

Statement on Behalf of the Research and Independent NGO Constituency
COP 28 High Level Statements
9 December 2023

Thank you Chair, for the opportunity to speak at this high-level segment. I am speaking today on behalf of the Research and Independent NGOs.

For years, our research community has worked tirelessly to provide scientific findings and policy guidance in support of these proceedings. A rich and vast body of knowledge and practice grounds our dedication to continued participation, and we believe in our unified ability to achieve appropriate decisions based on sound science. We urge parties to consider how mitigation goals, in particular with respect to fossil fuels, align with IPCC AR6, and in the race to 1.5.

As RINGOs we see a continued need to break down disciplinary silos, to work across sectors, and to put together a coordinated response across land, freshwater, coasts and the ocean that aligns international policy with the natural world – inclusive of, and not separate from humans. As we manifest cross-sectoral communities of action we encourage parties to consider and use interdisciplinary knowledge based on a systems-based framework of understanding socio-ecological complexities. This can then be the basis for holistic governance that will realize the full suite of benefits that come from healthy ecosystems across the land-water-ocean continuum.

The time is past for positional negotiating. Now, we need to act as one global community for our collective well-being. We understand that consensus decision-making is complicated, and often progresses only to the level deemed acceptable by the parties least interested in reform. Nonetheless, there is a need for all countries to contribute to making the world a sustainable place.

In conclusion, we assert that there is no research to be done on a dead planet. We have the opportunity now to make changes that will alter the course of the world. We are here as a diverse research community to support you, and offer our capacity in light of our mutual interest in negotiating a just, fair, and equitable outcome.

Thank you.

