



Tackling global climate disruption and ending poverty

The UN Sustainable Development Summit must build a bridge towards an ambitious climate agreement in Paris

The causes and consequences of climate change reflect one of the world's greatest inequalities. Billions of people living in poverty already bear the brunt of the worst climate impacts, although they are the least responsible for causing climate change. This is an extreme global injustice. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to be signed off at the UN summit in New York in September 2015, constitute a commitment by all states to tackle in the next 15 years some of the biggest problems of our time - poverty, injustice and climate change. These universal goals clearly acknowledge that such interdependent crises cannot be dealt with in isolation and they are profoundly linked, requiring integrated and systemic solutions.

“Ahead of us are numerous interconnected global challenges but by far the biggest must be how we tackle poverty, end the injustice of hunger and stop climate change.”

Wolfgang Jamann, Secretary General and CEO, CARE International

Governments must use the UN Sustainable Development Summit to inspire climate action and an ambitious Paris Agreement

Over 100 heads of state and governments will meet in New York, 25-27 September, to adopt the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the SDGs. The necessity to tackle climate change is clearly highlighted

in the goals and targets. This commitment must be followed with an equitable and ambitious climate agreement at the UN climate conference (United Nations Conference of Parties, COP21) in Paris, 30 November-11 December. Governments must take bold action to provide hope for those living on the frontlines of climate change and shift course towards a safer, just and environmentally sustainable future. In order to build a bridge towards a strong climate agreement in Paris, governments gathered at the UN Sustainable Development Summit must:

- Express their concern that current **emission reduction pledges are woefully inadequate** and still put the world on a highly dangerous pathway of 3 C° global warming or more.
- Call for a **global goal to phase out fossil fuel emissions** and fully shift to renewable energies before 2050 to limit **global warming to below 1.5 C°**. This must be underpinned by the obligations for all signatories to **scale up the ambition** at least every five years in an equitable manner.
- **Phase out fossil fuel subsidies in a pro-poor manner**, which would free-up hundreds of billions of dollars for SDG implementation.
- Demand a **financial package** that increases additional support for tackling climate impacts through climate adaptation and addressing loss and damage, in particular for the poorest and most vulnerable countries and people.
- Ensure **climate action promotes gender equality, human rights, and food and nutrition security**.

Harnessing the synergies between poverty reduction, sustainable development and bold climate action, can reaffirm the outcome of an ambitious and equitable UN climate summit in Paris, taking the world closer to a safer, fairer and poverty-free world for current and future generations. Heads of States, in particular from the most powerful countries, must

show global leadership in New York and clear commitment for a strong Paris climate agreement.

Why tackling climate change and eradicating poverty is important for CARE

Across the countries where CARE works, the devastating impacts of climate change are eroding and reversing development gains, exacerbating social and economic injustices, including gender inequality. As the impacts of climate change escalate, CARE's vision of a poverty-free world of hope, tolerance and social justice, where people live in dignity and security, is increasingly threatened.

Climate change is undermining development gains across

key areas of concern to CARE, including food and nutrition security, disasters and humanitarian emergencies, women's economic empowerment, and sexual reproduction and maternal health. Severe climate impacts are already unfolding and the planet is locked in for more. There is little time to curb global warming to below 1.5 C° above pre-industrial levels, as more than [100 vulnerable developing countries](#) are demanding, although if this is not achieved, the consequences will become increasingly more severe and irreversible. The Sustainable Development Agenda will most certainly fail, if an ambitious and equitable climate deal is not reached at the UN climate conference in Paris.

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HOW IS CLIMATE CHANGE REFLECTED IN THE UN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

The Agenda including the [Sustainable Development Goals](#):

- *recognise* that climate change undermines the ability of all countries to **achieve sustainable development**, and the survival of humanity and many ecosystems are at risk. The development and application of technology should be climate-sensitive;
- *support* the demand that climate action must contribute to promoting **gender equality and the fulfilment of human rights**;
- *speak* to the need that countries must up their ambition to **reduce emissions** by 2020 in order to limit global warming to 2 or 1.5 C°;
- *reflect* that it is crucial to increase the **adaptive capacity** of vulnerable people and communities, and **promote climate resilience** for the poor in food security, human settlements, ecosystems;
- *underscore* the commitment of all states to work for an **ambitious and universal climate agreement** under the UNFCCC to be reached in Paris in December;
- *urge* all countries to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, as per the **Sustainable Development Goal 13**, which includes targets on building resilience, integrating climate change into policies and planning, and promoting education.

RESOURCES FOR CARE ENGAGEMENT IN THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE AND POST-2015 PROCESS

CARE has continuously and consistently advocated for strong inclusion of climate change in the post-2015 development agenda, through reports, articles and events:

- [“One Planet – one future”](#) (2012), highlights key demands in food security, climate change and gender for Rio+20;
- [“A sustainable future for all: Eradicating poverty and tackling climate chaos”](#) (2014), outlines key suggestions on how to integrate climate change into the post-2015 development agenda;
- [“2015 and beyond: Action for a just, gender-equitable and sustainable future”](#), promotes gender equality across key 2015 policy frameworks;
- [“Twin tracks: Developing sustainably and equitably in a carbon-constrained world”](#), produced jointly with WWF, identifies areas of synergies between post-2015 and UNFCCC process for ambitious action;
- [“How to make the post-2015 development agenda climate-smart?”](#) (July 2015), Alertnet;
- Targeted events at UN and EU levels to discuss with decision-makers options for promoting sustainable development and climate action in an integrated manner;
- [High-level online debate](#), with former Irish President Mary Robinson, UN Special Advisor on post-2015 Amina Mohammed (2013).