



PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21·CMP11

SYNTHESIS

International Conference

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMANITARIAN CRISES: Understanding and Action

SYNTHESIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FRENCH INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND STRATEGIC AFFAIRS (IRIS), ACTION AGAINST HUNGER (ACF) AND CARE FRANCE, THE 9TH OF SEPTEMBER 2015, IN PARIS.



In the run-up to COP21, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, in partnership with the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS), Action Against Hunger (ACF) and Care France, organized an international conference that brought together governments, civil society, NGOs, the private sector and local authorities to think about ways to curb the negative impacts of climate change through:

- **first-hand testimony describing the far-reaching implications of climate change, whether they relate to weather, food or migration;**
- **the findings of experts in human development, agriculture and anti-desertification;**
- **the solutions implemented to fight climate change;**
- **the activism of humanitarian organizations as demonstrated by the open letter presented by NGOs to Mr. Laurent Fabius, president of COP21.**

UNDERSTANDING

Speech by Ms. Laurence Tubiana

French Ambassador for Climate Negotiations

In light of the silent tragedies that we are currently witnessing (desertification, rising sea levels, soil salinization) and that contribute to humanitarian, political and security crises — in West Africa, for example, where droughts have fueled conflict — the long-neglected adaptation to climate change is a crucial point that is essential to the COP21 agreement.

To succeed, the Paris conference needs to produce more than an agreement among governments, it must prompt a mobilization by society, NGOs, communities, the private sector and local authorities. This is an opportunity to adopt rules of conduct to make it impossible to renege on commitments made, in order to avoid the pitfalls of the Kyoto Protocol, as certain countries are still not in compliance with the agreements.

Furthermore, the Paris agreement must create transparency and build trust. A key factor will be the establishment of a common verification system, mainly to attest to the efforts undertaken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In the absence of legal proceedings, the only tools we can use to do this are the transparency of the measures taken, the publication of results, and an openness to the public, to criticism and to vigilance by society so it can monitor government actions.

Lastly, funding and technological improvements are another piece of the puzzle. They will enable developing countries to participate in a resilient and low-carbon economy.

A concise, comprehensive, clear and consistent text must be drafted by the end of October; this will form the basis of the negotiations. However, substantively speaking, a number of difficult points remain:

- differentiation between developed and developing countries;
- funding responsibilities;
- protection of sovereignty.

We will also have to address the sensitive and fundamental question of loss and damage.

The commitment of \$100 billion per year by 2020 to combat global warming has been confirmed.

We are moving in the right direction, as all countries have indicated a willingness to enter into and adopt an international and universal agreement, and the current mobilization of civil society is critical to ensuring that the leaders deliver this much-needed agreement on time.

The urgency of the situation can be understood through the environmental, societal and human implications of climate change. The eloquent testimonies of **Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim** (Chad), coordinator of the Indigenous Women and Peoples Association of Chad (AFPAT), **Runa Khan** (Bangladesh), executive director the Friendship NGO, and **Elizabeth Peredo** (Bolivia), executive director of the Solon Foundation and coordinator of Bolivia's climate change observatory, provide a concrete and vivid illustration of these effects on three different continents: Africa, Asia and Latin America.

➤ **Implications for food security**

In Africa, in a country like Chad, climate change has taken the form of a change in the number of seasons and a heightening of weather events, now characterized by alternating periods of drought and floods. Only a few years ago, the country had three seasons (rainy, dry and cold); now there are just two (the cold season has disappeared) and the rainy season is shorter (three months instead of six). Agriculture has become virtually impracticable, which has caused recurring food crises across the Sahel region. Ongoing international aid is therefore needed, but is currently insufficient given the rise in the number of climate events and disruptions.

➤ **Implications for massive population displacements**

Climate change has a direct impact on populations and destabilizes entire societies and the life of the communities. The lack of arable land and access to food causes massive migrations to cities where overcrowding is prevalent and living conditions are very difficult. In Bangladesh, for example, the growing phenomenon of the massive displacement of populations brought on by climate change is creating catastrophic humanitarian situations. This country, crisscrossed by numerous rivers and dotted with small peninsulas, is particularly vulnerable and exposed to floods and cyclones. These storms are increasingly frequent and increasingly violent (one per year, compared with one every ten years in the past). According to Runa Khan, 80% of the population in the northern part of the country (approximately 4 million people) now experiences strong flooding and is "under water."

The unpredictable nature of these new climate events predominantly affects the poorest populations: changes in temperature and in rainfall make their living conditions even more precarious, as they are unable to protect their crops and harvests. Consequently, a majority of the population, having lost their possessions, flees these disaster or high-risk areas and seeks safe haven progressively further inland on the "continent," prompting broad social disruption and the reorganization of land allocation. In Bangladesh, it is estimated that 10,000 people are forced to move every day. This process of urbanization brings cities to their saturation point, aggravates poverty within the populations and creates considerable social tension (as is the case in the capital city of Dhaka), due to the scarcity of resources.

The implications are the same for Bolivia: although the ecosystem is different, the increased frequency of natural disasters is disrupting the local economic system and spurring the massive migration of populations to the cities. Elizabeth Peredo thus attests to the devastating impacts of climate change on Bolivia's entire agricultural production system, which represents 85% of the national diet and is regularly

affected by farm flooding caused by melting glaciers. The consequences of weather events are threatening the entire country's food security and causing large-scale internal migrations as farmers abandon their land and settle in the cities to seek alternative livelihoods. These effects are particularly harmful as the poorest segments of the population are the first victims of climate change: in the most recent manifestation of the El Niño weather event, Bolivia saw the heaviest rainfall of the last 40 years, affecting 62,000 of the country's poorest families.

