

Businesses, Investors, Cities, States and Regions come together to call on Parties to Step Up Climate Action and deliver ambitious outcomes at COP24

KATOWICE, Poland, December 11, 2018 — Thousands of businesses, investors, cities and states and regions around the world are taking bold climate action. This was clearly demonstrated when they gathered to celebrate and [accelerate the transition to our zero-carbon future](#) at the [Global Climate Action Summit](#) held in San Francisco, California, in September this year. Together, they [called on](#) National Governments to join forces and step up climate action ahead of 2020, chart a clear path to our zero-carbon future, and empower bottom-up climate action.

To achieve the required pace and scale of transformation, we need clear policy signals from national leaders. Bold targets and clear timelines from governments give businesses, investors, cities, states and regions the clarity and confidence they need to act decisively, accelerate their actions, and make even more ambitious commitments of their own. Ambitious policies at all levels of governments, complementing and reinforcing each other, are necessary to ensure the decarbonization of economy and society.

The latest IPCC 1.5 degree report makes it clear that net-zero emissions by 2050 is both necessary and possible to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. Business as usual is no longer a viable option. A just transition to a resilient, zero-carbon future will have many benefits for our economies and societies. According to [the New Climate Economy](#), the zero carbon economy has the potential to generate economic benefits of \$26 trillion USD, avoid over 700,000 premature deaths from air pollution, and create over 65 million new low carbon jobs by 2030.

The climate crisis calls for urgent action. We see the human impact on health, disease, famine, conflict, refugee crises, and livelihoods. We see thousands of people die each year from worsening storms and floods, heat waves, droughts, and wildfires. These impacts disproportionately affect the poor, disadvantaged, and vulnerable.

The Paris Agreement laid the foundations for modern multilateralism where countries, subnational governments, business, civil society, investors and citizens work together to deliver climate action.

Taking into account the urgency of the situation, and the need for a just transition that leaves no one behind, **we, organizations representing businesses, investors, cities, states and regions, call on the Parties here at COP24 to:**

- Welcome and accept the findings of the IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathway;
- Adopt an ambitious decision that includes a clear commitment from countries to launch domestic multi-stakeholder participatory processes, drawing on the Talanoa Dialogue, that will enable the communication of strengthened new or updated NDCs by 2020;
- Develop and communicate as early as possible, robust long-term plans to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 to inform these and subsequent NDC revisions;
- Stress that a just transition to a resilient, zero-carbon future will have many benefits for economies and societies, and trigger the creation of millions of new low carbon quality jobs;
- Adopt a robust and effective Paris Agreement Work Programme that will provide clarity and transparency on countries' plans and progress, to build confidence among parties and non-party actors in the effective implementation of NDCs, and help drive ambition and action for years to come.

Signed by:

The Climate Group, secretariat of the Under2 Coalition

We Mean Business

Asia Investor Group on Climate Change (AIGCC)

Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC)

Investor Group on Climate Change (IGCC)

C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments)

USGBC (US Green Building Council)