



## **CAFOD Submission to Climate Change Bill Consultation, DEFRA**

**June 2007**

### **Introduction**

CAFOD welcomes the government's draft Climate Change Bill, and appreciates the opportunity provided by DEFRA for consultation. We acknowledge that once given Royal Assent, the Bill will establish the first legal framework aimed at setting unilateral long-term targets for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In welcoming this legislation, CAFOD would like to take the opportunity to recommend ways in which the Bill reflect the latest scientific evidence and be strengthened in line with the government's objectives on Climate Change.

CAFOD is an international development organisation, and, like many other development NGO's, is relatively new to the Climate Change debate, which until recently has primarily been the domain of environmental organisations. We take very seriously recent reports such as the Stern Review and the assessment report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports together with the experience of partner organisations in developing countries. We are deeply concerned about the impacts on people living in poverty in developing countries of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, which are themselves primarily a product of development in and of the industrialised world. The foundation principle upon which CAFOD was established – to transform the world through solidarity with people living in poverty and action for justice – calls us to engage in the debate on Climate change.

CAFOD is not able to respond across the whole breadth of the consultation's questions. Instead we make comments on key elements of the Climate Change Bill, grouped for ease of reference under the consultation's headings which we feel are crucial and ought to be taken into consideration.

### **Targets and Budgets**

CAFOD, like the Government, believes that the core objective of the Bill should be to ensure that the UK assumes its fair share of responsibility to avert 'dangerous' climate change, and cuts carbon emissions to avoid an overall temperature increase of 2°C (based on pre-industrial levels).

In order for Her Majesty's Government (HMG) to meet its commitments to avert 'dangerous' climate change, CAFOD recommends that the government reduce UK carbon emissions by at least 80%, by 2050. CAFOD believes that this

reduction target represents the UK's fair share of the reduction of global carbon emissions by 50% by 2050 – a reduction which, according to a mounting body of scientific evidence, is needed to avert rise in temperatures of more than 2°C in relation to pre-industrial levels.

In order to achieve this target, CAFOD recommends that HMG set binding carbon budgets with annual milestones, to ensure that emission reductions do not go off course. These annual milestones will improve government accountability and send a clear sign to business and the public to maintain and intensify their efforts to reduce carbon emissions. This will satisfy one of the core rationales for the Bill: 'to provide greater clarity and certainty for UK industry, households and individuals to effectively plan for and invest in a low carbon economy'<sup>1</sup>.

For the UK Government to meet its objective of avoiding a rise in temperature of 2°C based on pre-industrial levels, CAFOD believes that all economic sectors should be factored into the emissions pathway, ensuring policy coherence across government departments. In particular, in the light of the predicted growth of international aviation and shipping and in order to demonstrate consistency in the government's approach, CAFOD calls upon the government to include these sectors in the UK's carbon budgets.

### **The Committee on Climate Change**

CAFOD welcomes the establishment of The Committee on Climate Change, and believes the bill, when it becomes law, will have greater impact if the Committee on Climate Change is genuinely independent and is required to report annually and advise on the nature and level of corrective action to be taken if carbon emissions exceed an annual budgetary limit.

Once again, CAFOD congratulates the government on this draft legislation and reiterates our willingness to engage in dialogue with DEFRA throughout the process of the Bill in order to strengthen it and ensure that it fulfils its objectives.

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If you require any further information, or wish to contact CAFOD regarding Climate Change, please contact Liz Gallagher – [lgallagher@cafod.org.uk](mailto:lgallagher@cafod.org.uk), 0207 095 5647.

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<sup>1</sup> Draft Climate Change Bill