



GLOBE International Policy Objectives for COP15

GLOBE International has 4 specific policy objectives relating to COP15. They are based on the recommendations put forward by GLOBE's International Commissions on Climate and Energy Security and Land Use Change and Ecosystems, endorsed by over 100 legislators from the major economies at the GLOBE Copenhagen on 24-25 October 2009.

GLOBE members are encouraged to meet with their official negotiating teams to promote the following points

In the Political Text:

1. To secure recognition of the critical importance of legislators in 2010

Suggested text: "To be effective, the post-2012 agreement must be underpinned by domestic legislation in all countries. In that context we recognize the critical role of legislators in developing and passing legislation, ratification of a post-2012 agreement and in holding governments to account for commitments made."

Explanation: a post-2012 agreement will not be effective unless: i) it is ratified in the major economies; ii) it is backed up by national legislation; and iii) governments are held to account for the commitments and actions put forward. Legislators are responsible for all three. A formal recognition of the importance of legislators in 2010 and beyond would energise legislators and be a catalyst for GLOBE members to drive the domestic implementation of GLOBE's Legislative Principles, agreed at the GLOBE Copenhagen forum in October.

In the UNFCCC Text:

2. Targets for developed countries: to secure a reference for the need for emissions reduction targets for 2030 and 2040, in addition to 2020 and 2050.

Explanation: it is vital that successive governments are focused on delivery of climate change objectives. A government that is elected in 2020 must not be allowed to put climate change objectives on the backburner because the next target is 2050. Setting targets for 2030 and 2040 in addition to 2020 and 2050 will ensure successive governments remain focused on delivery.

3. Objectives and Scope of REDD+: to ensure that developing country Parties are incentivised and rewarded for immediate mitigation action in the forestry sector and guaranteed long-term financial rewards for reaching and maintaining zero net deforestation levels through a Stabilization Fund.

Explanation: A REDD+ mechanism must have a final destination where developing countries are rewarded for reaching zero net deforestation. Without guaranteeing financial incentives upon achieving this end goal, developing countries cannot be expected to drastically change their land use practices. In addition, existing REDD+ proposals could create perverse incentives for developing countries to avoid immediate and drastic cuts in deforestation. If poorly designed, the system could provide higher revenues for drawing out emission reductions over a long period, rather than encouraging early and dramatic reductions in deforestation.

4. Drivers of Deforestation: All Parties shall support REDD+ actions by undertaking policies and measures that identify and address the diverse social and economic drivers of deforestation and forest degradation to relieve the pressures on forests and land that result in greenhouse gas emissions.

Explanation: Efforts to reduce deforestation will be undermined if new climate change policy is not accompanied by global action to address the drivers of deforestation. Therefore, a broad policy package should be adopted that reforms the forestry sector and establishes a solid foundation for the introduction of forests to the future climate change agreement.

For more information about GLOBE's Policy Commissions, please contact Terry Townshend (Climate and Energy) at terry.townshend@globeinternational.org or Chris Stephens (Land Use Change and Ecosystems) at chris.stephens@globeinternational.org