



CARE affirms the universal call for an ambitious, equitable deal at COP21 in Paris

CARE DEMANDS OF GOVERNMENTS AT UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE, COP21

- 1. Keep global warming below 1.5C degrees. Cut emissions from fossil fuels drastically. Speed up the transition to renewable energies.**
- 2. Build climate resilience and adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable and marginalised people, and address the loss and damage they will face.**
- 3. Protect the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable and marginalised people.**
- 4. Scale up financial support for vulnerable and marginalised people.**
- 5. Ensure actions to tackle climate change, advance gender equality and human rights.**

TACKLE THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE TO A WORLD FREE OF POVERTY

The causes and consequences of climate change reflect one of the world's greatest inequalities. Billions of people living in poverty – people who are the least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions – bear the brunt of climate impacts. This is an extreme global injustice.

Across the countries where CARE works, the devastating impacts of climate change are already eroding and reversing development gains. As emissions continue to rise, and the impacts of climate change escalate, CARE's vision of a world of hope, tolerance, social justice and free of poverty, where everyone lives dignified, secure lives, is increasingly threatened. Changes in climate exacerbate social and economic injustices, including gender inequality.

International action lags far behind the actions needed to tackle climate change. The United Nations climate summit (COP21) in Paris in December 2015 is a critical crossroads. COP21 will be a litmus test of governments' ability to accelerate global efforts to avert the severest impacts of climate change.

STEP UP ACTION TO CUT EMISSIONS

Unsustainable production and consumption drive climate change, contributing to deep inequalities in people's ability to access and use natural resources. To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, 80% of the world's fossil fuel reserves need to remain in the ground. Yet, year after year, governments persist in subsidising high-carbon infrastructure to the tune of hundreds of billions of US dollars¹.

Although recent commitments to cut emissions create momentum, the gap between actions and pledges is glaring, still leaving the world on a dangerous pathway of three or more degrees temperature increase. Taking action on climate change offers new opportunities: for cleaner air, better long-term health, greater food and nutrition security, less inequality and safer livelihoods for the poor. Clean energy solutions are readily available and becoming cheaper day by day.

Funding climate action in developing countries receives increasing attention, and the pledges worth 10 billion US dollars for the Green Climate Fund are an important sign of progress. However, there is a stark gap between the finance promised and the funds received by vulnerable populations in developing countries to help them adapt and deal with loss and damage caused by climate change. The recent United Nations Environment Programme Global Adaptation Gap Report estimates that the costs of adaptation in developing countries are likely to be two to three times more than previous estimates that put the costs at 70 to 100 billion US dollars². Every moment we delay, the cost of reducing emissions and tackling the impacts of climate change rises.

CATALYSE GLOBAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The UN climate summit, COP21, must mark a turning point in the international fight against climate change. The Paris climate agreement may well be the last chance we have to agree on a long-standing, legally binding accord that avoids catastrophic climate change. The agreement must reinforce the expansion of renewable energy, step up fossil fuel divestment and intensify preparations for adverse impacts of changes in climate.

The Paris climate agreement alone will not solve the climate crisis but can catalyse global action. Governments must act boldly to provide hope and confidence to those living on the frontlines of climate change. Shifting the responsibility to act onto future decision-makers and generations is not an option. Now is the time to stand up for the safety and wellbeing of the people and the planet.

COP21 is not only important for what our governments achieve, or fail to achieve, it also provides an opportunity for people to showcase what they are doing about climate change. Each government, company, organisation and human being, both individually and collectively, has the responsibility to act. We have no time to lose.

1. KEEP GLOBAL WARMING BELOW 1.5C DEGREES. CUT EMISSIONS FROM FOSSIL FUELS DRASTICALLY. SPEED UP THE TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGIES

The Paris climate agreement must deliver action to urgently cut harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Governments must commit to keeping average global warming to less than 1.5C degrees above pre-industrial levels to avoid irreversible climate impacts. Accordingly, they should call for a just transition to energy efficient, 100% clean, renewable energy by 2050, and phase-out fossil fuel emissions and subsidies. At least every five years, governments should revisit their national targets and put new ones on the table for the next years, raise their aspirations and ensure they are on track to keep warming to less than 1.5C degrees in an equitable manner.

2. BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF THE MOST VULNERABLE AND MARGINALISED PEOPLE, AND ADDRESS THE LOSS AND DAMAGE THEY WILL FACE

Changes in climate change are causing severe and more frequent extreme weather: storms, floods, droughts and heat waves. Gradual changes in climate raise sea levels, alter seasons and shift rainfall patterns. The poorest and marginalised people suffer most from these changes, and become less and less able to cope. Governments must promote measures to boost the resilience and adaptive capacity of poor and marginalised communities. Governments must agree on a global goal on adaptation, and adhere to principles of community-based adaptation, gender equality and human rights. All governments must take account of climate risks in plans and development, and regularly share information on progress and plans with the UNFCCC.

Furthermore they should recognise that countries incur loss and damage that they cannot avoid by cutting emissions and adapting, and promise to cooperate on this under the UNFCCC. This will require financial support from the countries historically mainly responsible for global emissions.

3. PROTECT THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY OF THE MOST VULNERABLE AND MARGINALISED PEOPLE

Changes in climate have severe effects on agriculture and all aspects of food and nutrition security. Recent projections show that global warming could reduce agricultural production by 2% every decade for the rest of the century³. Climate change also affects the quality and price of food, and access to safe water. By 2080, changes in climate could mean over

600 million hungry people⁴. Although agriculture and other land-uses emit significant amounts of greenhouse gases, governments must ensure that measures to cut emissions – as well as those to adapt to climate impacts - also protect the livelihoods, food and nutrition security, and the rights of food producers in developing countries. This should be reflected in the Paris agreement.

4. SCALE UP FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE AND MARGINALISED PEOPLE

Inadequate financial support for developing countries aggravates the injustices of climate change. Governments of the countries most responsible for climate change must commit to providing sufficient funding to help the poor and marginalised deal with climate change. Funding pledges must build on the 2009 commitment by developed countries to provide 100 billion US dollars a year by 2020, with other similarly capable countries contributing as well. Governments must regularly update public finance support targets for adaptation, loss and damage, and mitigation, based on identified needs in poorer countries. Governments should also implement measures in a pro-poor manner that put a real price on carbon to generate additional funds, for example through contributions from international air or sea transport.

5. ENSURE ACTIONS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE, ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Gender inequality is a widespread, persistent barrier to securing a world of hope, tolerance and social justice. CARE believes that tackling climate change and reducing gender inequality are central to building a fair and sustainable world where all enjoy human rights. The Paris climate agreement must clearly state, firstly, that governments will promote gender equality in actions to address climate change in line with the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, secondly, that governments will strive to promote, respect and fulfil human rights.

For more information please contact:

Sven Harmeling, CARE's Climate Change Advocacy Coordinator;
Email: sharmeling@careclimatechange.org

¹ <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2015/wp15105.pdf>

² <http://www.unep.org/climatechange/adaptation/gapreport2014/>

³ Porter, J.L. et al., 2014: Food Security and Food Production Systems. Chapter 7 of the IPCC 5th Assessment Report. https://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WGIIAR5-Chap7_FINAL.pdf

⁴ Warren, R. et al 2006. Understanding the regional impacts of climate change. Research Report Prepared for the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change. Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.

