



The Durban Vision
Statement:

Global Sustainability
in a Changing Climate

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3rd
Nobel Laureate Symposium
on Global Sustainability
Transforming the World in an Era of Global Change

The Durban Vision Statement:

Global Sustainability in a Changing Climate

Joint statement by the Stockholm Environment Institute, the Stockholm Resilience Centre, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and The Energy and Resources Institute.

“The level of ambition on climate change should meet the demands of science.”

President Jacob Zuma, Co-Chair of the UN Secretary General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability at COP17, 2011

“We are the first generation facing the evidence of global change. It therefore falls upon us to change our relationship with the planet, in order to tip the scales towards a sustainable world for future generations.”

From *The Stockholm Memorandum*, 2011

Based on the conclusions of the Nobel Laureate Symposium series and in support of *The Stockholm Memorandum*, the High-level Dialogue and Adaptation Round Table: Global Sustainability in a Changing Climate, calls on world leaders to adopt a new mindset to listen to the voice of science and knowledge and address the unavoidable interconnections between global sustainability, poverty eradication, social justice and economic development in an environmentally constrained world.

- Global sustainability is a prerequisite to avoid a human-induced temperature rise of more than 2C, and for societies to be able to adapt to unavoidable climate change. Planetary stewardship of land-based and marine ecosystems is needed alongside aggressive cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Achieving global sustainability requires an unprecedented transformation of industry, energy systems, agriculture, and all other sectors of society, to allow the world to stay within the safe operating space of planetary boundaries. One of the first steps should be to deliver the G-20 commitment to phase out fossil fuel subsidies.
- The international community must work together to share the effort of this global transition on the basis of equity. The major investments required by this profound transformation should be borne in accordance with ethical principles of responsibility and capacity.
- The climate challenge is vitally connected to global sustainability and development – one cannot be solved without the other.
- Climate solutions must go hand-in-hand with efforts to address other social and environmental challenges.
- Given that science shows that humanity is very likely to be committed to 2C warming, climate change must be tackled fast, to grasp development opportunities.
- Three areas are particularly urgent, namely a global transition to sustainable energy systems, a global transition to sustainable land use and food production, and investments in sustainable city development.
- Strengthened global governance, including closer integration of the Rio Conventions on climate change, biodiversity and desertification and the process for meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals, is urgently required and should be a key priority for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio+20).
- The international community must do its utmost to support efforts for adaptation and disaster prevention, particularly in low-income countries, to offset the negative effects of unavoidable climate change. We need to see a rapid ramp-up of investments and support to climate adaptation efforts across the world.
- The climate challenge becomes more manageable by undertaking reductions in CO2 emissions simultaneously with reductions in emissions of short-lived climate forcers, such as soot and methane. Reducing these emissions will have a tangible effect on climate change within 10 to 30 years, and will be essential to keep to the 2C goal. The actions required will also deliver benefits for public health, crop yields and economic development.
- The transition to global sustainability should be guided by scientifically based Sustainable Development Goals, which should include a global regime for climate change.

“Will those responsible for decisions in the field of climate change at the global level listen to the voice of science and knowledge, which is now loud and clear?”

Dr Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Nobel Lecture 2007