

Mary Robinson named UN special climate change envoy

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Former president of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson speaks during the yearly May 5 reading in Assen on May 5, 2014

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Monday named former Irish president Mary Robinson as his special envoy for climate change, ahead of a summit set for September.

Robinson will seek to "mobilize political will and action" ahead of the special summit of heads of state and government, called by Ban, to be

held in New York on September 23, the UN said.

The United Nations is seeking to limit global warming to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels, but scientists say current emission trends could hike temperatures to more than twice that level by century's end.

Robinson, who served as UN high commissioner for human rights from 1997 to 2002, had until now served as the UN special envoy for Africa's Great Lakes region.

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