

2022 Global Investor Statement to Governments on the Climate Crisis

This statement, coordinated by the seven Founding Partners of The Investor Agenda, is signed by 532 investors representing almost USD \$39 trillion in assets under management.

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) reaffirmed governments' commitments to the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the importance of taking action to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The urgency of taking action has been reinforced by the 6th Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which anticipates that global warming could exceed 1.5°C by as early as 2040 unless global greenhouse gas emissions are significantly reduced1. The International Energy Agency's (IEA's) 2021 World Energy Outlook² warns that current climate commitments and investments in clean energy, and in the net-zero transition are far below the level needed to ensure that global average temperature rise is limited to 1.5°C. The ongoing energy security crisis further highlights the imperative for an orderly transition and accelerated clean energy policies and investments, which can secure countries against volatile prices and supply side shocks.

COP26 marked a significant step forward. Many governments strengthened their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs, their formal commitments to action on climate change). Together, and if fully implemented, these commitments would reduce the projected level of global warming from 2.7°C to somewhere between 2.1°C and 2.4°C3. This is a significant acceleration of action, but much more is needed if governments are to meet the 1.5°C goal which is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Effective policies, in line with limiting global warming to no more than 1.5°C, are essential for accelerating and scaling up private capital flows needed for a climate resilient, net-zero transition. Full implementation of the Paris Agreement will create significant investment opportunities in clean technologies, green infrastructure and other assets, products and services needed in this new economy. In turn, investors can use capital allocation and stewardship to support sustainable activities that generate jobs and economic growth, make a just transition from carbon-intensive activities and increase resilience.

Investors are urgently seeking to manage their exposure to climate risks and increase the contribution that their investments make to the Paris Agreement goals. Investors are taking action as it is not only permitted by law but is in many cases required to ensure their ability to generate returns in the longterm as a core fiduciary duty and benefit from the opportunities associated with the shift to a net-zero emissions economy. We encourage governments to engage closely with investors to make sure these risks are effectively managed and that these opportunities are fully realized.

³ Climate Action Tracker (2022), Temperatures: Addressing Global Warming (last viewed 18 February 2022), https://climateactiontracker.org/global/temperatures/















¹ IPCC (2021), 6th Assessment Report, https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/

² IEA (2021), World Energy Outlook 2021, https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-outlook-2021



Our Call to Governments

The 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) to be held in Egypt in November 2022 provides an opportunity for governments to raise their ambition and to focus attention on adopting and implementing the specific policies needed to enable large scale zero-emissions, climate-resilient investments.

We, therefore, call on all governments in 2022 to:

- 1. Ensure that the 2030 targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions align with the goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 °C. If their targets are not aligned, governments must enhance and strengthen their 2030 targets before COP27, taking into account different national circumstances.
- 2. Implement domestic policies and take early action to ensure that their 2030 greenhouse gas emissions are aligned with the goal of keeping global temperature rise to 1.5 °C. This will require governments to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies that enable the transition towards a net-zero emissions economy, including:
 - a. Guaranteeing long-term resilience and energy security by rapidly scaling up the deployment of low-carbon energy systems, electrification, flexibility and storage, including the development of enabling infrastructure.
 - b. Implementing robust carbon pricing mechanisms, rising over time, with appropriate coverage and adequate social considerations.
 - c. Setting a deadline to phase out thermal coal power and fossil fuel subsidies, and establishing plans and targets to peak and then phase out the use of other fossil fuels, in line with credible 1.5°C pathways.
 - d. Developing transparent just transition plans involving affected individuals, workers and communities.
 - Establishing new or more ambitious commitments to end all deforestation globally.
- 3. Contribute to the reduction in non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emissions, and support the effective implementation of the Global Methane Pledge to reduce emissions by at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 20304.
- 4. Building on the agreed outcomes of COP26, scale up the provision of climate finance from the public and the private sector for mitigation, and for adaptation and resilience, with a particular focus on the needs of developing countries.
- 5. Strengthen climate disclosures across the financial system through:
 - Requiring mandatory TCFD-aligned reporting for the largest companies and financial institutions to report on climate-related risks and opportunities, backed by a robust global taxonomy.
 - b. Requiring the public disclosure of 1.5°C pathway-aligned, science-based, independently verifiable climate transition plans for listed and large non-listed companies, asset managers and regulated asset owners.
 - c. Coordinating and driving consistency across global financial regulation in the areas of mandatory climate risk disclosure and prudential risk supervision, as critical engines of progress necessary to address systemic risks.

⁴ Global methane emissions need to reduce from approx. 357 MtCO₂e in 2020 (IEA, 2021) to approx. 235 MtCO₂e in 2030 (IPCC, 2018), a drop of approximately 35% under a low-overshoot 1.5°C pathway.

















The IPCC's 6th Assessment Report underlines the linkages between climate change and vulnerable environmental, social and economic systems, including food and agriculture, energy, water resources, nature and biodiversity, noting that certain ecosystem impacts are already irreversible. We therefore encourage governments to ensure that their actions take full account of the potential impacts on ecosystems, individuals, workers and communities, minimize and mitigate any negative social or environmental impacts resulting from the actions taken, and enhance the resilience and sustainability of their environmental, social and economic systems.

Our Commitment as Investors

We recognize that governments' ability to deliver on their commitments will depend on private capital flows playing a strong and supportive role in mobilizing finance at the scale needed to achieve the Paris Agreement's goals.

Investors are stepping up to the challenge. More investors than ever before are making net-zero commitments, embedding science-based net-zero goals and strategies into their portfolio decisions, laying out Investor Climate Action Plans⁵, engaging companies to cut their emissions and forge transition plans and calling on policymakers to deliver robust climate action. This is being driven by our need to decrease our exposure to climate risk as a core fiduciary duty and by the potential opportunities associated with the transition to a net-zero emissions economy.

We are committed to working with governments to ensure policy mechanisms are developed and implemented to transition to a climate-resilient, net-zero emissions economy by 2050 or sooner, with interim targets in line with credible 1.5°C pathways.

⁵ For more information on the Investor Climate Action Plans developed by The Investor Agenda, please see here.

















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