

N° 36
S E N A T E

ORDINARY SESSION 2015-2016

16 november 2015

RESOLUTION

aimed at **affirming** the **vital role** played by **local authorities** in
achieving an **ambitious global climate agreement**,

The Senate adopted the following resolution :

See :

Senate : 140 (2015-2016).

The Senate,

Having regard to Article 34-1 of the Constitution,

Recognising that the fight against climate change is one of the main challenges of the 21th century and that a powerful, quantified, considered response is required from all nations to bring about humanity's survival;

Considering that the climate has always undergone major changes, but that it appears from international scientific studies, summarised by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that the current upheavals are massively due to excessive greenhouse gas emissions from human activities, and that to deny this reality is likely to result in disastrous consequences whose effects are probably still underestimated;

Considering that States, peoples and individuals are not equally affected by the impact of these changes that more violently hit developing countries, which are more vulnerable, and have a greater impact on women, who are more directly exposed due to greater poverty and social exclusion;

Considering that education and research are necessary to understand climate issues, the importance of biodiversity, the need to preserve the planet's resources and the interdependence of humanity and nature; and to build the skills needed for inclusive and responsible development and that such knowledge is essential to create a consensus;

Considering that climate change reveals itself in many different forms and causes problems in all areas of life: access to water, agriculture and food security, drought, floods, rising sea levels, warming and acidification of the oceans and coastal erosion, melting of the ice cap, deforestation, air pollution, the occurrence or development of new health risks, extreme weather events, geopolitical upheaval and population displacement;

Affirms the urgency of reaching an ambitious global agreement in Paris on the basis of demanding voluntary commitments on the part of States to put our planet on a path in order to limit global warming below the 2°C threshold;

Deems necessary to this end, that the agreement be legally binding and lead to the implementation of measurement, reporting and verification mechanisms to ensure fully transparent compliance by all parties and which are likely to require its revision;

That this agreement be universal and mobilise all States;

That the agreement be fair, based on the common but differentiated responsibilities of States and their respective capabilities;

That this agreement provide a sustainable and realistic response to the issue of financing the fight against climate change in line with the commitments made, especially in the least developed countries, with emphasis needing to be placed on innovative financing, both for adaptation to climate change and sustainable development;

Deems the widespread adoption of the most appropriate systems of putting a price on carbon reflecting its true environmental cost, the promotion of low-carbon energies and the phasing out of public subsidies for fossil fuels necessary for the transition to a low-carbon model and keeping warming below the 2°C threshold;

Considers that the Paris agreement must involve not only States but also individuals, respecting their cultural diversity and recognising equality between women and men as a fundamental aspect, systematically taking into account the many effective initiatives led by women in the Agenda of Solutions and more fully involving women in international climate negotiations;

That it must energetically involve civil society in all countries, highlighting the key role of business and those who work in business, voluntary and non-governmental organisations in building new solutions;

Finally that it must involve local authorities of all sizes in the front line to combat climate change, from the smallest municipalities to cities, regions and provinces, and rely on them to raise awareness, support the initiatives of inhabitants and implement the Agenda of Solutions;

Recalls the asset that the diversity of local authorities represents - urban and rural areas, mountains, forests and wetlands, coastal areas and oceans - all of which are affected by climate change and require different responses, such as the maintenance of wetlands or carbon natural sequestration in soils and forests;

Underlines the specificity and richness of France in this respect in terms of the world's geographic, oceanographic and climatic zones thanks to its overseas territories, which constitute true sounding boards for climate change impacts and can also serve as "laboratories" to implement innovative policies, from the restoration of coral reefs and mangroves to the proper functioning of oceans, ensuring the adaptation and resilience of terrestrial and marine ecosystems;

Considers it essential to take into account initiatives carried out by local authorities in terms of decentralised cooperation, which is an essential tool for promoting development, through human and financial partnerships, technology transfer and local solutions and by taking into account local and indigenous knowledge that are the basis for locally adapted sustainable development;

Calls for the challenge of environmental displacement, affecting an already significant and increasing number of people, to be urgently addressed within the framework of international negotiations, through a new international agreement providing for the necessary preventive and protective measures;

Calls upon States to recognise the fundamental role of local authorities and communities for the success of the Paris Agreement, as recommended by global organisations taking part in the

negotiations, local authorities representing the most appropriate level of implementation for national commitments on mitigation and adaptation to climate change;

Finally desires that the European Union and France should lead the way for humanity's transition towards a new development model that respects the planet.

Debated at public session, Paris 16 november 2015.

The President,

Signed : Gérard LARCHER