

**Statement of Climate Change Synergy Task Force
2nd session, 25.10.2009, Amsterdam**

While climate change has become frontline news as we approach COP 15 in Copenhagen, the level of urgency and the realization that it cannot be solved in isolation of other development challenges have not yet been widely spread. Our political responses remain weak, restricted by national agendas dominated by electoral, budgetary and short-term economic considerations. Therefore CCTF believes:

1. Climate change poses an increasing threat to global security and stability. It cannot be reduced to just an environmental agenda. To avoid catastrophic consequences, the main economic and social drivers need to change. This is an unprecedented global emergency that no nation however powerful can cope with alone; it demands urgent, coordinated and far-reaching action.
2. These issues are complex, systemic and interconnected. They cannot be resolved separately through ad hoc, sectoral and incremental measures. A short-term optimisation may lead to long-term disaster. The required transformation will not be easy, cheap or universally welcome – but it is the only viable choice for a safer, sustainable world and for greater equity between people. The cost of preventing catastrophic climate change is estimated at approximately 2% of global GDP while failure to act in time will lead to damage costing far more, possibly over 20% of global GDP.
3. The “greening” of economic stimulus packages and moves towards an energy-efficient, “greener” solutions are positive and necessary but not sufficient. They are not an alternative to the profound restructuring the world economy needs. A genuine low carbon economy can open up enormous opportunities for growth and employment, akin to the ushering of the new industrial era.
4. The climate change negotiations alone are not enough. Their “silo” approach lacks the broader and longer-term strategic context necessary for effective and strategically justified results. The negotiations dramatically lag behind the latest science that indicates that we have badly underestimated both the extent and speed of climate change, to the point that we now run a rapidly increasing risk of sudden failure of some part of the climatic system, possibly via tipping points that may prove irreversible.
5. The Climate Change Synergy Task Force* calls for a recalibration of the planetary climate change responses. New thinking and a **comprehensive policy approach** are urgently needed to build a new explicit, coherent, **cross-sectoral strategy** which integrates economic, environmental and development issues; to establish effective national and international **frameworks for cooperation and action**; and to mobilise rapidly **public support**, knowledge and resources. To achieve that:
 - Copenhagen must reach an agreement based on a scientific consensus, not a lowest common denominator compromise watered down by vested interests. Sensible risk management today dictates that, to keep temperature within 2°C, atmospheric carbon should be stabilized at 350ppm CO₂e, not the outdated 450-550ppm CO₂e goal that remains the basis of official negotiations. This requires developed country emission reductions of 45-50% by 2020, and almost complete decarbonisation by 2050, not the 15-25% by 2020 and 60-80% by 2050 now on the table. The developing countries, on the other hand, should commit to national

appropriate mitigation actions commensurate with their economic realities and exposure levels. Industrialized countries must acknowledge their responsibility and pledge to provide sufficient levels of additional, reliable funds proportionate to these efforts to help finance adaptation and low carbon development plans, and support sustainable energy deployment, in poorer nations.

- Leaders must be honest about the scale of the challenge and recognize that successful resolution of our climate and sustainability dilemma requires transformational change, not managerial incrementalism. The climate agenda must be dealt with at the highest political level, and the dangerous sectoral compartmentalization of decision-making processes replaced by an integrated approach that recognizes the synergies between climate change and other key issues including energy security, economic reform and sustainable development. Lessons of Kyoto process must be learnt.

- Climate injustice must be redressed and compensated as the developing countries are bearing the brunt of the impact of climate change and face huge adaptation costs to protect their populations from, and prepare them for, future severe consequences. Climate Impact Zones should be identified and prioritized for international development funds, or adaptation aid.

- The search for solutions to climate change merits being democratic. For that can harness people's creativity, turn them into co-authors and therefore responsible for successes and failures. The current climate change negotiations are an essential element of the climate change agenda. But it is vitally important to create a wider political base to outline and implement a comprehensive planetary response to a clear and imminent danger.

- Citizens across the world must demand that their leaders begin the vital process of transformation by agreeing on the framework and principal elements of a strong, viable global climate deal at COP15 in Copenhagen. Failure is not an option. Heads of State and Government should participate in person at Copenhagen to ensure that all remaining blockages are overcome and a breakthrough deal is achieved.

This is the defining moment of our age. The convergence of the climate change, energy and economic crises presents an opportunity to enact the genuine transformation and societal change needed to build a fairer, safer and healthier future for all. Current generations have a choice: to be the pioneers and architects of this sustainable future, or the victims of our own excesses, indifference and inaptitude.

The CCTF will use every possibility at its disposal to adequately inform the world at large about relevant challenges, choices and opportunities and stands ready to assist global leaders in formulating a global response along these lines.

The Climate Change Synergy Task Force is a coalition of concerned global leaders from all regions of the world, and convened from across the societal spectrum (science, politics, civil society, business and communications), which transcends national, political and sectoral boundaries. The immediate objective of the Task Force is to act as a leadership catalyst to focus and accelerate climate change action onto a transformative, urgent and highest political level before COP15. The Task Force has also prepared a comprehensive report and set of detailed recommendations to support the call to action outlined in this Statement, and will continue to mobilize climate action after COP15. Please visit www.XXXXXXX* for more information and reports. *under construction