



Student Solutions to Climate Change

The CliMates International Summit 2012

A Call for Action

November 2nd, 2012

Authored by the CliMates Network

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Acknowledgments:

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This Call for Action reflects the position of the CliMates organization.

Process of the CliMates Call for Action 2012

After a year of collaborative research, CliMates members – youth and students from around the world – met in Paris for the first CliMates International Summit. With the support from the Office of Academic Research of the Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po), the Institute of Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), the Higher Education and Research Sorbonne Paris Cité (PRES), and the French International Technical Assistance Agency of the Ministries for the Economy, Budget and Sustainable Development (Adetef), CliMates conducted a student negotiation on climate change that is innovative in its content and form.

CliMates members, youth and students from partner organisations, and high-level experts from research institutions and professional organizations worked together to formulate a common position which reflects the perspectives and expertise of youth and students on climate change. The solutions that elaborated during this Summit are inscribed in this document. CliMates shall respect the specific conditions with which non-student experts and members of partner organizations wish to participate in the negotiations of the Summit, including with respect to signing this Call for Action.

The structure of this document has been elaborated by the CliMates Central Research Team (CRT), which took into account all the themes and topics proposed by CliMates delegations in their Summit Abstracts received in April 2012. These proposed topics were placed into eight topics, grouped under three primary themes, that the CRT deemed relevant for the UNFCCC COP18 in Doha (November 2012).

From October 22nd to October 26th 2012, all CliMates (delegates and members of the Central organization), as well as experts and participants from partner organizations had the opportunity to make comments, amendments, and proposals for changes to Draft One of this CliMates Call for Action. This led to the production of Draft Two, which served as the basis for negotiation and discussion during the CliMates International Summit from October 29th to November 2nd 2012.

During the five days of the CliMates International Summit (October 29th to November 2nd, 2012), CliMates delegates in Paris formulated the CliMates Call for Action. On the first day of the exchanges, delegates focused their attention on sectorial approach to climate change. Three subtopics were addressed: water management, agriculture in a context of climate change and energy. On the second day, government and community actions were discussed through three subtopics: linking adaptation and development, awareness, education and civil society and low carbon (re)development plans. Finally, on the third day of discussions, delegates

debated about international cooperation on climate change with two subtopics: the future of the Kyoto protocol and the attribution of responsibility, and rethinking the climate negotiation process. On the fourth day, all delegates gathered and deliberated about the recommendations and commitments they had developed during the three first days of the Summit. After a long discussion and a voting process based on unanimity, CliMates delegates and members of the central organization agreed on a set of recommendations for decision makers and commitments for the CliMates think and do tank.

One of the challenges and achievements of this first Summit was learning how to work together, and taking advantage of the variety of backgrounds and experiences represented in the working groups. This Summit was thus an important step towards developing a shared definition of CliMates' role, objectives and ambitions.

CliMates aims to advocate the solutions presented in this outcome document to decision-makers at all levels, including within the UNFCCC. Furthermore, the commitments and recommendations present in this final document shall serve as the blueprint for CliMates' future action.

Vision Statement The Future CliMates Wants

CliMates believes that through collaborative and interdisciplinary research and discussion, its members can produce recommendations and commitments that will substantially contribute to the fight against climate change.

CliMates envisions a world in which economic, political, and social relations and activities respect the natural environment. CliMates envisions a world in which cooperation between stakeholders at local, national and international levels serves environmental preservation, social justice and community building. CliMates envisions a world in which decision-makers account for the needs and interests of future generations, and involve youth and students in the decision-making process. CliMates envisions a world in which decision-makers understand the necessity to act now on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Values and Principles of the CliMates Network

This following fundamental principles characterize CliMates' research activities, the CliMates Summit and this Call for Action:

- Recognizing the reality and urgency of anthropogenic climate change
- Promoting transformations of societies and cultures towards a philosophy of response to the climate change predicament.
- Emphasizing the importance of action at the local level, and creative interaction with the national and international levels.
- Remaining politically neutral, and neither aligning with, nor subscribing to, any particular political ideology, party or movement.
- Respecting and reflecting the core values of CliMates: knowledge, innovation, collaboration, credibility and solidarity.

