

# PROTECTING THE CLIMATE FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS: THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ADVISORY OPINION ON RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATES WITH REGARD TO THE CLIMATE

43<sup>RD</sup> WFUNA PLENARY ASSEMBLY  
7-10 NOVEMBER 2023  
TBILISI, GEORGIA  
PA43/8/B3

The WFUNA Plenary Assembly,

*Alarmed* by the increasing number and severity of extreme weather events (such as but not limited to: heatwaves, storms, floods, droughts, hurricanes and cyclones) triggered by anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which are resulting in unprecedented impacts on the environment, human well-being and the economy;

*Recognizing* that climate change is an unprecedented challenge of civilizational proportions, and that the well-being of present and future generations of humankind depends on humanity's immediate and urgent response to it;

*Noting with deep concern* the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in their Climate Change 2023 Synthesis Report<sup>ii</sup> that these severe impacts on the environment, human well-being and the economy are occurring with current average global temperature rise of 1.1°C, and that these impacts will become considerably more severe as average global temperatures rise to 1.5°C and beyond;

*Expressing further concern* about the impact of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change on eco-systems, and noting the report of the Stockholm Resilience Centre that six of the nine Planetary Boundaries for safe and sustainable ecosystems have now been breached, including the boundaries for a safe climate/atmosphere;

*Extremely disappointed* that national and international action to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement are insufficient to prevent global average temperature rise to 1.5°C or even higher, which could result, not only in even more extreme weather events, but also in the collapse of the climate and other eco-systems threatening human civilization itself;

*Affirming* general obligation under customary international law to protect the climate for current and future generations;

*Welcoming* the unanimous decision of the United Nations General Assembly on 29 March 2023 to request an Advisory Opinion of the International Court of



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## RESOLUTION - PA43/8/B3

Justice on the Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change (UNGA Resolution 77/276)<sup>iii</sup>;

*Recalling further* that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the line of different national circumstances;

*Welcomes* the decision of the International Court of Justice to open the Climate Case to participation by relevant international organizations upon application;

*Calls on:*

1. UNAs to encourage their governments to make written submissions to the International Court of Justice before the deadline of 22 January 2024, and to affirm in these submissions their respective commitments to inter alia:

- a) end fossil fuel extraction and financing of fossil fuels (investments and subsidies),
- b) immediately cut national GHG emissions,
- c) implement plans to achieve net zero emissions, as soon as possible, hopefully within 10 years,
- d) provide support to marginalized communities and developing countries most impacted by climate change, including by fully implementing the commitment made by developed countries at COP15 to make \$100 billion per year available for these purposes.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.vanuatuicj.com/resolution>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://daccess-ods.un.org/tmp/8386933.2075119.html>

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