



## DECLARATION

### addressed to the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Copenhagen (COP-15), 7-18 December 2009

The Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,<sup>1</sup> meeting on 20 November 2009 in Bern (Switzerland), referring to Assembly Resolution 1682 (2009) on challenges posed by climate change:

1. notes that climate change represents both a threat to humanity and the conditions in which present and future generations will have to live and believes that given that the 19<sup>th</sup> century was founded on mass production and the 20<sup>th</sup> century on mass consumption, the 21<sup>st</sup> century should instead focus upon quality of life, respect for nature and sustainable development;
2. affirms that climate change raises important questions about social justice, equity and human rights across both borders and generations and refers to Assembly Recommendation 1885 (2009) on drafting an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights concerning the right to a healthy environment, which would clearly embed within it the right to a healthy and viable environment as a human right;
3. insists on the need to achieve a fair balance between the interests of the rich industrialised countries which carry the overwhelming responsibility for past greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), those of the developing countries which have fast-growing economies and populations that are contributing increasingly to current emissions, and the interests of the world's poorest countries which are most affected by the consequences of climate change as they have less capacity and fewer resources to adapt to such life-threatening changes;
4. calls upon the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at its next meeting in Copenhagen (COP-15) to reach both ambitious and realistic binding global agreements that do not call into question the common principle that any future low-carbon world must have social justice at its core;
5. is deeply concerned that unless an agreement is reached in Copenhagen, 40% of the world's poorest populations – 2.6 billion people – will face a grim future, which will further jeopardise their right to life through major restrictions to their access to water, food, shelter, health, a gainful livelihood and security;
6. welcomes the lead taken by the European Union and urges leading developed countries to match or exceed its unilateral pledge;
7. invites all the Parties to UNFCCC to agree long-term objectives in the post-Kyoto negotiations – in particular regarding respect for social justice and equity in energy and resource consumption – by the setting, inter alia, of ambitious targets to reach equal GHG emissions per capita for all countries by 2050 that do not exceed 2 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

<sup>1</sup> The Parliamentary Assembly brings together representatives of the 47 parliaments of Council of Europe member states and 3 observer states (Canada, Israel and Mexico).