

## ***IMASE Declaration on Climate Change***

***5<sup>th</sup> December 2012***

### ***In the Names of Allah, The Guardian, All-Comprehending and Everlasting***

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is drawing to the close of its 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties summit in Qatar. Decision-makers from nations across the globe, multinational corporations, as well as non-state actors continue to negotiate their positions and responsibilities with respect to each other and life on Earth. The International Muslim Association of Scientists and Engineers (IMASE) issues this statement to provide a faith based, Muslim perspective, to focus thoughts, words and actions, and deepen the climate conversation.

We bear witness that.

1. The whole of creation is in perpetual remembrance of Allah.
2. Humanity is only a part of creation and the basis for reforming this relationship is moral and ethical. Environmental degradation speaks volumes about the inner world we inhabit.
3. The Earth herself will be inspired on the Last Day to speak about every atom's weight of good and evil that was done on her [99:1-8]. We must not repeat the arrogance of the people of Thamud, who hamstringed the she-camel entrusted to them by Prophet Salih [7:72-8].
4. The Qur'anic concept of the human is not of an overlord but a trustee. Elements may have been subdued, but we do not mistake this for domination. Prophet Sulayman was taught the language of the birds and ants that walked the earth, and expressed gratitude for these faculties through striving for good deeds [27:16-19]. We should stop to listen for the lessons in our relationships with knowledge creation and actions in the world.
5. Consumerism is a negative, destructive force which must be resisted.
6. Tokenism in environmental policy and practice is negative movement.
7. Each section of the broader Muslim society has a particular role in the ecological crisis. From Asia, through Africa, Europe and the Americas we are constellation of exploiters and victims of exploitation. This is the uncomfortable truth.
8. The Rights of Earth Approach to climate change and the environment pioneered by the Plurinational State of Bolivia establishes an alternative path to that of commodification. It accords creatures inalienable rights. We find this connection with our own legal and ethical traditions, *huquq al-makhluqat* (The Rights of Creation) vital and compelling.
9. Environment rarely appears in the prime politics of Muslim-majority nations, unless it is part of development scenario. The development industry misleads through donor strategies, priorities and values. We need to be critically aware of the situation around us and lead.
10. Natural hazards continue to endanger many, and test the integrity of societies. Climate impacts over the coming decades are set to disturb a great many more, and create millions of environmental refugees, a kind of *muhajir* (emigrant).

Our ability to imagine, know and act are intimately related, we call upon the Ummah (Muslimkind) to:

1. Resacralise the natural world and renew our kinship with the life in it.
2. Translate Islamic environmental ethics into reality.
3. Push hard for deep emissions cuts from historic and present polluters.
4. Establish safer living environments and communities, anticipating climate impacts.
5. Prioritise the nurturing of scientific communities and organisational capabilities connected to our higher values and aspirations.
6. Build environmental political movements across boundaries of nation, and community.
7. Resist the commodification of nature in international and local policy-making.
8. Demand that hydrocarbon exporting countries act responsibly, no matter how apparently Muslim they are.
9. Share responsibility for environmental refugees.
10. Safeguard our resources and natural beauty for the benefits of generations to come.



IMASE is a transnational platform that nurtured and mobilises expertise, with an Islamic framework, for the benefit of humanity. Formed in 2001, it publishes the quarterly Constellations e-journal, which explores issues of Science, Soul, Environment and Society.

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