



European Academy of Sciences

The Brest declaration on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Brussels, Brest, 27 October 2015— The European Academy of Sciences (EURASC) draws attention to the scientific evidence: human influence on the climate system is clear with impacts observed on all continents and the ocean. The current trajectory of climate change will increase the likelihood of severe, pervasive and partly irreversible impacts on the natural systems compromising their support services for humans. The European Academy of Sciences draws the attention of policy makers and negotiators at the Paris COP21 to the urgent need to agree on ambitious targets for climate mitigation and adequate measures to support equitable adaptation.

The European Academy of Sciences endorses the 5th Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which demonstrates that warming of the climate system is unequivocal and that many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, sea level has risen, and the concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane have increased to a level unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years. Unabated emissions of greenhouse gases and other anthropogenic drivers have been, beyond reasonable doubt, the dominant cause of observed warming since 1950. These changes in climate have caused impacts on natural and human systems on all continents and across the ocean.

Continued emissions of greenhouse gases will increase the likelihood of severe, pervasive and partially irreversible effects on natural systems compromising their support services for humans. Climate change will amplify existing risks and create new ones. Some risks of impacts are already considerable at 1 or 2°C above preindustrial levels. Risks of impact are unevenly distributed and are generally greater for disadvantaged people and communities in countries at all levels of development. Mitigation and adaptation are complementary strategies for building climate resilient societies by reducing and better managing the risks of climate change, respectively. Substantial reductions of greenhouse gases emission over the next few decades can reduce climate risks in the 21st century and beyond with near term health and social benefits, increase prospects for effective adaptation, reduce the costs and challenges of mitigation in the longer term, and contribute to climate-resilient pathways for environmental sustainability and the maintenance of ecosystem services needed on which we all depend.

The European Academy of Sciences draws the attention of policy makers and negotiators at the Paris COP21¹ to the compelling scientific evidence of climate change and to its present and future impacts. EURASC highlights the urgent need to reach ambitious targets for mitigation and adaptation.

Notes for editors

The European Academy of Sciences is an international non-profit organization aiming to promote excellence in science and technology. It has 500 members, including 65 Nobel Prize and Fields Medal winners, from 63 countries.

For more information, contact

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¹COP21 is the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.