons des Savoirs de la Francophonie)
- UNFCCC
- UN-GAID
- Collège Communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB)
- TV5
- ENDA
- World Bank (Public Information Centre – PIC)
- UNICEF
- UNFPA
- British Council
- Centres culturels français
- International Red Cross / Red Crescent
- International Development Research Centre
- CISCO Systems

*Mobilization partners*

- Comité des jeunes reporters de Médiaterre
- Youth organizations and networks
- Educational institutions
- International youth climate movement

## **8. Responsibilities of action partners**

- **IEPF:**
  - o Administrative coordination
  - o Mobilization of networks of Francophone professionals

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- **Youth Unit/DPS:**

- Operational management
- Mobilization of young Francophones

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- **2degreesC:**

- Mobilization of non-Francophone youth
- Mobilization of non-Francophone partners

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## APPENDICES

### Sequence of events in a typical session

<b>Times</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>In charge / Moderators</b>
Time - 02:30	Participating cities and towns	Installation of projection equipment in local premises. Video and sound test	Local partners /YU
Time - 01:30	Participating towns and cities	Preparation of participants; beginning of presentation by local expert.	Local partner
Time – 00:30	Participating towns and cities	Breaks Connection with COP 15	Local partner
Time 00:00	Copenhagen	Beginning of presentation Live broadcast to all locations and digital portals.	Youth Unit/2degreesC
Time+ 00:30	Copenhagen	Question period Local partners collect questions and send them to Copenhagen by instant messaging for answers.	Youth Unit/2degreesC
Time+ 01:00	Copenhagen	End of videoconference	Youth Unit/2degreesC