



## DON'T HOLD UP AN INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM ON LOSS AND DAMAGE at COP19:

More than 100 organisations call on ministers from key developed countries to act

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(Warsaw) - Of the 190 countries represented at COP19 in Warsaw, five countries – Australia, Japan, Canada, US, Norway - and the EU – are standing in the way of establishing an international mechanism on climate change loss and damage, international NGOs ActionAid, CARE and WWF said during a press briefing today.

The agreement on a mechanism would unlock the ability of the UN climate forum to begin to address climate change impacts where countries cannot adapt, or which will not be covered by adaptation and mitigation measures in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

“They must not stand in the way of establishing an international mechanism in Warsaw. If this is not resolved by Ministers who arrive today, it could undermine the potential for a new global climate change deal to be concluded in 2015, through further delaying action,” the NGOs said.

More than 100 organisations have signed an open letter to all Ministers attending COP19 to “stop the madness” and act now to establish the international mechanism on loss and damage.

The letter calls on UN member states to build on the agreement at COP18 that the UNFCCC's role on loss and damage includes enhancing knowledge and understanding; strengthening global coordination and coherence; and enhancing action and support to address loss and damage

**Harjeet Singh, International Coordinator, disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation at ActionAid**, said: “As we fail in dealing with the unprecedented climate impacts such as Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, we need a new robust system to be established in Warsaw. Sea levels are rising. Marine life is dying. Some species are being permanently lost. Any further delay in tackling climate impacts will mean more poor women and men losing lives, homes and incomes.”

**Sven Harmeling, Climate Change Advocacy Coordinator of CARE International**, said: “The world has now entered the ‘era of devastating climate change-induced loss and damage’. The collective failure of Governments to adequately mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and support necessary adaptation actions means that vulnerable communities,

ecosystems and countries face increasing loss and damage due to climate change impacts on an unprecedented scale. Correcting this failure is urgent and increasing mitigation and support for adaptation in developing countries is crucial, but no longer sufficient.”

**Sandeep Chamling Rai, WWF’s senior advisor for Adaptation Policy**, said: “Humans have lived in harmony with nature for centuries. Now we are in conflict because of the impact of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on our climate. Science is telling us that there is no time for inaction and no time to lose. The decisions by Ministers in Warsaw will forever shape the future we inherit.”

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**ActionAid International** is a global movement of people working together to achieve greater human rights for all and defeat poverty. We believe people in poverty have the power within them to create change for themselves, their families and communities. ActionAid is a catalyst for that change. [www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)

**CARE** is a leading humanitarian organisation fighting global poverty. CARE places special focus on working alongside poor girls and women because, equipped with the proper resources, they have the power to lift whole families and entire communities out of poverty. CARE is helping the most world’s most vulnerable communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. Last year CARE worked in 84 countries and reached 122 million people around the world. Visit [www.careclimatechange.org](http://www.careclimatechange.org)

**WWF** is one of the world’s largest and most experienced independent conservation organisations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries. WWF’s mission is stopping the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The Global Climate & Energy Initiative (GCEI) is WWF’s global programme addressing climate change and a move to 100% renewable energy through engagement with business, promoting renewable and sustainable energy, scaling green finance and working nationally and internationally on low carbon frameworks. [www.panda.org/climateandenergy](http://www.panda.org/climateandenergy)

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**ADDENDUM**

**“STOP THE MADNESS”**

19<sup>th</sup> November 2013

**Dear Minister:**

**Act now to establish an international mechanism on climate change-induced loss and damage at COP19 in Warsaw. Inevitable loss and damage is a reality – we need solutions now!**

The world has now entered the era of devastating climate change-induced loss and damage. Our collective failure to adequately mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and support necessary adaptation actions means that vulnerable communities, ecosystems and countries face increasing loss and damage due to climate change impacts on an unprecedented scale. Typhoon Haiyan, which has affected nearly 13 million people in the Philippines alone, is a stark reminder of just how serious the impacts of major storms and extreme weather-related events can be.

In 1992, developed countries agreed to take the lead in addressing climate change under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Yet they have failed to take sufficient action in line the latest climate science. While politicians talk, emissions are increasing at an alarming rate, making a global temperature rise of more than 4 degrees Celsius by 2100 a distinct possibility.

There is no time to lose. COP19 must be a historic milestone and those most responsible for climate change must adhere to their legal and moral responsibilities for reducing and tackling climate change impacts. Yet, even with urgent action, the world will increasingly experience substantial loss and damage. **In the absence of adequate mitigation and support for adaptation, an international mechanism on loss and damage is not an option – it is a necessity.**

Whilst the UNFCCC has existing mechanisms and instruments on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and clean development, there is no specific mechanism to address loss and damage. Nor can loss and damage simply be subsumed under existing frameworks. It requires a dedicated international mechanism to advance the important work of tackling climate change impacts and compensate countries for the loss and damage they are increasingly sustaining.

Governments agreed at COP18 that the UNFCCC’s role on loss and damage includes enhancing knowledge and understanding; strengthening global coordination and coherence; and enhancing action and support to address loss and damage. More than 130 developing countries have now issued a joint proposal for an international mechanism. **We the undersigned now urgently call on the Conference of the Parties to establish an international mechanism on loss and damage in Warsaw.**

**Sincerely,**

Name	Job title	Organisation
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<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Kit Vaughan	Director, Poverty, Environment, Climate Change Network	CARE International
Sandeep Chamling Rai	Senior Advisor Adaptation Policy	WWF International
Harjeet Singh	International Coordinator	ActionAid International
Sanjay Vashist	Director	Climate Action Network South Asia
Oliver Maurice	Director	International National Trusts Organisation (INTO)
Stephen Leonard	President	Climate Justice Programme
Ranga Pallawala	Director	Janathakshan - Sri Lanka
Evans Tembo	Chairperson	Zambia Youth Climate Change Forum (ZYCCF)
Sunil Acharya	Program Director	Clean Energy Nepal (CEN)
Urszula Stefanowicz	Program Coordinator	Polish Climate Coalition
Ajay K Jha	Director	PAIRVI, India
Mizan R Khan	Professor	North South University, Dhaka
Nathan Thanki	Coordinator	Earth in Brackets
Karen Orenstein	Analyst	Friends of the Earth U.S.
Marcus Oxley	Director	Global Network for Disaster Reduction
Surveyor Efik	National Coordinator	Climate Change Network Nigeria
Alyssa Johl	Senior Attorney	Center for International Environmental Law
Nicholas B Robson	Director-General	Cayman Institute
Narayana Susith Arambepola	Deputy Executive Director	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
Anohar John	Director	SDS(TFINS)
Shoab sidiqi	Advocacy Manager	SDO
Graciela Salaberri	Coordinadora Nacional	Amigos del Viento Uruguay-América del Sur
Maria Fellizar Cagay	Deputy Executive Director Advocacy, Partnership and	Center for Disaster Preparedness

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
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Hibat Abbas	Head of Hospital Emergency Unit - EHA	Federal Ministry of Health - Sudan
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**ENDS**