➤ **Implications for the way of life**

In Chad, the effects of climate change on agriculture are changing the way of life and the traditional family structure. The migration to cities by fathers who can no longer work the land is currently viewed in African cultures as a loss of dignity which, according to Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, contributes to the rising ideological radicalization of populations suffering from climate change.

Faced with these enormous challenges, what can we expect from COP21?

According to Runa Khan, humanitarian aid must be viewed in the broader context of adaptation and rehabilitation, which means rethinking development and strengthening the populations' resilience, principles that are at odds with fleeting and temporary emergency assistance. *"We need to be able to understand and proactively take action on the causes and effects of climate change to respond to the current and future reality."* From that perspective, the agreement that will be entered into in December in Paris will have to allocate significant funds to adaptation measures, but will also have to include concrete solutions for the populations. In addition, it will have to be realistic and achievable.

Elizabeth Peredo deplors the fact that while industrialized nations are primarily responsible for global warming, developing countries are the most exposed to and affected by climate change. She would like to refocus the priorities on awareness and effective action in rich countries where cooperation has thus far proved insufficient. Beyond the adaptation measures that need to be implemented, she is disappointed that the current international negotiating process does not pay sufficient attention to the need for a real ecological transition and has not yet led to concrete action on global warming.

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim is calling for a fair and binding agreement that respects human rights and includes effective and tangible policies for adapting to climate change, as well as implementation of an insurance system for loss and damage suffered by the populations and caused by climate change. In her view, the future Paris agreement should be proactive and lead to implementation of accessible funding for the populations, apart from international cooperation agreements among governments.

ACTION

The testimony of Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Runa Khan and Elizabeth Peredo prompted **Monique Barbut**, executive secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), to make the following recommendation: first, a realistic scenario must be proposed, as climate change is now bringing so many other issues to light, be they political, social or humanitarian – as well as demographic (in 2050, the global population will reach 9.7 billion people, with the birth rate rising in the most vulnerable regions). The principal objective is therefore not only to build the current population's resilience to climate change, but also to plan for and be able to anticipate the needs of 2.5 billion people not yet born, against the backdrop of diminishing global natural resources.

Currently 80% of the world's population is already suffering from water insecurity, and for each degree of global warming, 7% of the world's population will lose at least 20% of its renewable water resources. The gap between water demand and available resources could therefore reach 40% in 2030.

Concerning agriculture, 5 billion people are affected by soil degradation and it is estimated that available farmland will decrease by 20% by 2050, with the direct effect of reducing food production by 12%. This land degradation, combined with the growing climate shock, is prompting the most vulnerable populations to adopt coping strategies (reducing food consumption, expenditures and medical care; pulling children out of school).

In such a difficult context, the migration solution is one strategy for adapting to climate change. The scope of these new environmentally induced migrations is unprecedented: each year for the last seven years, 22.5 million people on average have been forced to leave their region of origin due to the climate or extreme weather events. It is therefore estimated that, by 2020, more than 60 million people could migrate from sub-Saharan Africa to North Africa and Europe.

Consequently, there is a real risk that the current migration crisis will become the new normal and create significant, very difficult to manage social upheavals. These migrations inevitably cause conflicts to proliferate. The clashes resulting from inadequate access to water are reflected in community and political conflicts in numerous countries, and these conflicts are likely to intensify and spread to neighboring countries. There are many examples: Boko Haram has taken advantage of the clashes that erupted between farmers and herders near Lake Chad in the northern part of Nigeria; in Syria, where the worst drought in its history occurred between 2006 and 2011 and plunged more than one million small farmers into food insecurity, ISIL is increasing its power and influence by confiscating water resources. We also note that in the first decade of the 21st century, the number of water-related conflicts rose by 28%.

Monique Barbut believes an alternative scenario is imperative to provide a comprehensive answer to climate change questions. *"We cannot solve the problem merely by changing energy sources, we also need to take the rehabilitation of degraded land into account. It is now possible to restore some of the*

land for less than \$20 per hectare, which is a cost-effective investment in the short and longer term,” she stated.

Monique Barbut makes the case that the Paris agreement should launch an initiative to rehabilitate 200 million hectares. In her view, *“this would reduce global warming, make 12% of degraded land productive and provide income to 500 million small farmers who would be able to live off their land. Another significant advantage is that water productivity would increase by 100%.”* This is a simple, effective and economical approach.

“We need to act even more swiftly in the most vulnerable regions, such as the Sahel. We support and would like to provide assistance for the Great Green Wall initiative agreed upon by 11 African nations that would like to work together to combat desertification, through the creation of a Green Corps made up of 5,000 to 10,000 young people from each of these countries,” she added.

What innovative solutions is FAO proposing to lessen the impacts of climate change on global agriculture?

