

DHARAMSALA 2022  
**DIALOGUE  
FOR OUR  
FUTURE**  
A CALL TO CLIMATE ACTION



**April 21-23, 2022**

In his October 2020 book, *Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World*, His Holiness the Dalai Lama made an impassioned plea, calling on world leaders to save the planet from a future of runaway climate change. *Dialogue for Our Future* will be an opportunity to evaluate global progress toward this appeal. Coming less than six months after the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, and amid dire warnings from the IPCC, it will also be a chance to pose an essential follow-up question: How can we, the people, heed His Holiness' call?

**Thursday, April 21, 2022**

17.00-17.05 IST

## **WELCOME**

Introduction and greeting by conference host, Wangpo Tethong, Director, International Campaign for Tibet Europe

17.05-18.30 IST

## **OPENING KEYNOTE**

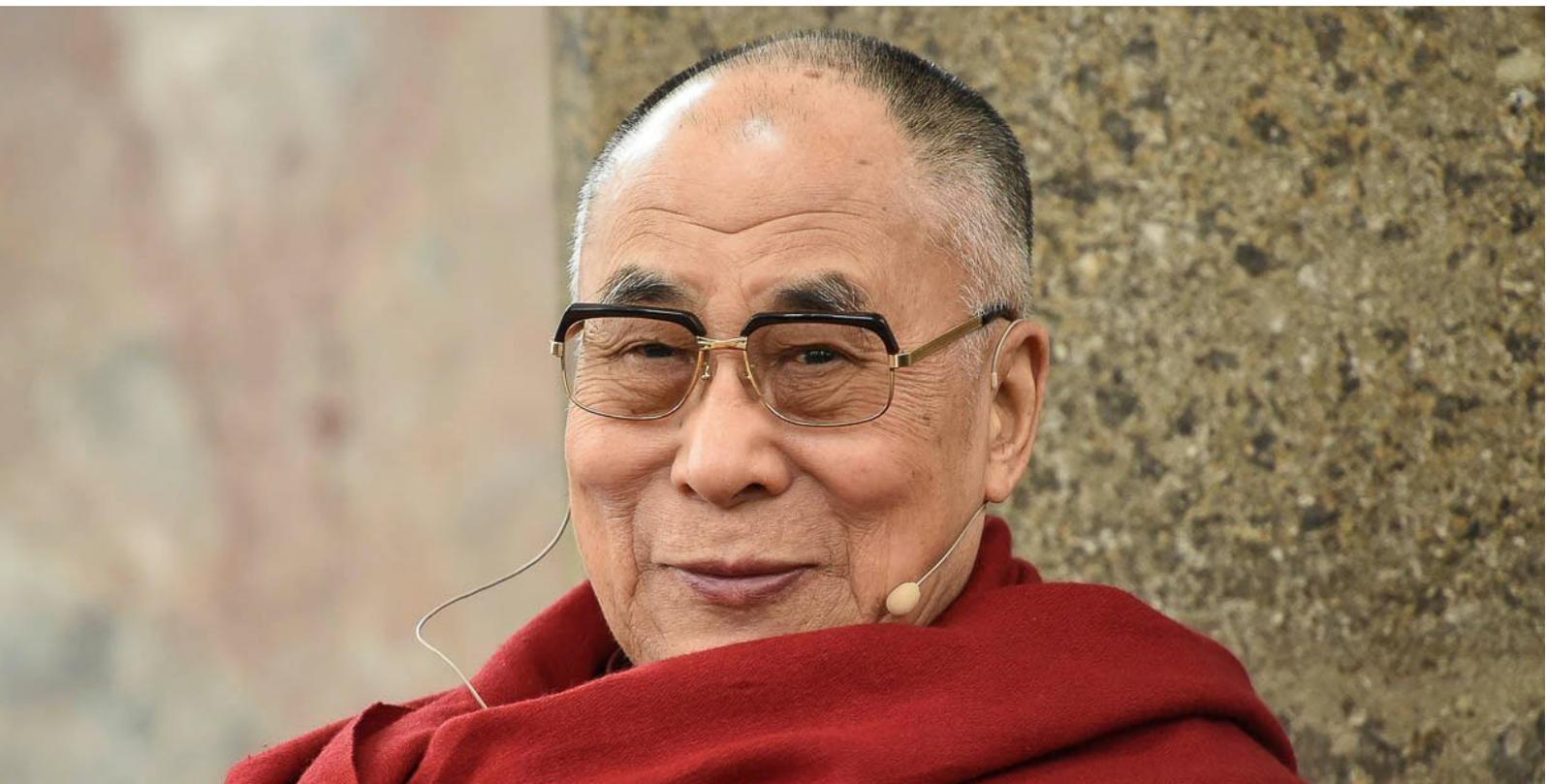
Collective climate actions, individual responsibilities: A conversation between Elizabeth Wathuti, Founder, Green Generation Initiative, and Kunda Dixit, Publisher, Nepali Times

**Friday, April 22, 2022**

9.00-9.45 IST

## **Q&A with His Holiness the Dalai Lama**

Speakers will join His Holiness in Dharamsala to discuss the role of individual responsibility in curbing the climate crisis. The dialogue will be moderated by Dr. Günther Cologna.



