

# United Nations Climate Summit – New York – 23 of September 2014

## – Catalyzing Action –

### Joint statement of Non-State actors' representatives

**1 /** We, undersigned members and representatives of the major groups and constituencies recognized under the United Nations, have decided to come together and speak as one on the imperatives that must underpin the global agreement on climate change to be adopted in 2015 in Paris.

We represent a large diversity of actors working from the local to the international level to fight AGAINST climate change and FOR a just transition towards sustainable low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

Our action is driven by the absolute scientific urgency of climate change, stressed by the recent IPCC reports, and the priority of limiting global temperature rise below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

We call upon the national governments to commit for what science says needs to be done, to take ambitious, timely, and effective mitigation and adaptation actions to address global climate change.

**2 /** It is now a fact that climate action will be crucial to development, as climate change jeopardizes development efforts. We thus consider that climate negotiations and the post-2015 development negotiations are strongly interconnected and a successful outcome is needed in both tracks in 2015 to ensure efficient action against climate change and for a more sustainable, equitable and rights-based world.

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must include climate urgency, in the form of a climate change goal, as well as ensure that all the SDGs are climate-compatible and resilient, particularly with regards to sustainable urbanization, adaptation of small-scale agriculture and access to renewable energy for all.
- The climate negotiations must consider how action and inaction on climate change will affect the full range of aspirations for sustainable development throughout the world.
- The question of equity should underpin agenda. Every country will have to commit, taking into consideration the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as the urgency of the crisis.

**3 /** To achieve the goal of limiting global temperature rise below 2°C with high certainty, we call on achieving zero net greenhouse gas emissions, with rapid development of energy efficiency, carbon-neutral technologies which do not present environmental risks and, insofar as this is technically possible, with a long-term goal of achieving a shift to 100% renewable energy as fast as possible.

We call for an ambitious and legally-binding agreement for the post-2020 period in Paris that includes this long-term goal, so we expect significant political progress and concrete proposals for the 2015-2020 period in Lima.

We ask national governments to urgently scale up targets for emissions cuts in the pre-2020 period and set emission targets comparable to the scale of the emergency for the 2020-2025 period.

**4 /** We are aware of the complexity of the negotiations and we believe that an agreement between national governments only will not be enough to address the challenges we are facing. The non-State actors that we represent commit to continue leading actions every day at local and subnational level to fight climate change. They are already taking part into a transformative agenda and redefining development models. Their efforts will thus be essential to the success and ambition of intergovernmental agreements.

Multistakeholder input, including producing new knowledge, shaping public opinion, formulating policy options, and multilevel actions will be required to establish and implement an ambitious and legally-binding climate change agreement in 2015 in Paris, as well as drastically scale up initiatives from now until 2020 to bridge the mitigation and adaptation gap.

As experienced organizations in the field of public mediation, we believe every citizen should be able to understand what is at stake in the climate negotiations. They need to know these international agreements will have positive impacts on their quality of life and well-being. They also need to know they can play an active role and what they can hold their governments accountable for.

**5 /** We emphasize that it is essential to strengthen trust among national governments and to fulfil the existing international commitments, particularly by:

- Strengthening binding and voluntary mitigation commitments and partnerships at all levels to drastically and immediately reduce GHG emissions to keep the 2°C window open until the new agreement enters into force;
- Contributing to the now operational Green Climate Fund and meeting the climate finance commitments made since Copenhagen. Providing developing countries with resources they need to address both mitigation and adaptation will be a key element of the future agreement.

**6 /** We acknowledge that at this important moment for the future of the negotiations, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon calls for a Climate Summit on September 23rd, 2014 in New York. Heads of State must seize this opportunity to signal their commitment to a strong and fair agreement in 2015 and to a global shift in investments away from fossil fuels and GHG emissions and into a low-carbon and climate-resilient future for all.

**7 /** We believe in and call for a strengthened dialogue among non-State actors, through regular coordination among the organizations that represent them at international level, on the key issues pertaining to climate change and the post-2015 agenda.

In this spirit, we will continue dialogue and coordination between the major groups and the constituencies, for common expressions at each stage of the negotiation process on climate and post-2015 agenda.

**8 /** Each group of non-State actors bears a part of the global solution. Without the mobilization of all non-State actors, it will not be possible to collectively achieve the commitments made by national governments. The intergovernmental agreements under discussion shall therefore include the means to enable the active involvement of non-State actors in the future framework, especially in regards to financing, capacity-building and participation in decision-making, implementation and monitoring of the necessary actions.

We strongly encourage strengthening international cooperation between non-State actors, and highlight that regulation, accountability and transparency are critical for achieving sustainable development in all kinds of projects.

