



WWF

POSITION  
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# G8/G20 Summits 2010

The United Nations climate change talks in Copenhagen brought together unprecedented participation of Heads of State and Government in an attempt to broker a global deal to address climate change. It is clear from the unsatisfactory outcome that much remains to be done if world leaders are to answer the call of the millions of people around the world who called for much higher levels of action than were seen in Copenhagen.

The G8 and G20 Summits in Canada in June 2010, and the second G20 Summit in South Korea in November 2010 represent major opportunities for global leaders to confirm their commitments to resolve the issues that prevented them reaching a deal in Copenhagen. These meetings of the world's leading economies must provide clear political signals of a willingness to regain the momentum towards concluding a comprehensive climate agreement.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) remains the central forum for international decision-making on climate change. Yet it is also necessary that other major forums such as the G8 and G20 are used to advance the global response to climate change. Such meetings can provide significant and much-needed impetus to the UNFCCC process, particularly on signalling the transition to a low carbon economy, and on climate change financing that will allow the next UNFCCC meetings to move with greater efficiency and effectiveness. The G8 in particular offers an opportunity for developed countries to demonstrate an acceptance of their responsibilities as industrialized countries for taking decisive and ambitious action on climate change, in order to build trust among developing countries in their commitment to pursue a broader climate agreement through the UN negotiations.

WWF advocates the necessity of pursuing climate finance and low-carbon economy issues in a way that can be leveraged positively by the UNFCCC process. WWF asks that Canada and South Korea show leadership as host countries, and put climate change – and specifically the climate-resilient low-carbon economy and finance for climate change mitigation and adaptation – as high priorities on the G8 and G20 agendas.

# CORE ASKS OF G8 AND G20 MEMBER STATES

## ClimateChange Ambition

The G8 and G20 must reaffirm their commitment, made at the 2009 G8 Summit and in Copenhagen, to limit global temperature rise to 2°C, and should at the same time acknowledge that the survival of small island developing states and other vulnerable countries will require a strengthening of this long-term goal to 1.5°C. At the same time, the G8 and G20 should acknowledge that the current commitments listed in the Copenhagen Accord do not add up to the stated 2°C ambition, but rather set the world on a 3-4°C trajectory. In order to address the gap between ambition and projected reality, developed countries therefore need to significantly increase their commitments to reduce their emissions.

### WWF Asks:

1. Climate change must feature prominently on both the G8 and G20 agendas.
2. G20 countries should reaffirm the commitment in the Copenhagen Accord to limiting warming to 2°C, whilst underlining that temperature rise will have to be limited to 1.5°C as soon as possible.
3. Developed countries must commit to close the gap between current emission pledges and 2°C committed to by the G8 and in Copenhagen:

### Indicators:

- The G8 communiqué should include a commitment by industrialized countries to reduce emissions by 25-40% below 1990 levels by 2020, and at least 80%-95% by 2050.
- Acknowledgement that the mitigation pledges by governments are insufficient to limit global warming below dangerous limits and that this should be addressed under the UNFCCC.
- Reaffirm their commitment, made at the 2009 G8 Summit and in Copenhagen, to limit global temperature rise to 2°C, and acknowledgement that the survival of small island developing states and other vulnerable countries will require a strengthening of this long-term goal to 1.5°C.

## Low Carbon Economy

In the interests of sustaining the global economic recovery, and stimulating job creation, the G8 and the G20 must make clear references to the need to transition towards a low-carbon economy. They must also agree to begin a process of developing detailed plans mapping out transformative policies for emissions reduction trajectories through to 2050, in order to demonstrate seriousness in taking action to tackle climate change while providing for just economic development.

### WWF Asks:

1. G8 and G20 countries should commit to develop ambitious “Zero Carbon Action Plans” (industrialized countries) or “Low Carbon Action Plans” (developing countries) mapping out transformative policies for emission trajectories through to 2050.
2. G20 countries should produce a plan and time-line for phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies as agreed at the Pittsburgh G20 Summit in 2009, and explore ways of redirecting these subsidies to renewable energy solutions for economic development and ending energy poverty.

