

Climate Change Policy Recommendations for CSD-15

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1. Governments should work to ensure international cooperation and joint action on implementation of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, including the provision of technical and financial assistance and capacity building to developing countries, countries with economies in transition, and Small Island Developing States.
2. Developed and developing countries that are the major sources of greenhouse emissions should use awareness campaigns, legal requirements, and economic incentives to curb consumption trends and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.
3. Countries should reduce dependence on fossil fuels. In addition to contributing to global warming, combustion of fossil fuels produces air pollution that negatively impacts human health, particularly in poor and disadvantaged communities.
4. Governments and other institutions should promote investments in alternative energy technologies that are readily available and have tremendous potential for supporting economic development with low greenhouse gas emissions. Countries and communities should explore a range of alternatives, such as wind and solar systems, small hydroelectric generators, modern biofuel systems, and energy efficiency mechanisms and determine what is most appropriate for their circumstance, taking into account the ecosystem and livelihood implications of each.
5. Given the severe environmental impacts of climate change—including those related to forests, biodiversity, water sources, fishing, coasts, etc—governments should ensure that national natural resource management plans and policies are responsive to the impacts of climate change.
6. Climate change contributes to increases in poverty, and given existing gender inequalities, particularly poverty among women. At the same time, women’s knowledge and participation in disaster situations has been critical to the survival of entire communities. Thus, climate change policies and programs that successfully address existing poverty and gender inequalities must:
 - a. Understand and address gender-specific resource use patterns that can degrade the environment;
 - b. Recognize that women are already more vulnerable to poverty than men and therefore have gender-specific needs in climate change driven scenarios;
 - c. Identify women’s particular skills and capacities in various aspects of their household livelihood strategies and natural resource management that lend themselves to mitigation and adaptation;
 - d. Strengthen the quantity and wealth of women’s participation in decision-making at all levels in climate change mitigation and adaptation.