According to Dominique Burgeon, director of FAO's emergency and rehabilitation division, the issues are known and have been identified. As this expert explains, *“We believe the increase in the world population to more than 9 billion people in 2050 will automatically require a 60% increase in agricultural production to feed the entire population. The 2.5 billion farmers worldwide account for 50% of global agricultural production. Yet they are regularly and gradually affected by climate change (rising temperatures and river levels, heat waves and cold waves), and are also repeatedly and more frequently victims of extreme weather events (severe droughts, massive flooding).”*

With this in mind, FAO decided to take a proactive approach to building resilience. The solutions proposed are based mainly on modern technology: the use of satellite images to indicate water-stressed areas, drought progression and the development of El Niño-type events means warning systems can be put in place. Thought is also being given to using drones, for example to track swarms of desert locusts or assess needs in an emergency. FAO also relies on a text message warning system, such as the one used in the Philippines, to disseminate and gather information, as well as on weather forecasting, which is made available to local agricultural authorities and can influence and improve crop planning.

Another component of the crisis prevention system is to identify and promote the best practices implemented in certain countries and then replicate them, particularly for soil and water management.

The response to crises should primarily mitigate future risk exposure. For example, in Bangladesh, the dialogue with the local communities helped identify a set of more sustainable measures, such as building crop protection and storage facilities and reinforcing fishing boats, which reduces risks and strengthens resilience.

The challenge is also to be able to pass the results of agricultural research on to small farmers.

Dominique Burgeon explains: *“We would also like to highlight the development of financial innovations – financial transfers, cash allowances, insurance systems – with the example of the “caisses de resilience” implemented in many countries (in Central America and certain African countries), which combine financial transfers with risk management actions, that is, funds are made available to the communities to facilitate loans or group purchasing. Through direct financing, this also allows production activities to resume to reduce vulnerability in times of crisis.”*

In advance of COP21, a large number of NGOs joined forces and drafted a joint appeal to policy makers to reiterate the need for a strong and ambitious commitment to fight climate change.

OPEN LETTER TO COP21 PARTIES

Stéphanie Rivoal

President of Action Against Hunger (ACF)

This letter is titled “Now Is the Time to Act,” because it is important that the most vulnerable communities be given immediate help. We believe that you, Mr. Laurent Fabius, president of COP21, have the power to act and we are therefore giving you this letter to deliver to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon. It has already been signed by 66 organizations.

The text of this letter is reproduced in its entirety at the end of this document.

Its primary objectives are as follows:

1. Prevent humanitarian crises by addressing the causes of climate change. More specifically, this means cutting greenhouse gas emissions toward the zero-emission target by 2050 to keep global warming to 1.5°C. Ecosystems also need to be protected.
2. Reduce the impacts of humanitarian crises by addressing communities’ vulnerabilities, primarily with respect to nutrition and hygiene, while also respecting equality;
3. Plan now for the current and future consequences of climate-induced humanitarian crises, mainly to cope with the sharp increase in migrations;
4. Commit to the effective and appropriate implementation of these measures by taking adaptation strategies into account. Human rights and gender equality should also be included, but the most vulnerable populations need to be considered as well. All these measures need to be funded; we are asking that 5% of each country’s official development assistance be allocated to disaster risk reduction.

SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS

Pascal Boniface

Director of the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS)

This conference is the culmination of a broad collaboration among humanitarian organizations before the Paris conference. The idea was to come together to think about ways to curb the negative impacts of climate change; the different stakeholders – governments, civil society, NGOs, the private sector, local authorities, etc. – were able to work together successfully. Climate change causes humanitarian crises and reverses development, and it is therefore legitimate for NGOs to take up this question. Some crises are front-page news while others are silent tragedies. The three testimonies, which covered three continents, were riveting and mainly concerned the impacts:

- on food, family structure, conflicts and migration near Lake Chad, which has lost about 90% of its water resources;
- with respect to the unpredictability of flooding in Bangladesh, where every day about 10,000 migrants flee the affected areas and where serious health and education problems have emerged; and
- with respect to the devastating effects on agricultural production of melting glaciers in Bolivia.

These three speakers are expecting a fair and binding agreement in Paris. Climate change must be incorporated into all development projects (health, food, education). Migration is also a strategy for adapting to climate change. Furthermore, we note that food production is not keeping pace with demographic change.

Regarding the solutions being considered, it is important to avoid arrogance in relation to traditional knowledge, to not pit emergencies against development, mainly with respect to funding, and to reconcile the short and long term. On a positive note, all stakeholders, in all their diversity, agree that the energy transition has begun. As decisions are made at the global level, action must be taken while respecting sovereignty and an agreement must be reached among governments, but also among the international community as a whole. The challenge is being addressed, as society is far more affected by climate change than by other issues such as the proliferation of nuclear weapons. With governments taking the lead and the scientific community, private sector, NGOs, media and all stakeholders lending their support, we can succeed.

Laurent Fabius

French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development

Thank you for your letter, which I will help you publicize; I will deliver it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to all General Assembly delegates.

