

UN Ban Ki-moon appoints envoy on climate change

By Guardian
Reporter

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Mary Robinson of Ireland as his Special Envoy on Climate Change, a statement issued yesterday by the UN office in Dar es Salaam said.

It explained that Robinson will continue to serve as President of the Mary Robinson Foundation-Climate Justice.

She is also expected to focus on the urgency from a people-centered perspective and work closely with special envoys John Kufuor and Michael Bloomberg.

Together they will mobilise political will and action before the 2014

Climate Summit in New York on September 23, 2014, the statement said.

Robinson succeeds Jens Stoltenberg of Norway who was recently appointed Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Ki-moon expressed his gratitude for Stoltenberg's commitment in engaging heads of state and governments to promote ambitious announcements and action on climate change in advance of the 2014 Climate Summit.

The UN boss commended Robinson's work as Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa. He particularly commended her for the efforts she made in bringing cohesion and

international awareness to challenges in the Great Lakes region.

"With her international stature she was able to galvanise the international community to support efforts of the Great Lakes region in conflict resolution, socio-economic development and mainstreaming of marginalised groups, including women," said the UN Secretary General.

For more than four decades Robinson has been engaged in the political and diplomatic sphere. This includes being President of Ireland from 1990 to 1997 and a member of the Irish Senate from 1969 to 1989. She was also the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002.