A Call for Action: Raising Ambition for Climate Adaptation and Resilience

We stand together as global leaders to express our highest concern at the climate crisis that the world is now facing, and our resolve to act. As we urgently increase our efforts to reduce emissions, we must give equal and increased urgency to adapt to climate impacts and build resilience for the future. Droughts, dust storms, heat waves, cyclones, devastating storms, floods and rising sea levels are just some of the climate impacts already exacerbating economic, social and security threats, and are only set to increase in the future.

Communities that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change face an existential threat - to lives and livelihoods as well as existing and future development. The IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C states that both urgent and transformational adaptation action is needed to reduce climate-related risk. Yet adaptation action is not keeping pace with the scale of impacts. Some estimates suggest that the true costs of adaptation in developing countries could be up to $300bn per year by 2030\(^1\), whereas there are substantial benefits to be gained from acting now. We must step up efforts to close the gap in adaptive capacity and financing, and to remove the barriers that hinder the uptake of knowledge and technology.

At the same time, climate impacts threaten our safety and prosperity and will affect all sections of society in all regions of the globe. The scale of expected impacts is such that business as usual is no longer an option for any country, community, business or financial institution. Substantial efforts have been made by a number of countries and institutions, but we need systemic change. We must build a vision for a climate resilient future that puts adaptation at the centre of decision-making, and take immediate action now to protect people, economies and the environment.

We acknowledge that adaptation challenges require inclusive and gender sensitive global action and we share a collective ambition, in line with the SDGs, to achieve a world in which no person is left behind by the impacts of climate change.

**We must step up efforts to meet these challenges.** In this context, we commit to enhance adaptation and resilience action, particularly in three areas (as relevant to governments and other organisations):

- **Acting now to respond to immediate climate impacts and to support the most vulnerable members of society**, including by, as appropriate:
  - Significantly scaling up capacity to prepare and respond to disaster through increased access to mechanisms that enable early action, alongside climate risk insurance and other social safety nets
  - Intensifying efforts to increase food and water security, particularly for smallholder farmers
  - Prioritising and resourcing regional and country owned approaches in developing countries and communities facing climate related vulnerabilities, especially in SIDS and LDCs

- **Building resilient futures by putting climate risk at the centre of decision making**, including by, as appropriate:
  - Integrating adaptation and resilience into long-term planning and allocating central capacity to oversee delivery; including through updated Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, Adaptation Communications, National Development Plans, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, or other relevant long-term strategies
  - Increasing the resilience of our economies and financial systems by taking steps to integrate climate risk into investment decision making and business planning, including through disclosing and pricing risk; while

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\(^1\) Estimate from UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2016
making every effort to avoid additional financial burdens in developing countries in a manner consistent with sustainable development

- Enabling and accelerating transition to resilient land use and ecosystems; emphasising the importance of protecting biodiversity and of nature-based solutions
- Equipping countries, businesses, youth and other stakeholders with tools to meet future challenges by sharing knowledge, data, and expertise; including through the development of metrics and encouraging sharing and dissemination of environmentally friendly technologies

- **Urgently increasing the availability of adaptation and resilience finance** including by, as appropriate:
  - Significantly scaling up international public finance for adaptation in developing countries and achieving a better balance between mitigation and adaptation flows; including through tools to reduce financial risk such as concessional and grant-based financing
  - Providing technical assistance to strengthen policy frameworks and encouraging a greater share of financing for adaptation and resilience action at all levels, including at the local level, in line with national plans and policies
  - Mobilising transformational investments from the private sector; including by developing innovative public/private partnerships and other tools to leverage new investment

We will reconvene in the margins of COP25 and COP26 to consider progress towards the aims of this Call for Action, including those that will be delivered through the various initiatives launched at the Secretary General’s Climate Action Summit. The 2020 Climate Adaptation Summit and the Year of Action launched by the Global Commission on Adaptation also serve as an opportunity to further reinforce our common goal of accelerating adaptation action.

