



15 January 2007
Washington DC

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of Climate Action Network International, a network of more than 400 non-governmental organizations worldwide, including seven in your own country.

We would like to welcome you to your new role as President of the G8. We strongly support the importance you place on climate change in the agenda and your focus on energy efficiency as a key means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We have high hopes for, and confidence in, your ability to show the needed leadership in both the G8+5 process and in the United Nations negotiations. Indeed, the eyes of the world will be on Japan this year as you take over the G8 Presidency.

We look forward to the opportunity that your speech at the World Economic Forum Meeting in Davos gives to set the tone of this leadership. Your time in Davos will also provide you an opportunity to meet with business and political leaders from around the world and build upon the momentum coming out of Bali. In order to demonstrate Japan's commitment to tackling climate change during its G8 Presidency, we expect that you will announce in Davos that Japan intends to take on a national absolute mandatory reduction target for 2020. Additionally, before the G8 Summit, we expect you to announce the *scale* of Japan's target, which should be in line with the -25-40% range agreed at the Bali conference under AWG of the Kyoto Protocol.

It is clear that for developed countries, it is only through fulfilling absolute emissions caps on this scale, that we can avoid dangerous climate change. Other targets such as intensity targets, sectoral targets, energy efficiency targets should all be additional to the national mandatory caps.

Many other developed countries have already explicitly endorsed the -25-40% target range. In Bali we were disappointed that your government chose to align itself with President George Bush and Prime Minister Stephen Harper - neither of whom truly represents their countries' views on climate change. We expect Japan to join the overwhelming majority of climate leaders of governments, businesses, science and civil society, that also support absolute emissions reductions and the Bali Decisions. Davos is a chance for you to show in concrete terms the leadership we can expect from Japan's G8 Presidency and to give momentum to the G8+5 talks, as well as the UNFCCC Bali Roadmap negotiations.

As you are aware, there is very little time left to act to avoid dangerous climate change: negative impacts are already being observed and these can only worsen if we, as a global community, do not take urgent action. Global emissions must peak in the next 10-15 years

and decline afterwards, and they must be at least halved from 1990 levels by 2050, if we are to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. A 2020 target for deeper reduction by developed countries is essential to achieve this. We look to you to lead that action.

Peter Bahouth
Director, United States Climate Action Network,
on behalf of Climate Action Network International