### Indicators:

- G8 and G20 communiqués include language committing to submit plans that fit the concept of Low/Zero Carbon Action Plans within the UNFCCC process, outlining economy-wide emissions reductions pathways consistent with the scientific imperative of limiting global temperature rise to 2°C/1.5°C
- G20 countries submit plans and time-lines for phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

## Climate Finance and Fossil Fuel Subsidies

The Copenhagen Accord contains a commitment by developed countries “to provide new and additional resources, including forestry and investments through international institutions, approaching USD 30 billion for the period 2010–2012 with balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation.” G8 countries must demonstrate how they will fulfil this initial pledge at the G8 2010 summit, including by ensuring that the urgent adaptation needs identified by the Least Developed Countries are fully met. These resources must be additional to G8 countries’ Official Development Assistance (ODA) obligations. The G20 summits in Canada and Korea can also help to lay the foundation for an adequate and equitable post-2012 global climate fund.

In Copenhagen key governments set a goal of mobilizing USD 100 billion a year by 2020 from innovative sources to support climate action in developing countries and subsequently a High Level Panel on innovative finance sources has been created, the Advisory Group on Climate Finance (AGF). Public funding needs to leverage additional private investment, and it should also be noted that the level of funding currently discussed is considered inadequate by many NGOs as well as by economic commentators such as Lord Nicholas Stern. In his initial submission to the UN’s Advisory Group on Climate Finance, of which he is a member, Stern considered that funding of USD 200 billion per year would be a more accurate figure to meet the scale of needs.

Promising innovative sources of finance could include a bank tax, financial transaction tax, raising finance from the aviation and/or maritime sector, the shifting of fossil fuel subsidies, special drawing rights (as proposed by the International Monetary Fund), auctioning of assigned amount units or allowances in cap and trade systems, and a carbon tax. In times of budget deficits and government spending cuts, these innovative sources of financing provide the only way to create a reasonable degree of security that the necessary levels of funding could be made available from developed countries. Further, this is the most obvious way to ensure that the funding additional to Official Development Assistance (ODA), so that funds for climate financing are not taken from what has already been promised to the world’s poorest people.

Developed countries should take these actions first in accordance with the common but differentiated responsibilities agreed in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The issue of fossil fuel subsidies is already on the G20 agenda following the decision at the Pittsburgh meeting for G20 countries to report at the 2010 Summit on plans and time-lines to phase out fossil fuel subsidies. This is the only tangible commitment of direct relevance to climate change and the low carbon economy that has been made in the G20 forum, and it must remain prominently on the agenda.

The phase-out plans and time-lines must include an accounting of production as well as consumption subsidies, and should recommend that fossil fuel subsidies are phased out in accordance with the common but differentiated responsibilities agreed in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In many cases subsidies should be re-directed to renewable energy and energy efficiency in order to enable the shift to a low-carbon development and to secure and maintain access to energy for the poor.

### WWF Asks:

1. Developed countries to confirm sufficient sources of funding for fast-track financing adding up to 30 billion USD 2010-12
2. Confirm commitment to complete decisions on sourcing and structure of committed climate financing at COP 16 in Mexico.
3. Identify innovative sources of financing to feed into the UNFCCC process (which will determine issues of governance) by COP 16.

### Indicators:

- Developed countries to each announce their fair share of short-term climate financing prior to the G8 Summit.
- Include reference to addressing short- and long-term climate financing commitments in final communiqués of G8 and both G20 Summits.
- Inclusion of “will resolve sourcing and structure of climate funding by COP16” in final G20 communiqué.

## Civil Society Engagement

The G8 has a tradition of engaging with civil society through dialogues, pre-summit forums, and by granting media accreditation to allow access to members of the press during summits. In order to ensure transparency and scrutiny of its procedures and decisions, WWF expects that the G20 will follow this tradition as it becomes the major forum for economic discussions.

### WWF Asks:

1. Engagement with civil society through hosting G8 and G20 Civil Society Dialogues and granting full-access media accreditation during the G8 and G20 Summits.

## Accountability

A G8 senior-level working group on accountability exists as an outcome of the 2009 G8 communiqué. Its responsibility is to develop compliance reports to be submitted to the 2010 G8 Summit. WWF anticipates that one of these reports will cover the compliance of G8 countries with their past climate change commitments and develop the same system of accountability for the G20 Summit.

WWF expects this accountability report to be added to the collection of planned reports, and would like to encourage this same system of accountability to be extended to the G20 Summit.

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#### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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