



G20 and climate change time to lead for a safer future

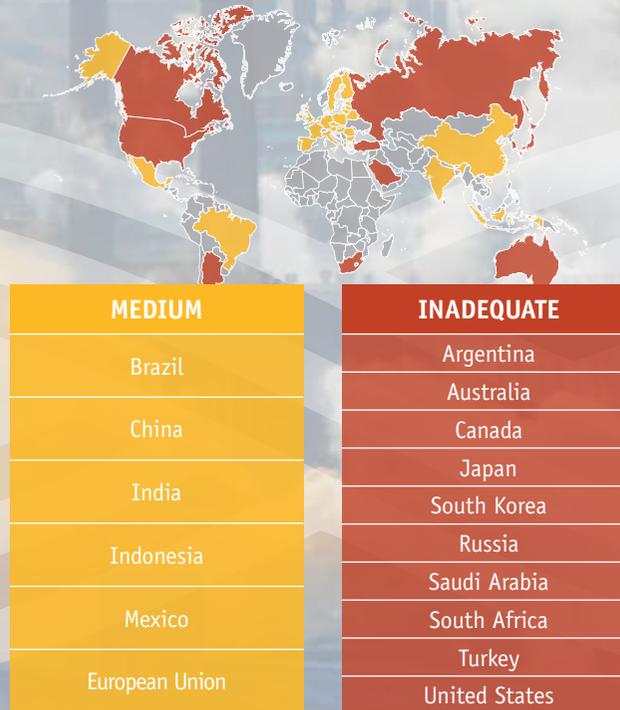
THE SITUATION

The G20, created in 1999, is comprised of 19 countries: **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States and the European Union.** As the world's largest emitters, responsible for 80% of current greenhouse gas emissions and 99% of historic (1850-2013) CO₂ emissions, and representing 85% of global GDP and 51% of the population, it is the responsibility of the G20 to lead the reduction of emissions through a transition to renewables and adequate climate finance. However, within the group of countries, the responsibilities vary with different levels of cumulative historic and current emissions and different obligations under the UN Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC). The current ambition expressed in the G20 countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is grossly inadequate to keep the world on a well below 1.5°C, and even 2°C, pathway.

CLIMATE ACTION: Vital to CARE's Work

People living in poverty, who are the least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, bear the brunt of climate impacts. CARE is already seeing how climate change is eroding and reversing development gains and exacerbating gender inequality and social and economic injustices across the world. Climate change is increasingly affecting everything that CARE does and poses a significant threat to our vision of a world of hope, tolerance and social justice where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security. Without urgent action, this could make it impossible for poor and marginalised people to reach a wide range of poverty eradication, food security and sustainable development goals. CARE is already very active in helping communities adapt to the impacts of climate change and build resilience, and has produced a range of learning tools based upon its experiences, and engages in advocacy and communications.

LEVEL OF NDC AMBITION



4 KEY FACTS

G20 FEEL CLIMATE IMPACTS & ADAPT

Climate impacts have already hit G20 countries, and analyses show they are not equally vulnerable nor prepared, but have started to adapt. However, many poorer countries are more vulnerable with less capacity.

CLIMATE CHANGE DISRUPTS DEVELOPMENT

One of the greatest inequalities in the world is reflected in the causes and consequences of climate change. People living in poverty, in particular women and girls, who are the least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, bear the brunt of climate impacts. Without urgent action to limit warming to 1.5°C and to scale-up adaptation efforts immediately, it could become impossible for poor people to secure their livelihoods, achieve food and nutrition security and to reach a wide range of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

G20 CAN LEAD SHIFT TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

In many G20 countries a renewable energy revolution has started, with falling prices helping to tackle energy poverty. This has opened up more mitigation potential to bring **the world** on a 1.5°C and 100% renewable energy pathway, but G20 still **subsidise** fossil fuels at unacceptable levels.

G20 ARE UNEQUALLY RESPONSIBLE

G20 countries are responsible for more than 99% of historic carbon emissions. While China and the US are the biggest current total emitters, US and the EU still remain the main polluters in a historic perspective since 1850, and India and Indonesia have the lowest per capita emissions. From this responsibility comes an obligation to act and support others, but the G20 action pledges are not yet sufficient, while some are worse than others.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The previous analysis has shed light on the differential, but overall high responsibility of G20 countries to increase the ambition in tackling climate change. CARE sees four main action areas where G20 should agree ambitious next steps in 2017.

Protect the poor from climate risks

The G20 countries should commit to increasing the protection of the poor and vulnerable, in particular women and girls, against climate risks. This should include pro-active adaptation, pro-poor insurance approaches and investing into social protection systems in vulnerable developing countries. In particular developed countries in the G20 need to significantly ramp up adaptation finance to poor countries by 2020 as well as additional finance to address loss and damage, when people experience climate impacts beyond what they can adapt to. The cooperation with other countries, in particular with the V20/Climate Vulnerable Forum and Africa, should advance climate resilience in all actions it takes, including infrastructure investments.

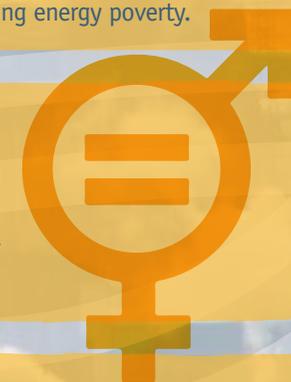


Promote radical emission reductions towards the 1.5°C limit

All G20 governments should provide Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement with high and comparable ambition levels that are sufficient to put the world on rapid emission reduction pathways consistent with the 1.5°C limit. They should commit to back up their NDCs with concrete and transparent national low-GHG emission development strategies by 2018. This should be complemented by concrete action initiatives which further reduce emissions before 2020, in particular by accelerating the shift to 100% renewable energy and near-zero emissions, away from fossil fuels. Other ambitious countries, like the 48 countries in the V20/Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), should be ambitiously supported in their own transition to 100% renewable energies, with a particular focus on overcoming energy poverty.

Promote gender equality and human rights in climate action

Based on countries' commitments under human rights, the SDGs and the provisions of the Paris Agreement, G20 countries should commit to fully promoting gender equality and human rights in all climate action. G20 countries should promise to regularly exchange experience and report on progress achieved in this regard (incl. in relation to the NDCs). They should also promise to support the work on a strong gender action plan under the UNFCCC.



Phase out fossil fuel subsidies and make finance sustainable

The G20 must agree on the equitable, pro-poor phase-out of all fossil fuel subsidies by 2020: The G20 should create a process to initiate redirection of energy-related domestic and international public finance to only support cost-effective, clean, healthy and safe sources of renewable energy and energy efficiency by 2020, to be in line with the 1.5°C limit. The G20 must cooperate to make financial investments sustainable and advance poverty-sensitive carbon pricing, which can also generate additional public resources for climate and SDG action.