



To: G20 Leaders

23 August 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

In 2015, the world took a historic step in the fight to tackle climate change. In adopting the Paris Agreement, governments jointly committed to pursuing efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels, in recognition of the disastrous impacts that will affect diverse communities around the globe above these limits. The need to now take action is urgent - we are already seeing increased extreme weather events as a result of climate change.

G20 countries represent approximately 85% of global GDP and two-thirds of the global population. G20 leadership on climate change is crucial, and global economic governance must be compatible with the requirements of the Paris Agreement to safeguard development against climate risks and to provide a safe future for all citizens of the world.

Climate Action Network (CAN) is a worldwide network of over 1100 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in more than 120 countries, working to limit human-induced climate change while ensuring sustainable development for all. In July 2016, CAN developed a briefing of eight key climate demands for the G20.¹ Importantly, we call on the G20 countries to ensure that important agreements take place this year, such as at the International Civil Aviation Organization and in the Montreal Protocol, which will result in ambitious outcomes that are compatible with the Paris Agreement.

At the 2016 G20 Summit, we urge all member countries to prioritize two key issues: ratification of the Paris Agreement, for expedited entry into force; and development of long-term strategies for sustainable development and decarbonization.

First, CAN welcomes China's commitment, as the 2016 G20 Presidency, to ratify the Paris Agreement before the G20 Summit.² We call on all G20 countries to follow this lead, and ratify the Paris Agreement as soon as possible in order for early entry into force. This would not only indicate continuation of the political commitment to address climate change seen in Paris, but also give a strong signal globally to business, cities and ordinary citizens to act

¹ [CAN Briefing: G20 Key Demands](#)

² As announced at the Paris Agreement Signing Ceremony, 22 April 2016 at the UN Headquarters in New York

ambitiously on climate change in their capacity to do so. Only once the Paris Agreement enters into force will countries revise and begin implementing their nationally determined contributions.

Second, in recognition of the essential need to not exceed the 1.5°C temperature threshold and to protect and promote sustainable development, we call on all G20 countries to develop long-term strategies for sustainable development and decarbonization. The 2016 Chinese G20 Presidency has highlighted the importance of inclusive and interconnected development.³ Long-term national planning will be an essential step in fulfilling the goals of this development imperative, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ambitious long-term strategies in line with limiting global temperature increases to 1.5°C will be crucial for avoiding lock-in of high carbon infrastructure. Which poses severe financial and environmental risks to the global economy. Coherent planning for implementing SDGs within the framework of a national long-term strategy is likely to result in substantial co-benefits such as improved public health, through reduced air pollution, and greater energy security and access.

We call on G20 countries to develop *interim* strategies by 2018, in time for the collective adequacy assessment scheduled to take place at the 2018 meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. We also call on the G20 to take a leadership role in decarbonizing the global economy, by creating a platform for dialogue and sharing good practice, in which synergies between development, climate and energy policies can be identified and plans for a just transition of the workforce can be developed.

We look forward to an ambitious outcome from the 2016 G20 Summit, in which climate change is recognized not simply as an environmental problem, but as the threat to the global economy, security and sustainable development that it truly is.

Sincerely,



Wael Hmaidan

Director
CAN International

³ [G20 Summit 2016, China](#)