

Non-paper
One Earth, A Shared Responsibility
Support Taiwan's meaningful participation in the UNFCCC
October 2015

I. We kindly request your assistance with:

- Supporting Taiwan's participation in COP21 as an observer under the name of its Environmental Protection Administration (EPA).
- Recognizing Taiwan's achievements in voluntarily announcing its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), passing its Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act, and helping developing countries combat climate change.
- Giving your support by writing to the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, and speaking for Taiwan in the high-level segment of COP21 and related meetings, as well as in parliament and other appropriate arenas.

II. Why Taiwan should be included in the UNFCCC

- **Taiwan's continued exclusion leaves a gap that must be closed.** A democratic and peace-loving country, with a population of 23 million and the world's 22nd biggest economy, should not be excluded from the UNFCCC. The climate is a common good that belongs to all.
- **Taiwan's Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act.** While the Parties to the UNFCCC are still negotiating a legally binding 2015 agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol, Taiwan has taken the concrete step of passing a landmark Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act. This officially enshrines into law Taiwan's target to cut carbon emissions to 50% of 2005 levels by 2050, and makes Taiwan one of the few countries to write its target into domestic law. Representatives from the EU, the US, Germany, the UK, and other countries have all recognized this significant milestone in efforts to address global climate.
- **Taiwan voluntarily announced its INDC in September 2015.** In response to the Lima Call for Climate Action, Taiwan announced its INDC on September 17, 2015, committing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% from the business-as-usual level (from 428 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent to 214) by 2030. Given that this includes the precondition of phasing out nuclear energy, Taiwan's target is more ambitious than that of similar-sized Asian economies. Taiwan calls on all parties to recognize the concrete steps it has taken to fulfill its shared responsibility, and support its meaningful UNFCCC participation.
- **Taiwan's capabilities and expertise can be a part of the global solution to climate change.** Taiwan is known for its expertise in developing green technology, which it is active in exporting to other countries. Taiwan has much to offer the UNFCCC, not just in terms of technology sharing and transfers, but also financial support and capacity building. Not making Taiwan a part of the global solution to climate change is a terrible waste.

- **Taiwan helps developing countries tackle climate change.** Over the decades, Taiwan has undertaken numerous cooperative projects with many developing countries in a wide variety of areas relating to climate change. These include food and energy security, renewable energy, green technology, biodiversity conservation, natural disaster management, post-disaster reconstruction, reforestation, environmental protection, water resource management, and drought relief.
- **Taiwan's vulnerability to natural disasters has forced it to learn to adapt, giving it expertise and technology that it can transfer and share.** Taiwan's seismic monitoring system, which distributes critical information on earthquakes immediately after they occur, has the highest concentration of monitoring stations and is the fastest in the world. Its geographic information systems and global positioning systems are similarly advanced, and it already helps developing countries strengthen their environmental monitoring and disaster prevention systems at the national level through reporting of land use change, and the emergency monitoring of earthquakes and landslides. Taiwan is willing to share this adaptation expertise with other countries, and would be much better placed to do so through the UNFCCC.
- **Taiwan's right to help to fight climate change should not be ignored.** Taiwan is a densely populated island that is particularly vulnerable to the extreme weather events and rising sea levels associated with climate change. With its exclusion from the UNFCCC and isolation by the international community, Taiwan is being left to deal with the impacts of climate change on its own. The right of the 23 million people in Taiwan to be part of a common solution has been ignored for too long.
- **Taiwan's inclusion in the UNFCCC will add momentum to reaching the 2°C goal.** Taiwan ranked as the world's 24th largest emitter of carbon dioxide in 2012, accounting for 0.81% of the total. This makes Taiwan the 20th largest emitter of carbon dioxide per capita, at 10.95 tonnes, which is even higher than other OECD countries. Taiwan's inclusion in the UNFCCC would enhance cooperation and help close the gap to reaching the 2°C goal.
- **Taiwan's inclusion is in line with the purpose and spirit of the UNFCCC, and the universality of the UN Charter.** Currently, Taiwan can only participate in the UNFCCC as an NGO observer under the name Industrial Technology Research Institute. This is neither appropriate nor effective. Taiwan's meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process would conform to the purpose and spirit of the Convention, which acknowledges that "the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation," as well as to the universal application of the principles embodied in the UN Charter.

III. Conclusion

The 23 million people of Taiwan have the right, the ability, and the willingness to contribute to efforts to maintain a planet where humans can live sustainably. We dutifully call on all parties to have the decency to accommodate Taiwan's contributions. The need to address climate change as one single human family is emphatic, and we urge all nations to look beyond political barriers and support Taiwan's meaningful participation in the UNFCCC.