The ethos of the French presidency is to listen, move forward and seek compromise. I will shortly be meeting with ministers from about 50 countries to make progress on two major issues: adaptation and funding. Some of the points that will have to be addressed are as follows:

- Climate change is not only an environmental problem, but also a threat to development, health and peace. This is a critical problem — because life on Earth is at stake — that hinges on the solutions to many other questions. The nature of greenhouse gases is such that, in this race against time, soon it will no longer be possible to solve the question.
- What targets should be set and how can they be met? Many are calling for a maximum rise in temperatures of 1.5°C as, once that threshold has been reached, the consequences become very serious. However, I cannot say today what the figure will be. As for the zero emissions target by 2050, the debate is just as intense as some countries derive most of their resources from fossil fuels. We therefore need to set long-term goals that are tied to concrete factors. It would be advisable, after COP21, for us to be more prescriptive so as not to regularly demand the same effort.
- How can populations' vulnerability be reduced? Significant progress has been made on the major question of adaptation; common targets, plans and financial resources have been put in place. The Green Fund will allocate 50% of its resources to adaptation and AFD (the French development agency) will take it into account in its infrastructure projects. Rapid disaster response is also one of our priorities and we will work with vulnerable countries on warning mechanisms.
- With regard to human rights, several events focusing on women and climate will be held at the United Nations, the French foreign ministry and within the COP.
- Lastly, mention must be made of a fundamental problem: climate migrants. In the absence of any action on the implications of climate change, the number of refugees could increase significantly. A group of countries will meet shortly in Geneva to find operational solutions.

I will end my remarks with one regret: people do not always listen when policy makers proclaim that urgent action is needed. They listen more closely when humanitarian stakeholders make the same argument. We must therefore join forces. I will be a faithful and, I hope, active and successful emissary for the proposals you have put forward today.

APPENDICE 1 – Transcript of the speeches

Laurent Fabius

French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development

I would like to thank the president of Action Against Hunger, the director of IRIS and every one of you for this letter. The next step is to publicize it and implement its proposals. I will fulfill the mission you have given me and deliver it to the Secretary-General at the United Nations General Assembly at the end of September. I will also share it with all the delegates so they can keep your proposals in mind during their deliberations.

A few words on how pleased the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development is to see you here today. With the Paris Conference less than three months away, it is very important to hear the viewpoint of international humanitarian organizations. This gathering is imbued with the same ethos we would like to instill during the French presidency, based on listening, lofty ambitions — merely reaching an agreement will not be enough — and the willingness to compromise, because the conference acts by consensus. In all, 197 highly diverse parties will have to reach an agreement, which makes the conference very difficult. Last weekend, I met with about 50 ministers from around the world to move forward on two major issues: adaptation and funding. This morning, Laurence Tubiana gave a presentation on the status of the discussions, the difficulties, and the outstanding issues. I will respond to some of the points you raised and a few of your proposals.

First point: the idea that climate change is not just an environmental problem, but also, in particular and at the same time, an extremely serious threat to the development, health and safety of populations and, lastly, to world peace. It's true. It is, in reality, a critical problem. Our life and that of other species and of the Earth are at stake. Furthermore, whether or not many other questions are solved hinges on whether or not this problem can be solved. No region of the world has been spared, and the poorest are the most affected. Lastly, unlike other problems that are often postponed to a later date, the issue of greenhouse gases must be resolved quickly due to the length of time they remain in the atmosphere (from several months to several centuries depending on the diversity of nature). If we do not address the issue quickly, it will become unsolvable. So this is not just another conference, but truly a race against time. It is absolutely imperative that an ambitious agreement be reached in December, and that our people come to understand all these challenges. As Claude Lévi-Strauss asks at the end of *Tristes Tropiques*, given that the world began without the human race, will it end without it?

Second point: the targets we will set and actions we will take. You propose limiting the rise in temperature to 1.5°C and achieving zero greenhouse gas emissions in 2050. This is highly desirable, but the target set in the preparations for the conference is a limit of 2°C. Yet many countries, including island states, are calling for this 1.5 °C limit because, once this threshold is reached, they will already be severely affected by climate change. At this stage of the discussions, I do not know what the figure will be, but it is scientifically accurate

that, at 1.5°C, the implications become extremely serious. Discussions are also underway on the rate of emissions. Will we manage to have the zero emissions target by 2050 shared? As was the case in the most recent G7 communiqué, do we set a more general target of the decarbonization of the global economy, namely net zero emissions by the end of the century? Countries whose primary resources are fossil fuels have been extremely reticent and resistant during the discussions and find it difficult to listen to the argument that, because of climate change, we have to move toward a low-carbon economy. I therefore do not know whether, starting with the Paris conference, we will be able to go beyond the established target.

Nevertheless, all evidence suggests that we should set both a short-term target and another longer-term target to make our commitment clear to everyone.

Another point: you propose that the national contributions include very concrete items, such as preserving forests and coral reefs. I share your view. We discussed this at the Lima conference in December 2014 but were unable to agree on specific criteria, with some countries pointing to the novel nature of this commitment. Nevertheless, some of the 56 published contributions, representing just over 60% of greenhouse gas emissions, very precisely detail how to meet their goals. This is fundamental to the credibility of these commitments and to ensuring that they are understood by our fellow citizens. After the Paris conference, I would like for us to be more prescriptive, but before then, during the conference, we need to institute mechanisms, mainly the review cycle, to keep us from making the same methodological effort on a regular basis. If, as a first step, we legislate these mechanisms even if they cannot be put into practice immediately, that would in itself represent significant progress.

