

Statement of the RINGOS: RESEARCH AND INDEPENDENT NGOS
COP 18/CMP 8
Doha, Qatar

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The core of your deliberations here in this fascinating country of Qatar rests on a foundation of science. Throughout the twenty year effort to combat climate change under the Convention, researchers from around the world have been discovering information on the physical causes of climate change and its consequences to humanity and ecosystems.

The members of the Research and Independent NGOs, or RINGOs, help build the knowledge base that you, as policy makers, rely upon. Researchers inform the negotiations, help design the measures you are considering, and test them for effectiveness. We offer our findings through our publications, through the IPCC and - at this venue - through direct communications with you.

The research community also provides insight into the social and political dimensions of climate change. We offer tools and methods to assess vulnerability, mitigation and adaptation, measures of equity and safeguards, and of financing and technology.

RINGOs represent not only seasoned researchers, but also the next generation of scientists, who are here at the COP with great hopes and expectations. Many of us educate the next generation. We welcome these young voices and invite you to hear their ideas and engage them in finding solutions.

RINGOs emphasize the importance of interdisciplinary interaction. This improves understanding of complex issues and the ability to communicate to diverse audiences.

One research result stands out: the gap is growing between the policy that is needed and the policy under discussion here. Policymakers and researchers need to develop and implement the best methods to overcome this gap - together. This is our common challenge for our common future.

Thank you.