

# THE NGO CLIMATE COMPACT 2.0

## Renewed Commitments in the Face of Compounding Crises

The “NGO Climate Compact 2.0: Renewed Commitments in the Face of Compounding Crises” represents a renewed pledge by the InterAction community—the largest alliance of U.S.-based international NGOs—to continue our work addressing climate change.

Consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), U.N. Paris Agreement on Climate Change, U.N. Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, U.S. Global Change Research Program recommendations, and calls by the broader public movement on climate action and justice, this renewed compact is our promise to continue advancing the global agenda to alleviate the effects of climate change on people with the least power and fewest resources while transitioning to a low-carbon future.

In 2020, the original NGO Climate Compact was a call to action by and for international NGOs. Nearly 100 organizations answered the call and committed to using their voice and resources to drive change. We knew the urgency and importance of this work then, but in the three years that have passed since its launch, the increased frequency and severity of climate-induced disasters, as well as their compounding impacts on other global crises, has only heightened the urgency for concerted climate action. The purpose of the NGO Climate Compact 2.0 is to update our collective statement about the direction we need to go to address climate change and to strengthen commitments within three key pillars: (1) external education and advocacy, (2) programs, and (3) internal operations. Additionally, we will incorporate commitments to internal learning and communications throughout these pillars in a cross-cutting way.

This second iteration of the compact is a renewal of our initial commitments with additional guidance around more concrete and robust organizational actions to address climate change. To keep up with the rate of change needed, our signatories will continue reporting annually to InterAction on steps taken to implement the Compact’s actions. We will review these commitments at the end of 2025 in order to continue advancing this agenda. This approach allows for a flexible, phased implementation at the organizational level, taking local context and operational realities into consideration.

**We, the CEOs of InterAction Member NGOs, acknowledge the following principles:**

- ▶ As indicated by the long-standing scientific study of our planet’s climate system—verified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC](#)) and broad consensus among leading scientific experts from around the world—**measurable changes in the Earth’s climate are both unprecedented in recent human history and are a result of human behavior**, including but not limited to the burning of fossil fuels and the clearing of land and biodiversity for energy generation, agriculture, heavy industry, and related activities.
- ▶ **The people with the fewest resources and power globally are the ones that have contributed the least to the climate crisis but are disproportionately bearing its burden. If left unsupported, they will continue to do so.** The intensity, unpredictability, and frequency of extreme weather events, which are



growing as a result of climate change, act as a threat multiplier for issues including forced displacement and migration, disruptions in food systems and livelihoods, insidious pandemics, political violence, and armed conflict. Additionally, the people that have been made the most vulnerable are the first and hardest hit, though they are also the least responsible for the problem at hand. The effects of climate change on fragility are already more widespread and severe than expected and will continue to play out according to existing, unequal distributions of power and resources unless concerted actions, guided by systems thinking that incorporates conflict and governance dynamics, are taken. We recognize that women and girls experience elevated exposure to climate change risks, suggesting that our efforts must also be gender aware.

- ▶ **We must move faster and take bolder action than we ever have before.** With 2030 as the target for our Global Goals, **we must make unprecedented changes over the next seven years** to help hold the Earth's average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). According to the [IPCC](#), global average temperatures have already reached 1.1 C (2 F) and, in some parts of the world, the Earth's temperature has already warmed by more than 2 C (3.6 F). Their latest report indicates that, at the current rate, it is likely that we will exceed 1.5 C before 2040. An increase in the average global temperature of 2 C or above will have catastrophic results. The IPCC predicts that such an increase will lead to approximately 1.15 billion people across the world's drylands experiencing water stress, heat stress, and desertification, while the percentage of the population exposed to severe flooding will increase by 30%.
- ▶ **Climate change is directly affecting the work of our organizations across all specializations within the development and humanitarian field.** It is also affecting the networks of partners, private sector businesses, donors, staff, and communities that enable these efforts. With a vast presence in developing and crisis-affected countries, our organizations are already experiencing the consequences of climate change and are grappling with its growing humanitarian impacts. In response, we must act together. Addressing climate change requires cross-sectoral and collective action by all organizations focused on improving human wellbeing and rights.
- ▶ Not only is climate change presently affecting the communities that NGOs serve, but it also **threatens previous gains in human development and poverty eradication.**
- ▶ **Climate change has already resulted in such severe impacts that, in some cases, we cannot adapt to them, leading to climate-induced losses and damages.** For some communities, these impacts are having devastating and irreversible consequences. We must act to, where possible, mitigate and address loss and damage in these communities that have been made vulnerable, as well as advocate for adequate, predictable, and accessible funding and technical support for communities experiencing climate-induced loss and damage.
- ▶ **Protecting and regenerating biodiversity are critical** to decelerating climate change, mitigating its effects on life, and helping affected communities adapt to their new reality.

