

**Joint Ministerial Statement of the Green Group  
at the Climate Change Conference (COP25)  
2-13 December 2019**

Ten years ago six countries from different parts of the world – Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Iceland, Singapore, Slovenia and the United Arab Emirates – decided to come together and unite our efforts in the cause of promoting environmental issues in international relations. Our hopes were raised by the Paris Agreement in 2015; however, the commitments that were made there were not followed up by sufficient action. Rapid global environmental degradation and the increasingly debilitating effects of climate change, coupled with high population growth, call for "coalitions of the like-minded and the willing" such as the Green Group to raise awareness, share their good practices and lead by example.

This year's Climate Action Summit in New York gave the much needed impetus to governments, the private sector and the public to work together in enhancing our ambition and action in tackling climate change. The youth across the globe are holding us all to account. This COP25 is an opportunity to showcase our commitment and achievements.

In the last few decades great progress has been made in the transition to renewable energy sources and development of relevant technologies. Nevertheless, about 600 new coal plants are currently in the pipeline across the world. The members of the Green Group are committed to transitioning to renewables, accelerating technology transfer to developing and least developed countries, continuing our investments in energy efficiency and technological advancement, and spreading the fact that renewables are often cheaper than coal and fuel.

Water scarcity is one of the most dangerous effects of climate change. Climate resistant and integrated management of water resources must become part and parcel of government planning in each and every country. Members of the Green Group believe in the necessity of a special emphasis on the impact of climate change on water security, particularly in areas prone to conflict. Water should be transformed from a potential source of crisis into a potential instrument of cooperation and peace through concrete actions. The Group strongly supports convening of the UN High-Level Meeting on Water in 2021 and the long overdue UN Conference on Water in 2023.

Current patterns of production and consumption are fast exhausting the natural resources, degrading ecosystems and generating waste and pollution. Several planetary boundaries have already been crossed. Transitioning from a linear developmental patterns to a circular ones, corresponding to the circularity of mother nature, appears as the optimal way to preserve natural resources for future generations, accomplish the goals of the Paris Agreement, and achieve several of the Sustainable Development Goals. Members of the Green Group welcome the conclusions of the International Resource Panel (IRP), adopted at their meeting last month in Slovenia, which emphasized the need for immediate action to ensure long-term patterns of sustainable consumption and production. A socially fair transition to a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy is in the best interest of our and the future generations.

Climate action is undoubtedly an extremely complex and costly process, and if accompanied by the current levels of population growth also constantly mitigated. It is, however, doable; it demands an unprecedented inter- and cross-sectorial mobilization, a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach, continued technological advancements and a fundamental behavioral change.

The global warming and climate crisis we are facing today is – to quote the UN Secretary General Guterres – the defining issue of our time. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified a timeframe of ten years during which the "point of no return" might already occur. This is why addressing climate change and environmental challenges must take center stage of our collective actions. The Climate Action Summit in New York showed that climate multilateralism can work. We hope that ambitious actions and means of implementation aimed at mitigation and adaptation to climate change will be adopted at COP25. At the same time, we also use this opportunity to reiterate the collective commitment of members of the Green Group to continue raising awareness about the importance of these interconnected challenges and promoting international dialogue on environmental issues.

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