

ACFID Resolution 2-2021

RESOLUTION on Climate Action

Pre-Amble

Combatting climate change is an area of focus for ACFID's 2021 Advocacy Strategy. ACFID recognizes that climate change will disrupt and reverse human and economic development, pushing more than 100 million people back into poverty by 2030, with disproportionate impacts on excluded and marginalized communities around the world, including women and people living in poverty. ACFID recognises that the Australian Government should lift its ambition to respond to the urgency of the climate crisis, and to avert the worst impacts. As a sector we also have a critical role to play in challenging false solutions and ensuring that responses result in rights-based sustainable development.

Resolutions

ACFID acknowledges that the climate crisis is accelerating and is disproportionately impacting low-income countries and the communities we work with. People living in poverty, women, people with disabilities, low-wage workers and other marginalised groups are experiencing the worst impacts. ACFID resolves to advocate with the Australian Government towards the following outcomes:

1. As Australia develops its plan for climate action that it includes an immediate scale up of locally-led, gender-responsive climate finance and technology transfer, with a long-term pathway of increased financing towards Australia's fair share. These commitments must be new contributions, additional to Official Development Assistance, public, grants based and predictable for use in relation to adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage caused by the climate crisis.
2. That to be consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement in limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the Australia Government works to end all public financing of fossil fuels domestically and abroad and to establish a low carbon technology transfer hub with a focus on sharing solutions within the Indo-Pacific region; and
3. Solutions that support a just and equitable transition for low-income countries that includes workers and indigenous peoples as key parties, strengthens the capacity of frontline communities, protects indigenous knowledge and rights, and combats inequality by supporting universal provision of quality public services, such as public health and renewable energy systems, and community based ecological restoration and protection.

Background Information

Climate change is an undeniable reality for most of the world's population. Climate-induced disasters are having a devastating impact on communities and the environment around the world. People living in poverty and exclusion, the majority of whom are

women, are experiencing the worst impacts of the climate crisis, which is deepening inequality and fuelling injustice as those who have contributed least to the problem are being most affected.

In 2015, as part of the Paris Agreement, governments committed to keep global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. However, the most recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reveals that the world is on track to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming by 2030 – in less than a decade. The United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, called this report a “code red for humanity” and has urged countries to take drastic action.

Australia’s current level of climate ambition is out of step with peer governments such as the UK and the US. Our neighbours in the Pacific have said that climate change is the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, wellbeing, and security of people in the Pacific. Within this context it is critical that Australia, as a wealthy country in the Asia-Pacific, shows global leadership by taking action in line with its fair share.

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