



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment



Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
Kenya

Date 28.5.2016

Honourable Ministers,

Paris marked a turning point in our common struggle against climate change. Parties to the UNFCCC came together, set aside their differences and agreed on a historic agreement that will guide us for decades to come.

We take this opportunity to thank all of our colleagues who made the success in Paris possible. Without your tireless efforts and support, the Paris Agreement would not have been possible.

Preparing for Paris, countries came up with promising Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). More countries than ever before have committed to more ambitious climate action, Kenya and Finland amongst others.

While these steps are truly encouraging, we all know they are not yet enough to limit global warming to our common goal of less than two degrees Celsius— let alone to reach the 1.5 degree target enshrined in the Paris Agreement. Much has been done, yet even more needs to be achieved.

To realize the goals of the INDCs as early as possible and to go even further we need North-South partnerships. Resources, both public and private, need to be mobilized on domestic and international national levels to support climate action.

After Paris, the focus now shifts on two areas. First, countries need to make good the promises they made to the world's citizens. We need to shift from pledges to implementation, rapidly scaling up climate action. Second, we need to explore how to move beyond the commitments made so far. If all countries went a little further both before and after 2020, the world could be able to bridge the emissions gap.

In UNEP's updated landmark Emission Gap Report, the gap was estimated to remain large, at around 14 gigatonnes in 2030, but also some significant potential in bridging the gap was found. Additionally, in the UNFCCC report, *Climate Action Now*, considerable potential to increase ambition in pre-2020 climate action via policies and measures already successfully implemented in various countries was highlighted.

Solutions already exist. For example, a group of international institutions from 11 countries released a study, *'Green to Scale'*, which looked at scaling up proven low-carbon solutions to comparable countries. The report shows that there are various affordable and attractive solutions for countries to choose from. Simply doing what some countries both in the global North and South have already done would take us a long way in bridging the emission gap.

The role of the forests is essential in both mitigation of and adaptation to the climate change. The longstanding partnership between Kenya and Finland in forestry is a good example of a successful North-South partnership. Together we have stopped deforestation and managed to increase forest area and growth of forests to protect biodiversity, provide renewable material for economic use and increase carbon sinks.

The reports and examples indicate that there are various proven solutions that can help countries meet their current INDCs and go beyond them. In addition to cutting climate emissions solutions would bring many additional benefits, such as reducing harmful air pollution and improving energy access. In addition, transition towards sustainable consumption and production patterns contribute significantly to the achievement of the climate targets and help our countries in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while tapping the potential in green growth. Resource efficiency as well as prevention and sound management of waste are essential components for sustainable future.

We all know what is at stake. Failure to limit emission rapidly would severely undermine our efforts to eradicate poverty and preserve ecosystem services. At the worst, it could even undermine stability and security.

The World's countries will need to do more, and we know they can do more. We look forward to working together with you so that we can all do our utmost to implement and go beyond our climate pledges.


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