



World Bureau, Olave Centre,  
12c Lyndhurst Road,  
London NW3 5PQ, England

t +44 (0)20 7794 1181  
f: +44 (0)20 7431 3764  
e: [waggggs@wagggsworld.org](mailto:waggggs@wagggsworld.org)  
[www.wagggsworld.org](http://www.wagggsworld.org)

World Association  
of Girl Guides  
and Girl Scouts

Association mondiale  
des Guides et des  
Eclaireuses

Asociación  
Mundial de las  
Guías Scouts

## **Girls For A Greener Future World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Hosts Side Event at COP21**

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) will be hosting a side event during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The event will take place on December 5, 2015 from 5:00-6:30pm in Conference Room 9 in the Climate Generations Area.

While world leaders have frittered away years in negotiations and recriminations, youth movements have demonstrated the energy, dedication, and innovation that we so urgently need to combat the grave threat of climate change. Young women and men are designing and driving locally relevant, community-based solutions to tackle every aspect of climate change – from mitigation and adaptation to disaster response. WAGGGS' side event will showcase innovative girl-led projects and highlight young women's contributions to efforts to combat climate change. The event will also call for young women to have a real voice in planning and decision-making, so that their specific needs and vulnerabilities are recognized and addressed in the climate response.

The event will open with **keynote remarks by Mary Robinson**, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice. Mary Robinson was the first female President of Ireland (1990-1997) and a former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997-2002). She is the recipient of numerous honours and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama, and a member of the Elders. She has been an outspoken advocate for recognition of the gendered impacts of climate change and the importance of including women's voices in decision-making on climate issues.

Mrs. Robinson's remarks will be followed by a panel discussion featuring a diverse group of young women active on climate change issues in their communities. Panellists will include:

- Youth Delegates for WAGGGS: Aishath Thoifa (Maldives) and Alejandra Salas (Costa Rica)
- Youth Delegate for the World Organization of the Scout Movement: Alena Sermakshava (Belarus)
- Official Youth Delegate for South Africa: Morategi Kale

The whole event will be youth-led, with the panel discussion moderated by Claire Gassiat, another WAGGGS Youth Delegate from France. The young women speakers will discuss the projects they have been involved in and the importance of including young people, particularly young women, in the design, delivery, and evaluation of climate change initiatives.

The event will be live streamed, and groups of students from South Africa, Ireland, and other countries around the world will be joining the event remotely. Panellists will take questions from audience members at the event in Paris, as well as the remote participants, who will be invited to submit questions via Twitter (@waggggsdelegates) or the live stream chat.

The event will conclude with an interactive workshop encouraging attendees to consider and discuss practical ways in which the organizations they represent can do more to engage young people in planning and decision-making.

**For more information, please contact:**

Rebecca Munro

Director, Communications and Advocacy

[Rebecca.munro@waggs.org](mailto:Rebecca.munro@waggs.org)

+44 7790 589 706

Gabriella Pinto

Head of Advocacy

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

[gabriella.pinto@waggs.org](mailto:gabriella.pinto@waggs.org)

+44 207 433 6462

**Social Media:**

Twitter: @WAGGGSdelegates, @waggs\_world, @MRFJ, #COP21, #girlsforagreenerfuture

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/waggs>

**About the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts**

With ten million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from 146 countries, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is the largest voluntary organization dedicated to girls and young women in the world. The World Association supports girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world. We focus on leadership development and active citizenship. These values are delivered through our innovative global education, community action and advocacy programmes.

Read more about the WAGGGS' youth delegation to COP21 at <https://www.waggs.org/en/what-we-do/speak-out/cop21-united-nations-conference-climate-change/>