

PURSUING THE 1.5°C LIMIT

BENEFITS & OPPORTUNITIES

EDITORIAL AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

UNDP

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PURSUING THE 1.5°C LIMIT
BENEFITS & OPPORTUNITIES

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THE EDITORIAL TEAM



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“Carbon-intensive modes of production established in 19[fox] Century Europe will incur enormous social and economic cost in the medium- and long-term, whereas shifting to a carbon-neutral future based on green technology and low-carbon energy creates wealth, jobs, new economic opportunities, and local co-benefits in terms of health and reduced pollution; Convinced that those countries which take the lead in embracing this future will be the winners of the 21st Century.”

First Male' Declaration of the Climate Vulnerable Forum
November 2009





FOREWORD

2015 was a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform sustainable development. The Paris Climate Change Agreement, alongside the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction launched a new era of collective action on some of the world's biggest challenges.

To achieve the SDGs, we must address climate change. The Paris Agreement clearly states that our collective goal should be to hold the global temperature rise to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit this increase to 1.5°C. Pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C is absolutely critical so that all countries take strong and ambitious action on the ground. This global threshold will guide our efforts for decades to come and shape our achievement of the goals we agreed to within the Paris Agreement.

What's important about this report is that it suggests that working to achieve 1.5°C might just make it easier to meet several of the SDGs too. Renewable energy and the potential it has to plug off-grid power gaps, for example, may be indispensable to achieving universal energy access. Reducing vulnerability of food systems can help to end hunger and malnutrition around the world.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (spell out) will release its own special report on 1.5°C in 2018 ahead of the planned facilitative dialogue on progress towards the Paris Agreement long-term goal. As a prelude to that contribution, this report is a welcome addition to the global discussion, promoting ambitious actions that align with the Paris Agreement and will achieve results on the ground.

UNDP was therefore very pleased to collaborate on this report. I urge leaders, policymakers and analysts alike to consider the evidence for opportunities presented by ambitious climate action as detailed here. I also wish the Forum well in taking forward these findings at national, regional and international levels.



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