



Climate Vulnerable Forum

Costa Rica Action Plan 2013-2015

Climate change severely endangers the social, ecological and economic wellbeing of the planet. Contemporary climate change entails already serious and mounting implications for human rights, health, labour conditions, migration, cultural and environmental assets and resources, as well as indications of wider ramifications for peace and security.

In particular, climate change is now a major impediment to economic growth that actively and fundamentally constrains the human development prospects of nation states. In the absence of an effective response, it will ultimately undermine the viability, and in cases, the very existence, of certain most vulnerable countries.

As leaders of nations highly vulnerable to these effects, we have a special responsibility to tackle this historic challenge. Like other nations, vulnerable countries already take local action to adapt to a warmer world out of necessity. Despite the insignificance of our individual contributions to climate change, we have also committed to domestic low-emission development pathways given the unacceptable outcomes carried by business-as-usual courses of development. In doing so we are improving our competitiveness and believe action on climate change can be configured to boost socio-economic development.

Leading scientific and policy expertise highlights the shortfall of ambition in existing policies imperilling our countries. The same expertise also confines the timeframe for altering this *status quo* to the period prior to 2020 provided progressively enhanced actions thereafter. This reality underscores the importance of the pivotal 2015 deadline foreseen in negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and its Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, the UNFCCC's ultimate objective being the prevention of dangerous human-induced interference with the Earth's climate.

In the critical 2013-2015 period ahead the Forum renews its pledge to demonstrate collective leadership on climate change. We will seek to act as a driving force within the international system in order to hasten the adoption of legal and policy frameworks capable of protecting our communities now and tomorrow, enabling all countries to seize opportunities associated with tackling climate change, and paving the way for a truly effective global climate change agreement by 2015.

This Action Plan is our mechanism for achieving that joint effort. It builds on local measures we are taking to the best of our limited capacities and is accompanied by a shared commitment - declared here - to assume responsibility for domestic emission reductions as a symbolic contribution towards closing the ambition gap. We are ready to assume legally binding obligations in conjunction with a robust new global climate change agreement by 2015. We cannot solve the climate crisis alone, but we do expect that our actions will stimulate greater efforts from multilateral structures as well as from other nations large and small. While failure is intolerable, acting together we are convinced of the possibility of securing enhanced prosperity for all.

In reference to the above, we, Governments from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific, members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, will now develop our joint work as follows:

1. Finance

Rising heat and sea levels, erratic and extreme weather, as well as critical shifts in weather regimes all hurt the world economy, in particular countries with pronounced vulnerabilities to such phenomenon. Economic sectors as varied as agriculture, energy, fisheries, forestry, transport, and tourism are implicated. Impacts that span sectors include wide-ranging health and occupational safety concerns, large-scale labour productivity losses especially for outdoor industries, indoor space cooling costs, infrastructure damages, and the erosion of natural resources, among other concerns. In these and other respects, climate change is rapidly becoming the most significant single macro-economic concern we face.

Any effective response to climate change will involve a substantial acceleration of flows of finance already supporting environmentally sound energy, land-use and resilience building actions. Prevailing limitations on public finances in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis imply that progress in triggering larger-scale private financial flows and investments in favour of climate action constitutes one of the most significant opportunities for stimulating responses to climate change today. Scaled-up adaptation finance would significantly reduce burdens on socio-economic growth prospects as the planet warms. Moreover, expanding participation in lower-emissions forms of development among a broader group of middle-income and lower-income developing countries would greatly enhance climate action globally.

In a major effort to strengthen economic and financial responses to climate change, **we agree to form the Group of 20 Finance Ministers of Vulnerable Countries, or the "V20"**, after the 20 Forum members active ahead of the Costa Rica Forum. The V20 will enable vulnerable countries to steer a high-level policy dialogue pertaining to action on climate change and the promotion of climate resilient and low emission development with full competence for addressing economic and financial issues beyond the remit of any one organization. The V20 can promote alternative economic and financial visions to shape global debate and policy development in response to climate change and seek to drive global economic prosperity in harmony with the Earth's climate and its most vulnerable communities. The V20 will aim to:

- Promote the mobilization of public and private climate finance;
- Share and exchange best practices on economic and financial aspects of climate action;
- Develop new and improved approaches to climate finance; and,
- Engage in joint advocacy and other collective actions.