Next, how can the vulnerability of the populations directly affected by climate change be reduced? This important question, that of adaptation, will be one of the two topics discussed next weekend and is a major concern for the most vulnerable countries. Since taking up these questions, I have found that all countries are increasingly aware of the need to move forward on this front. The common goal we need to set for ourselves is to encourage all countries to adopt national adaptation plans and provide more funding. And so the board of directors of the Green Fund decided in favor of allocating 50% of its resources to adaptation. As a general rule, we are striving, with our counterparts, toward the same adaptation funding rate target. You would also like donors to make the adoption of national adaptation plans one of the criteria for granting aid. Where France is concerned, I have asked AFD to systematically consider this criterion in infrastructure funding projects, mainly in Africa, to avoid waste.

You also call attention to rapid disaster response measures. On this point as well, we agree. Secretary of State Annick Girardin has specific responsibility for working on covering, before 2020, more of the most vulnerable countries with early warning systems for extreme weather events. Our calculations show that we need to secure €100 million by 2020. We are working on it, and the Paris conference should yield very tangible results on this front.

I also share your view of human rights (for men and women). A number of “women’s” events will be held in the coming weeks; the first women and climate event will take place at the UN General Assembly at the end of September, the second at the French foreign ministry in October, and the third at the COP itself.

Lastly, we come to the issue of displaced persons. What you say is unfortunately correct, as is the connection you have made. Europe is currently experiencing a migration crisis, with several hundreds of thousands of refugees, and the serious consequences are plain to see. If we do too little or do not act fast enough to combat climate change with its implications for droughts, famines, flooding and security, millions of people will be affected by migration issues. I will have an opportunity to discuss this with my German counterpart when we meet in Bangladesh in a few weeks. The international community will have to act to mitigate the effects of climate change and help populations adapt, while working together to find solutions for those who have been forced to leave their homes due to natural disasters or other climate-related events. A group established after the Cancun conference in 2011, to which France belongs, will meet in Geneva in October. I hope we will be able to produce some operational proposals to both better anticipate these migrations and define a common charter of principles regarding these future migrants.

On this issue, we need both words and action. I would therefore like to thank all those who attended today, those who convened this meeting, because it adds a critical dimension to the preparations for the Paris conference. I would like to conclude with one observation: people do not listen carefully when policy makers say that urgent action is needed. They listen more closely when humanitarian actors make the same argument. We must therefore join forces on the most important issues. I will be a faithful and, I hope, active and successful emissary for the messages you are sending today.

Laurence Tubiana

French Ambassador for Climate Negotiations

Starting a discussion on climate change and humanitarian crises is an excellent idea, although, from a legal and policy standpoint, we do not yet understand the issue in its entirety or know how to respond.

One short introductory comment: all the speakers on the stage are women, even though this is not a discussion on women's rights! This shows that things are changing.

It is important to avoid clichés, but we are all thinking about the recent tragedies that have been exacerbated by climate change: the Philippines, Vanuatu, Dominica, etc. And in addition to these extreme events, there are the silent tragedies: desertification, rising sea levels, soil salinization, etc. These contribute to humanitarian and security crises. In the Sahel and West Africa, for example, droughts have fueled conflict. As confirmed by certain representatives of the affected countries, "We have just lost several decades of development."

The Paris conference should not just result in an agreement among governments, which is our primary mandate for the work that began in Durban; we also need to mobilize society, NGOs, communities, the private sector and local authorities. That will be the measure of Paris's success. We are not talking about an agreement that will simply create new law: it will be a catalyst for action at every level. When we look at the contributions that arrived today for COP21, just under 60, which represent the countries' commitments, we now know this will not put us on a path that is consistent with the target of limiting the increase in temperatures below 2°C. Many assumptions and uncertainties remain. However, we need an agreement that can perform several key functions: set a course for international action. The temperature target (increase of less than 2°C by the end of the century) should translate into a target for limiting greenhouse gas emissions, but that will not be easy. All of France's diplomatic efforts are directed toward that objective. Adaptation is another specific point that is essential to the Paris agreement. This adaptation has long been neglected, not least because it was impossible to see the tangible effects of climate change on the ground. Today, the humanitarian crises related to climate crises have indeed been included in the agreement. But that is not enough.

The first battle was to have all countries make their contributions, because a small group of countries cannot alone provide the solution. This was achieved before Paris. Second battle: the long-term target is, needless to say, the course we have to set for ourselves, but by establishing mechanisms capable of increasing the targets over time.

Rules of conduct also need to be adopted to make it impossible to go back on the commitments made. Unfortunately, after the Kyoto Protocol, we saw several countries renege.

Lastly, the agreement must create transparency and build trust. One key element will be the establishment of a common reporting and verification system, to be able to attest to the legitimacy of the efforts undertaken and, in particular, to assess reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. In the absence of legal

proceedings, the only tool we can use to do this is transparency of action, the publication of results, and an openness to the public, to criticism and to vigilance by society, which is watching governments act. This transparency is also the core tool for implementing this agreement.

Lastly, funding and technological improvements are another piece of the puzzle. They will enable developing countries to participate in a resilient and low-carbon economy. Many are not yet believers and do not think it will benefit their economy.

So, quickly, where do things stand? Yes, viewpoints are converging. But nothing is simple with 195 countries. A concise, comprehensive, clear and consistent text must be drafted by the end of October to form the basis of the negotiations until Paris. This is unusual for such a meeting, where agreements are often wrested at the eleventh hour.

