

Washington Legislators' Forum Statement, 14-15 February 2007

1. With the release of the report of Working Group 1 of the IPCC, and the Stern Review, we understand better than ever before the science and economics of climate change. As representatives of the legislatures of countries that account for around two thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions, we put forward this statement to G8 and +5 leaders:
2. The report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, published on 2 February 2007, concludes that it is more than 90 per cent certain that human activities since 1750 have warmed the planet. In our view, the evidence that man is changing the climate is now beyond doubt.
3. It is also now clear that the **cost of inaction will be greater than the cost of action**. There is a compelling case for urgent action to reduce emissions as the only sure way to ensure sustainable growth for all economies.
4. Each year of delay in action to control emissions increases the risk of impacts that will require steeper reductions in the future, at greater economic cost and social disruption. These impacts are likely to be exacerbated by "positive feedback" mechanisms as our climate warms.
5. Action on climate change needs to take account of the differing circumstances of developed, developing and poor economies, recognising the need for economic growth and access to energy to alleviate poverty. But we must be clear that climate change is a global issue and there is an **obligation on us all to take action**, in line with our capabilities and historic responsibilities.
6. We underline the importance of action not just to increase climate security but to increase our **energy security, improve our air quality and our health and support biodiversity**.
7. We know that we have the technologies today to reduce our emissions, given the right policy frameworks and incentives. To inform and guide our actions we need to generate an international consensus on the measures required to stabilise the climate. We urge G8 and +5 Governments to identify, at the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm, a measurable **long-term goal to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations** in the atmosphere. Our belief is that this goal should be to stabilise concentrations at a level between **450 and 550 parts per million of CO2 equivalent**, while recognising that meeting the EU's 2 degrees Celsius target would require stabilisation at the lower end of this range.
8. To achieve this goal we will need a combination of a binding UN framework signed up to by all the major economies, together with bilateral and multilateral partnerships, recognising the responsibility of developed countries to lead. We acknowledge the work of the Gleneagles Dialogue, the Asia Pacific Partnership, the international financial institutions including the World Bank and multilateral development banks and the International Energy Agency. But we need to do more. We urge G8 and other governments to take urgent action at a national and international level in the following key policy areas:
9. **Technology** and innovation have vital roles to play. The IEA estimates that most of the world's energy is still likely to come from hydrocarbons in 2050. Hence the particular importance of technology such as carbon capture and storage (CCS) to decarbonise fossil fuels together with support for renewables, sustainable biofuels and energy efficiency technologies. The most efficient and powerful way to stimulate private investment in research, development and deployment of new and existing technologies is to adopt policies establishing a **market value for greenhouse gas emissions** over the long-term. The establishment of a global carbon price will stimulate a technology revolution and energy efficiency measures, rewarding those businesses which develop future technologies first, and will help to provide incentives to reduce deforestation.

However, the carbon price is necessary, but not sufficient. Ambitious public-private partnerships to support R&D programmes that bring new technologies to market are also crucial. More needs to be done, too, on international cooperation to transfer existing technologies.

10. We welcome the progress made by the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), the development of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in the US, other planned programmes in California and New Mexico and in Australia. We urge leaders to develop and strengthen the ETS, and to consider expanding the scheme to include more sectors. We also urge leaders to work towards a global carbon market, where appropriate, by linking the scheme in Europe with others emerging across the globe, to provide a deeper and more liquid market, helping to drive down emissions at least cost

11. **Energy efficiency** is the most cost effective way to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. The IEA estimates that energy efficiency improvements alone can reduce the world's energy demand in 2050 by an amount equivalent to almost half of today's global energy consumption if governments are willing to implement measures that encourage the investment in energy efficient technologies. There is also potential for energy saving measures by business and in the home.

12. The World Bank estimates that **adapting** to the unavoidable impacts of climate change will require an additional USD 10-40 billion per year. If we do not act now to reduce emissions, this figure will increase dramatically and there will be severe impacts on public health and the availability of critical resources including water. Adaptation needs to be mainstreamed into development policies and should be linked to overseas development aid and supported by integrated financial mechanisms.

13. In order to ensure that the long term goal is met, we urge the Governments of the G8 and the +5 countries, when they meet at the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm, to agree on the key elements of a post-2012 framework **and to urge** that global negotiations on such a framework be launched at the Bali meeting of the UNFCCC in November, to be concluded by 2009. We suggest that these elements should include:

- a) Long term targets for developed countries
- b) Appropriate targets for developing economies
- c) Incentives for measures to reduce deforestation
- d) Incentives for sustainable development policies and measures in developing countries
- e) Programs focusing on capacity building, access to technology and financial incentives – to help developing countries invest in more efficient and low carbon technologies
- f) For the most vulnerable developing countries, increased access to climate data, cooperative research on key technologies for adaptation in agriculture and health, giving priority to disaster prevention and improved resilience to climate variability.