

Business as usual is not an option

- Asia and Europe must work together to address global warming and create sustainable development

Dear Ministers,

Danish non-governmental organisations welcome you to Copenhagen. We are pleased that you have taken the time to come all the way to our capital to discuss how Asia and Europe can co-operate to fight global warming and promote sustainable development.

You have the power to change the World! Your countries control most of World trade and some of the World's most dynamic economies are in your regions. More than half of the people on this planet live in your countries.

We call on you to work together at this meeting in a truly co-operative spirit to create results commensurate with the gravity of the climate problem.

Jointly your countries contribute half of the World's emissions of greenhouse gases. This gives you a responsibility to mankind. We are certain that you will live up to this responsibility – and therefore we look forward to your discussions here in Copenhagen. We trust that you will produce concrete results in the following areas:

- **Using the window of opportunity**
We urge you to use the window of opportunity the World has now to break the upward trend in greenhouse gas emissions in time to keep global mean temperature increase below 2 degree Celsius.
- **Shifting investments in the energy sector**
We urge you to take steps to direct the vast sums of money invested in the energy sector to support sustainable solutions to the climate problem.
- **Climate change and deforestation**
We urge you to intensify efforts to halt deforestation as a means to combat global warming, fight poverty and protect biodiversity.

In this letter, we present our recommendations for each of these three areas. We hope they will prove useful during your discussions.

1. Use the Window of Opportunity

As the latest reports by the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) show, global warming is a reality and is happening fast. Past emissions – most of which originated in developed countries – already commit us to a significant further increase of the global temperature level.

Present and future emissions intensify the problem. According to IPCC's best estimate for a World with rapid economic growth and technological development, the global mean temperature will increase by 3.7 degrees by the end of this century if we continue to base our economies on heavy use of fossil fuels.

At present, fossil CO₂ emissions grow at a record 3% per year. But **global emissions must peak and decline within the next 10 to 15 years** to ensure a fifty-fifty chance that warming will stay less than 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels. By mid-century, a 50% reduction in global greenhouse gas emission must take place.

We call on you to use the window of opportunity that the next 10 years present. Therefore you must agree to conclude the negotiations on the post-2012 UN deal on climate protection as soon as possible.

Industrialised countries on an aggregate basis must agree to absolute mandatory targets of at least 30% below 1990 levels by 2020 under the next phases of the Kyoto Protocol. However, due to the short time we have and the fact that climate change requires a global response, many developing countries must also be ready to do more, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

- We call on you to explicitly express your support for the next round of climate negotiations through a mandate negotiated at the 13th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December in Bali. This Bali Mandate should require that negotiations on the post-2012 climate regime be completed in 2009 to have the post 2012 global regime in place when the present Kyoto Protocol commitments elapse.
- We call on you to explicitly support the goal of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial level.

A truly cooperative approach must be developed. In this respect, it is necessary to integrate concerns about climate change into other policy areas. For example, **the current trade policy of the EU focuses narrowly on increasing exports** and protecting the interests of Western companies. This creates obstacles to fast and widespread use of sustainable climate-friendly technologies: Anti-dumping measures are used against, e.g., fluorescent light bulbs. Stricter protection of intellectual property rights is sought without taking into account the need to transfer technology. Requirements to further local production in developing countries are opposed by the EU countries.

- We urge you to question the current trade policies, especially in the industrialized countries, and to work jointly to develop a new generation of trade agreements that support fast and widespread use of sustainable climate-friendly technologies.

2. Shifting Investments in the Energy Sector

Vast resources – an estimated 6.3 trillion USD – are expected to be invested in the energy sector in ASEM countries by 2030. We need clear and reliable policies to **ensure that the massive future investments are going into energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies**. This includes regulations for private investment as well as redirecting public sector money on the national level and in international institutions.

Examples of successful market regulation include: feed-in laws for renewables, mandatory efficiency standards, the »top runner« approach that excludes the most inefficient products from the market while rewarding the most efficient ones, environmental taxes as well as cap & trade emissions trading systems.

Every study assessing the technologies available to tackle climate and energy security points to the **massive potential to use energy more efficiently** across the economy. It is possible through a series of efficiency measures in every sector to decrease the energy demand, as measured against the business as usual scenario, by about 50% by 2050.