Substantively speaking, a number of difficult points remain: differentiation between developed and developing nations; funding responsibilities; protection of sovereignty. The commitment of \$100 billion per year through 2020 was confirmed, namely when we brought the ministers from about 60 countries together in Paris in this very room. We found that we agreed on a great many points, such as the principles of transparency and of clarification with respect to funding. The method proposed by the French presidency is to task the OECD and an independent research institute, the Climate Policy Initiative, with clarifying climate finance. In Lima in October, everyone will have access to the OECD's report. The ambiguity surrounding "climate finance" should therefore be eliminated. Countries that put their emission reduction and adaptation plans on the table will have multilateral, bilateral, and private funding, thanks to the collective definition of "climate finance."

We also made significant progress on setting an overall adaptation target, so we have metrics for the reduction in the impacts of climate change.

We also addressed the sensitive and fundamental question of loss and damage. Once a certain effort has been made, it is no longer possible to adapt, to rebuild. This is now the case, for example, in Dominica, which was recently hit by a typhoon. This is an extremely controversial topic: how do we measure the price of everything that has affected the victims, and who is responsible? We found a way to handle the issue, and that is what we are likely to see in the Paris agreement.

We are finally moving in the right direction, although it may feel like we are treading water. There is still time, mainly because all countries want to enter into and adopt an international and universal agreement in Paris. That was not the case in 2009, and there is currently an unprecedented mobilization of civil society, of organizations in particular, that is critical to ensuring that the leaders take these matters seriously and deliver this much-needed agreement on time.

Pascal Boniface

Director of the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS)

Foreign Minister Fabius, Distinguished Ambassadors, Friends,

This conference is the culmination of a broad collaboration among humanitarian organizations on climate change, and the upcoming Paris conference. The idea was to come together to examine the cost of policy choices to human life and the environment, and to take action to try to curb the adverse impacts. Governments, as well as the diverse group of non-governmental stakeholders — what we call international civil society, NGOs, scientists, public opinion, the media, local authorities and the private sector — have worked together to achieve common goals. Climate change causes humanitarian crises and reverses development. It is therefore perfectly legitimate for humanitarian and development organizations to take up this question, which is not purely scientific or environmental. The work of NGOs is affected and must take into account this major challenge for the future of humanity. Some crises are front-page news while others are silent tragedies that erode the future of life on Earth. Migrants are flowing even as we speak: 22 million migrants are fleeing climate change and, if nothing is done, this number will rise to 250 million by 2050. The scope of the challenges we are facing is clear.

We were fortunate to hear three remarkable testimonies from three different countries, three different continents, which highlighted the ways climate change is having a similar impact in these three countries. In Chad, for the last ten years it has been the change in seasons that is causing a food crisis that is affecting family structures and creating migrant flows, which themselves can lead to intra- and intercommunity conflicts. These in turn can become international conflicts. For example, 90% of the water in Lake Chad has disappeared in the last ten years. The proverb “words are wasted on a starving man” gives some idea of the impact the food crisis is having on the degree of conflict in this region. In Bangladesh, the motto is “unpredictability”: how do we live when it is impossible to plan ahead and anticipate the future? Every day, 10,000 climate change migrants head for the capital, which already has 18 million inhabitants. We can see the challenges that exist, for both the sending and receiving areas. When it is impossible to plan ahead, whether for education, health or food, everything is in flux. In Bolivia, melting glaciers are in turn affecting family agriculture and agricultural production. Their first and primary victims are naturally the poorest and most vulnerable populations.

And when these three eyewitnesses were asked what they expect from the Paris conference, the response was a binding but fair — with an emphasis on fair — agreement. We were also reminded that, in Bangladesh, limiting the increase in temperatures to 1.5°C is not enough to stop this phenomenon and we need to go beyond this limit. From the Bolivian perspective, it is “merely” necessary to take action at every level.

All projects should incorporate climate change, whether they relate to education, health, food or development. Because immigration is a strategy for adapting to climate challenges; it is tolerated but is not voluntary. Sometimes there is no choice but to leave – not only to flee civil war but also when there

is not enough food or there is no supply of water. Due to the increase in the population and in global demographics, agricultural production needs to increase by 60% by 2050. But if there is less production due to climate change with a growing population, the challenges we are facing today will seem trivial compared with what we will be seeing three decades from now.

One of the conclusions that was drawn (and there were many) is that we need to avoid arrogance in relation to traditional knowledge and combine innovation with the development of traditional knowledge, which has not been given its due. Funding for emergencies and for development also needs to converge, and these two complementary concepts should not be at odds. We need to reconcile the short and long term in both policymaking and humanitarian action: we should not trade the future for short-term solutions.

On a more positive note, it was said that the energy transition is underway, although it is taking a little longer than expected, but the question of whether the process has begun is now settled. Everyone, all the governmental actors — in all their diversity — agree, but obstacles, economic and technological barriers, remain. However, the decision has been made at the global level, from a policy standpoint.

Responsibility must of course be taken for funding, and respect for local traditional knowledge must be linked to sovereignty at the global level. The conclusion that may be drawn from this morning is that we are on pace for a successful Paris conference. Everyone wants to succeed; not only states and governments but also other actors of international society. An agreement must be reached among governments, but international society, in all its diversity, must also be mobilized. We often talk about the international community to revel in its failures and, indeed, when the media talk about it, they do so more to highlight its inability to reach an agreement than to give it any credit. Some say the international community is a bit like the Loch Ness monster: everyone has heard of it, but no one has ever seen it because it is unable to come to an agreement.

