

*A healthy planet*



*For future generations*

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## **NGO Committee on Sustainable Development VIENNA**

### **COP 25 Madrid, Spain**

Statement of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development in Vienna

The past twenty-five years since the Conference of the Parties (COP) met for the first time in Berlin have irrefutably proven that climate change is not a phenomenon limited solely to certain parts of the world. It is ubiquitous and has an impact on all geographical regions, North and South alike, bringing disasters and catastrophes in its wake and necessitating profound changes in lifestyles across the globe.

International, continental and regional cooperation within the framework of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNCCC) is of paramount importance. Drawing on the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), steps must be taken to solve the problems of population growth, combat the scarcity of food, eradicate poverty and introduce appropriate training and education programmes, thus paving the way towards sustainable development.

Given the magnitude of the climate-related problems besetting the world, the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the United Nations (CoNGO) urges that civil society be actively involved in the implementation of all programmes and actions designed to meet the challenges of securing global sustainability.

On behalf of CoNGO, we urge those Member States signatory to the UNCCC and all future signatories to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement by taking binding decisions on:

- Ensuring the full transparency of all programmes for the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change and the pursuit of open and accountable policies that are acceptable to society – and hence effective;
- Involving the general public, in particular NGOs, in drafting, planning, implementing and monitoring the actions agreed upon;
- Ensuring the compatibility and comparability of the outcomes of those actions;



- Maintaining consistency of programmes and action plans based solely on scientifically substantiated changes;
- Reviewing – on a regular basis and with full participation of representatives of all strata of society – the mechanisms used to apply research findings and underpin societal change; and
- Promoting close cooperation with neighbouring countries and regions in the fields of transport/traffic infrastructure, land use, river management, agriculture and transboundary pollution.