



Dear Mr. Prime Minister Aso,

27 March 2009

We are writing as members of the Climate Action Network – International, a network of roughly 450 nongovernmental organizations from around the world working together to advocate for safe, sufficient, and equitable solutions to the climate crisis.

CAN believes that global mean temperature must stay as far below 2°C above pre-industrial levels as possible in order to avoid catastrophic climate change. As you will recall, limiting global warming to safe levels is an objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, to which Japan is a signatory. The science, stronger every day, is showing that there is very little time left to act.

With this in mind, CAN welcomes your willingness to state Japan's mid-term emission reduction target by June, and your initiative under the Council on the Global Warming Issue and its Mid-term target Committee to that end.

However, CAN finds the proposed target ranges (with 6 options), announced on 27 March, to be disappointing in light of what the science requires. We note that the proposals include targets even weaker than Japan's current target under the Kyoto Protocol, which it has ratified.

The "as far below 2°C as possible" goal means that global emissions will need to peak within a decade and decline sharply thereafter. To achieve this, the binding QELROs of all developed countries in aggregate must be ambitious: *at least* at the top end of the 25-40% reduction range (by 2020 from 1990 levels). A large majority of the effort must be made domestically, as a massive shift is required in the unsustainable and inequitable consumption patterns of developed countries, and because these countries need to lay the ground for the much deeper cuts (of at least 80-95%) required by 2050.

Based on the latest scientific analysis, CAN believes that any target that isn't in line with the reduction pathway described above would be totally unacceptable. Putting forward a weak target would contradict Japan's decision to build a low carbon society as articulated by former Prime Minister Fukuda last June. In addition, a target less ambitious than a 25% reduction from 1990 levels also does not meet the requirements for emission reductions as reflected in the science. Further, CAN notes with disappointment that the discussion of these targets has been dominated by the perspective of "how unbearably costly the reduction actions are". Meanwhile, Japan is one of the richest and most responsible countries in the world. But more importantly, ambitious targets for emissions reductions can be economic drivers. They can help to stimulate investment in new technologies that can make Japan a

leader in renewable technologies.

Simply put, Japan must do more. Japan must stick to the top end of the 25-40% reduction range with its own target.

In the midst of economic turmoil, action to address climate change will not only serve to avert its dangerous effects, but also to drive economic development and innovation. Japan can be a leader in green energy technology and create new job opportunities. A strong mid-term target for emission reductions is one key part of this transition to a clean energy economy, as it can serve as a driver for technological development that is so urgently needed to jumpstart the global economy and to save the planet.

We look to you to lead the discussion by showing that Japan is ready to take on an ambitious target to respond to the climate change challenge and by doing so, bring the world one step closer to a successful Copenhagen Agreement.

Mie Asaoka, President, Kiko Network

Takamasa Higuchi, Chief Executive Officer, WWF Japan

Mitsutoshi Hayakawa, Managing Director, Citizens Alliance for saving the Atmosphere and the Earth (CASA)

Tetsunari Iida, Executive Director, Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies

Jiro Adachi, Executive Director, JACSES

Yuri Onodera, Climate Change Program coordinator, FoE Japan

Yurika Ayukawa, Executive Director, Office Ecologist

Sandrine MATHY, President, Climate Action Network France

Sanjay Vashist, Chief Operations Officer (COO), Climate Action Network - South Asia

Kim Carstensen, Director, WWF International

Jeremy Hobbs, Executive Director, Oxfam International

Jasper Inventor, International Climate and Energy Campaigner, Greenpeace International

Richard Worthington, Manager, Climate Change Programme, Living Planet Unit, WWF South Africa

Rajen Awotar, Executive Director, FOE Mauritius and Regional Coordinator of SAR (Southern Africa) CAN

Barbara Bramble, Senior Program Advisor, International Affairs, National Wildlife Federation

Jiri Jerabek, Centre for Transport and Energy, Czech Republic

Iryna Stavchuk, climate change program coordinator, National ecological centre of Ukraine

Hubert Weinzierl, Chairman, Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR), Germany

Christian Ege, Director, The Danish Ecological Council, Denmark

Kathe M. Soerensen, Boardchair, Nature & Youth - Denmark

Pat Finnegan, Co-ordinator, Grian, Ireland

Lars Haltbrekken, chairman, the Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature (Friends of the Earth Norway)

Wael Hmaidan, Executive Director, IndyAct - The League of Independent Activists, Lebanon

Engr. Nazario R. Cacayan, Executive Director, Yamog Renewable Energy Development Grp. Inc., Philippines

Helen N. Mendoza, Organization: SOLJUSPAX, Philippines

Fabby Tumiwa, Executive Director, Institute for Essential Services Reform, Indonesia