

# GREENPEACE

To the heads  
of government at the G8 summit,

Heiligendamm

Heiligendamm, 5 June 2007

## **Appeal to the G8 leaders**

Dear head of government,

Climate change is the greatest challenge of the 21st century. United Nations climate researchers have shown that climate change is most probably advancing more rapidly and more severely than previously assumed. Humankind has little time left to at least avert the worst impacts. Climate researchers tell us that in order to limit average global warming to less than 2°C (compared to the pre-industrialized level), there will need to be a fundamental transition towards active climate change mitigation within the next 10 to 15 years.

The industrialized nations have generated 85 percent of greenhouse gas emissions to date. This makes them the principal parties responsible for human-induced global warming. The G8 group alone at present accounts for 43 percent of all energy-related greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. This places a moral responsibility on these states to avert the worst consequences of climate change. To achieve that goal, global greenhouse gas emissions will need to be halved by the middle of the century. At the same time, the impacts of climate warming will have to be mitigated by engaging in adaptation and compensation measures.

The right to life and health recognised in international law is jeopardised by the destruction to the climate. Greenpeace has been drawing attention to this at a celebratory ceremony on 31 May on Mount Ararat in south-east Turkey. This site is thought to be the place where Noah became stranded with his Ark. In the Declaration read at the ceremony Greenpeace called on the politicians of the world to do everything in their power to see that people have a right to a world without the climate being destroyed.

Our **petition** calls upon you to take appropriate action in keeping with your responsibility to protect the climate. We urge you to deploy the huge capacities of your country to mitigate

global warming, and to direct all your efforts to global climate protection.

It is essential that the G8 states achieve a breakthrough in the international climate negotiations by making reliable declarations. We therefore call upon you to adopt the following climate policy goals and measures at the 2007 G8 Summit at Heiligendamm :

- Binding commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in industrialized countries by at least 30 percent by 2020, and by 80 percent by 2050 (from 1990 baselines); Germany must commit to reducing its emissions by 40 percent by the year 2020.
- To achieve those targets, adoption of effective strategies to reduce energy consumption by at least 20 percent (compared to business-as-usual) and raise the share of renewables in primary energy consumption to 20 percent by 2020.
- Binding commitment to halt the logging and degradation of ancient forests by 2010; and adoption of an emergency plan to conserve the last intact forests by 2020.

We request confirmation that you have received this petition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brigitte Behrens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brigitte Behrens  
Executive Director