



## **Statement from the GLOBE International Cape Town Legislators' Forum 3-4 December 2011**

As cross-party legislators from 15 countries, we are deeply disappointed at the governmental response to climate change so far. The international community must strengthen efforts to address climate change with greater urgency and ambition to deliver the agreed objective of limiting global average temperature rise to a maximum of 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

As legislators we are developing, passing and overseeing the implementation of climate change-related legislation. As the 2<sup>nd</sup> GLOBE Climate Legislation Study adopted at the GLOBE Cape Town Legislators Forum shows, there has been much progress in 2011 by developed and developing countries – not least in South Africa. This has been despite the challenging economic conditions. It is clear from the GLOBE Study that a new coalition of countries is emerging, including the EU and the major developing countries. These countries are developing a legislative foundation that has the potential to drive the transformation of the global economy. Progress should not be constrained by those countries unwilling or unable to act.

Far from acting as a brake on development or economic growth, we believe that strengthening legislation together, and consistently, will make our economies more competitive and resilient by strengthening energy security, improving resource efficiency, creating jobs in new industries and improving air quality, health and, food security. Long-term and credible legislation, in particular pricing carbon, is essential to create investment opportunities for low carbon solutions and we are already beginning to see that those countries with strong legislative frameworks are attracting greater inward investment on clean energy.

This momentum is a positive challenge to the UNFCCC and a way should be found formally to recognise national legislative efforts, to raise awareness of positive movements at the national level, to build trust, and to promote peer-to-peer learning.

At the same time, we urge greater national and regional climate research and sharing of data to maximize the understanding of climate change at national level and the effectiveness of adaptation measures. We congratulate those countries that are increasing their investment in data and deplore those that are cutting back.

At COP17 in Durban, we support the South African government's objectives for a positive outcome.

- First, we urge Parties to implement fully the Bali Action Plan and the Cancun Agreements, in line with the principles of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.
- Second, we call for agreement on the legal form of a post-2012 agreement. In particular, we call on all developed countries to commit to a second period of the Kyoto Protocol or take on comparable commitments for the post-2012 period, including ambitious quantified emissions reduction targets in line with a reduction of at least 80 per cent from 1990 levels by 2050 and fulfilling obligations in relation to the provision of finance and technology support. We also call on the major developing countries to fulfill existing voluntary pledges to tackle climate change between now and 2020, while recognizing their priority of poverty eradication and their legitimate right for sustainable development, and to consider strengthening those pledges.
- Third, subject to developed countries delivering on a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol or taking on comparable commitments, we urge all countries to begin negotiations as soon as possible on an internationally legally binding instrument, based on the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities to promote the further implementation of the Convention, for the period after 2020 that gives the international community a reasonable chance of limiting global average temperature rise to a maximum of 2 degrees Celsius,



We urge all countries, in particular the developed countries, to examine and reduce the carbon associated with consumption patterns, not only production.

In addition, we recognise the importance of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+) as part of the global climate change mitigation strategy. We call on developed countries to provide long-term financial and technical support to developing countries for their REDD+ efforts. Those of us in forested nations commit to work to:

- Improve existing legal frameworks and create the enabling environment for the improved implementation of national REDD+ strategies, including harmonising key forest definitions, adding the environmental and social safeguards agreed under the UNFCCC, and ensuring improved forest governance, financial scrutiny and accountability;
- Promote the effective enforcement of existing legislation that conserves forests and promotes sustainable forest management and enhances forest carbon stocks; and
- Take advantage of potential synergies between REDD+ and adaptation strategies to reduce human and ecosystem vulnerability to climate change.