

**FOLLOWING UP ON ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMITMENTS:
DONORS AND NGOs POINT OF VIEWS**

3 avril 2024



Agenda



- **Monitoring the Donor Declaration: methods and results, with Karolina Kalinowska from DG ECHO**
- **Monitoring the Statement of Commitment: lessons learned, with Johana Bretou-Klein from Groupe URD**
- **The point of view of signatory NGOs, with Tania Chauvin from Electricians without Borders and Camille Evain from Action against Hunger**





Donor Declaration on Climate and Environment

Following up on environmental commitments

*REH webinar
3 April 2024*

4 commitments, 25 signatories

- 4 commitments which mirror the Climate Charter commitments:
 - *Encourage greater investment in work to prevent, prepare for, anticipate and respond to disasters [...]*
 - *Contribute to improving cooperation and partnerships between governments, donors and aid actors [...] [to strengthen] disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and longer-term development.*
 - *Increase efforts to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and impact on biodiversity of humanitarian activities to help achieve the Paris Agreement's global warming limitation goals.*
 - *Foster the creation of the conditions required for international humanitarian organizations and local partners to adopt environmentally friendly practices [...]*

4 commitments, 25 signatories

- The EU, 23 EU Member States and Norway have signed
- **Goal:** align the Supporters of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations and the Signatories of the Donor Declaration
- Meetings twice a year to discuss implementation and common actions
- Annual reporting to take stock of progress
 - Methodology: common reporting template - discussed and agreed between Signatories

2nd annual report outcomes

- Most have **strategies** to make humanitarian aid ‘greener’
 - Signatories either revised or furthered their humanitarian aid/external aid strategies, policies, and/or safeguards, or adopted new tools.
- Some focused on developing **guidelines** on climate action, environment and humanitarian aid
- Creating an enabling environment: all Signatories work on the **localisation** of aid, and capacity building at the local level

2nd annual report outcomes

- Tools to estimate greenhouse gas emissions and impact on biodiversity
 - Monitoring and measurement is still a collective area for improvement
 - Progress is being made: 4 signatories (compared to 1 in 2023) have monitoring and measurement of environmental impacts in place: the Czech Republic, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands
- Monitoring of the implementation of 'greening' humanitarian action
 - Through field visits, monitoring frameworks, and discussions with partners, as well as requirements.

2nd annual report outcomes

Common ambitions

Reporting against voluntary common ambitions to set a baseline:

- More common:
 - waste management
 - ensuring energy needs for cooking
 - supporting local food production
 - scaling up cash transfers

2nd annual report outcomes

Common ambitions

Reporting against voluntary common ambitions to set a baseline:

- Less common (complexity of certain contexts):
 - phasing out diesel generators in humanitarian action
 - phasing out single-use plastic
 - agreeing to cover additional costs associated with greener solutions

Thank you



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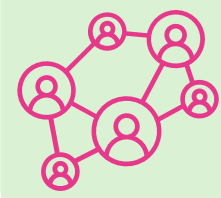
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STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT- Y+3 FOLLOW UP RESULTS & ANALYSIS

3 avril 2024



Statement of commitment of humanitarian organizations for the climate



Context

In December 2020, at the CNH in Paris
10 initial signatories, 3 new ones since then
Strong signal of mobilisation → **political commitment** → **how can it be put into practice?**

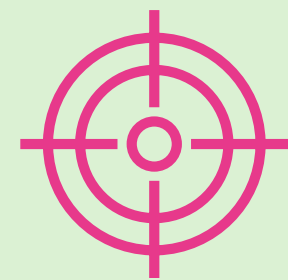


Commitments

1. Measuring our impact
2. Reducing our carbon footprint
3. Adapting our actions to meet these new challenges
4. Communicating
5. Encourage other players to step up our ambitions



4 aims of reporting



Aim

Commitment 4 of the Statement

Assess the **progress** made by each signatory

To identify **successes and barriers**

To **inform the rest of the sector** and enable them to reduce their footprint
in turn

Link to the [report](#) and its [summary](#)



Y+3 Follow-up – Methodology & limits

Methodology

Survey developed with the SC
100% response rate (but not for all)
Anonymised data
Analysis workshop with signatories

Limits

Declarative
Different levels of progress
Length of questionnaire
Comprehension/Subjectivity of certain questions
Social desirability bias
No point of comparison

