

52nd Meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

24-28 February, Paris France

Friends World Committee on Climate Change – Quaker United Nations Office

Intervention 1:

Being the first time we take the floor, we wish to thank the people of France, UNESCO, and the IPCC for this session. And on the death of former IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri, to give thanks for his life, and the years he devoted to IPCC work.

I speak as a member of civil society. The Special Report on global warming of 1.5C states that, to quote: 'Civil society is to a great extent the only reliable motor for driving institutions to change at the pace required'. IPCC reports have had a profound influence on a worldwide awakening to the urgency before us. The participation of citizens in, and their support for government policy, is essential for humanity's chance to avoid global catastrophic climate change.

For Section 2 but also for Sections 3 and 4, we encourage integration of the following priorities, both to strengthen citizens' support for government climate policy, and to help citizens identify ways that they, in their individual lives, can contribute to a healthier world. Specifically:

- *Consistent and simple language throughout on urgency of action, and what will be lost by insufficient action, as was clearly outlined for example in the SR1.5C, including tipping points;*
- *Clear description as well on the benefits of urgent climate action;*
- *A definition of COST that reflects not only finance, but to also the cost to life, health, species extinction, eco-system, and territory loss – costs reflected in what we term non economic losses and Loss and Damage;*
- *The inclusion of human rights, and the positive role of rights-based approaches to create effective and fair climate action;*
- *And finally, clear information on the contribution of sustainable behavior, sustainable consumption, and sustainable economic systems to both mitigation and adaptation, so that citizens see how they can be part of a healthy transformation away from those human activities feeding global catastrophic climate change and other environmental crises.*

Thank you

Intervention 2:

We thank you for this Section outline. As we know from recent IPCC findings, urgent near term action is essential to stabilize temperature rise at 1.5C above preindustrial levels. Pursuing this target would avoid profound loss to human life and livelihoods, species extinction, and eco-system collapse. It is our responsibility to act – to protect our countries, our citizens, and all future generations.

Our points concern bullet point 6. We welcome research on the mitigation and adaptation potential of ‘behavior change’. Recent IPCC findings have already been phenomenal – for example, the SR 1.5C stated that up to 1/5th of emissions for an under 2C target could come from diet change. 1/5th of emissions.

We also hope that IPCC authors collate sufficient research on ‘sustainable economic systems’, as most existing economic systems are based on unlimited use of natural resources, on a planet with limited natural resources.

Finally, in this 6th bullet point, we strongly encourage the inclusion of ‘public participation’.

Without this, people/citizens, appear absent in Section 4.

Inclusion of public participation, alongside ‘just transition’, human rights, gender, food security, indigenous peoples, and biodiversity – points many States have already named - are known as ‘rights-based approaches’.

Integration of rights-based approaches in climate policy is proven to promote policy coherence, policy legitimacy and sustainable policy outcomes.

The IPCC has stated that ‘Civil society is to a great extent the only reliable motor for driving institutions to change at the pace required’. Rights-based approaches, including public participation, will help build citizens’ support in this journey to avoid global catastrophic climate change.

Intervention 3:

We wish to reiterate what the EU has said, specifically, how important is inclusion of clear mitigation pathways, especially pathways that are the healthiest, without overshoot and geo-engineering, as with the P1 pathway in the SR1.5C. Finally, we hear a call to remove the word ‘ethics’. We hope that this is not something many would support. Ethics is the core of what is happening, this is a moral call to conscience for urgent climate action.

Intervention 4:

I would like to thank Jonathan for his work, and to follow up on the comment from our Indian colleague, about giving this information to the masses. The increased collation by the IPCC research on behavior change/individual consumption/ sustainable economic systems has been incredibly helpful. When we get information out to communities in high emitting communities about what they can do in their lives, when it is backed by IPCC research it is incredibly helpful. We encourage you to continue with increased collation of research on these areas so that people see how they help by making changes in their lives.