

The Wasan Action Framework

Declaration and Recommendations of the Interdisciplinary Round Table on Climate Change and Energy Strategies

13-15 Sept. 2007, Wasan Island, Muskoka Lakes, Ontario, Canada,

Sponsored by

Science for Peace, David Suzuki Foundation and Breuninger Foundation.¹

The first clear warnings of danger due to emissions of greenhouse gases due to human activity emerged 25 years ago. Prudence would have called for precautionary action at that time to slow down the growth in emissions of greenhouse gases. Since then, the scientific understanding of the impact of human activity on global warming has been overwhelmingly confirmed; key predictions based on that understanding have started to occur. Evidence has emerged that the potential impacts of global warming will be much worse than predicted even five years ago.

Individuals, corporations, and all levels of government around the world have a duty to act as global citizens on the basis of the danger posed to life on Earth and to the well-being of the human race as whole.

1. We declare that human induced climate change and energy security, in particular peaking of the world oil supply are crucial issues requiring immediate action.

2. We declare agreement with the IPCC working group 1 on the physical basis of climate change that: *"Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations".*²

3. We identify as the root causes of this crisis:

- a) the large per capita overconsumption and waste of natural resources in the industrialized countries
- b) the growth paradigm (economic growth for its own sake)
- c) the large and growing human population
- d) the very large dependence on fossil fuel based energy
- e) the resistance by vested interests to necessary change in energy technology
- f) the lack of appropriate political leadership
- g) the lack of global governance to protect the global commons

4. A global solution framework

We must begin immediately to:

- a) curb overconsumption and give priority to efficiency, conservation and the avoidance of waste
- b) promote lower birthrates by empowerment of women through educational, economic and social measures, including access to birth control information and services
- c) focus globally and locally on developing low impact renewable energy infrastructure and technologies (e.g. biomass, geothermal, hydro, ocean energy, solar, wind) to its full potential, so as to avoid large scale biofuel usage and nuclear energy
- d) reduce carbon emissions by creating a just and universal framework through the implementation of appropriate incentives, government regulation, legislation and taxation
- e) preserve forests, especially tropical rainforests

5. Implementation of solutions: We urge that

- a) all levels of government as well as the UN and international organizations can and should embrace the **Wasan Action Framework**
- b) media, corporations, the educational system from kindergarten to university and all civil society should collaborate on implementing this **Wasan Action Framework**

¹ List of Participants on p2

² IPCC, 2007: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Solomon, S., D. Qin, M. Manning, Z. Chen, M. Marquis, K.B. Averyt, M. Tignor and H.L. Miller (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA. Page 10.

Interdisciplinary Round Table on Climate Change and Energy Strategies
Wasan Island, Muskoka Lakes, Ontario, Canada, September 13-16, 2007

Participants who Unanimously voted for the Wasan Action Framework

Alton, Janis	Co-Chair, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
Bartlett, Albert	Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Colorado, Boulder
Breuninger, Helga	Director, Breuninger Foundation
Burkhardt, Helmut	Emeritus Professor of Physics, Ryerson University
Creighton, Phyllis	Science for Peace
Etcheverry, José	Policy Analyst, David Suzuki Foundation; Professor, Dept. of Environmental Studies, York University
Farlinger, Shirley	Freelance writer; journalist
Ford, John	Issue Advocate for Energy, Green Party of Ontario; Candidate Ottawa South
Goldin Rosenberg, Dorothy	Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto
Gómez, Ana María	Assistant Executive Director, Centro Mario Molina
Gómez, Emmanuel	Project Engineer, Climate Change Program, Centro Mario Molina
Harvey, Danny	Professor, Dept. of Geography, University of Toronto
Heaps, Toby A.A.	President, Editor & Co-founder, Corporate Knights
Hu, Amy	Climate Change Program, David Suzuki Foundation
Kennedy, Joy	United Church of Canada; Treasurer CANET
Litman, Todd A.	Founder & Executive Director, Victoria Transport Policy Institute
Lutes, Mark	Policy Analyst, Climate Change & Energy, David Suzuki Foundation
McInnis, Bert	Co-founder, WhatIf? Technologies
Marchand, Claude	Professor, Glendon, York University
Paul, Derek	Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Toronto
Peltier, Dick	Director, Centre for Global Change Science, University of Toronto
Philp, Ian	Lawyer on UN missions
Reijerse, Fidel	Founder & President, ResCo Energy Inc.
Roberts, Mary Jane	Senior Policy Analyst, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Schreyer, Edward	Chancellor, Brandon University, Manitoba; Former Premier of Manitoba & Former Governor General of Canada
Tainter, Joseph	Department Head, Environment and Society, Utah State University
White, Marlene	Community Partnerships Manager, Trent University; Federal Liberal Candidate, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock

Technical resource specialists who did not vote

Hughes, David	Natural Resources Canada, Geological Survey of Canada
Love, Peter	Chief Conservation Officer, Conservation Bureau, Div. of the Ontario Power Authority
Mokry, Manfred	Manager Technology, Mercedes-Benz, Canada, member of the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada
Zwiers, Francis	Director, Climate Research Division, Environment Canada