



26 August 2019. UN Secretary-General António Guterres today called for “more ambition” and “stronger commitment” in the fight against climate change.

“It is absolutely essential that countries commit themselves to increase what was promised in Paris because what was promised in Paris is not enough,” Mr. Guterres said at the end of the G7 meeting in Biarritz, France, which he attended.

Guterres pointed out that “what was promised in Paris is not even being implemented”. He added: “We need more ambition, we need a stronger commitment.”

The UN Secretary-General told reporters that he had come to Biarritz to the G7 Summit to mobilize for the Climate Summit that will take place in New York in September during the United Nations General Assembly.

“We see the society mobilizing, the youth mobilizing, and we want to have countries coming to

New York and being able to commit to be carbon neutral in 2050, being able to increase substantially their ambition in the Nationally Determined Contributions to climate action that have to be reviewed in 2020. And we need to make sure that we have shifting of taxes from people to carbon, ending subsidies to fossil fuels, and to make sure that we don't build more coal power plants after 2020," Mr. Guterres said.

The Secretary-General said that the G7 meeting had been an excellent opportunity to appeal for the very strong engagement of the international community.

"The youth have been leading the way, and we'll start the Summit with a youth climate summit in the UN, but we need, especially those countries that belong to the G7, to give a positive example."