



Leonardo DiCaprio addressed world leaders today, not as an expert, but as one of the 400,000 concerned citizens who marched in New York on Sunday as part of the worldwide Peoples' Climate March demonstrations. Participants heard from newly-appointed UN Messenger of Peace during opening remarks at the opening of the UN Climate Summit.

"As an actor I pretend for a living, I play fictitious characters often solving fictitious problems. I believe mankind has looked at climate change in the same way, as if pretending climate change wasn't real it would go away. But I think we know now that isn't the case," he said.

Listing of aspects of climate change, such as ocean acidification and melting glaciers, he underscored that "none of this is rhetoric, none of this hysteria, this is fact."

[Leonardo DiCaprio's opening remarks](#) at the 2014 United Nations Climate Summit in New York City.

## "You can make history... or be vilified by it."

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Many of the more than 120 Heads of States and Government, business, finance and civil society representatives are expected to announce commitments that will reduce emissions, enhance resistance to climate change and mobilize financing for climate action.

"I am asking you to lead," United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today told world leaders. "We must cut emissions. Science says they must peak by 2020 and decline sharply thereafter. By the end of this century we must be carbon neutral."

Underscoring the importance of climate change as the defining issue of our age, Mr. Ban noted that the international community's response today will define the future.

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**Sources:** [UN News Centre](#) | [Huffington Post](#)