*Endorsed by (countries, 112)*:

1. Afghanistan
2. Andorra
3. Angola
4. Antigua and Barbuda
5. Argentina
6. Austria
7. Bahamas
8. Bahrain
9. Bangladesh
10. Barbados
11. Belgium
12. Belize
13. Benin
14. Bhutan
15. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
16. Burkina Faso
17. Burundi
18. Cabo Verde
19. Cambodia
20. Central African Republic
21. Chad
22. Chile
23. Comoros
24. Cook Islands
25. Costa Rica
26. Croatia
27. Cuba
28. Cyprus
29. Democratic Republic of the Congo
30. Djibouti
31. Dominica
32. Dominican Republic
33. Ecuador
34. Egypt
35. Eritrea
36. Ethiopia
37. Fiji
38. Finland
39. France
40. Gambia
41. Germany
42. Greece
43. Grenada
44. Guinea
45. Guinea-Bissau
46. Guyana
47. Haiti
48. India
49. Ireland
50. Italy
51. Jamaica
52. Jordan
53. Kingdom of the Netherlands
54. Kiribati
55. Lao People’s Democratic Republic
56. Lebanon
57. Lesotho
58. Liberia
59. Luxembourg
60. Madagascar
61. Malawi
62. Maldives
63. Mali
64. Marshall Islands
65. Mauritania
66. Mauritius
67. Mexico
| 68. Micronesia (Federated States of) | 83. Rwanda | 98. Suriname |
| 69. Monaco | 84. Saint Kitts and Nevis | 99. Sweden |
| 70. Morocco | 85. Saint Lucia | 100. Timor-Leste |
| 71. Mozambique | 86. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 101. Tokelau |
| 72. Myanmar | 87. Samoa | 102. Togo |
| 73. Nauru | 88. Sao Tome and Principe | 103. Tonga |
| 74. Nepal | 89. Senegal | 104. Trinidad and Tobago |
| 75. New Zealand | 90. Seychelles | 105. Tuvalu |
| 76. Niger | 91. Sierra Leone | 106. Uganda |
| 77. Niue | 92. Singapore | 107. United Kingdom |
| 78. North Macedonia | 93. Solomon Islands | 108. United Republic of Tanzania |
| 80. Palau | 95. South Sudan | 110. Vanuatu |
| 81. Papua New Guinea | 96. Spain | 111. Yemen |
| 82. Peru | 97. Sudan | 112. Zambia |

**Supported by (UN Institutions and IFI’s, 16):**

1. ADB  
2. EBRD  
3. IADB  
4. IFAD  
5. IOM  
6. IsDB  
7. UN OCHA  
8. UNCTAD  
9. UNDP  
10. UNDRR  
11. UNEP  
12. UNEPFI  
13. UNHCR  
14. WFP  
15. WMO  
16. WB

**Supported by (organisations and institutions, 68):**

1. Abibiman Foundation  
2. Accounting for Sustainability  
3. African Risk Capacity Insurance  
4. BHP  
5. BOND  
6. Braskem  
7. BSR  
8. CARE International  
9. Christian Aid  
10. Community Oriented Investment Generating New Enterprise  
11. CGIAR  
12. Centre for Urban Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience  
13. DWS  
14. Ecolab  
15. Enedine Capital Resources Corporation  
16. Food and Land Use Coalition  
17. Fundación Nueva Generación Argentina  
18. Germanwatch  
19. Global Centre on Adaptation  
20. Global Environment Facility  
21. Global EverGreening Alliance  
22. Global Resilience Partnership  
23. Global Water Partnership  
24. Grameen Foundation  
25. Greater Globe Alliance  
26. Heineken  
27. Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment  
28. Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology  
29. International Chamber of Commerce  
30. International Chamber of Shipping  
31. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
32. International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Earth Institute, Columbia University  
33. International Institute for Environment and Development  
34. Krisoker Sor (Farmers Voice)  
35. Lightsmith Group  
36. Mars Incorporated  
37. Mercy Corps  
38. Microsoft  
39. Near East Foundation  
40. Olam International  
41. Pacific Institute  
42. Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport
| 43. | PIANC, the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure |
| 44. | Practical Action |
| 45. | Rare |
| 46. | Resurgence Urban Resilience Trust |
| 47. | Self Help Africa |
| 48. | Stockholm International Water Institute |
| 49. | SYSTEMIQ |
| 50. | The Coca-Cola Company |
| 51. | The Huairou Commission |
| 52. | The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology |
| 53. | The Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC) |
| 54. | The Nature Conservancy |
| 55. | Navigating a Changing Climate Initiative |
| 56. | Third Generation Environmentalism (E3G) |
| 57. | Urban Systems Lab, The New School |
| 58. | Vanuatu Climate Action Network |
| 59. | Vanuatu Business Resilience Council |
| 60. | Vi Agroforestry |
| 61. | Willis Towers Watson |
| 62. | Women’s Climate Centers International |
| 63. | World Association for Waterborne Transport and Infrastructure |
| 64. | World Economic Forum |
| 65. | World Resources Institute |
| 66. | Young Power in Social Action |
| 67. | “4 per 1000” Initiative |