



# UPDATE REPORT ON THE STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT 3 YEARS ON

## THE STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Since 2020, 13 organisations from the humanitarian sector (NGOs and think tanks) have signed the [Statement of Commitment on Climate by Humanitarian Organisations](#) in which they have made **5 commitments to reduce their environmental footprint and adapt to climate change**. Honouring these commitments will require **concrete actions and resources**.

The signatories have to:

1. **Measure** their impact regularly;
2. **Reduce** their carbon footprint: by fixing an objective in line with the IPCC recommendations of -30% by 2025 and -50% by 2030;
3. **Adapt** humanitarian action to new environmental and climatic challenges;
4. **Communicate**: publish this information as soon as possible, on an annual basis;
5. **Involve** other actors to be more ambitious.

## STATEMENT UPDATE

What progress have the NGOs made, three years after its launch? The [update report](#), which is based on an anonymous questionnaire that was sent to the 13 signatory organisations, reviews the commitments made, **highlighting the challenges and opportunities faced by NGOs** in achieving their objectives. More broadly, this analysis should be of benefit to the international aid sector as a whole as the challenges that organisations face are often the same.

The issues at stake are globally the same as those highlighted in [the 1-year update](#), even though there appear to be **more resources available and more institutional support**, which reflects general changes in the sector, and society as a whole, on environmental issues. **How measures are funded** within organisations remains particularly complicated (in-house funding? project-based funding? etc.), despite the latest developments in donor policies.

## INDIVIDUAL PROGRESS AND THE NEED FOR COLLABORATION

The update shows that **the level of progress varies between organisations** essentially based on **the resources that they have**. Those with the most are able to go faster in developing strategies and tools and implementing initiatives. There is nevertheless a spirit of collaboration, organisations **working within networks** to take advantage of collective learning and the sharing of experiences; certain challenges are not specific to organisations, but rather are common to the sector and its operational methods. This said, part of the ecological transition process is specific to each organisation and therefore requires internal resources.

## ASSESSING FOOTPRINTS...

The update also showed that three years on, all the organisations have made progress on measuring their carbon footprint, some have even completed their assessment (8 organisations), which means they have a baseline to monitor their greenhouse gas emissions, and identify their main sources of emissions.

## ...AND TAKING ACTION TO REDUCE THEM

Certain organisations have also **developed strategies (10) and drawn up action plans** to reduce their environmental footprint. In parallel, they have all also begun to put in place measures, beginning with those that are the most obvious and affordable. They are also working on measures that are more complicated, whether technically, financially or due to socio-cultural resistance, via **working groups, advocacy and awareness-raising**.

But it is complicated to decide which actions to **prioritise** in a context of limited resources. **Choosing between different environmental issues** that are likely to come into conflict with each other is complex, even though it can be useful to discuss these issues collectively.

## OUTSTANDING ISSUES

There remains one key question, which not all organisations have yet addressed: should the reduction be in absolute terms, or in relation to the volume of an organisation's activities? This is a strategic decision with potentially far-reaching consequences, as it **raises questions about the growth of international aid organisations**. Behind this thorny choice lie other questions, which are highly political and as yet are not being addressed in the sector. Are all activities with similar environmental impacts equally valid? Do they have the same social value? And do all organisations have to reduce their emissions in the same proportion, regardless of their level of emissions at the reference date?

The signatories have differing positions on **their communication and monitoring strategies for their commitments**. Once again, this is a sensitive issue that involves both technical difficulties, particularly in relation to carrying out carbon assessments, and reputational issues. Far from being obvious, the questions raised deserve to be explored further collectively.

## AND WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Finally, although all the organisations recognise that the commitments have been - and still are - **a driving force behind the current ecological transition process**, and that in this respect the Statement was a decisive step, the signatory organisations have different ways of approaching the commitments. Indeed, between signing the document, **which constitutes a political choice, and putting the commitments into practice**, which will substantially modify organisational models, each signatory is following their own path. These different positions have given rise to debate which deserves to be pursued so that all organisations interested in the approach, whether signatories or not, can form their own opinion.

### AN APPEAL TO THE SECTOR

We invite the rest of the international aid sector to ask itself these complex questions that go hand in hand with the need to reduce our emissions. We invite you to sign the [Statement](#) (in keeping with commitment 5 !) and make this political commitment to adapt your operational methods in response to the climatic and environmental crisis. We also invite you to help communities become more resilient, prepare for and adapt to this new reality, and preserve and conserve their environment.

You can read the full report [here](#).

Resources available:

- ➔ Reduction strategies: [ACF](#), [ALIMA](#), [CARE International](#), [Gret](#), [Groupe URD](#), [HI](#), [SIF](#), [Solidarités International](#), [Tdh](#).
- ➔ Carbon footprint assessments: [ALIMA](#), [ACTED](#), [Groupe URD \(2012, 2015, 2019, 2022\)](#), [Tdh](#).



More information at <https://www.environnementhumanitaire.org/en/>