



## **European Commission climate and energy proposal fails developing countries**

ACT Alliance and APRODEV joint statement  
January 22, 2014

The European Commission's 2030 objectives for climate change and energy policies unveiled today are woefully inadequate if the world is to avoid runaway climate change, two faith-based development and emergency organisations warn.

ACT Alliance and APRODEV have dismissed European Commission proposals<sup>1</sup> aiming to cut carbon emissions by 40 percent below the 1990 level by the year 2030 as alarming for countries most at risk of climate change.

ACT Alliance climate change policy and advocacy officer, Vitu Chinoko, says that far from improving the lives of people worst affected by climate change, the proposals are in fact likely to have a devastating impact on them as storms, droughts and floods increase in number and intensity.

"It's a slap in the face for the millions of vulnerable poor people in developing countries who already suffer the impact of climate change."

APRODEV climate change and development policy officer Janna Schönfeld said that to limit the adverse effects of climate change on developing countries, the European Union objectives for 2030 needed to be much more ambitious when it came to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy and being more energy efficient.

ACT Alliance and APRODEV call on EU member states to disregard the proposal when they adopt European Council conclusions in March. "Instead, the EU needs to show it's up to the challenge by cutting greenhouse gases by at least 55 percent compared to 1990, ensuring at least 45 percent of energy consumption is from renewable sources and reducing energy use by 40 percent compared to 2005," Schönfeld said.

"The EU has a role to play in multilateral climate change processes. If it sets low targets, it ruins the chances of us getting a meaningful climate deal in 2015, when a global legally-binding agreement will be made. What the EU does determines the degree of trust, commitment and ambition of other countries. As faith-based networks, we ask the EU not to compromise on the little trust we have in building this climate change regime," she said.

A 2012 World Bank report also paints a bleak picture of the planet's future if immediate moves to reduce carbon emissions are not made, saying that while the global average temperature has so far risen by less than 1C, current emission levels combined with inadequate political commitments put the Earth on the way to a 4C warmer world<sup>2</sup>.

## ENDS

Notes to Editor:

1. [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/2030\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/2030_en.htm)
2. [http://climatechange.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/Turn\\_Down\\_the\\_heat\\_Why\\_a\\_4\\_degree\\_centigrade\\_warmer\\_world\\_must\\_be\\_avoided.pdf](http://climatechange.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/Turn_Down_the_heat_Why_a_4_degree_centigrade_warmer_world_must_be_avoided.pdf)
3. ACT Alliance is a coalition of more than 140 churches and affiliated organisations working together in [140 countries](#) to create positive and sustainable change in the lives of poor and marginalised people regardless of their religion, politics, gender, sexual orientation, race or nationality in keeping with the highest international codes and standards. ACT Alliance is supported by 25,000 staff and mobilises about \$1.5b for its work each year in three targeted areas: [humanitarian aid](#); [development](#); and [advocacy](#).
4. APRODEV is Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe, whose objective is to influence decision-making processes in the European Union institutions as these affect developing countries.
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