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PARIS, FRANCE

OUR UNDER
COMMON CLIMATE
FUTURE CHANGE

international
Scientific Conference

Press Release

Scientists plot path to climate stabilization at pre-COP Paris science conference

July 10 2015, Paris - Emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases must eventually fall to zero to stabilize the global climate, according to scientists leading the biggest international climate science conference prior to the Paris UN COP meeting in December. But they also indicate cautious optimism that growing political momentum means the two degree Celsius climate upper limit is still within reach.

A statement issued on the closing day of *Our Common Future under Climate Change (CFCC15)* explains that “a two in three probability of holding warming to 2°C or less will require a budget that limits future carbon dioxide emissions to about 900 billion tons, roughly 20 times annual emissions in 2014. “

In practice, limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius above pre industrial levels will require cutting emissions of heat-trapping gases by 40-70% below current levels by 2050.

Chairman of the CFCC15 Scientific Committee and director of the US Carnegie Institution's Department of Global Ecology **Chris Field** said, “We are moving to a post-carbon era, where climate-change mitigation and adaptation are combined with other goals to build a sustainable future”.

“This conference has shown that social and technological innovation, from individuals, communities, firms, and nations, can lead to mitigation and adaptation options that are scaleable, fair and cost-effective,” added Scientific Committee member and Professor at the University of Oslo **Karen O'Brien**.

Some 2000 scientists from almost 100 countries have spent the past 4 days in Paris showcasing evidence-based ways to both reduce emissions and build resilient societies.

The science meeting from 7-10 July considered new aspects of climate change projections including impacts on ocean life and economic activities from rising temperature and ocean acidification.

A total of 165 sessions were presented by academics from the physical and social sciences, with full consideration of ways to limit and manage change.

Chair of the Organising Committee and director of the Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace (France) **Hervé Le Treut** said, “The conference demonstrated the commitment of the climate research community to contribute to a long-term vision for a sustainable future. We have entered a new stage for climate science where the agenda of science is shifting - it is no longer exclusively alerting us to risks, but increasingly contributing to solutions.”

According to Le Treut there are opportunities for science to:

- Innovate and evaluate new solutions that can scale rapidly
- Expand knowledge exchange to support policy options
- Continue to broaden horizons and inspire new approaches

Key areas ripe for innovation include technologies, supply chains, organizational models, and policy instruments, with opportunities for transformation in, for example, agriculture, transport, and urban design.

Youba Sokona, Scientific Committee member and Special Advisor at the South Centre (Switzerland) said, “The window of opportunity is wide open. This conference has given a positive assessment of societies’ ability to make the transition to low- to zero-carbon development that is equitable and sustainable. The policies we need are about supporting aspirations of all groups while addressing the climate challenge”.

Laurence Tubiana, French Ambassador for the UN climate change negotiations, said, “I am amazed at the variety of scientific and interdisciplinary work I have seen in the past 4 days. Scientists are working, with many partners, to develop long-term pathways at the scale of cities, economic sectors like agriculture and national economies, with strong focus on making solutions operational. We need the COP21 to be the political answer to that work, and show that the transition to a decarbonized and climate-resilient economy is not just necessary; but also that it is feasible (politically, economically and technologically); and even beyond that, that it is inevitable, and underway. ”

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“*Our Common Future under Climate Change*” (CFCC15) at UNESCO Headquarters and Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, July 7–10. The largest international science conference before the Paris COP21, with close to 2,000 participants from almost 100 countries, CFCC15 explores current understanding of all dimensions of the climate change challenge plus the full range of mitigation and adaptation options that can lead to sustainable, equitable solutions across all nations and regions.

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