

Madrid: Responding to the People and the Science

Around the world millions of people have taken to the streets — from Hong Kong, the UK, Haiti, Lebanon, Ecuador, and Chile — demanding their right to a better life. These protests are the culmination of increasing public awareness and a lack of government action to address the root causes of the climate emergency and social injustice; the two of which are fundamentally linked.

Along with a dangerous lack of climate ambition, there is a failure by governments to address the inherent linkages between social, ecological and climate justice. This inaction emanates from an economic and political system that puts profits over people and planet, is driven by greed and the exploitation of resources — especially fossil fuels, and which prioritises the interests of the few wealthy polluters and corporations to the detriment of the majority who suffer an unfair burden. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 1.5 report robustly highlighted the need for governments to internalize these connections.

The UN Secretary General (UNSG) has increased the political stakes for countries to provide real leadership and political responses. Governments must harness this momentum and respond to the demands of their citizens by providing concrete and credible answers to key issues at COP25, including:

- How will you address loss and damage impacting the most marginalised through a robust Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) review that provides real finance and support for impacted countries and people to recover from climate disasters?

- How will you ensure that market mechanisms do not undermine environmental integrity and climate ambition?
- How will major economies step up in 2020 and contribute to the global effort to close the emissions gap and raise national climate ambition in the next decade?

At COP25, Parties must urgently address loss and damage and climate impacts. There is a daily climate emergency for millions of people who are the least responsible for causing the crisis on their doorstep. Climate change induced loss and damage is affecting the poorest countries most significantly, as they lack the financial capacity to rebuild and recover as quickly as developed countries. Parties must finalise the review and fully operationalise the WIM to address developing countries needs for support with: averting and minimising loss and damage, and address displacement. We expect substantive discussions and robust outcomes from COP25 to deliver a finance facility under the WIM, and a robust process to scale-up finance for loss and damage.

Raising ambition and the integrity of the Paris Agreement should in no way be undermined by market and non-market mechanisms. Integrity demands phasing out Kyoto mechanisms and ensuring Kyoto units are not counted for any non-Kyoto mitigation efforts. The integrity of the Paris Agreement also depends on protecting the rights of communities to ensure no harm and avoid design flaws in creating flexible mechanisms. It is essential that Parties agree to implement guidelines for Article 6 that ensure real emission reductions which are: measurable, additional, verifiable and permanent, avoid any form of double counting, and do not harm local communities.

COP25 provides governments with the perfect opportunity to draft and unpack (in detail!) their plans for raising national climate ambition by 2020. These plans must outline how governments will respond to the climate emergency and the climate science and how they will launch societal transformation. The science clearly details the dire consequences our social, economic, and natural systems are facing. CAN expects governments to step up in Madrid and show their citizens they plan to take meaningful and transformational action in preparation for 2020, including through engaging national stakeholders in transparent national review processes.

The Climate Summit in New York presented a plethora of climate solutions that governments can now integrate into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to be submitted by 2020. Nature-based solutions (NBS) lend themselves to being integrated in the new transformational NDCs, providing a unique opportunity to jointly tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis. Conserving and restoring ecosystems are crucial for achieving 1.5°C and can deliver multiple benefits to society. CAN urges Parties to translate their theoretical commitment to NBS into clear targets in their NDCs.

An ambitious response also requires that Parties deliver on the USD\$100 billion commitment by and annually after 2020. CAN is very concerned that, according to different projections, public finance provided will not reach \$100 billion by 2020. Following the Green Climate Fund (GCF) replenishment conference, which resulted in \$9.7 billion pledged to the fund, CAN welcomes efforts of those countries that have doubled their commitment in line with their fair share. CAN notes the absence of the US and Australia who keep ignoring the climate crisis and is disappointed that countries like Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Austria and Belgium have not yet doubled their pledges or provided their fair share yet. At COP25 the Pre-2020 high-level stocktake needs to acknowledge the finance gap and parties need to come prepared to address it. Developed countries must increase public finance contributions to meet the \$100 billion (bn) goal.

At COP25, Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) must adequately respond to the climate emergency across three pillars – addressing climate impacts, raising climate ambition and providing support for climate action by:

- **Setting up a financing facility under the WIM** to deliver new and additional finance to address loss and damage including new and innovative sources of finance that can truly generate additional resources (such as levies on air and maritime transport, and climate damages tax on fossil fuel exploration) at a scale of \$50billion by 2022;
- **Further setting up an Executive Committee (ExCom Expert) Group on Action and Support** to create more room for discussion on loss and damage Finance, alongside technology and capacity building;
- **Phasing out the Kyoto Protocol's flexible mechanisms** and not recognizing Kyoto emissions units for compliance with non-Kyoto mitigation commitments;
- Only agreeing on implementation guidelines for Article 6 which **ensure that Parties avoid all forms of double counting** in their internationally transferred emission reductions; as well as support and encourage all Parties to move toward economy-wide emission targets as called for in Article 4.4 of the Paris Agreement;
- Providing firm commitments, clear political signals, clarity on next steps from all Parties, and in particular from major emitters, on **how they will step up their climate ambition by delivering transformational NDCs well in advance of COP26.**
- Agree **to national NDC review processes that are inclusive and transparent and engage all national stakeholders in a whole-of-society approach** and that recognize the critical role ecosystems play in achieving 1.5°C by ensuring there are clear targets for nature-based solutions in NDCs.
- Agreeing on a single **five-year common time frame for NDC** implementation from 2031 onwards;
- **Committing to delivering long-term strategies and related targets for achieving net-zero by 2050.**
- Agreeing to **a process in 2020 for ensuring the continuation of the Global Climate Action agenda** post COP26.
- Ensuring that the **2nd Periodic Review of the long-term goal under the Convention and the progress for achieving it, is a full review** considering all possible outcomes and taking into account any overlaps with the Global Stocktake.