Focus of the CliMates Call for Action 2012

This Call for Action focuses on the roles, perspectives and actions of youth and students in the fight against climate change. The outcome of this collaborative work comprises commitments and recommendations by CliMates, associated experts, and partners.

When developing recommendations or commitments, participants were free to choose their focus: the education system, NGOs, youth and student organizations, United Nations organizations, the public and private sectors, etc. Drawing links between the themes within this Call for Action, and the potential for action and expertise of youth and students is challenging. However, it is finding this link that renders the CliMates research and negotiation process unique.

Executive Summary of the CliMates Call for Action 2012

The participants in the CliMates International Summit 2012 have adopted the following recommendations and commitments:

“Improving Energy Efficiency and Using Renewable Energy”

Recommendation:

We urge our respective academic institutions to assess their energy choices from the vantage point of climate change mitigation.

Commitment:

We commit to promote energy efficiency and incentivize the use of renewable energy within our academic institutions. Past initiatives by members of our network have demonstrated the feasibility and relevance of such efforts.

“Raising Awareness About Climate Change and the Increasing Vulnerability of Water System”

Recommendation:

We recommend to decision makers in educational institutions to raise awareness about the vulnerability of water resources to climate disruption. This should be done in the context of junior levels of education systems, as the age of youth allows for an optimal receptiveness and potential for behavioral changes.

“Addressing Agriculture-driven Land-Use and Climate Change”

Recommendations:

We urge governments to explicitly recognize agriculture as one of the drivers of climate change, and to make agricultural reform one of the main pillars of their climate efforts and commitments, as recognized in the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want” as well as in IPCC AR4 (Working Group 3).

This especially, but not exclusively, implies increasing the emphasis on other greenhouse gases than CO₂, especially methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (NO₂).

We finally exhort governments to acknowledge that agriculture is a root cause for ongoing deforestation and to realize this acknowledgement is necessary to the effective implementation of the REDD+ (Reduction of Emission by Deforestation and Degradation) process.

“Adaptation in a Context of Uncertainty”

Commitment:

We commit to contribute to an online database of successful adaptation projects, striving to connect similar needs and creative solutions between regions. In this regard, CliMates aims to foster decentralized collaboration between areas with similar challenges for climate change adaptation. CliMates’ contribution could also focus on the relocation of vulnerable communities.

“Integrating Adaptation Criteria in Project-Validation Procedures”

Recommendation:

We recommend to governments, local and community authorities to integrate mandatory adaptation and risk action-plan criteria in project-validation procedures, accompanied by credible ex post control mechanisms.

“Protection of the Victims of Climate Change”

Recommendation:

We recommend creating an emergency status in international law to define a protection framework, similar to the refugee status given by the Geneva Convention on Refugees of 1951, for environmentally displaced persons.

This framework should focus on protecting victims of rising sea levels (particularly small islands’ inhabitants), floods, droughts, and any other type of extreme weather events.

“Public Perception of Climate Change”

Recommendation:

We urge all relevant actors and partners to ensure that climate change ceases to be a “niche” issue that is only relevant to a mere fraction of the population.

Commitment:

We commit to contribute to the global “Earth Day” 2013 (April 22nd) by multiplying and synchronizing our actions on the ground.

“Climate Change Knowledge and Education”

Recommendation:

Therefore, we urge primary, middle, high schools and universities to include courses on sustainability and climate change in their core requirements.

Commitment:

Before we continue advocating for a greater presence of climate issues in education, we recognize that as CliMates, we must take our climate education into our own hands. In the short term, this will require an enhanced promotion and organization of our research, so that it becomes as useful as possible to our member’s deepening of their knowledge on climate change issues, as well as that of our audience.

