

Statement of the RINGOs, Research and Independent NGOs
COP 21 - Paris, France
Delivered by Yves Marignac, négaWatt Association

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Ministers, negotiators, observers,

C'est avec une grande fierté et un réel espoir que je m'adresse à vous dans ma belle ville de Paris.
[It is with great pride and real hope that I'm speaking to you, here, in my beautiful city of Paris]

We, researchers, practitioners, educators, and experts of the Research and Independent NGOs, offer knowledge and expertise to help respond to the urgent need for coordinated action. We understand the challenge of reaching a global long-term agreement on climate change; that the world needs to build a clear pathway to the decarbonisation of the economy through effective, fair and sustainable options.

Our constituency welcomes the political will and appreciation of scientific evidence expressed by party Leaders. We also welcome the growing commitment of businesses and local authorities to achieve ambitious targets such as 100% renewables.

Nationally determined contributions from the parties are fundamental for limiting warming to 2 degrees or less, but are still insufficient. Periodic review and more ambitious targets will be needed; independent, science-based evidence and expertise will be essential to inform and support policymakers, implement adequate governance, analyse success *and* failure and share best practices both in terms of mitigation and adaptation.

Involvement of civil society at all levels is crucial to achieve the required transition towards sustainable consumption and production, notably to develop access to intelligent energy services for all, including the poorest. Sciences will be key to design, implement and evaluate mitigation and adaptation technologies and solutions that could contribute to that goal. Social sciences and humanities must be mobilised to address the organisation and behaviour changes needed to achieve the transition we all want and to protect the more vulnerable.

Monitoring and evaluation will be essential in securing success. Researchers around the world are keen on sharing information and contributing to improve accountable, comparable and transparent efforts.

Many communities are already facing impacts and suffering increasing stressors, risks and threats. RINGO members who explore the natural and human system responses to climate change and their interaction can contribute to scientifically sound and equitable programs to meet the needs of vulnerable communities.

To support implementation of the Paris Agreement, the full breadth of human talent and invention will need to be deployed. This will require a sustained commitment to research, development, education, public engagement, and capacity building. We are eager to collaborate with all other constituencies and engage at all required levels.

We want to conclude on a note of confidence. When you face obstacles and have doubts about a fair, ambitious and binding agreement, remember that pluralistic research and expertise are key resources, which you can rely on. Integrating this into open decision-making processes will help to meet the level of ambition that this agreement must set for the world.

Thank you for your attention.

Vive la fraternité, vive la Terre !