

**The Network of Buddhist Organisations UK  
Statement on climate change to the UN Climate Conference COP21  
Paris, 30<sup>th</sup> November - 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

We, individual members of the committee of the Network of Buddhist Organisations UK, call on heads of state of all countries to fulfill and take further their promises to tackle the human-made causes of climate change. It is a source of sorrow that this beautiful planet, on which life depends, is being destroyed by human actions.

Two thousand six hundred years ago, the Buddha identified greed, hatred and ignorance as the roots of suffering, and taught that happiness lies in caring for all living beings. Care, and the avoidance of harm, should be our human aspiration.

Human beings and nature are interconnected: because of human action, many other species have become extinct or at risk. As a result of the same cause, many people too, especially the poorest, live in danger of famine and flooding and other disasters.

Worldwide assessment of the climate risks affecting each community is urgently needed. Communities need encouragement and support to set climate resilience targets as soon as possible so that strategies for responding to climate change may be put in place.

Oil exploration, greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, industrial processes and a multitude of unsustainable land uses continue to damage the planet. May policies be put in place to shift from carbon-centred economies, and an economic model of infinite growth and consumption. May there be far greater use of renewable energy.

Governments and political agreements alone are not sufficient for the immense challenges ahead; all people need to take part in change. Faith communities are among those who can help contribute to the value-based development models needed for global transformation.

May people be made aware of their consumption patterns and encouraged to move towards sustainable practices and lifestyles. May leaders of industry assess the carbon footprints of their organisations and institutions and look for means to reduce them. May governments explore and implement zero-carbon strategies so as to enable us collectively to reduce the use of fossil fuels worldwide.

- We undertake to make constant effort to raise climate awareness within our communities, as a Buddhist practice.
- We support leaders and politicians working towards an ambitious global climate agreement.
- We call upon the delegates at COP21 to devise a system applicable to all countries, to both the richest and the poorest populations and to all sentient beings.
- We ask that support be given to the most vulnerable countries to enable them to develop sustainability and to minimise the suffering already caused by mismanagement of resources.

We ask that all proposals demonstrate transparency and accountability, with regular reviews and scaling up of climate action over the coming years. We call on all leaders and governments to support and put in place the measures necessary to protect our planet and the sentient beings dependent upon it.

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**Signed in a personal capacity,**

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