We will encourage our members to write short working papers about their specialty topics, compile our research in a clear and coherent catalogue, and create a common location for papers published by members outside their CliMates activity.

As our research and training activity develops in the coming years, we will strive to establish strategic partnerships with the academic world so that the educational quality of its work is recognized, and possibly that research work conducted for CliMates is sanctioned by universities as worthy of academic credit or other rewards for students.

“Attributing Responsibility”

Commitment:

In order to keep average global temperature increase below 2°C, and even below 1.5°C, we commit to conduct research on innovative ways to involve all countries in a global mitigation effort, depending on both their historical and current responsibilities.

Burden-sharing criteria could be determined according to the size of the economy, historical responsibility, current responsibilities and capacities, right to sustainable development, and potential for clean energy generation.

“A Discounting Scheme for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Projects”

Recommendation:

In order to fairly balance the allocation of CDM investments, we recommend that the UNFCCC parties and secretariat create a discounting scheme to change the value of a carbon offset in the CDM. The scheme could be based on the number of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) or the type of project. The objective of the discounting

scheme is to distribute more equally Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects among developing countries and continents.

Commitment:

We will conduct a literature review on the existing discounting scheme proposals and will study the feasibility and the possible implementation of this discounting scheme for CDMs.

“Providing Analysis on non-Climate Related Elements in Societies that are however Relevant to Climate Policy”

Commitment:

We commit to conduct a research project of that will broaden our perspectives and shed light on the many ways society and climate change are intertwined. We commit to produce research and articles on non climate-related trends in society, politics, the economy, culture etc. and on how such trends could, when considered from a certain angle, be related to the issues discussed by climate negotiators and even influence the way they frame these issues.

“Looking Critically at the Continuity of COP Political Agenda Setting”

Commitment:

We commit to map and study international forums outside the UNFCCC stream so as to identify which ones have had, or may have, an influence on agenda-setting, the political context and/or issues framing for the COPs.

“Assessing the participation of indigenous peoples in climate negotiations”

Commitment:

We recognize the importance of indigenous peoples’ participation and representation in UNFCCC negotiations. We commit to address this issue in depth by reviewing literature on the vulnerability of indigenous populations and conducting research on how to improve their inclusion in the climate negotiations. This research project will notably pay close attention to youth. CliMates also commits to extending its network to indigenous populations.

The CliMates Call for Action 2012

Preamble

We, youth and students from around the world, have gathered in Paris as CliMates. Together, with members of other youth organizations, we are committed to responsibility and justice in facing climate change. We proclaim in this Call for Action that:

- The climate challenge can only be met through international dialogue and cooperation, as well as mutual understanding and trust between stakeholders at all levels;
- The current international climate change cooperation system remains incapable of providing an adequate and timely response to the climate crisis, and requires urgent reform;
- Younger generations have the most to lose from climate inaction, and should therefore have their voice heard regarding how choices are made towards our climate future.

As CliMates, and members of partner organizations, we aspire to become an influential actor in the international dialogue on climate change, as an innovative force for proposition and decision.

Guided by this vision, we put forth the following recommendations to decision-makers at the international, national and local levels, and most importantly, commit to the following courses of action in the fight against climate change.

I. A Sectorial Approach to Climate Change

I.1. Energy

“Improving Energy Efficiency and Using Renewable Energy”

Under the New Policies Scenario (IEA, 2011), it is projected that between 2010 and 2035, global primary energy demand will increase by one-third. We recognize that energy efficiency is a key strategy to reduce per capita energy demand. The Vienna Climate Change Talks in 2007 recognized that energy efficiency “*can achieve real emission reductions at low cost*” (UNFCCC, 2007). Another important strategy to transition to a low-carbon society would be ensuring that energy is generated from renewable sources. As CliMates, we are dissatisfied with the current levels of renewable energy deployment.

