

Statement

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Encouraging signals from Paris, but more commitments must come: Greenpeace

30 November 2015 – (Paris) - Commenting on today's developments at the UN climate summit in Paris, Patrick Bonin, Climate and Energy campaigner at Greenpeace Canada said:

"Prime Minister Trudeau sent an important message today by reaffirming that science is indisputable and also that much more needs to be done to limit climate change. Canada can and must do more to make the Paris agreement a success. The prime minister should support the request of 43 vulnerable countries who asked today for a transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050.

"Canada must also seek to make the Paris agreement binding for all countries to make sure that further emissions reductions are set before 2020 in order to avoid global warming of three degrees Celsius, which would be devastating. Although still insufficient, the announced additional funding to vulnerable countries represents an important contribution from the Canadian government, which must also increase its financial support after 2020 and help compensate for the impacts that these countries have seen or will see because of climate change."

Martin Kaiser, head of international climate politics at Greenpeace International also said:

"We came to Paris hoping this summit will call time on the fossil fuel era. The oil, coal and gas companies came here hoping for the exact opposite, but at the end of the day, one we'd rather be us than them. There was good and bad to be heard from the podium, but on balance there is a sense of great potential here in Paris.

"On the good side, we saw French President Hollande call coal and oil the energy of yesterday. Obama and other leaders announced huge sums of money for new renewable energy research, boosting the push to make the world 100% renewable by the middle of the century. Meanwhile, India's Prime Minister Modi launched a groundbreaking global solar alliance, and a growing coalition of countries and companies made clear their commitment to ending fossil fuel subsidies. On the bad side, too few world leaders announced new measures to cut carbon pollution at home. Those leaders will soon be leaving Paris. It will now be for their negotiators to deliver a deal that protects nations whose very survival is threatened by climate change."

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