The challenge is certainly being met, so that the Paris conference will be the moment when international society finally reaches an agreement on a major challenge, which is the most important security challenge for humanity — and not only on environmental issues. The future of mankind is far more affected by climate change than by the proliferation of nuclear weapons, which is often referred to as a strategic challenge. It really is a great challenge, including its human and strategic security dimensions. With governments taking the lead and the scientific community, NGOs, the public, the media, the local authorities and the private sector lending their support, we hope that the Paris conference will be a success — that the international community will finally be worthy of its name — and that we can move forward. It is not impossible and I believe we can succeed.

APPENDICE 2 – Open Letter to Cop21 Parties

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

Open letter from humanitarian NGOs and associations regarding climate change and humanitarian crises

Around the world, natural hazard related disasters and man-made disasters are increasing in frequency and impact. We as NGOs and organisations of the civil society, operating in these environments are concerned by the grave threat that climate change and its effects further pose on populations. We call on world leaders not to see the impacts of climate change as exceptional, unpreventable incidents on the way to development, but as a long-term danger to the sustainability of development itself.

Climate change is an aggravating factor of humanitarian crises and represents challenges for governments and non-governmental humanitarian actors alike. Climate change has dramatic and multiple effects which not only impact our ecosystem, but directly or indirectly kill people, impact livelihoods, generate social tensions and cause economic losses.

In 2014, 87%¹ of recorded disasters were related to climate. Climate-related displacement affected about 22.4 million people in 2013 and could potentially impact 250 million² people by 2050. Climate change will also worsen health and sanitary conditions, making people more vulnerable to disasters. Warmer climate fosters vector-borne diseases spread like malaria, expected to cause 60 000³ additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050. Among the affected populations, the most vulnerable groups (women, children, persons with disabilities, elderly and indigenous) have the least capacity to cope with such crises and will be the hardest hit. Indeed, climate change will continue to aggravate chronic crises such as food and water insecurity, placing up to an estimated 600 million⁴ more people at risk of hunger by 2080, and potentially exposing 40%⁵ of the world population to water shortages by 2050.

In fragile states or in countries prone to conflict, climate change hits the poorest hardest and heightens the risks of conflicts. It contributes to social tensions due to mass displacements and fuels conflicts over resources. What was once a technical concern is now also a political one. As world leaders gather to commit to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to a better humanitarian response at the

¹ UNISDR, 'The Economic and Human Impact of Disasters in the last 10 years', EM-DAT database 2014, Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), Munich Re.

Accessed August 3rd, 2015 http://www.unisdr.org/files/42862_economichumanimpact20052014unisdr.pdf

² IDMC-NRC, 'At a glance: Global Estimates 2014: people displaced by disasters'.

Accessed August 3rd, 2015 <http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/library/Media/201409-globalEstimates-2014/At-a-glance-global-estimates-2014-17Sept2.pdf>

³ WHO, 'Climate change and health, Fact sheet N°266', Media Center, Reviewed August 2014.

Accessed August 3rd, 2015 <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs266/en/>

⁴ UNDP, 'Fighting climate change: human solidarity in a divided world', Human Development Report 2007/2008.

Accessed August 3rd, 2015 http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/268/hdr_20072008_en_complete.pdf

⁵ OECD, 'The Consequences of Inaction', Environmental Outlook to 2050, OECD Publishing, 2012.

Accessed August 3rd, 2015 <http://www.oecd.org/fr/env/indicateurs-modelisation-perspectives/49848948.pdf>

World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, we are concerned that sustainable development will be unobtainable unless the impacts of climate change can be reduced.

This is why we ask all parties committed to the SDGs to encourage COP 21 negotiators to work towards an ambitious agreement which highlights the link between climate change and humanitarian crises and limit global warming to 1.5°C. Indeed, humanitarian actors, already overstretched by the sheer number of simultaneous and acute crises, will strive to cope with more crises in a world experiencing temperature increases of 1.5°C and will be unable to respond to the cumulative effects of temperature increases of 3°C. Given this reality, states must seize the opportunity of COP 21 to tackle the simultaneous challenges of climate change, increasing humanitarian crises, and threats to sustainable development, and take ambitious decisions to be included in these agreements.

An ambitious agreement that would help prevent humanitarian crises and save lives in line with the new SDGs will commit to:

I. Prevent humanitarian crises by addressing the causes of climate change

- Cut down greenhouse gases emissions towards the zero-emission target by 2050 to keep global warming below 1.5°C. This should include transferring the money currently spent on fossil fuel subsidies to invest in renewable energies, energy efficiency and adaptation.
- Define national goals for preserving forests, mangroves and corals, and for developing agroforestry and other agro-ecological practices to stimulate reforestation and better land use.

II. Reduce the impacts of humanitarian crises by addressing communities' vulnerabilities

- Ensure that all climate-change actions (mitigation and adaptation) take food and nutrition security implications into consideration, as food crises represent an important part of humanitarian crises and should be considered in all adaptation policies. An agricultural model such as agro-ecology, that apply environmental criteria, including being low carbon, respectful of equity principles, and resilient, should be promoted as the solution to fight both food and nutrition insecurity, and climate change.
- Increase inclusion of water, sanitation and hygiene measures in adaptation plans, crisis responses and emergency funding, as health and access to basic needs are a core issue in climate change's adaptation and resilience strategies.
- UNDP⁶, UNISDR⁷ and UNFCCC⁸ must work together to establish a joint monitoring framework for measuring progress in achieving the resilience outcomes across all post-2015 frameworks, which should disaggregate data by vulnerable group.
- National governments should create or strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms for DRR and/or Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in order to improve cross-disciplinary communication and accountability at all levels. They should be tasked with developing ambitious national targets and sub-national indicators that measure resilience across all post-2015 frameworks and be linked with National Adaptation Plans and DRR Plans.

