

Statement of Yu Jie  
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My name is Yu Jie. I work for Greenpeace in China. I am here today on behalf of the Climate Action Network. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to talk to you today.

In 1998, when I was still at University, China was hit by the largest flood in our very long history. The floods lasted for over 2 months. They affected a quarter of the Chinese population. More than 3000 people were killed. 17 million houses were destroyed. The floods caused 20 billion euros in losses to the economy.

Most people in China have now heard the story of Jiangshan, a six year old girl from Hu Bei who was caught in this disaster.

Jiangshan's mother was washed away by the floods – she was swept away without a chance to even cry for help.

Jiangshan's grandmother used all her strength to push Jiangshan up into a tree. She told the little girl: "hold onto the tree, remember, do not look down, and do not fall asleep." Then Jiangshan's grandmother was washed away too.

Courageously, Jiangshan held on to the tree for 9 hours, alone, all night. The next morning, after the sun rose, she was found by rescuers.

It is a sad story. But only one story of the many from this disaster. This story is being repeated around the world in disasters such as the cyclones in Haiti and Niue, the recent typhoons in the Philippines and the heatwave in Europe. Severe drought in Africa and a rapid increase in average temperatures in the Arctic are also affecting countless people.

According to recent scientific studies, China is increasingly at risk of severe drought and flooding. China will lose over half of its glaciers by 2050. As they disappear, the source of the two great rivers of China, the Yangtzi and Yellow Rivers, will dry up.

Here at CoP10, far from these disasters, we need the same courage as Jiangshan to take serious action.

Wealthy northern countries must ask themselves, what percentage of human-induced emissions in the atmosphere are we already responsible for?

And what does that responsibility entail, in political, moral and legal terms?

The G-77 and China also have a responsibility. Southern people will suffer some of the most serious impacts of climate change. For the sake of the billions of people from your countries, you must reject all of the roadblocks being put in your way by Saudi Arabia.

G77 and China, you must not allow Saudi Arabia to use your nations for their own self-interested and short-sighted needs.

You must instead form partnerships with those who will move all of us towards climate protection and true sustainable development.

You must push industrialised nations to agree to deeper cuts in greenhouse emissions to avoid dangerous climate change.

You must ensure that a development path is agreed to that is fair and equitable.

You must ensure that industrialised countries provide the financial support so that all countries can follow a less carbon-intensive development path.

And you must demand support for adaptation, particularly for the most vulnerable and least developed countries already feeling the impacts of climate change.

At the moment, we are like that little girl Jiangshan – holding on to that tree. We must be courageous. We must not let go of that tree. We must provide support for those nations most at risk of climate change. And we must cooperate to make the transition to a cleaner future to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

It is up to you. For the sake of your children and for the sake of the millions of children like Jiangshan.

Thank you.