- We urge you to adopt the goal of a decrease in energy intensity of your joint economies by 2.5% per annum (the goal can vary widely from country to country) and to agree to a process that can lead to a common action plan to achieve this.

The long term solution to the climate problem is a robust **global energy system based on renewable energies**. The limited time available to break the greenhouse gas emissions curve makes it necessary for all countries to redouble efforts to scale up safe and domestically available sustainable renewable energies. The best mechanism to do so is through the adoption of a series of targets which reflect national circumstances. These targets should be inspired and driven by global climate goals.

- We urge you to support global goals for the share of renewable energy at the magnitude of 20% of primary energy by 2015, 25% by 2020 and 50% in 2050.

The study "Energy (R)evolution – A Sustainable World Energy Outlook" by Greenpeace and EREC shows that it is technically possible and economically feasible through energy efficiency and renewable energy to cut global CO2 emission by 50% in 2050.

Multilateral institutions such as the **Asian Development Bank and the World Bank play an important role in financing energy sector investments**. But despite years of pledges to increase funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy, the reality is that **80-90% of the institutions' energy-related lending supports the use of fossil fuels**. Thereby, these institutions contribute to the climate problem instead of solving it.

- We call on you to ensure that the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank commit to phasing out all support for fossil fuel projects, starting with coal-fired power stations, and invest 100% of their energy portfolio to support the expansion of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency.

3. Climate Change and Deforestation

Climate change is tightly linked to the ongoing destruction of the World's forests. Approximately 20 % of human-induced greenhouse gas emissions are caused by deforestation, a share even greater than that of the transport sector. At the same time, healthy natural forests, especially large intact areas, offer protection against the effects of climate change. Therefore, **deforestation must be addressed in the post-2012 climate regime.**

- We call on you to agree that measures and funding for reduction of emissions from deforestation should be included in the Bali Mandate for the post-2012 climate regime.

When addressing deforestation, it should be kept in mind that the World's forests are not only valuable carbon stores, but also provide vital ecosystem services to billions of people and hold rich natural resources important for medical and crop research. Protection of the World's forests is also an essential part of the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target, which states that the loss of biodiversity should be significantly reduced by 2010.

The protection of forests plays a major role in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as in the future work of the UNFCCC. Therefore **measures to protect forests should be coordinated and synergies should be promoted.**

- We urge you to promote synergy and cooperation between the CBD and the UNFCCC by according a key role to the CBD in the development of measures to address emissions from deforestation, and by ensuring that such measures also promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- We call on you to live up to the commitment to establish a global network of protected areas (especially in intact forest landscapes) as a key tool to reduce significantly not only biodiversity loss, but also carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

A key driver of deforestation is the ongoing supply of illegally and unsustainable harvested timber from Asian forests to the EU market. **Further measures are needed at the EU and the global level to prevent illegal logging and related trade.**

- We call on you to ensure that the EU supports Asian countries in their efforts to regulate and conserve forest resources by adopting comprehensive legislation that requires all companies to demonstrate that wood products on sale in the EU come from legal sources and responsibly managed forests.
- We call on you to champion the establishment of an international regime preventing trade in illegally harvested timber and promoting sustainable forest management. Negotiations should be launched at the 9th Conference Of the Parties of the CBD in May 2008.

Another driver of deforestation is, ironically, the production of biofuels. These have been touted as a key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. But unsustainable production methods make their overall impact highly questionable. Already, **increasing demand for biofuels is placing enormous pressure on countries to expand agricultural lands, causing forest clearing** and in turn increasing emissions from deforestation.

- We urge you to agree that stringent measures on biofuel production should be established to ensure that the demand for biofuels will not further contribute to the destruction of Asia's forests and will reduce net greenhouse gas emissions.

Answering the challenge of climate change will require new policies that encompass all the areas touched upon above. Reforming trade policies, shifting energy investments and halting deforestation will all demand cooperation and vision. We call on you at this meeting to determine a way forward that addresses each of these issues.

Copenhagen, 19 April 2007

Signatories:



The Danish Organisation
for Sustainable Energy



Nature and youth

www.natur-og-ungdom.dk



Danish Society
for Nature Conservation



WWF

for a living planet