⁶ UNDP : United Nations Development Program

⁷ UNISDR : United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

⁸ UNFCCC : United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

III. Plan now for the current and future consequences of climate-induced humanitarian crises

- Include planning for the consequences of climate change, including climate-induced displacement and migrations, in all relevant policy making, at regional and global level, to ensure each affected country share equitably the consequences of populations' displacements. This comprises the inclusion of loss and damages in the agreement in a comprehensive, integrated and coherent manner.

IV. Commit to the effective and appropriate implementation of all of the above

- For adaptation strategies to have a comprehensive and durable impact on populations, they need to consider states' fragility and be context sensitive.
- In order to achieve sustainable positive change, climate policy frameworks should incorporate existing human rights norms which uphold human rights for all, including gender equality and equity. Furthermore, policy frameworks must include the most vulnerable groups (women, children, persons with disabilities, elderly and indigenous) to reinforce their resilience to climate risks and ensure their participation and empowerment.
- All necessary steps towards reducing the impact of climate change induced humanitarian crises need to be sufficiently funded. National governments must allocate 5% of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) for specific Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities and increase the share of community-led DRR projects, localized strategies and capacity building through an allocated budget of 50% of the whole States' DRR budgets⁹.
- Developed countries need to support vulnerable countries with adaptation investments as part of their commitment to mobilise \$100 billion annually by 2020, agreed at COP15 conference.
- Donors must incorporate long term resilience building as a requirement for providing any ODA through the introduction of resilience markers in funding applications.

⁹ Joint Civil Society Organizations Statement, 'Ensuring Sustainable Development: The need to invest in disaster risk reduction', June 15th, 2015. Accessed August 3rd, 2015 https://www.bond.org.uk/data/files/Joint_CS0_statement_on_DRR_in_FFD_FINAL_120615.pdf
Global Humanitarian Assistance, 'Disaster Risk Reduction - spending where it should count', 2012. Accessed August 3rd, 2015 <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/report/disaster-risk-reduction-spending-where-it-should-count>

Signatories :

1. ACTED
2. ActAlliance
3. Action Against Hunger - ACF International
4. Acting for Life
5. ADRA Timor-Leste - Adventist Development and Relief Agency Timor-Leste
6. AFAD Mali
7. Agrisud International
8. Agronomist et Veterinarian Without Borders
9. ALIMA
10. Alliance2015
11. Amel association international
12. ApiFlorDev
13. APEDDUB Bizerte
14. Association of Community Forest Management of Zanzibar
15. Aviation Without Borders
16. Bolivia Inti – Sud Soleil
17. BPW France
18. CARI
19. Carbon Market Watch
20. Care International
21. Carré-Géo & Environment
22. Catholic Relief – CARITAS FRANCE
23. CCFD – Terre Solidaire
24. Center for Development of Community Initiative and Environment
25. Center for International Environmental Law
26. Chaîne de l’Espoir
27. Climate Action Network Europe
28. CliMates
29. Comité d’Action et de Réflexion pour le Sahara Occidental
30. Concern Worldwide
31. Congolese Association for Agricultural Development
32. Coordination Sud
33. Cordaid
34. Development Workshop France
35. Diakonie Disaster Relief
36. Doctors of the World
37. Eau Vive Internationale
38. Electricians without borders
39. ENDA Third World
79. The Nubian Vault Association
80. UNICEF
81. UNOADD - Union of Organizations to the Support of Sustainable Development
82. URD
83. Voluntary World for Development
40. Environmental and Energy Study Institute
41. Ethnik
42. ESDO - Eco-Social Development Organization
43. European Raid Guild
44. EVA - Village Ecology Association
45. Fondation France Libertés
46. First International Aid - PUI
47. French Red Cross
48. Friends of the Wind Society –Sociedad Amigos del viento
49. Friendship
50. Gold of Bengal
51. GERES
52. GNDR
53. Handicap International
54. HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
55. Humanitarian & Development Coordination
56. Humanitarian & Development Organisation
57. Humanitarian Generation Triangle
58. ICCO Cooperation
59. Iniciativa Construyendo Puentes
60. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
61. Islamic Relief France
62. Johanniter International Assistance
63. Lead Tchad
64. Maasai Community Outdoor Educators
65. MEDAIR
66. Mom loves Taiwan
67. OCEAN – Congolese Organisation of Ecologists and Nature’s friends
68. OPALS - Panafrican Organization for Health Development
69. Organisation Tamaynut-Morocco
70. OXFAM France
71. Plan International France
72. Réseau Action Climat
73. Save the Children International
74. Save the earth Cambodia
75. Solidarités International
76. SOS Children’s villages France
77. SOS Children without borders
78. St John of God Health Care Social Outreach Timor-Leste
84. WECF
85. World’s Entrepreneurs
86. Women Environmental Programme Burkina Faso
87. 350DC