

RINGO Statement at COP 17
Durban, South Africa

Ladies and gentlemen,

Fact-based, independent and critical research provides the foundations of the negotiation process going on here at this beautiful venue in Durban. Without it, you would not have the tools to be considering how to transition to a sustainable future. And research remains at your service. The members of the Research and Independent NGOs or RINGOs engage in research to address the causes and consequences of global climate change.

Of course, you do not need reminding that independent science, including social science, is essential to informing policies in a timely manner. The RINGOs also are committed to fulfill the Convention's obligation to improve the capabilities in developing countries. The Cancun Agreements reaffirmed this.

The IPCC is the core mechanism for science reporting to you. But independent information to you also relies on many formal and informal contacts between researchers and policymakers.

This requires capacity. The urgent need to build national institutional capacity has been flagged time and again. The RINGOs recommend that collaboration between academic institutions, particularly in developing countries, is part of your discussions.

Making informed decisions about mitigation and adaptation also requires data. Data collection, however, is time-intensive, expensive and, well, not very sexy. The RINGOs call upon you to not overlook this important field.

We would like to remind you also that the Convention obliges parties to promote and collaborate in research, and also calls for cooperation in education related to climate change. The RINGOs are the organizations that educate the next generation of innovators and policymakers.

In the RINGO meetings, we have observed increasing activity in the desire to come together and learn from each other. We find this fruitful, and invite parties to join in and engage with academics in their countries.