Recommendation:

We urge our respective academic institutions to assess their energy choices from the vantage point of climate change mitigation.

Commitment:

We commit to promote energy efficiency and incentivize the use of renewable energy within our academic institutions. Past initiatives by members of our network have demonstrated the feasibility and relevance of such efforts.

References:

IEA (2011) World Energy Outlook factsheet
UNFCCC (2007) Press Release: Vienna UN conference shows consensus on key building blocks for effective international response to climate change.

I.2. Water Management in the Context of Climate Change

“Raising Awareness About Climate Change and the Increasing Vulnerability of Water Systems”

Climate change is leading to greater uncertainty regarding water resources. “*Observational records and climate projections provide abundant evidence that freshwater resources are vulnerable and have the potential to be strongly impacted by climate change, with wide-ranging consequences for human societies and ecosystems*” (Bates et al., 2008). The evolutions of the interconnected climate systems and water cycle processes translate to changes in precipitation and evaporation patterns, temporally and spatially modifying water flows and the level of aquifers.

We stress the necessity to raise awareness both on the issue of climate change and the resulting increased vulnerability of water systems. In order to be most successful in this enterprise, we believe raising awareness should be focused on local areas and populations, insisting on the concrete effects of climate change on specific local and regional water resources.

Conscious that raising awareness is ground on which many have treaded before, we nevertheless stress the following points:

Recommendation:

We recommend to decision makers in educational institutions to raise awareness about the vulnerability of water resources to climate disruption. This should be done in the context of junior levels of education systems, as the age of youth allows for an optimal receptiveness and potential for behavioral changes.

We firmly believe that given its immediately accessible, palpable nature, and the intrinsic link between water systems and climate change, the water availability question has the potential to serve as a gateway issue to effectively further inform populations about the larger effects of climate change on our immediate environments and livelihoods.

Commitment:

We therefore commit to engage in this innovative process of awareness raising, building on and addressing the interconnected issues of climate change and water systems vulnerability.

References:

Bates, B.C., Z.W. Kundzewicz, S. Wu and J.P. Palutikof, Eds., 2008: Climate Change and Water. Technical Paper of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC Secretariat, Geneva, 210 pp.

I.3.Agriculture

“Addressing Agriculture-driven Land-Use and Climate Change”

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) predicted in 2008 that the most severe and adverse effects of climate change on agricultural output would not be fully realized until 2030. However, as the global food price index rose by 9 percent in 2006 and by 37 percent in 2007 (FAO, 2008), it seems that the margin for action is reducing. Prime agricultural land also often falls

victim to widespread non-sustainable agricultural practices, leading to soil erosion, nutrient deficiency, flooding, etc.

Considering widespread malnutrition, agriculture is already in itself a key issue. Approaching it from the viewpoint of climate change, we must take into account agriculture's contribution to greenhouse gases emissions (it accounted for 13.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2004 according to IPCC 2007) as well as the impact climate change will have on this crucial sector.

The ramifications of feeding a growing population under a changing climate are numerous: how can we limit agricultural impacts on our climate and the biosphere? How can we extend arable land without cutting into rainforests and other biodiversity hotspots? How do we make our agricultural system more resilient to climate change?

Recommendations:

We urge governments to explicitly recognize agriculture as one of the drivers of climate change, and to make agricultural reform one of the main pillars of their climate efforts and commitments, as recognized in the Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want" as well as in IPCC AR4 (Working Group 3).

This especially, but not exclusively, implies increasing the emphasis on other greenhouse gases than CO₂, especially methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (NO₂).

We finally exhort governments to acknowledge that agriculture is a root cause for ongoing deforestation and to realize this acknowledgement is necessary to the effective implementation of the REDD+ (Reduction of Emission by Deforestation and Degradation) process.

During our discussions, CliMates identified land use change as one of the main ways agriculture contributes to global environmental changes. Considering that its monitoring still needs improvement, establishing solid databases on land-use change throughout the world is a crucial challenge.