We call upon authorities organizing the 2015 negotiations to maximize space and resources to facilitate the expression of and dialogue with non-State actors.

We have agreed to mutually support the following recommendations that our constituencies are fighting for:

**Business and Industry.** As key actors, we will continue to give priority to:

- Sharing of expertise: cooperation on research and education to disseminate innovation and create jobs;
- Mobilization of investors: a balanced portfolio of technologies for affordable access to energy, to cut GHG emissions, to promote energy efficiency with the driver of carbon price;
- Flexibility: to define appropriate actions through sectorial industrial agreements;
- Bottom-up action: local public/private partnerships to join forces for smart grids, smart buildings, eco-city technologies...
- Reporting and control: transparent and standardized systems for measuring, reporting and verification to avoid market distortion.

We also call for a simple, predictable and stable framework enabling long term investments planning.

**Children and Youth.** As the new and the next generation of workers, decision-makers, consumers, and citizens, we have to be recognized as key actors to ensure the success and sustainability of the future agreement. Through the implementation of mitigation, adaptation and awareness-raising projects in our communities, Youth and Children act every day to help build the world they will spend most of their life in. We also need to be associated to the decision making process at all level (for instance with the generalization of the Youth Delegate programme). Mainstreaming intergenerational equity as a core principle in all decision making, is vital to ensure the quality of our future and that of generations to come.

Finally strengthen education on climate change issues will be essential for the implementation of any agreement. The support of all volunteer initiatives dedicated to fighting and dealing with climate change at all level is necessary.

**Farmers.** We, family farmers of all sizes, including women, pastoralists, agroforesters and fishers, represent the majority of people in many countries all over the world. Given that we are the citizens who ensure the delivery of food, renewable materials and landscapes, ours and other citizens' livelihoods dramatically depend on the achievement of a sound climate

agreement fixed on a robust post-2015 development agenda. Farmers mitigate the harmful GHG emissions through sustainable farming practices but in many parts of the world are struggling to cope with the globe's ever-changing climate. Access to knowledge and technology to further adapt to and mitigate climate change, and reward for such practices are key. Therefore agriculture needs to play a key role in an agreement. We continue working for a sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems to ensure food and nutrition security, protect natural resources, address climate change challenges and support equitable development for all.

**Indigenous peoples.** We represent over 370.000.000 people coming from different nations, peoples and communities around the world, and occupy 20% of global land. We are the guardians of the mother earth but we are the most affected by the impact of climate change through land degradation, forest destruction, displacements from our territories, etc. Because of our life bound to the environment, we have developed traditional knowledge on management, protection and rehabilitation of lands, territories and natural resources for sustainable development. Indigenous people are the key stockholders and must be fully and effectively involved in the process of climate change, with a rights-based approach. We wish to reiterate our call to include the right to Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) in all the climate change process Policy and decisions, in accordance with International obligations and instruments, such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ILO Convention 169.

**Local and subnational governments.** As decision-makers, we are key actors to implement local and subnational actions, and to catalyze local stakeholders and citizens.

Through a systemic approach of management of the city (urban planning, transport, energy, resilience of building...) action of local and subnational governments represent probably the most important capacity to reduce GHG emissions in the short-term, in particular the 2015-2020 period, and play a crucial role in adaptation to climate change in their territories.

Developing capacity-building and exchange of good practices will be crucial to ensure the enhancement of our action. Strengthening decentralization process, supported by the adequate resources and easy access to new financial mechanisms, will be crucial to support our action in defining and implementing strong local policies for mitigation and adaptation.

**NGOs.** We represent a diversity of organizations, actions and ideas. We are taking action all over the world to tackle climate change and its impacts, and fight for a sustainable, resilient, and fairer world. We are mobilizing everywhere, promoting and implementing people-driven and pro-poor solutions, at the local, national, and international level. We amplify the voices of those most vulnerable, those taking action. We raise public awareness on the root causes of climate change, on the impacts and on the solutions. We call on the national governments to listen to the voices of the people, and act accordingly to protect their livelihoods, avoid further loss and damage, enable a fairer economic system, by encouraging pro-poor and climate-resilient choices and investments.

**Research community.** As scientists, social scientists, lawyers, humanists, educators, and consultants, we support evidence-based policies grounded in sound science. We investigate, teach, and communicate about virtually every aspect of climate change. We produce new knowledge, design and analyze policy alternatives, and develop and evaluate programs for mitigation and adaptation. We help businesses, governments, communities, and citizens to understand complex climate science and the social, economic, environmental, legal, and ethical implications of action and inaction on climate change.