Progress depending on resources



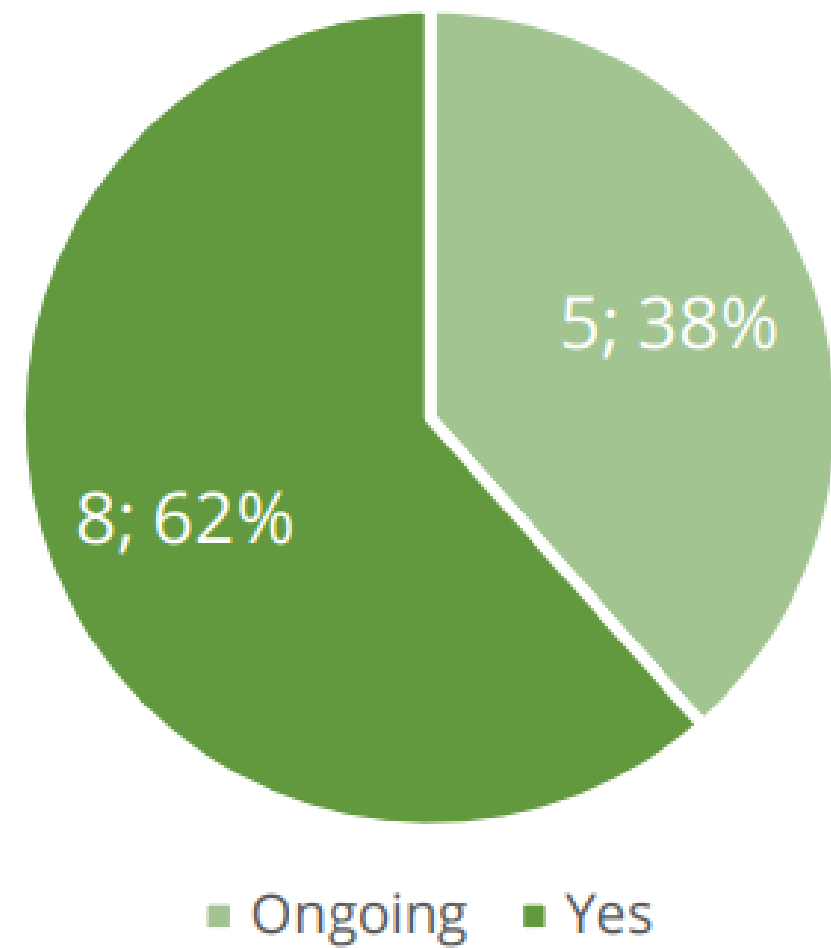
Level of progress varies between organisations



Essentially based on the resources that they have

But spirit of collaboration: organisations working **within networks** to take advantage of collective learning and the sharing of experiences

All measuring & reducing their footprints...



