

COMMONWEALTH ACADEMIES OF SCIENCE CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

12 MARCH 2018

The world's climate is changing, and the impacts are already being observed. Changing agricultural conditions, ocean warming and acidification, rising sea levels, and increased frequency and intensity of many extreme weather events are impacting infrastructure, environmental assets and human health.

Impacts such as higher rainfall and increased plant growth will be beneficial in some cases.

However, others will be detrimental and felt more widely, changing ecosystems and weather patterns, and disrupting industries, economies, food supplies and livelihoods.

The consensus view of the global climate science community based on current evidence is that avoiding the worst impacts of climate change will require concerted global action to reduce atmospheric carbon.

A target to limit warming to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels was recognised by 160 nations that ratified the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change; a bold and vital step towards addressing climate change.

Meeting this target will require achieving net-zero global greenhouse gas emissions in the second half of the Century followed by active decarbonisation of the atmosphere.

Our work towards this objective has only just begun.

Even if all countries meet their current commitments to greenhouse gas emission reductions, a global temperature rise of more than 3°C above pre-industrial levels is projected by 2100 according to current data¹.

This would lead to profound impacts affecting billions of people throughout the world.

This challenge needs to be addressed now, and the efforts required will bring enduring social, environmental and economic benefits and opportunities.

Scientific research should continue to inform policy, actions and outcomes. Opportunities for synergies should be taken to address multiple challenges.

Through concerted action, the Commonwealth has the potential, and the responsibility, to help drive meaningful global efforts and outcomes that protect ourselves, our children and our planet.

The Commonwealth academies of science call upon Commonwealth Heads of Government to use the best possible scientific evidence to guide action on their 2030 commitments under the Paris accord, and to take further action to achieve net-zero greenhouse gases emissions during the second half of the 21st Century.

To meet their Paris targets, developed member countries of the Commonwealth will need to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions at or shortly after the middle of this Century. Developing country members may require a longer time frame, and additional support and capacity building.

A range of approaches including pre-emptive and responsive mitigation and adaptation will be required by Commonwealth Nations to achieve this objective.

Recognising different capacities, challenges and priorities, the approaches of each nation will not be the same. But, they must be informed by the best available scientific evidence, monitoring and evaluation.

The academies of the Commonwealth stand ready to assist by providing sound scientific advice on issues relating to climate change.

¹ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report 2017.

Venki Ramakrishnan

Professor Sir Venki Ramakrishnan PRS
President, The Royal Society

Andrew B. Holmes

Professor Andrew Holmes AC PresAA FRS FTSE
President, Australian Academy of Science

Quazi Abdul Fattah

Professor Quazi Abdul Fattah
President, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences

Motosoptse Modisi

Professor Motosoptse Modisi
President, Botswana Academy of Science

Chad Gaffield OC, FRSC

Professor Chad Gaffield OC, FRSC
President, The Royal Society of Canada

Ajay Kumar Sood

Professor Ajay K Sood
President, Indian National Science Academy

Jean Claude Autrey

Professor Jean Claude Autrey
President, Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology

Orlando António Quilambo

Professor Dr Orlando António Quilambo
President, Academy of Science of Mozambique

K. Mosto Onuoha FAS

Professor K. Mosto Onuoha FAS
President, The Nigerian Academy of Science

Quasim Jan

Professor Quasim Jan
President, Pakistan Academy of Sciences

Richard Bedford

Professor Richard Bedford QSO FRSNZ
President, Royal Society Te Apārangi

L. G. Christophorou

Professor Loucas G. Christophorou
Member, Founding Committee, Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts

Andrew Wee

Professor Andrew Wee
President, Singapore National Academy of Science

Azeez M. Muburak

Dr Azeez M. Muburak
President, National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka

Jonathan J. Jansen

Professor Jonathan J. Jansen
President, Academy of Science of South Africa

S. Jocelyn Bell Burnell

Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell DBE FRS PRSE MRIA
President, The Royal Society of Edinburgh

Gabriel Kabanda

Professor Gabriel Kabanda
Secretary General, Zimbabwe Academy of Sciences

Raphael M. Munavu

Professor Raphael M. Munavu FKNA
Chairman, Kenya National Academy of Sciences

Kavwanga E.S. Yambayamba FZaAS, JP

Professor Kavwanga E.S. Yambayamba FZaAS, JP
President, Zambia Academy of Sciences

Asma Ismail

Professor Datuk Dr Asma Ismail
Akademi Sains Malaysia

Professor Samuel Domngang
President, Cameroon Academy of Sciences



EXPLORE | DISCOVER | SHARE



ACADEMIA DE CIÊNCIAS DE MOÇAMBIQUE