**Women.** In their diverse identities, women play a major role in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. They also face the most negative impacts from climate change and bear the burden of rebuilding lives after disaster and in the face of loss and damage. Gender equality should thus be a fundamental principle and cross-cutting element of the 2015 agreement, which should be in line with the international human rights framework, taking into account the real needs of, and drawing on the perspectives, capacities and expertise of women and men alike. We demand and expect urgent, ambitious, just, gender-responsive and legally binding – not voluntary - action on climate change that incorporates bottom-up approaches to benefit people and communities, respect rights, enhance resilience, reduce current and future emissions and facilitate genuine transformation.

**Workers and Trade unions.** The world of work is at the forefront of the transformation needed to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. We, Workers and Trade unions are deploying massive efforts to ensure there is broad social support for climate action as well as fighting for leaders' commitment to secure a Just Transition which will transform all jobs into sustainable ones and support working people jobs and livelihoods.

**9 /** In conclusion, we reaffirm the crucial role that non-State actors play to address challenge of climate change, both on adaptation and mitigation.

We do not have other choice than to reach an agreement responding to what the scientific community requests. We assure the national governments of our support in the realization of the ambitious commitments they must make.

We seize the opportunity of the Climate Summit to make this call to all Heads of State to put climate change back on top of the political agenda, commit to reaching successful climate change agreements in 2015, and make non-State actors an integral part of the successful negotiation and implementation of the 2015 decisions.

This position paper is a common contribution from different members of Major Groups and Constituencies. It has been elaborated on the occasion of several meetings and on the basis of different contributions provided by representatives of member organizations of the nine groups.

It shows the consensus that exists between the signatories. But on some specific issues, some members can call for more ambitious targets and perspectives.

As of 19 of September, it has been endorsed by the following organizations:

**Local and subnational governments:** United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), organising partner\* of the Local authorities Major Group; ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, focal point\*\* of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency and organising partner\* of the Local Authorities Major Group; Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD); Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) ; Metropolis

**Business and Industry:** International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)'s French Committee mandated by ICC; Global Compact France  
**Children and Youth:** CliMates, United Kingdom Youth Climate Coalition (UK), Garjan.org (Nepal), A World at School, Avenir climatique (France), REFEDD (Réseau Français des Etudiants pour le Développement Durable), PUSH Sverige (Sweden), Viração Educomunicação (Brazil), Action Jeunesse pour le Développement (Congo-Brazzaville), Plan International

**Indigenous peoples:** Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)

**Farmers:** World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), focal point\*\* of the Farmers Constituency and organising partner\* of the Farmers Major Group

**NGOs:** NGO Federation of Nepal, Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development - Rio and Beyond (Uganda), Kehys-Finnish NGDO platform to the EU (Finland), Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (Norway), United Religions Initiative (Co-chair of the NGO Committee at the UN for the International Day of Peace), World Future Council, Global 100% Renewable Energy, ENDA Tiers Monde, Ecocity Builders (US), Physicians for Social Responsibility (US), International Society of Doctors for the Environment (US), Quaker Earthcare Witness (North America), Sociedade Sinhá Laurinha (Brazil), Brigada Cimarrona Sebastian Lemba (Dominican Republic), Mesoamerican Center for Appropriate Technology Studies -CEMAT- , National Panel on Climate Change (Guatemala), Departmental Committee on Climate Change Huehuetenango, Quiche and Sololá (Guatemala), Red South West Climate Change (Guatemala), Red Verpacos Climate Change (Guatemala), Municipal Bureau of Climate Change The Curtain (Guatemala), 4D (Dossiers et Débats pour le Développement Durable), CEEweb for Biodiversity (Central and Eastern Europe), Journalists and Writers Foundation (Turkey), Peace Islands Institute (Turkey/US), Interregional Union of Life Help for Mentally Handicapped Persons "Sail of Hope" (Russia), Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (Switzerland), Mainstreaming Adaptation, Resilience and Sustainability into development and daily life (MARS-d Network) (Myanmar), Ecumenical Support Services (Zimbabwe), Alliance Sud, New Future Foundation, TheAdvisors.com

**Women:** All India Women's Conference, co-focal point\*\* of the Women and Gender Constituency; Soroptimist International; Mesa joint Climate Change and Gender East (Guatemala)

**Workers and Trade Unions:** International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), organising partner\* of the Workers and Trade Unions Major Group; CFTD (France)

**Research community:** The member organizations of the Constituency usually don't sign this kind of texts, but they have contributed to the redaction of their specific paragraph.

\*The organizing partners of the 9 Major Groups coordinate the member organizations at intergovernmental negotiations on sustainable development (post-Rio+20/Sustainable Development Goals)

\*\*The focal points of the 9 Constituencies coordinate the member organizations at UNFCCC intergovernmental climate negotiations

### **Coordination is ensured by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**

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