

## CITIZENS' UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

**CONSIDERING** that there are dangerously increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere (mainly due to large-scale industry, transportation and agriculture, and the melting permafrost) and that the average global temperature is rising [at an alarming rate and disrupting climate worldwide at an unprecedented rate,

**CONSIDERING** that scientific findings indicate that a **major climate crisis** is upon us and that we are heading straight for **disaster** in the short term, identified as **“abrupt and irreversible climate change”** threatening civilization and life as we know it,

**CONSIDERING** that the measures implemented by politicians to counter climate change poorly adapted to the current critical situation drawing dangerously close to a catastrophic chain of events,

**CONSIDERING** that the United Nations' Security Council has stated that climate change is becoming a greater threat to peace and security worldwide,

### WE, THE CITIZENS DECLARE THAT:

- We are facing a climate crisis and a **state of climate emergency**.
- Since future generations face greater risks, climate crisis has now become a major issue threatening security around the world in the following main areas on:

#### 1 - Economy

**BECAUSE** the climate crisis exposes world economies, societies and ecosystems to serious risks<sup>i</sup> likely to lead to the collapse of the global economy. →

##### Main Impacts

Drop in farming income; major drop in fishing productivity; rise in the number of invasive species in forestry and agriculture; decline in tourism in areas affected by extreme warming; sharp rise in food prices; rise in unemployment; drop in buying power; upsurge in healthcare costs; collapse of utilities; reduction in insurance coverage and rise in insurance costs; increase in inequality<sup>ii</sup>.

#### 2 - Human Health

**BECAUSE** human activities have serious impacts on climate and human health<sup>iii</sup> worldwide likely to severely harm world population. →

##### Main Impacts

Deterioration of the quality of air due to rising temperatures; migrations of insects, a source of infections and environmental deterioration; biological contamination of freshwater supplies; shortage of drinking water; rise in heart and respiratory diseases; higher rates of cancer, mortality and morbidity due to extreme heat waves; higher risks of pandemics.

#### 3 - Food Supply

**BECAUSE** climate change leads to critical malnutrition and famine issues endangering the lives of more than four billion human beings around the world, creates the conditions for massive migrations and threatens global food security<sup>iv</sup>. →

##### Main Impacts

Deterioration of 75% of soils around the world, dangerously threatening crop yields and farmland productivity; increase in violent precipitation and severe, persistent drought that destroy crops and significantly speed up the destruction of soils, resulting in a sharp decline in land food stocks worldwide; acidification of oceans, and affecting aquatic food stocks; widespread shortage of foods, destabilizing entire populations.

#### 4- Environment

**BECAUSE** scientists have reported, in the *Science* magazine of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, that “estimates reveal an exceptionally rapid loss of biodiversity over the last few centuries, indicating that a sixth mass extinction is already under way”,<sup>v</sup> and that this biological annihilation is caused primarily by the destruction of natural habitats and an increase in climate disruption due to human activities. →

#### Main Impacts

Destruction of 80% of the world’s forest cover, affecting one of the planet’s main carbon sinks; destruction of 83% of wild mammal populations; extinction of 90% of large ocean fish; dramatic rise in the rate of extinction: 100 to 1000 times higher than the natural rate; acidification of oceans, destroying the bases of marine food chains; higher number of dead zones in oceans; melting of the Arctic and Antarctic ice sheets, seriously disrupting ocean currents and affecting global temperatures in all the ecosystems.

#### 5 - National and International Security

**BECAUSE** the United Nations have stated that climate change is at the root of global security issues and has the potential to lead humanity into major worldwide conflicts. →

#### Main Impacts

Rise in sea levels, threatening the world’s largest coastal cities; destruction of human habitats, resulting in wars and massive migrations and destabilizing entire nations; shortage of food and freshwater resources, leading to civil and inter-ethnic wars, weakening democracies, and multiplying terrorist attacks.

#### IN VIEW OF THE AFOREMENTIONED, WE, THE CITIZENS, DECLARE THAT:

- Only by recognizing the **state of climate emergency** and implementing urgently needed energy transition plans can economic collapse, public health crises, worldwide food shortage, annihilation of biodiversity, and national and international security crises of unprecedented scope be countered.
- Because the United Nations recognize that climate change requires all countries in the world to shift, on an urgent basis, from fossil fuels to renewable energy<sup>vi</sup> and it is now too late for gradual transition, a state of climate emergency must be declared without delay. This involves applying all the solutions known to humanity to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions at once**. To do so, **each and every social, economic and energy conversion plan** recognized by the scientific community<sup>vii</sup> **must be implemented immediately** by pooling all the technical, social and institutional resources available. It is imperative for society to stop relying on fossil fuels and initiate an urgent shift to a carbon-neutral society without any further delay.

**TO AVOID ABRUPT AND IRREVERSIBLE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES,  
THE STATE OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY MUST BE RECOGNIZED HERE AND NOW.**

i Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

ii International Monetary Fund (IMF)

iii World Health Organization (WHO)

iv Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

v <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/1/5/e1400253>

vi United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

vii Drawdown Plan by Paul Hawken, Plan B 4.0 by Lester R. Brown, etc.

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