- **Extending the mandate for the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB)** for a significant period of time to demonstrate trust in the existing institutional structures and ensure the continuity as well as **better equip the PCCB with appropriate resources;**
- **Operationalizing the enhanced transparency framework by significantly advancing the common reporting tables, common tabular formats (CTF), various report outlines, and a training programme.** In doing so, Parties should provide the necessary flexibility while upholding the TACCC principles (transparency, accuracy, consistency, comparability and completeness);
- **Ensuring reporting tables on the support provided, mobilized, needed, and received is reported at the activity level and incorporates climate specificity and grant equivalent;**
- **Acknowledging the GCF replenishment and noting the urgent need to close the finance gap.**
- **Advancing discussions on making finance flows consistent with the Paris Agreement,** particularly at the Presidency Event organized by the Ministry of Finance, where parties should declare how they intend to develop plans to stop finance for fossil fuel;
- **Adopting rules of procedure to enable a substantive discussion on economy diversification, just transition and managed decline of fossil fuels under the Forum on the impacts of the implementation of response measures.** Particularly, adopting the (Terms of Reference) ToRs of the recently created Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI) to officially begin to work as soon as possible; **Ensuring that principles of a just, equitable and fair transition for all people are part of Response Measures.**

As delegates and ministers head to COP25 in Madrid, we continue to pay close attention to the situation in Chile to ensure that the overarching principles of social justice and human rights are protected. While the COP25 will be hosted in Madrid, this must remain a Latin American COP with a strong focus on the protection of those impacted by climate change & ill-designed climate policies. Additionally, this must be a COP that shows Parties have heard the calls for action from across the globe, and that they intend to act on them.

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Contact: policy@climatenetwork.org

Working Group Co-Chairs

Adaptation and Loss and Damage

Sven Harmeling, CARE International, sharmeling@careclimatechange.org
Harjeet Singh, Action Aid, harjeet.singh@actionaid.org
Sadie Decoste, sadie_decoste@hotmail.com

Agenda 2030

Andreas Sieber, CAN International, asieber@climatenetwork.org

Agriculture

Teresa Anderson, Action Aid, Teresa.Anderson@actionaid.org
Ram Kishan, Christian Aid, ramkishan2000@gmail.com

Ambition

Fernanda Carvalho, WWF, fcarvalho@wwfint.org
Rixa Schwarz, Germanwatch, schwarz@germanwatch.org

Bunkers

Mark Lutes, WWF International, mark.lutes@wwf.panda.org
Sam Van den Plas, Carbon Market Watch, sam.vandenplas@carbonmarketwatch.org

Capacity Building and Technology

Robert Šakić Trogrlić, Practical Action, Robert.SakicTrogrlic@practicalaction.org.uk

Ecosystem

Melanie Coath, The RSPB, Melanie.Coath@rspb.org.uk
Ashton Berry, BirdLife International, ashton.berry@birdlife.org
Catalina Maria, FARN, cmariagonda@farn.org.ar

Energy

Kelly Trout, Oil Change International, kelly@priceofoil.org
Jean Su, Center for Biological Diversity, jsu@biologicaldiversity.org

Finance

Lucile Dufour, Réseau Action Climat France, lucile.dufour@reseauactionclimat.org
Eddy Pérez, Climate Action Network Canada, eddy@climateactionnetwork.ca

Flexible Mechanisms

Andy Katz, Sierra Club, andykatz@sonic.net
Gilles Dufrasne, Carbon Market Watch, gilles.dufrasne@carbonmarketwatch.org

Global Stocktake

Naoyuki Yamagishi, WWF, yamagishi@wwf.or.jp
Christian Holz, Climate Equity Reference Project, cholz@climate.works

Grassroots

Christian Holz, Climate Equity Reference Project, cholz@climate.works
Michael Hansen, GASP Group, michael@gaspgroup.org

G20

Enrique Maurtua Konstantinidis, Farn, enriquemk@farn.org.ar
Kimiko Hirata, Kiko Network, khirata@kikonet.org

NGO Participation and Human Rights

Sébastien Duyck, CIEL, duycks@gmail.com

Science Policy

Manfred Treber, Germanwatch, treber@germanwatch.org
Reinhold Pape, Air Pollution and Climate Secretariat (AirClim), reinhold.pape@snf.se
Neth Elenita Dano, ETC Group, neth@etcgroup.org

Transparency

Nathan Cogswell, WRI, Nathan.Cogswell@wri.org
Nobert Nyandire, nobnyandire05@gmail.com

Climate Action Network International (CAN) is the world's largest network of civil society organizations working together to promote government action to address the climate crisis, with more than 1300 members in over 120 countries.