

25 September, 2015

Strong Public Support for Political Leaders to Commit to Ambitious Climate Action Now

The COP21 Paris Agreement Needs to Open a Credible Path to Limit Global Warming to no More than 2 Degrees

Press release: Launch of the WWViews on Climate and Energy Results Report

Location: New York, United Nations, North Lawn UN Building, Conference Room 6

Live streaming: <http://webtv.un.org/>

When: Saturday, September 26th 2015, 3pm-5pm (EDT)

Web and social media: <http://climateandenergy.wviews.org/> and #WWViews

Citizens worldwide have given their leaders a clear message to commit to immediate and ambitious climate action which leads to deep and decisive cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by the end of the century.

These are among the key findings to be presented in the final results report from World Wide Views, the largest ever global citizen consultation on climate change carried out among 10,000 citizens in 76 countries across all time zones on the same day in June.

The response, which was overwhelmingly in favor of strong and ambitious climate action, highlights the global public's conviction that governments need to reach a strong and effective new climate change agreement at COP 21, the UN climate change conference in Paris, in December.

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said: "The voice of ordinary citizens—of men and women North and South, East and West—has now been heard ahead of Paris and that voice is clear and consistent: they want a strong and durable global climate agreement that will over the decades to come restore the balance of planet Earth and avoid dangerous climate change".

"World Wide Views has also shown that people everywhere have a deep understanding of the challenge and the paths we must take to a sustainable future. The message to leaders is clear: there is popular, public support for an ambitious, forward-looking agreement adding to the growing voice of so many businesses, cities, territories and regions," she added.

WWViews

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- WWViews day: 6 June 2015
- The largest ever global citizen consultation on climate change carried out among 10.000 citizens in 76 countries across all time zones.
- Leading up to the COP21 in Paris, 2015
- Coordinated by the Danish Board of Technology Foundation, Missions Publiques and the French National Commission for Public Debate.
- National and regional citizen meetings organized by partners in the WWViews Alliance all over the world
- Initiated by the UNFCCC secretariat, the French National Commission for Public Debate, the Danish Board of Technology, and Missions Publiques



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



The report is launched on Saturday at a high level event during the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. It presents 12 key findings which focus on four main citizen requests: immediate and faster climate action by national leaders; greater finance for climate action; building more progress in line with the different capacities of countries; strengthening the role of citizen participation in the UN climate negotiations.

The worldwide consultation revealed a global citizenship both well-informed and motivated about climate change but which wants to know more about the concrete issues so it can take a direct part in the solutions. This requires a sharp and sustained focus on education, training and public awareness at all levels of government, society and enterprise to empower everyone to take climate action. The UNFCCC supports these initiatives under its ACE (Action for Climate Empowerment) initiatives:

http://unfccc.int/cooperation_support/education_outreach/overview/items/8946.php

A unique contribution to global policymaking in Paris at COP21

WVViews results are based on well-established principles for citizen participation. They offer detailed insights into lay people's views on climate change and energy, and unique input on how to implement global policies to deal with these issues.

The results show a clear worldwide support by citizens for their politicians to take ambitious action against climate change. A total of 97% of citizens across the globe want a Paris agreement to include a long-term goal for zero emissions by the end of this century, and two-thirds of the citizens want this goal to be legally binding for all countries. The strong support for taking action also reflects a high level of concern for the effects of climate change – among the 97% of participants worldwide who are concerned about the effects of climate change, 78% declared they are “very concerned”.

Although results differ between the 76 countries, there are only minor differences between continents, developed and developing countries and generations.

Interestingly, young and adult participants voted in very similar ways.

How to attend, or follow, the report launch

The report will be launched during a high-level discussion open to the press with panelists such as Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Ms. Ségolène Royal, French Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, and Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, Vice-chair, International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The event can be streamed live at <http://webtv.un.org/>

Where to find the results report and a media package

The report will also be published simultaneously online with a media package, including pictures, graphs and more:

<http://climateandenergy.wvviews.org/publications/>

About World Wide Views on Climate and Energy

10.000 citizens from 76 countries selected to reflect the demographic diversity of their respective countries and regions participated to a daylong global consultation. They were provided with unbiased information about climate change and energy and about the international discussions on policy measures to handle these issues. Citizens were given time to deliberate with each other in order to develop their opinions. The participating citizens voted on 34 predefined questions, and the report is a thoroughly work analysis on the results from this voting.

Background information

World Wide Views on Climate and Energy is co-initiated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, the Danish Board of Technology Foundation (DBT), Missions Publiques (MP), and the French National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP), with the support of the French Government host of COP21.

For more information on the project, visit the web page:

<http://climateandenergy.wvviews.org/> and follow the hashtag #WWViews on Twitter

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