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Brazilian Business Council
for Sustainable Development



CLIMATE DEFENSE ACTION COMPACT

Scientific evidence on the consequences of global warming has become irrefutable after the publishing of the 4th Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

There is consensus that society must be mobilized - at all levels and all over the world - to stop global warming in order to ensure that the increase of the average surface temperature of the Earth is no higher than 2° C. If effective measures are not urgently adopted, hurricanes, droughts, floods and damages to ecosystems and biodiversity will increase, endangering natural resources, businesses and our very own survival.

In response to the dramatic challenge of preserving the environmental health of the planet while ensuring economic growth, guided by the concern for sustainable development and poverty elimination, civil society organizations and the business community propose the formation of a Climate Defense Action Compact.

The Compact aims to promote the adoption by Brazil, in the short term, of actions that while they ensure the continuity of economic development, can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere.

These actions must include the acknowledgement of the value of a clean energy supply mix, incentives for technological innovation, introduction of more sustainable consumption patterns and the creation of political, legal and economic mechanisms that, through a transparent and participatory process, allow the establishment of a pro-active and constructive agenda in Brazil.

In global terms, the challenge is to strengthen the global climate change regime, the Kyoto Protocol, and to fight to prevent the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere from increasing beyond dangerous thresholds. To do so, industrialized countries will have to reduce their emissions levels in the short term. Developing countries should seek sustainable alternatives for growth, observing the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Brazil is privileged in already having a relatively clean energy generation mix, unlike most other countries that, to meet their energy demands, widely use fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas), deemed to be the agents most responsible, globally, for increasing CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere.

Even so, Brazil is the planet's fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases. About 75% of our emissions come from changes in the use and occupation of land, farming and, essentially, deforestation in the Amazon. Far more intense mobilization than seen today is required to respond to the challenge and to change this sad scenario within the needed timeframe.





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Therefore, the Climate Defense Action Compact proposes the participation of the entire Brazilian society – governments, businesses and civil entities - in combating global warming, by implementing actions capable of transforming reality and disseminating positive examples and solutions, and by establishing a National Climate Change Policy, based on ten items:

- 1) Put a stop to deforestation, ensuring greater forest governance, through policies to combat deforestation in the Amazon, in the Atlantic Forest and other Brazilian forest regions and strengthen the institutions responsible for implementation and oversight ;
- 2) Foster initiatives to introduce energy from renewable sources into the Brazilian energy supply mix, in a sustainable manner, making use of the huge potential of the country in this area;
- 3) Raise awareness of society in general with respect to the adverse effects of climate change and to the measures that are being undertaken to reduce our emissions;
- 4) Identify Brazil's vulnerabilities to climate change, including those related to biodiversity, and define the required adaptation measures;
- 5) Establish emissions reductions targets that can be adopted by companies and the country and formalize an international position that is more active and committed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, involving public, private and civil society institutions;
- 6) Broaden the membership of the Interministerial Commission on Climate Change, ensuring the active participation of other sectors of society, such as companies and civil society organizations, including in the formulation of the Brazilian position in international forums on the issue;
- 7) Foster research that promotes the economic value of our biodiversity;
- 8) Take into account and prioritize socio-environmental issues, including climate change, in the actions and programs of the Multi-Year Plans;
- 9) Encourage the dissemination of positive examples, such as energy efficiency programs and expansion of the sustainable use of renewable fuels;
- 10) Foster the development of a national market for clean energies such as solar, wind and SHP.

Aware of the magnitude of the problem, the institutions that support this document believe that combating global warming requires broad coordination among all sectors of society and that each decision made must be in line with a strategic vision, which favors the simultaneous and balanced pursuit of economic and environmental benefits for mankind and for the planet as a whole.

Through this Climate Defense Action Compact, the signatory institutions undertake a public commitment in defense of the future.

