NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, NY

Environmental, social and economic development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"
www.ngoscd-ny.org

Climate Change: Summary and Recommendations to Governments, 2015 [i]

The human-caused global-warming trend of climate change is scientifically established [ii]. Human beings are not *distinct* from nature, but are part *of* nature, and are now *affecting* nature in an alarmingly negative way. Impacts from global warming are now being felt and will soon become far worse if we do not act substantially. Without action, all countries will be increasingly affected in a myriad of severe, adverse ways: economically, environmentally, militarily, politically, medically, and psychologically. Global stability is threatened. Though the poor will suffer the most, there is no safe haven for anybody.

Humane effective responses to global warming with an ethical and moral foundation require difficult equitable resolutions of conflicting national situations generated by different per-capita and total emissions (historical, current, and future), economic development, and energy requirements. Nevertheless the interests of all are intertwined. We need to become globally *earth-centered*, with respect for global human rights, reverence and compassion for living beings, with a light carbon footprint. We need dedicated, clear, decisive leadership and action to counter global warming by all governments, NGOs including corporations, and individuals. There is no alternative. Let not future generations, impacted by global warming, say of us, *"They knew but did not act"*.

Recommendations to Governments for Action on Climate Change

1. Recognize that unmitigated climate change will produce widespread conflicts over food, water, and resources, with consequent population displacements and other devastating effects.

2. Adopt fair, ambitious, binding (FAB) climate agreements at COP21[iii] enhancing the Copenhagen *Accord*, Cancun *Agreements*, Durban *Platform*, Doha *Gateway*, Warsaw *Mechanism*, Lima *Call for Climate Action*, and the Kyoto Protocol: greenhouse gas emissions at sustainable safe levels and penalties for excessive emissions.

3. Adopt adequate climate-risk-management mitigation/adaptation strategies as in the IPCC reports, a substantial price on carbon, and increased funding for non-fossil energy (solar, wind, fusion…).

4. Adopt and implement further adequate, equitable, and binding financial and technical commitments by developed to developing countries for mitigation, adaptation, and damage; with effective, gender-sensitive aid distribution, and joint cooperative responsibility. Priorities are:
- **Security** (peace and avoiding armed conflicts, avoiding mass migrations).
- **Social Justice, Intergenerational Equity, Environment Preservation.** Achieve: post-2015 Development Agenda; food, water, energy security; sustainable economic development, gender balanced; a livable world for our descendants. More support for women, children, small farmers, Island, Coastal, Indigenous peoples. Improve public health, mental health, education on climate change, environment. Include common but differentiated responsibilities, respective capabilities. Support non-intensive agriculture, sustainable forestry, conservation, humane animal treatment, ecosystems, and biodiversity; avoid extinctions. More women negotiators.

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[i] Over 100 Representatives of NGOs including some Observer Organizations signed the original largely identical Copenhagen COP15 version of this paper, to which many NGOs contributed. Paper updated yearly for COP16-20.

[ii] IPCC reports: *Science* (WG I, 2013); *Impacts, Adaptation, Vulnerability* (WG II, 2014); *Mitigation* (WG III, 2014)

[iii] COP21 is the 2015 Paris UNFCCC Climate Conference