

CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE: AVOIDING THE UNMANAGEABLE AND MANAGING THE UNAVOIDABLE

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- Bolster existing financial mechanisms (such as the Global Environment Facility) – and create additional ones – for helping the most vulnerable countries cope with unavoidable impacts, possibly using revenues generated from carbon pricing, as planned in the Adaptation Fund of the Clean Development Mechanism.
- Strengthen adaptation-relevant institutions and build capacity to respond to climate change at both national and international levels. The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) should request that the UN system evaluate the adequacy of, and improve coordination among, existing organizations such as the CSD, the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Refugee Agency, the World Bank, and others to more effectively support achievement of the MDGs and adaptation to climate change.

4. Create and rebuild cities to be climate resilient and GHG-friendly, taking advantage of the most advanced technologies and approaches for using land, fresh water, and marine, terrestrial, and energy resources. Crucial action items include the following elements:

- Modernize cities and plan land-use and transportation systems, including greater use of public transit, to reduce energy use and GHG intensity and increase the quality of life and economic success of a region's inhabitants.
- Construct all new buildings using designs appropriate to local climate.
- Upgrade existing buildings to reduce energy demand and slow the need for additional power generation.
- Promote lifestyles, adaptations, and choices that require less energy and demand for non-renewable resources.

5. Increase investments and cooperation in energy-technology innovation to develop the new systems and practices that are needed to avoid the most damaging consequences of climate change. Current levels of public and private investment in energy technology research, development, demonstration, and pre-commercial deployment are not even close to commensurate with the size of the challenge and the extent of the opportunities. We recommend that national governments and the UN system:

- Advocate and achieve a tripling to quadrupling of global public and private investments in energy-technology research, emphasizing energy efficiency in transportation, buildings, and the industrial sector; biofuels, solar, wind, and other renewable technologies; and advanced technologies for carbon capture and sequestration.
- Promote a comparable increase in public and private investments – with particular emphasis on public-private partnerships – focused on demonstration and accelerated commercial deployment of energy technologies with large mitigation benefits.
- Use UN institutions and other specialized organizations to promote public-private partnerships that increase private-sector financing for energy-efficiency and renewable-energy investments, drawing upon limited public resources to provide loan guarantees and interest rate buy-downs.
- Increase energy-technology research, development, and demonstration across the developing regions of the world. Potential options for achieving this goal include twinning arrangements between developed and developing countries and strengthening the network of regional centers for energy-technology research.
- Over the next two years, complete a study on how to better plan, finance, and deploy climate-friendly energy technologies using the resources of UN and other international agencies such as the UN Development Programme, the World Bank, and the Global Environment Facility.

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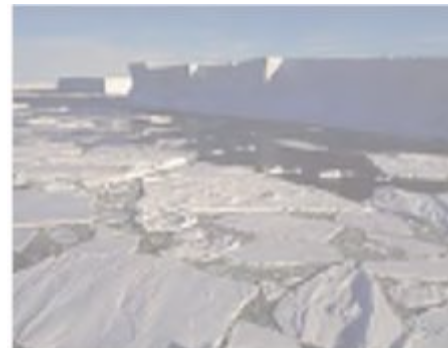
6. Improve communication to accelerate adaptation and mitigation by increasing education efforts and creating forums for dialogue, technology assessment, and planning. The full range of public- and private-sector participants should be engaged to encourage partnerships across industrial and academic experts, the financial community, and public and private organizations. National governments and the UN system should take the following steps:

- Develop an international process to assess technologies and refine sectoral targets for mitigation that brings together experts from industry, nongovernmental organizations, the financial community, and government. The Technology and Economic Assessment Panel of the Montreal Protocol provides an effective model for assessing technological potential and effective, realistic sectoral mitigation targets.
- Enhance national programs for public and corporate education on the needs, paths, opportunities, and benefits of a transition to a low-emission energy future.
- Enlist the educational and capacity-building capabilities of UN institutions to provide information about climate change and the opportunities for adaptation and mitigation. Under the leadership of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UN should complete an internal study to more effectively engage relevant UN agencies.

The Time for Collective Action is Now

Governments, corporations, and individuals must act now to forge a new path to a sustainable future with a stable climate and a robust environment. There are many opportunities for taking effective early action at little or no cost. Many of these opportunities also have other environmental or societal benefits. Even if some of the subsequent steps required are more difficult and expensive, their costs are virtually certain to be smaller than the costs of the climate-change damages these measures would avert.

Two starkly different futures diverge from this time forward. Society's current path leads to increasingly serious climate-change impacts, including potentially catastrophic changes in climate that will compromise efforts to achieve development objectives where there is poverty and will threaten standards of living where there is affluence. The other path leads to a transformation in the way society generates and uses energy as well as to improvements in management of the world's soils and forests. This path will reduce dangerous emissions, create economic opportunity, help to reduce global poverty, reduce degradation of and carbon emissions from ecosystems, and contribute to the sustainability of productive economies capable of meeting the needs of the world's growing population.



Humanity must act collectively and urgently to change course through leadership at all levels of society. There is no more time for delay.

UNITED NATIONS-SIGMA XI SCIENTIFIC EXPERT GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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