Commitment:

We commit to participate in existing quantitative research on how land-use changes locally affect GHG emissions and the environment, adding our findings to globally distributed databases.

2. National Government and Community Actions

2.1. Low-Carbon (re)Development plans

“Promoting Development with New Sources of Energy”

In order to mitigate climate change, we stress the importance of achieving a global transition towards a low-carbon intensive energy mix. We believe that the needed changes are far from being underway: *“on planned policies, rising fossil energy use will lead to irreversible and potentially catastrophic climate change”* (IEA, 2011).

As CliMates, we are conscious that in order to progress towards social and economic development, we should find alternatives to the way we live, produce and consume. We reaffirm the need to realize a fundamental transition from the predominantly fossil fuel-based energy mix to cleaner energy sources, with the objective of avoiding catastrophic climate change.

Commitment:

As an organization, we commit to participate in the effort to identify and assess such alternatives and promote their implementation. We will research the viability and generation potential of existing energy sources with the goal of developing a realistic proposal for a global energy transition.

The first step to take is to define and agree on a GHG emission cap and temperature increase rise. In this collaborative research, CliMates will be divided into research teams by fuel source (i.e. wind, solar, nuclear, coal). Each team will then survey the relevant literature on their specific fuel-type and summarize their findings in a position paper, which outlines the realistic role their fuel could play in a global energy transition. Once the research is complete, CliMates will share their papers internally and confront their findings to identify potential pathways for achieving a low-carbon supply mix. To determine the optimal approach, these pathways will be evaluated using a set of relevant criteria (i.e. feasibility, cost-effectiveness, time frame, emission reductions, technological requirements, resource constraints).

References:

IEA, World Energy Outlook, *Executive Summary*, 2011

IEA, World Energy Outlook, *Fact Sheet*, 2011

2.2. Linking Adaptation and Development

“Adaptation in a Context of Uncertainty”

Adapting to climate change is a major challenge for vulnerable populations worldwide: The World Bank estimates costs for developing countries to adapt to a 2°C warmer world from \$70 to \$100 billion (EEAC, 2009). Furthermore, uncertainty and lack of knowledge related to adaptation may hinder the effective protection of these populations. In order to adapt efficiently to climate change, best practices from successful projects need to be identified and shared.

Commitment:

We commit to contribute to an online database of successful adaptation projects, striving to connect similar needs and creative solutions between regions. In this regard, CliMates aims to foster decentralized collaboration between areas with similar challenges for climate change adaptation. CliMates' contribution could also focus on the relocation of vulnerable communities.

CliMates' support and contribution to the database would focus on local and regional scales rather than national scales, with an initial start in regions of the CliMates network. We aim to create a template for adaptation projects, in the way it was done for CliMates Country Profiles (CCP), which will list key vulnerabilities of areas, gather existing information from research organizations and NGOs, prioritize projects that insist on a link between adaptation and development, focus on specific solutions rather than broad, one-size-fits-all ideas, and insist on quality rather than quantity of research and projects.

“Integrating Adaptation Criteria in Project-Validation Procedures”

Even if we reduce our carbon emissions, we will experience inevitable climate change in the future. Today, adaptation is not an integral part of the project planning processes.

For instance, the Environmental Impact Analysis (IEA) method considers how projects influence the environment, but not how the environment affects projects.

In the context of climate change, the effect of the environment is likely to be a more unpredictable and consequential factor in project planning. Therefore, adaptation must be integrated into any long-term project plans and be put into practice at multiple levels: local, regional, national and international levels.

Recommendation:

We recommend to governments, local and community authorities to integrate mandatory adaptation and risk action-plan criteria in project-validation procedures, accompanied by credible ex post control mechanisms.

