

G8 the climate action checklist

G8 leaders can save the planet from catastrophic climate change. With just five months left until a climate rescue plan is agreed at Copenhagen, it is vital leaders take responsibility and break the deadlock plaguing climate talks by making commitments on emissions cuts and finance.

Climate change is the greatest threat we face. It has mostly been caused by G8 countries, which emit around 40% of global CO₂ emissions, despite being home to only 13% of the world's population. Through their actions at L'Aquila G8 leaders have the opportunity to stimulate economic recovery while lowering carbon emissions through investing in green jobs, ensuring a strong and effective agreement on climate change by the end of 2009.

Inaction by the leaders of the world's richest countries is putting millions of peoples' lives at risk. Climate change will devastate economies and cause species extinction. Already, loss of ice at the Arctic and Antarctic has surpassed scientists' worst case scenarios, low-lying islands face being submerged displacing entire populations and once-fertile lands are battling floods or drought.

L'Aquila is a clear reminder of the power and consequences of disaster. The earthquake that devastated the homes and livelihoods of so many could not be avoided. But climate change can. The G8 leaders are responsible for the fate of billions of people, species and the world as we know it. The G8 leaders need to take action now.

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G8 The G8 must commit to every demand* on this list as a bare minimum, if the L'Aquila G8 summit is to be considered a success:

DONE?

Global temperatures must be kept as far below a 2°C increase as possible, compared to pre-industrial levels to avert catastrophic climate change.

Global emissions must peak by 2015 and be as close to zero as possible by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

As a group the G8 must commit to at least 40% emission cuts by 2020, compared to 1990 levels.

Provide US\$106 billion (€74 billion) of the US\$140 billion needed annually for developing countries to adapt to and take action on climate change and to finance forest protection.

Immediately commit to the establishment of a funding mechanism to stop deforestation and associated emissions in all developing countries by 2020, and achieve zero deforestation in the Amazon, Congo Basin and Indonesia by 2015.

This is too important an opportunity to miss.

*Greenpeace bases these demands on the definitive climate science in the IPCC's 4th Assessment Report (2007).

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