



Climate Action Network statement on the 2016 G20 Summit

G20 summit: a strong take-off but a bumpy landing on climate change

Hangzhou, China, 5 September 2016: Climate Action Network welcomed the US and China's ratification of the Paris Agreement on the eve of the G20 summit here. However, civil society groups are disappointed that more countries did not follow suit.

The final G20 communique published today was overall low on details, weak in tone and failed to make strong commitments on tackling climate change.

The communique failed to make significant progress on several of CAN's demands communicated to the G20 governments

- Though there were references to sustainable development, there was no mention of countries submitting their long-term strategies and decarbonisation plans.
- The summit failed to set a deadline to end fossil fuel subsidies.
- While looking forward to successful outcomes from the forthcoming Montreal Protocol and the ICAO meetings, the communique was weakly worded on the need for an ambitious agreement at these meetings.
- While stressing commitments to scale up green finance, the G20 failed to mention climate-related financial disclosures or to ensure that new infrastructure is climate-friendly and pro-poor.
- No plans were outlined on transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy.

"The lack of progress on outlining a concrete timetable for the phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies is a reminder that the G20's collective action on climate change must go further. Handing out money to the fossil fuel industry is simply not compatible with the Paris Agreement," said Li Shuo, Greenpeace East Asia's Senior Climate Policy Adviser.

"The Paris Agreement and the SDGs have set a new framework for the global economy and the G20 can't continue with business as usual if these goals are to be put into practice. Discussions started on these issues this year, but much more needs to be done. We commend China for putting the ratification of the Paris Agreement and the greening of the financial system on the G20 agenda - it is now up to the German presidency next year to deliver concrete implementation strategies on these issues. The United States and China formally joining the Paris Agreement is a big step, as it shows that the course set by the Paris Agreement is becoming irreversible. It also increases the pressure for all EU governments to follow suit if they don't want to be left out," said Christoph Bals, Policy Director, Germanwatch

"The G20 failed to set the right priorities. They stuck to the same old tools that have not been able to solve the climate crisis and global inequality," said Pirmin Spiegel, General Director at the Catholic Bishops' Organisation for Development Cooperation MISEREOR

CAN believes it is imperative that the world's most powerful economies, accounting for up to 80 percent of global emissions, take a strong lead to limit the increase in the global temperature



beyond 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, as committed under the Paris Agreement; end fossil fuel subsidies; and develop long-term decarbonisation plans, among other actions.

By missing out on an opportunity to consolidate the international community's commitment to fighting climate change, two months before the COP22 in Marrakesh, the G20 has failed to build on momentum and ambition towards a post-Paris climate agenda commensurate with the challenges facing our planet.

More resources:

[CAN Briefing: G20 Key Demands, July 2016](#)
[Open Letter to G20 Governments](#)

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About Climate Action Network:

Climate Action Network (CAN) is a global network of over 1000 NGOs working to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. www.climatenetwork.org