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### **Time for Action - Climate Justice now!**

Nations worldwide agreed to keep global temperatures to below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrialized levels to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate through the Paris Agreement, adopted in the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at its 21st Session in Paris, France in 2015.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released in 2018, their “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C”, that concluded that: *“human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels”* and that such target can be achieved only through global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from human sources of 40 to 60 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, and net-zero global emissions by 2050, through *“rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure, and industrial systems.”*<sup>1</sup>

Secretary-General António Guterres in his address to the UN General Assembly in 2018 said: *“Climate change is moving faster than we are.”*<sup>2</sup> The unprecedented global warming has already led to the rise in sea

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H. O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. In Press.

<sup>2</sup> CLIMATE ACTION NOW, Summary for Policymakers UNFCCC 2018

levels and a marked increase in extreme weather events – from Super typhoons, droughts, melting of glaciers, wildfires, and subsequent damage to human lives, infrastructure and ecosystems.

In the past three decades, global warming has continued unabated, with some reports of acceleration in sea-level rise. Emissions of greenhouse gases due to human activities, the root cause of global warming, continue to increase, year after year. If it continues to increase at the current rate, global warming will likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052.

Progressive Alliance underscores that the current climate crisis is the result of unhampered capitalism and neo-liberalism: the commodification of the environment for the sake of growth and profit of a few. Overconsumption and unsustainable levels of production and fossil fuel extraction has caused far-reaching and devastating impacts on the environment.

Progressive Alliance laments how climate change further deepens the inequalities and injustices of the neo-liberal system, disproportionately exposing vulnerable groups, especially those who least contributed to greenhouse gas emissions, to various threats in terms of their “health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth”. These include indigenous peoples, migrant communities, rural and coastal communities, low-income worker, poor households, citizens of developing nations and underprivileged racial communities, youth and in particular women’s security and safety.

Progressive Alliance echoes the need for an immediate global and multi-lateral response to the climate crisis that is committed to changing the exploitative system that the neo-liberal economy currently champions, in favor of a more socially and environmentally just solution.

Progressive Alliance calls on all governments, political parties, national and international bodies to put on top of the agenda the climate crisis,



and immediately put in place measures towards net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases by the year 2050.

Progressive Alliance calls on all stakeholders to address the impending climate crisis both as a sustainable development issue, and as a function of inequality and poverty eradication; to alternate systems of production, such as circular economies that ensures reuse and/or prevention of industrial wastes; a fair and just energy transition towards 100 percent renewable energy; and, building resilient communities and facilitating mitigation and adaptation planning for most vulnerable groups and ecosystems. Climate Justice and a fair Transition need a policy change in agriculture, manufacturing, transports, urban development and access to public services.

Progressive Alliance calls for global and multilateral climate action and international solidarity, underscoring international cooperation as a critical factor in achieving climate and environmental justice in between developed and developing nations/regions and communities. This includes strengthening capacities and commitments of national, subnational governments, civil society, the business sector and vulnerable communities and their empowering.

In view of the upcoming Climate Summit (COP 25) the Progressive Alliance calls for collective global action. The Progressive Alliance expects the parties of the treaty of the UNFCCC to resolve all outstanding issues of the Paris Agreement, to be more ambitious in national climate actions and to provide sufficient resources for the most vulnerable countries. Concretely, we demand

- to take more responsibility and increase national commitments in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – first and foremost the greatest CO2 emitters need to be more ambitious.
- to complete the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damages (Article 8 of the Paris Agreement) and to establish a clear mandate combined with a financing procedure.
- to carefully introduce rules for a market mechanism on carbon trading (Article 6 of the Paris Agreement), which boosts financial sources and curbs negative unintended side-effects.



- to provide urgently needed financial and other resources for the most vulnerable countries to adapt to climate change.
- to reiterate solidarity and unequivocal support for poor countries, which have not contributed to climate change, but are suffering the most from its consequences.
- to shift the economic model from fossil-dependent to carbon-neutral while acknowledging the need of a Just Transition.
- to finally make fruitful use of insights provided by science and IPCC reports to fight global warming.
- to take up the concerns of international movements and civil society and indulge in a more results-oriented dialogue – especially with the young generation.

**All hands on deck, it is time for action, climate justice now!**