We agree to launch the V20 in conjunction with the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC during April 2014.

2. Further Sectors

As a crosscutting phenomenon climate change has important implications for a variety of different fields, spanning economic, environmental, and social concerns and otherwise. In order to concentrate the Forum's contributions over and above the priority areas of finance and in the context of the UNFCCC, it is agreed that activities will focus in particular on the following five additional priority sectors. Joint action of Forum members in the various relevant intergovernmental fora is designed to ensure

the sound advancement of sector-specific legal and policy frameworks and tools for effectively and equitably addressing climate change.

2.1. Health

Relevant International Fora: World Health Assembly

2.2. Human Rights

Relevant International Fora: United Nations Human Rights Council

2.3. Labour

Relevant International Fora: International Labour Conference

2.4. Migration and Displacement

Relevant International Fora: International Organization of Migration Council and the United Nations Economic and Social Council

2.5. Science

Relevant International Fora: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

3. Forum Body Agenda

This Action Plan builds on the Dhaka agenda of the Forum spelled out in the annexed 2011 Ministerial Declaration whereafter all agreed activities have subsequently been implemented. The following points relate to the functioning of the Forum as a body whose effective development and planning are crucial components supporting the Forum's further work through this Action Plan's implementation.

3.1. Membership

New members of the Forum will be considered at the next high-level Forum taking place in Costa Rica during the first semester of 2014.

Other vulnerable developing countries are invited to collaborate with the Forum and this Action Plan. Observer countries and further interested partners are also strongly encouraged to engage with the Forum's work. We call in particular on civil society to manifest support for our vision and actions as we strive to galvanize the international community to rise to the historic challenge of climate change unitedly.

3.2. Next Forum Chair

The fifth CVF Chair will be agreed at the next high-level Forum in Costa Rica in 2014.

3.3. Research

The Forum will continue to complement its policy actions through the commissioning of specialized supportive research and promote enhanced cross-country contributions to these research efforts, including as follows:

3.3.1. *Vulnerability:*

The Forum has commissioned two reports on international climate change vulnerability with the 2010 and 2012 editions of the "Climate Vulnerability Monitor". Taking note of the annexed concept note for a third report on climate change vulnerability and owing to the significance of findings of previously commissioned work, it is agreed to commission another Monitor to be mandated to a leading scientific organization for issue in 2015 with the objective of

providing further enhanced precision as a formal input of the Forum to the UNFCCC and other relevant policy processes.

3.3.2. *Low-Carbon Development:*

Following agreement at the Forum in Dhaka in 2011 for commencing work on new low-carbon development Monitor and taking note of the annexed concept note in this respect, it is agreed to proceed with the commissioning of this research study.

3.4. Operational Modalities

Operational modalities for the Forum as annexed are approved.

3.5. Resourcing

The newly-established Forum Trust Fund managed by the United Nations Development Programme Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office is confirmed as the preference mechanism for financial resourcing of the Forum's activities. Acknowledging the contributions of Bangladesh and Costa Rica to the Fund, all members are encouraged to consider contributions while it is agreed that a specific modality for member contributions be adopted at the next Forum. Donors and other partners will continue to be solicited by the Forum to support the implementation of its activities and recognition and thanks is conveyed to Forum members and to Australia, Fundación Biodiversidad, the Climate and Development Knowledge Network, Fundación DARA Internacional, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United Nations Development Programme for contributing resources to our activities since 2011. Special appreciation is expressed to Switzerland as the first donor to support the Forum's Trust Fund. We are also grateful to Germany for committing to support the forward work outlined in this Action Plan.

3.6. Troika

It is agreed to empower a Troika of previous, incumbent and designated future Chairs of this Forum, initially comprising Bangladesh, Costa Rica and Maldives, to represent the Forum's interests and oversee the effective implementation of this Action Plan.

This Action Plan has been agreed following broad consultation with Forum member countries.

Adopted by:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam.

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Table of Annexes to the Climate Vulnerable Forum Costa Rica Action Plan 2013-2015

1. Dhaka Ministerial Declaration of the CVF
2. Climate Vulnerable Forum Operational Modalities
3. Concept Note: Third CVF Report on Climate Change Vulnerability
4. Concept Note: Low-Carbon Monitor