- ▶ We have a responsibility to use our voice, power, and moral authority to educate others and call for the dramatic decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate the harm to communities with which we work, support communities to harness and expand their resilience and adaptive capacity, and influence others to do the same. We also have a distinct obligation to pass on a healthier planet to future generations who will inherit it. The future success and reputation of the international development and humanitarian community depends on our collective ability to do so.
- ▶ Iterative learning is crucial to collectively tackle a problem of this size, scope, and urgency. We are committed to decisive action while learning alongside the people we serve, peers, and partners. The problem is too urgent and vital, and diverse solutions are needed for the variety of ways in which contexts are being impacted.
- ▶ To align with the Paris Agreement’s goal of limiting the average global temperature increase to 1.5 C (2.7 F), and to credibly and effectively convince others to follow, **our organizations must accelerate change on multiple fronts immediately, regardless of where we are in our development on this issue.**

We, the undersigned, commit to taking the following actions by the end of 2025:

*External Education and Advocacy:*

- ▶ Improve understanding of issues related to international climate justice—including just transitions across all sectors, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and climate-induced loss and damage) among government policy makers by participating in InterAction-led climate advocacy opportunities.
- ▶ Engage with members of Congress and the U.S. Administration to advocate for robust, adequate, transparent, predictable, and accessible international climate funding that benefits the communities already being impacted or predicted to be impacted by climate change.
- ▶ Strategically work to make climate change adaptation and resilience public policy priorities within relevant areas of influence locally, nationally, and internationally, and through bilateral and multilateral fora. Emphasize the cross-sectoral coordination needed in all development and humanitarian public policy discussions.
- ▶ Ensure that policy decisions related to mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and climate justice not only consider the voices of women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, older people, people from other marginalized groups, and local institutions, but also that policy changes are led by these communities and institutions on the frontlines of these crises.

*Programs:*

- ▶ Through our work, ensure that the long-term resilience and adaptation of affected communities is central in the decision-making process at all stages of program cycles. When applicable, create mechanisms to

encourage and support marginalized groups to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation and resilience decisions.

- ▶ Strengthen our organizations' technical expertise in existing approaches, tools, and processes to run climate-smart, environmentally sustainable programs that center local and indigenous knowledge. When applicable, hire new staff or allocate adequate paid staff time to work on climate and environmental strategic direction.
- ▶ Consistently incorporate climate risks and environmental considerations into all stages of programs to reduce emissions and environmental degradation. When applicable, develop, monitor, and enforce environmental risk management plans or climate mainstreaming guides.
- ▶ Work closely and strengthen partnerships with local stakeholders to ensure that members of those communities—especially women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalized groups—are informing, driving, and benefitting from the process. When applicable, work with local stakeholders to create analysis approaches to understand any barriers to accessing and informing such processes.

#### *Internal Operations:*

- ▶ Evaluate current budgets and resources to ensure necessary resources are available to conduct internal climate and environmental work.
- ▶ Assess the major categories and sources of greenhouse gas emissions, water usage, and waste across our organization's footprint; conduct a baseline study of those aspects using the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol or other widely recognized industry standards.
- ▶ Based on that assessment, develop GHG emissions and waste reduction plans with actionable goals and begin implementing and monitoring progress.
- ▶ Engage our Board of Directors in an evaluation of our organization's relationships (e.g., board members, institutional investments, etc.) to the fossil fuel industry and other industries that generate large-scale negative impacts on the environment (e.g., deforestation, pollution).

#### *Cross-cutting Commitment Area: Internal Learning and Communications:*

- ▶ Engage internally to ensure ownership and familiarization with the NGO Climate Compact across the whole organization.
- ▶ Improve understanding among our constituents, donors, vendors, corporate partners, and staff of the challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, and biodiversity loss, and how they connect to development and humanitarian issues.

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- ▶ Learn about and debate (both within our organization and across our coalition) new approaches, tools, and processes in international development and humanitarian work to address climate change, environmental degradation, and their impacts on people and inter-group relationships.
  - ▶ Participate annually in a collective progress-monitoring survey to measure coalition-wide advances across the set of commitments above.