

## **Climate crisis: 11,000 scientists warn of ‘untold suffering’**

The Guardian - 5 Nov 2019

The world’s people face “untold suffering due to the climate crisis” unless there are major transformations to global society, according to a stark warning from more than 11,000 scientists. “We declare clearly and unequivocally that planet Earth is facing a climate emergency,” it states. “To secure a sustainable future, we must change how we live. [This] entails major transformations in the ways our global society functions and interacts with natural ecosystems.”

There is no time to lose, the scientists say. “The climate crisis has arrived and is accelerating faster than most scientists expected. It is more severe than anticipated, threatening natural ecosystems and the fate of humanity.”

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The world’s people face “untold suffering due to the climate crisis” unless there are major transformations to global society, according to a stark warning from more than 11,000 scientists. The statement is published 1) \_\_\_\_\_ the journal BioScience on the 40th 2) \_\_\_\_\_ of the first world climate conference, which 3) \_\_\_\_\_ held in Geneva in 1979. The 4) \_\_\_\_\_ was a collaboration of dozens of scientists, endorsed by a further 11,000 from 153 5) \_\_\_\_\_. The scientists say the urgent changes needed 6) \_\_\_\_\_ ending population growth, leaving fossil fuels 7) \_\_\_\_\_ the ground, halting forest destruction and slashing 8) \_\_\_\_\_ eating.

A key aim of the 9) \_\_\_\_\_ is to set out a full range 10) \_\_\_\_\_ “vital sign” indicators of the causes 11) \_\_\_\_\_ effects of climate breakdown, rather than only 12) \_\_\_\_\_ emissions and surface temperature rise. “A 13) \_\_\_\_\_ set of indicators should be monitored, including 14) \_\_\_\_\_ population growth, meat consumption, tree-cover loss, 15) \_\_\_\_\_ consumption, fossil-fuel subsidies and annual economic losses due 16) \_\_\_\_\_ extreme weather events,” according to the 17) \_\_\_\_\_.

Other “profoundly troubling signs from human activities” 18) \_\_\_\_\_ by the scientists include booming air 19) \_\_\_\_\_ numbers and world GDP growth.

As a 20) \_\_\_\_\_ of these human activities, there are “ 21) \_\_\_\_\_ disturbing” trends of increasing land and ocean 22) \_\_\_\_\_, rising sea levels and extreme weather 23) \_\_\_\_\_. “Despite 40 years of global climate negotiations, 24) \_\_\_\_\_ have largely failed to address 25) \_\_\_\_\_ predicament. Especially worrisome are potential irreversible climate 26) \_\_\_\_\_ points. These climate chain reactions could 27) \_\_\_\_\_ significant disruptions to ecosystems, society, and economies, 28) \_\_\_\_\_ making large areas of Earth uninhabitable.”

29) \_\_\_\_\_ scientists identify some encouraging signs, including decreasing 30) \_\_\_\_\_ birth rates, increasing solar and wind power and fossil fuel divestment. Rates of forest destruction in the Amazon had also been falling until a recent increase under new president Jair Bolsonaro.

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