



**Climate Action Network
International**

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March 14, 2019

His Excellency Amb. Luis Alfonso de Alba

Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the 2019 Climate Summit
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Dear Ambassador de Alba,

I write on behalf of the Climate Action Network to ask you to ensure that loss and damage due to climate change is explicitly addressed in the resilience and adaptation action portfolio as well as the finance action portfolio at the UN Climate Summit 2019.

Climate change is already having a devastating impact on vulnerable developing countries and communities around the world. In many instances, these impacts have gone beyond what is possible to adapt to and into the realms of loss and damage due to climate change. Climate change loss and damage is impacting the poorest countries most significantly, as they lack the economic and financial capacity to rebuild and recover as quickly as developed countries.

The UN Climate Summit 2019 is a timely opportunity to highlight the urgent need to reduce emissions to keep warming below 1.5°C. However, the Summit must also spotlight the current dramatic impacts that countries and communities are facing - and must offer solutions to these impacts. Increasing adaptation actions is key, as is increasing the international funds available to facilitate adaptation. But as we already see in countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and India which suffered loss and damage from extreme flooding and landslides in 2017 affecting more than 40 million people, in many regions the impacts of climate change are already surpassing the adaptive capacity of communities. The Climate Summit 2019 must make a difference, and address these needs explicitly, otherwise it will let down the poorest communities facing the worst impacts of climate change.

In addressing loss and damage at the UN Climate Summit, the Secretary-General can make a decisive contribution to creating the momentum towards COP25 and the review on that occasion of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage. Established five years ago, this body has yet to fulfil its mandate to enhance finance for loss and damage.

The UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit should explore some of the solutions to this dearth of loss and damage finance, by exploring new sources of finance in the Finance action portfolio. New sources of finance, over and above ODA and existing climate finance, will be necessary to deal with loss and damage. New, polluter pays-related sources of finance, such as a Climate Damages Tax on the fossil fuel industry, offer significant potential to help reduce emissions and ensure the industry most responsible for climate

damage is the one that pays. Other approaches can also be explored such as levies on carbon pricing, and international aviation and maritime schemes.

The Climate Action Network, and our more than 1,300 members in over 120 countries, stand ready to work with you in this and other subjects to ensure the UN Climate Summit 2019 is a success.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tasneem Essop', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tasneem Essop
Executive Director
Climate Action Network - International