13.00-15.00 IST

## **PANEL 1: Saving our global system**

The challenges facing our planet are massive, complex, and interconnected. After decades of fossil fuel consumption, the heat-trapping gases that humans have relentlessly poured into the atmosphere have pushed humanity to a point of no return. The evidence for this conclusion is all around us – from melting glaciers and thawing permafrost to shrinking global forest cover and retreating sea ice. In our introductory module, we will examine the big issues driving the climate crisis and explore the big solutions that can galvanize global action. Coming six months after the UN Climate Conference (COP26), this panel will be an update on the latest national commitments, examine the climate-mitigating potential of bold ideas (like America's massive infrastructure spending program or Europe's Green New Deal), and discuss what lessons from the pandemic can be applied to mitigating global warming.

### **Speakers:**

Diana Liverman, Professor of Geography and Development, University of Arizona

Carl Pope, Former Director, Sierra Club

Elly Schlein, Vice President of the Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy

Mitzi Jonelle Tan, Youth Advocates for Climate Action, Philippines

Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Sonam Wangchuk, Engineer, Climate Mitigation Innovator and Education Reformist

Moderator: Greg C Bruno, Journalist, Author, and Editor

15.15.-17.15 IST

## **PANEL 2: The role of technology and business**

Ever since the dawn of electrification, energy production has been in the hands of large corporations, businesses, utilities or governments, an approach that is both dirty – fossil fuels are the primary feed sources – and inequitable, as huge swaths of the planet are unable to access the fruits of these privatised labors. This panel will explore how renewable technology is closing the energy gap and enabling community-led decarbonisation initiatives. Discussion will focus on all forms of energy production and reconversion – so-called power-to-x technology – and include innovations that are powering various sectors, from transportation to chemicals. The panel will include representatives from technological start-ups, universities, and climate responsible businesses.

### **Speakers:**

Marjan Minnesma, Founder and Director, Urgenda

Tsering Yangki, Head of Real Estate Finance & Development, Dream Unlimited Corp., Canada

Arash Aazami, Energy Systems Innovator

Martin Bursik, Former Environment Minister, Czech Republic

Mark van Baal, Founder, Follow This

Moderator: Christa Meindersma, Director of Advocacy and Communication, International Campaign for Tibet Europe

Saturday, April 23, 2022

10.00-12.00 IST

## **PANEL 3: Why the Third Pole matters**

The Tibetan Plateau is the world's largest repository of frozen freshwater outside the polar regions. Water that originates on the "Third Pole" supplies all of Asia's major rivers, and 25% of the global population - some 1.9 billion people - are directly or indirectly dependent on this hydro-logic loop. But with melting on the Plateau occurring two to three times faster than the global average, these vital water sources are in peril, affecting downstream communities. This panel will draw attention to the importance of the Tibetan Plateau for environmental, economic, and social reasons, and highlight recent findings that illustrate the urgency of reversing the Plateau's warming.

### **Speakers:**

Martin Mills, Director, Scottish Centre for Himalayan Research

Roland Psenner, President, EURAC Research; former President, International Scientific Committee of Alpine Research

Tempa Gyaltsen Zamlha, former Interim Deputy Director, Tibet Policy Institute

Manshi Asher, Environmental Justice Activist and Researcher, Himdhara

Moderator: Lobsang Yangtso, Researcher, International Tibet Network

13.00-15.00 IST

## **PANEL 4: Energy democracy: Local solutions in action**

What are people doing right now to save the biosphere? How can local communities work together to become more energy efficient and independent? In this panel we will bring together inspiring technologists to discuss the tools, the tech, and the big ideas that are giving hope for a greener future. Speakers will discuss real-world examples from Europe, Asia, and Latin America that have reduced carbon footprints using the ideas and technologies presented in the previous panel. This discussion will invite decarbonization visionaries to paint a picture of a more equitable, cleaner, collectively shared energy future.

### **Speakers:**

Kaniela Ing, National Campaign Director, Families for a Future; former member, Hawaii House of Representatives

Eva Gladek, Founder, Metabolic

Xiye Bastida, Climate Justice Activist

Daniel Aldana Cohen, Director, Socio-Spatial Climate Collaborative, University of California, Berkeley

Tsechu Dolma, Founder, Mountain Resiliency Project

Moderator: Kunda Dixit, Editor and Publisher, Nepali Times

13.00-15.00 IST

## **CLOSING KEYNOTE**

Creating a Good Anthropocene. Kim Stanley Robinson, Author, Ministry for the Future

Moderator: Jyotsna Sara George, Facilitator and Activist (Climate and Gender Justice)

# Conference format

Dialogue for Our Future is a hybrid conversation simultaneously held in-person in Dharamshala, India, and online. The goal will be to foster a global dialogue focused on the technical, economic, and practical choices that every member of the human race must make – together, and by themselves – to combat climate change.

# Conference outputs

The final takeaway will be a “Climate Manifesto,” an appeal to people everywhere to take individual action toward the collective good.

# Team



**Martin Bursik**  
Czechs Support Tibet



**Wangpo Tethong**  
International Campaign  
for Tibet



**Gunther Colonge**  
EURAC Research



**Christa Meindersma**  
International Campaign  
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**Dechen Palmo**  
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