



7th Annual Assembly of
the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
**MOVING REFORMS
FORWARD
IN TESTING TIMES**
19 – 21 November 2015, Kyiv city, Ukraine

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November 21, 2015
Kyiv, Ukraine

Resolution of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

On the fight against the climate change and effective adaptation to its consequences

The EaP CSF welcomes the historic prospect of the 21st conference of the parties of the UN Framework Convention on the Climate Change in Paris.

“We are the first generation that can sense the consequences of the climate change and we are the last generation that can do something about it” - these words are repeated by the most renowned and reputable people in the world. Already today, climate change has become the cause of suffering and social cataclysms worldwide, and the five year drought in Syria, which actually was one of the reasons for the unstable situation in the country and the subsequent tragic events, is an example that should tell everybody: it is time to do something, otherwise it will be too late.

The 21st Conference of the parties of the UN Framework Convention on the Climate Change, which is going to take place in Paris in December 2015, should become a turning point in the global efforts aimed at counteracting the anthropogenic climate change and adaptation to its consequences. This meeting has a chance to demonstrate that the world is united in its desire to struggle against the challenge, whose scale surpasses all the crises the humankind has faced in the past.

Countermeasures to the climate change and adaptation to its consequences have already become part of new Sustainable Development Goals; spiritual leaders of world religions pay close attention to this problem; all around the world, businesses are ceasing to invest in fossil fuels; some countries have announced plans to completely stop using fossil fuels. Climate change is no longer a problem that can be ignored, a problem that may be paid insufficient attention; however, we have to stress that it is of least concern to the countries of the Eastern Partnership.

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum urges the governments of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, the European Union, as well as the civil society, business, and mass media, to change the situation – the counteraction to the climate change and effective adaptation to its consequences ought to become priority directions for active and everyday policy actions in the EaP countries.

- Questions concerning climate change and an active transition to the use of renewable energy sources should be taken into account while working on development strategies both at state, regional and local level. There is a need to analyse in detail the possibilities of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and of effective adaptation to climate change consequences for every sphere of social and economic life. The successful implementation of strategies and plans in this sphere has to become a priority and constant focus of our heads of states and governments.

- Every 5 years, not less frequently, countries must revise and increase their obligations so that a complete cease of use of fossil fuels by 2050 is achieved. Only dynamic actions aimed at decreasing



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greenhouse gas emissions will allow us to limit the rise in global temperature to 1,5 degrees Celsius, if the world is to be safe. Economy decarbonisation plans should be developed not later than by 2020.

- Energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources should become the basic tools for lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Atomic energy cannot be a strategic element in the decrease of emissions. It cannot be considered “climate friendly” because scientific research has proven such theories wrong. Existing nuclear power plants must be closed; new ones should not be built. Renewable energy sources have to become a priority direction in energy development.
- It is necessary to introduce methods that provide economic incentives to those who decrease greenhouse gas emissions (carbon pricing), including greenhouse gas emission taxes, introduction of national carbon markets, and other mechanisms.
- It is necessary to develop and start introducing national strategies of adaptation to the climate change as soon as possible. These strategies would include sectoral adaptation strategies and detailed plans (for agriculture and forestry, public health services, emergency reaction systems, as well as plans of developing urbanized territories and other branches).
- Participation of the public should be provided for at an adequate level and correspond to the provisions of the Aarhus Convention and the UN Framework Convention on the Climate Change. The public must receive in due time information concerning the plans for the strategies and other regulatory documents and must be able to participate in the related discussions.

It is considered in the Eastern Partnership countries that with the dissolution of the USSR and the consequent and considerable reduction of emissions, EaP countries have already contributed to countering climate change, that our current emissions are insignificant on a global scale, and that the consequences of climate change will not affect us – this position is selfish and irresponsible. The contemporary world is a globalized world and problems of one nation will not go unnoticed by the others. Climate change is our common problem and our common chance to change our way of life for better. The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum insists the countries of the Eastern Partnership and the European Union contribute to this common cause.