“Protection of the Victims of Climate Change”

According to the Geneva Convention on Refugees of 1951, persons displaced due to slow and sudden onset environmental disasters are not protected by international law. However, the number of environmentally displaced people is expected to rise to 200 million by 2050 (UNDP, 2007). This forecast urges us to create an international recognition of this new category of forced displacement and displaced persons.

Recommendation

We recommend creating an emergency status in international law to define a protection framework, similar to the refugee status given by the Geneva Convention on Refugees of 1951, for environmentally displaced persons.

This framework should focus on protecting victims of rising sea levels (particularly small islands’ inhabitants), floods, droughts, and any other type of extreme weather events.

References:

UNDP, 2007, Human Development Report 2007/2008: fighting climate change: human solidarity in a divided world.

2.3.Raising Awareness and Civil Society

“Public Perception of Climate Change”

Awareness about the urgency of, and the solutions to the climate crisis is insufficient. In 2008, after more than thirty years of climate research and communication from scientists on the issue, a third of the world’s population still had never heard about climate change. The global study revealed that awareness of global climate change was as low as 44% in Sub-Saharan Africa and as 53% in Asia, even though these regions are likely to suffer the worst consequences of climate change (Gallup, 2009). In big-emitter countries, though awareness levels are much higher, the risk today is that climate science is trapped between traditional political oppositions.

Recommendation:

We urge all relevant actors and partners to ensure that climate change ceases to be a “niche” issue that is only relevant to a mere fraction of the population.

Commitment:

We commit to contribute to the global “Earth Day” 2013 (April 22nd) by multiplying and synchronizing our actions on the ground.

Our general objective will be to create or reinforce partnerships with other relevant actors within the environmental and climate spheres, but also to make sure that climate change issues are adequately represented among the various messages spread during the event. For CliMates, the event will be an opportunity to fast track the development of its grassroots branch (“do”), in addition to its research activities (“think”).

It will also be the opportunity to disseminate our findings and recommendations in a creative manner, beyond our traditional audience, thus providing a tremendous recruiting opportunity. Propositions by members of the network have included artistic manifestations around the theme of climate change, a media campaign (publishing of op-eds, social media presence, communication video), presentations in schools or other local forums about climate issues, and many more.

References:

Pelham, Brett (22 Apr 2009). “Awareness, Opinions about Global Warming Vary Worldwide”. Gallup. Retrieved 22 Dec 2009.

“Climate Change Knowledge and Education”

CliMates affirms that meeting the climate challenge will require active involvement from all segments of society, including more than the scientific, policy making and lobbying actors. The world needs a new generation of climate-aware farmers, engineers, blue-collar workers, architects, economists, etc. at all stages of development. This will not happen unless a paradigm shift occurs within education. Too often today, schools and universities close their doors to talented individuals; unfortunately, they also close yet another door to environmental and climate issues, at best relegating them to a single, insulated course or department.

Recommendation:

Therefore, we urge primary, middle, high schools and universities to include courses on sustainability and climate change in their core requirements.

Commitment:

Before we continue advocating for a greater presence of climate issues in education, we recognize that as CliMates, we must take our climate education into our own hands. In the short term, this will require an enhanced promotion and organization of our research, so that it becomes as useful as possible to our member’s deepening of their knowledge on climate change issues, as well as that of our audience.

We will encourage our members to write short working papers about their specialty topics, compile our research in a clear and coherent catalogue, and create a common location for papers published by members outside their CliMates activity.

As our research and training activity develops in the coming years, we will strive to establish strategic partnerships with the academic world so that the educational quality of its work is recognized, and possibly that research work conducted for CliMates is sanctioned by universities as worthy of academic credit or other rewards for students.

3. International Cooperation on Climate Change

3.1. Attributing Responsibility and to Kyoto or not to Kyoto?

“Attributing Responsibility”

According to the IPCC, at the current growth rate of GHG emissions, both developing and developed countries have to contribute to emission mitigation efforts to stabilize global temperature increase below 2°C, and even below 1.5°C. Should Kenya with only 0.3 ton of CO₂ per capita a year make the same efforts as Australia with 18.6 tons per capita? Comparing mitigation efforts may then be necessary.

