

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 2030¹, 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

¹ Estimate from UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2016

- 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 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.

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