

# Ramping up Climate Action

## How COP24 must yield urgent response to IPCC report

November 2018

### IPCC provides moment of truth

Less than two months after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) revealed the unprecedented and urgent task ahead of us to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius, governments must now come to the UN climate talks in Katowice, Poland, ready to commit to accelerated action.

The IPCC's Special Report on 1.5°C shows that [global CO2 emissions must be halved by 2030](#) before falling to net zero by mid-century at the latest. Global warming is expected to exceed 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues at current rates, reinforcing the dire urgency of emissions cuts.

Requested by governments after the 2015 Paris Agreement, the IPCC report is the most unique and important climate science report we've had. It shows that limiting warming to 1.5°C is [challenging but still achievable](#) if we are fast, bold and accelerate action on all fronts.

The 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) from December 2-14 now looms as the most important global decision point since Paris, a pivotal moment to ramp up action, put the Paris Agreement to work by adopting robust implementation guidelines (the Paris rulebook) and ensure that poor and vulnerable countries get the support they need to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

### Turning outrage into action

2018's extreme weather impacts – from the tragic wildfires, typhoons, hurricanes and floods – to reports of [permafrost abruptly thawing](#), the [Great Barrier Reef collapsing](#) and Antarctic melt [tripling in five years](#) are alarming reminders of how far into the danger zone we have plunged, with warming of 'just' 1°C above pre-industrial levels.

The IPCC report is our moment of truth. Governments have nowhere to hide and must turn the public's climate outrage into action and reasons for hope. The global community is fed up with political inaction. We've seen that in the Hambach Forest in Germany and through those [seeking climate justice](#) against fossil fuel polluters.

The leaders who listen to the science and take action will be remembered as the moral authorities of their time.

US President Trump remains isolated as the only leader to have abandoned the Paris Agreement, putting him in opposition to how the majority of people in the US think about climate action. Fortunately, his attacks on climate action now face [greater resistance from new leaders](#) in the US Congress.

Brazil's president-elect, Jair Bolsonaro, must also be held to account if he tries to undermine global efforts to achieve the 1.5°C target by putting at risk the further protection of the Amazon rainforest.

China has vowed to become a torchbearer in global climate politics, but in recent months its leaders have been "kept busy" with the trade tension with the US. The

challenging geopolitics should not be an excuse for a climate retreat, but why Beijing should double down on its climate ambition.

Europe must also take on its share of the global effort and start a new climate plan that is in line with Paris. Ahead of COP24, the European Commission has outlined a proposal for the EU to reach [net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050](#). This strategy is a glimmer of hope, but the EU can still do more. Instead of talking about climate leadership, the EU must take the action needed to be climate neutral by 2040.

For Germany, a major economy and still heavily reliant on coal, the country's coal commission must agree immediate measures to reach Germany's 2020 climate target and agree a timeline on phasing out coal by 2030 to be in line with the IPCC's findings.

Today's leaders are the last politicians aware of the climate risks and who still have the time and possibility to act. They have a responsibility to act and will be held to account.

### Climate leadership

Current country pledges will [not even limit global warming to 3°C](#), and instead climate leadership started to emerge at September's Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS) in San Francisco, where non-state actors such as cities, regional governments and businesses showcased what real world climate action looks like.

New York and London are [willing to lead the divestment from fossil fuels](#). Korea's 'coal capital' province [Chungcheongnam-do has pledged to phase out coal](#) as part of the Powering Past Coal Alliance - whose members must now act with real urgency.

New Zealand banned new offshore oil and gas exploration. In New York, the state's attorney is suing ExxonMobil for fraudulently downplaying climate risks. Investors and banks are turning their backs on fossil fuels: Italian insurer [Generali is the latest](#).

The Polish COP24 presidency must not only ensure a good outcome on ambition, leading to all countries ramping up their climate pledges by 2020, but also work to deliver a strong Paris rulebook, that will spur further climate ambition and leadership.

Ahead of the COP, the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Summit in November also delivered a strong call for climate in action in order to survive and thrive at 1.5°C.

### Great challenge and great hope

While the IPCC report said a system transition may be already in motion in the power sector - renewable power world clean energy investment [is expected to be less in 2018 than last year's \\$333.5 billion](#).

Cumulative investment since 2010 is \$2.5 trillion, but the IPCC report also notes that investments of \$1.6 to \$3.8 trillion annually up until 2050 will be required – five to ten times more than today. [IEA data](#) also shows energy demand grew 2.1 percent in 2017 as CO2 emissions increased by 1.4 percent after three years of remaining flat. It means the scale of the challenge is unprecedented.

But we have the solutions at hand and there are clear [#ReasonsForHope](#) as social, economic and technological disruptions accelerate change.

[Forest protection and restoration](#), along with changed land use practices, are also often an overlooked natural solution to climate change. To restore the planet's vegetation we must shift to a diet less reliant on meat and drastically decrease the use of primary

bioenergy and the amount of short-lived wood based products we use. In the oceans, Greenpeace is also calling for the creation of [a network of sanctuaries](#) to protect wildlife and help to tackle climate change.

We are in an unprecedented race against time. People are demanding change and at COP24 governments must commit to accelerate their actions.

### At COP24 we expect governments to:

1. **Commit to enhanced climate ambition.** The Talanoa Dialogue, the first global stocktake of the Paris Agreement, will culminate at COP24 and Greenpeace is asking for this to result in a commitment from countries to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020 at the latest to align them with the 1.5°C goal and the new scientific findings of the IPCC's special report
2. **Finalise the Paris Agreement rulebook** as scheduled and agreed on at COP22, ensuring a robust, full and ambitious rulebook absent of loopholes. The robustness of the rules will dictate the environmental integrity of the agreement.

The rulebook will determine the future timelines for new NDCs – which are due for revision by 2020. Greenpeace is calling for the rulebook to specify that all parties should have harmonised 5-year NDC commitment periods, to avoid a lock-in of insufficient ambition, and that NDCs should include renewable energy targets and other sectoral targets to help unlock ambition.

3. **Adequately resolve differences on climate finance and pre-2020 action.** These two elements complete the four critical components of COP24.

New funding for poor and vulnerable countries will be discussed to enable them to adapt to our changing climate and speed up their green transition. Rules that ensure fair accounting and predictability will also be a topic.

The issue of pre-2020 action reflects a concern from developing countries that developed countries have not done enough to meet the commitments made up to 2020. Following the IPCC special report, this discussion should be turned into a collective effort to enhance near term ambition.

**Business-as-usual climate rhetoric will not be enough. The IPCC's special report now needs to be met with a robust political commitment to action.**

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