What would these factors be: population, emission per capita, GDP, historical responsibility, all of them, some of them? As IEA Chief Economist Fatih Birol stated in 2011: “*the door to a 2°C trajectory is about to close*”. In this context, increased ambition from developed, emerging and developing countries is highly required to avoid a global average temperature increase in line with 6°C by the end of the 21st century.

Commitment:

In order to keep average global temperature increase below 2°C, and even below 1.5°C, we commit to conduct research on innovative ways to involve all countries in a global mitigation effort, depending on both their historical and current responsibilities.

Burden-sharing criteria could be determined according to the size of the economy, historical responsibility, current responsibilities and capacities, right to sustainable development, and potential for clean energy generation.

“A Discounting Scheme for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Projects”

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is one of the flexibility mechanisms put in place by the Kyoto Protocol (KP) in 1997. The CDMs allow Annex I countries to offset their GHG emissions in non-Annex I countries by investing in mitigation projects. It must be noted that 90 % of Certified Emissions Reduction Units (CERUs) are invested in only five countries. As a consequence Least Developed Countries (LDCs), especially those in Africa, do not benefit from revenues provided by CDMs.

Recommendation:

In order to fairly balance the allocation of CDM investments, we recommend that the UNFCCC parties and secretariat create a discounting scheme to change the value of a carbon offset in the CDM. The scheme could be based on the number of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) or the type of project. The objective of the discounting scheme is to distribute more equally Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects among developing countries and continents.

Commitment:

We will conduct a literature review on the existing discounting scheme proposals and will study the feasibility and the possible implementation of this discounting scheme for CDMs.

3.2. Reshaping and Rethinking the Climate Negotiation Process

As a student and youth organization dedicated to solutions to climate change, a network connecting various academic backgrounds, CliMates is in a unique position to examine the climate negotiations process from an outside perspective. We have the ability to perceive the challenges and agenda setting of UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties in a different light, we aim to spread original approaches to climate change negotiations and the UNFCCC process.

During our discussions, we identified a series of pathways to contribute to reshaping the negotiation process and the way it is perceived and understood.

“Providing Analysis on non-Climate Related Elements in Societies that are however Relevant to Climate Policy”

Commitment:

We commit to conduct a research project of that will broaden our perspectives and shed light on the many ways society and climate change are intertwined. We commit to produce research and articles on non climate-related trends in society, politics, the economy, culture etc. and on how such trends could, when considered from a certain angle, be related to the issues discussed by climate negotiators and even influence the way they frame these issues.

“Looking Critically at the Continuity of COP Political Agenda Setting”

Commitment:

We commit to map and study international forums outside the UNFCCC stream so as to identify which ones have had, or may have, an influence on agenda-setting, the political context and/or issues framing for the COPs.

This project could serve to address the path dependency in the UNFCCC agenda-setting and to identify alternative ways of framing the debates. However, we believe that the process should be kept as inclusive as possible, and that the UNFCCC should thus remain the main arena for negotiations while being fed by other international forums and conferences.

Examples of such forums include the Major Economies Forum, the IPCC, other UN bodies (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity), World Water Forums, G8 and G20, the World People’s Forum etc.

“Assessing the participation of indigenous peoples in climate negotiations”

Commitment:

We recognize the importance of indigenous peoples’ participation and representation in UNFCCC negotiations. We commit to address this issue in depth by reviewing literature on the vulnerability of indigenous populations and conducting research on how to improve their inclusion in the climate negotiations. This research project will notably pay close attention to youth. CliMates also commits to extending its network to indigenous populations.

Signed by CliMates Members and Other Participants in the CliMates
International Summit 2012

Signed by non-CliMates Summit Participants, on an individual basis,
without engaging a position of their respective organization.