

Media Release

For immediate release

Climate baton passes to world leaders

(Bonn, Germany, 23 October, 2015) - As the UN climate talks conclude in Bonn today, the baton passes to political leaders to resolve key issues standing in the way of finalising a new global climate deal.

Negotiators leave for Paris with greater clarity on what is at stake for an ambitious and fair climate deal, but fundamental issues still need to be resolved. World leaders will attend several informal meetings between now and 30 November, the first day of the two-week UN climate meeting where WWF expects them to deliver a fair, ambitious and transformative global climate agreement.

Tasneem Essop, WWF's head of delegation to the UN climate talks said there were three key issues that political leaders needed to work on before they arrive in Paris.

"A spirit of compromise will be important to reach a final agreement in Paris. But *there can be no compromise on the level of ambition* we need to address the climate crisis. Leaders need to prioritise a plan to address the emissions gap and regularly increase this ambition over time. Anything less than 1.5 degrees would dangerously affect the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and the rest of life on Earth," she said.

A new agreement must address our ability to tackle the impacts of climate change, she said. "Ordinary people from California to Manila whose lives are being disrupted look to political leaders for solutions."

Finance remains the elephant in the room. "This is both for funding climate actions before 2020 and after 2020 when the elements of the new deal come into force. Political leaders need to provide the scale of support - including finance and technology - that will catalyse the just transition to a safer and renewable



energy world. Additional support for poor and vulnerable countries is a critical element of a new deal,” said Essop.

Political leaders, representing ordinary people across the world facing the impacts of climate change, must be bold and decisive in acting to put the world on a path away to create a cleaner, safer more sustainable future for all , she said.

“We want citizens and lawmakers in capitals to ensure that the message to leaders is clear and unambiguous: Now is the time. You are the people who have with the power to change climate change. Paris is the place where the world must unite,” she said.

Pierre Cannet, head of the climate programme at WWF-France, said with the French government taking on the political leadership of the UN climate meeting in Paris next month, they will need to tip the balance between keeping ambition alive and ensuring transparency and inclusiveness.

“The French must prepare the political ground in the coming weeks to power negotiations going into and during the negotiations, so that the momentum created outside is finally captured in the overall effort to fight climate change,” he said.

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About WWF - WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The Global Climate & Energy Initiative (GCEI) is WWF's global programme addressing climate change, promoting renewable and sustainable energy, scaling up green finance, engaging the private sector and working nationally and internationally on implementing low carbon, climate resilient development.

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