



Views on the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report

**Submission of the Climate Action Network International
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CAN-International welcomes the opportunity to provide inputs to the discussions moving towards a post 2012 agreement. CAN is a coalition of more than 400 environmental and development non-governmental organizations in 85 countries worldwide, committed to limiting human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels.

CAN congratulates the IPCC for their Nobel Peace Prize recognizing "their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change". CAN welcomes the continuing work of the IPCC and in particular, the publication last year of its Fourth Assessment Report (AR4).

All processes under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, particularly the negotiations of the next two years, must be based on the best available scientific information and analysis and the AR4 is an important contribution to this. It is clear from the IPCC report that deep emissions reductions are necessary post 2012, as the global emissions will need to peak within the next 10 years and begin to decline thereafter. A delay in action will require much greater rates of emission reductions later to achieve the same stabilization, at significantly higher cost, and may make lower stabilization levels impossible to achieve.

In order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, the AR4 clearly demonstrates that impacts increase in severity with temperature. For this reason, CAN reaffirms its goal of keeping global average temperature increases as far below 2°C as possible. To achieve this, the binding quantified emissions limitation and reduction obligations of Annex I countries for post 2012 must be ambitious: *at least* at the top end of the 25-40% reduction range under discussion in the AWG (by 2020 from 1990 levels).

For its next assessment, CAN thinks it is important that the IPCC assesses the full range of plausible scenarios in the future, including the lowest. For this reason it is vital the IPCC ensure that its new reference scenarios span the **full** range in the scientific literature. In the meantime, CAN draws Parties attentions to existing scenarios that explore stabilization scenarios below 450ppmv of carbon dioxide equivalent¹, which give higher probabilities of achieving the 2°C goal.

The overall message of the AR4 is a hopeful one: **reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the necessary low levels is possible, affordable and can be achieved with existing technologies,**

¹ CAN's June 2007 submission on "Indicative ranges of emissions reduction objectives for Annex I countries" is available at: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/smsn/ngo/025.pdf> The reports listed as technical Annexes to this submission can be found at: http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/ngo/items/3689.php under paragraph H, and have been listed with the authors' permission. This permission, however, does not necessarily imply support of the CAN submission.

with new technologies also having an important role to play in future. However, an array of market barriers, including lack of support schemes and appropriate legal standards for efficient and clean products, wrong price signals, perverse incentives such as continuing fossil fuel subsidies etc, prevent substantive take up of low-carbon and sustainable technologies, products and policies.

The other key message underscores the urgency of action that is required; **climate change poses potentially catastrophic risks and the window of opportunity to act is closing rapidly**. For this reason, CAN asserts that rapid and strong action will be required in all greenhouse gas emitting sectors.

Projections for future impacts indicate that unless there are significant and rapid reductions in emissions, impacts will be severe, even at the low end of temperature increases implied by the current levels of ambition in the negotiations.

The challenge for the next twenty-one months is to reach an effective global agreement that puts us on the path to make the necessary emissions reductions and safeguards the ability of the poor to develop.

Real ambition and commitment are needed, but as the IPCC has made clear, it is not too late.