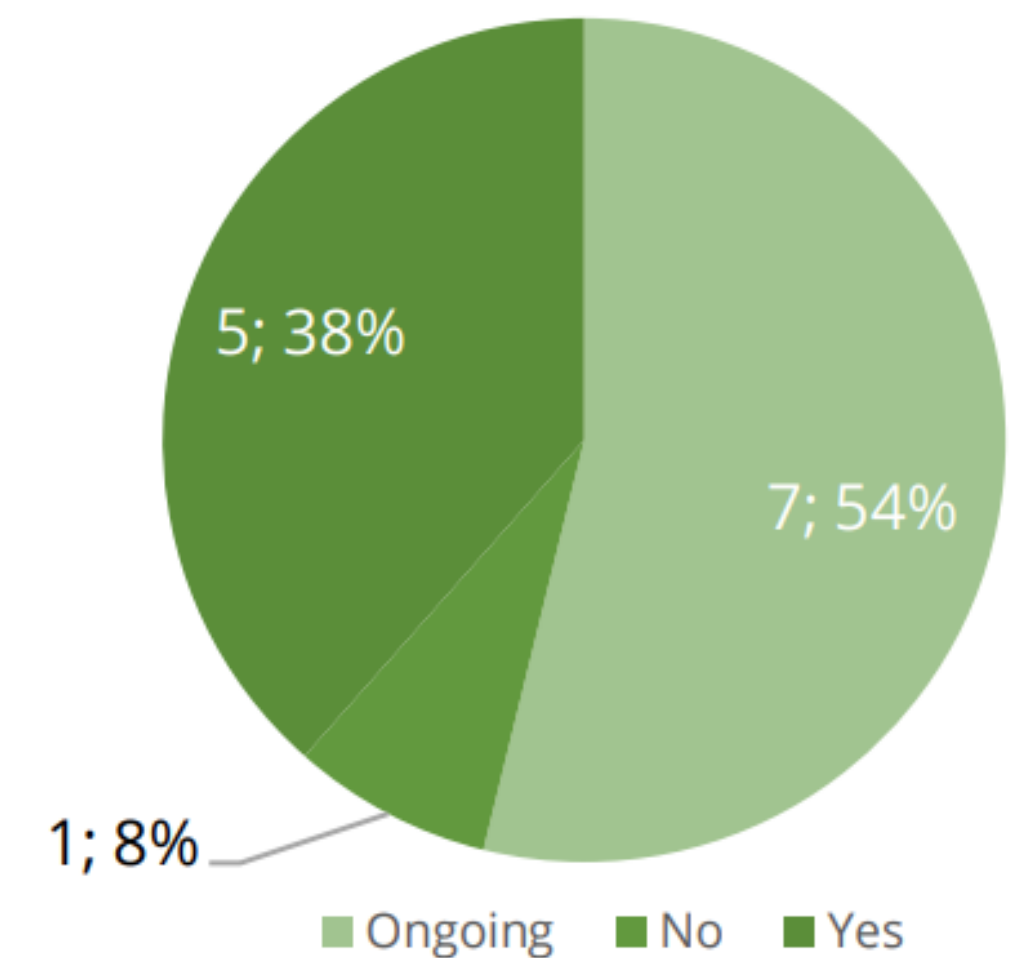
“Have you conducted your carbon footprint accounting?” (n=13)

All signatories have started to measure their carbon footprint (8 were done at the time)

=

They have a baseline to monitor reduction

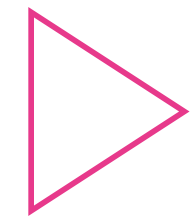
Most signatories have developed a reduction strategy and drawn up action plans



“Have you drawn up a strategy for reducing carbon emissions based on the balance sheet and the major sources identified?” (n=13)



...with complex choices to be made



Starting with measures that are the most obvious and affordable



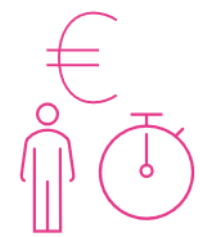
In a context of limited resources, complex to decide which actions to prioritise



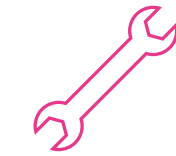
Choosing between different environmental issues are likely to come into conflict

Useful to discuss collectively and to look at the big picture

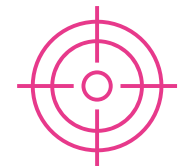
A myriad of challenges met



Lack of resources: technical, time, funding



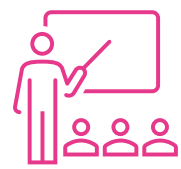
Moving from a technical approach to a policy approach



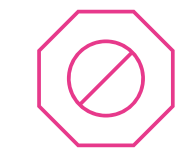
De-centering the gait (HQ-centric)



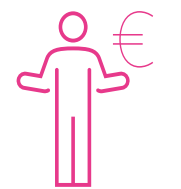
Feeling like you don't know where to start



Pedagogical challenge



Cultural Resistance



Donor involvement



Tensions with the business model



Monitoring systems



Competing Priorities

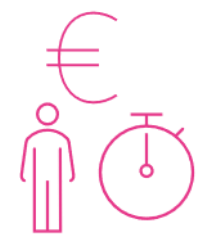


Collective transformation of the sector

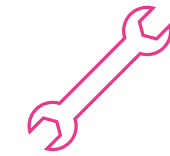


Variety of context, activities, means, activities

A myriad of challenges met



Lack of resources: technical, time, funding



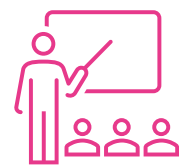
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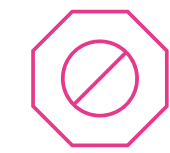
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Feeling like you don't know where to start



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Collective transformation of the sector



Variety of context, activities, means...



No miracle solution!



Link to the [report](#) and its [summary](#)



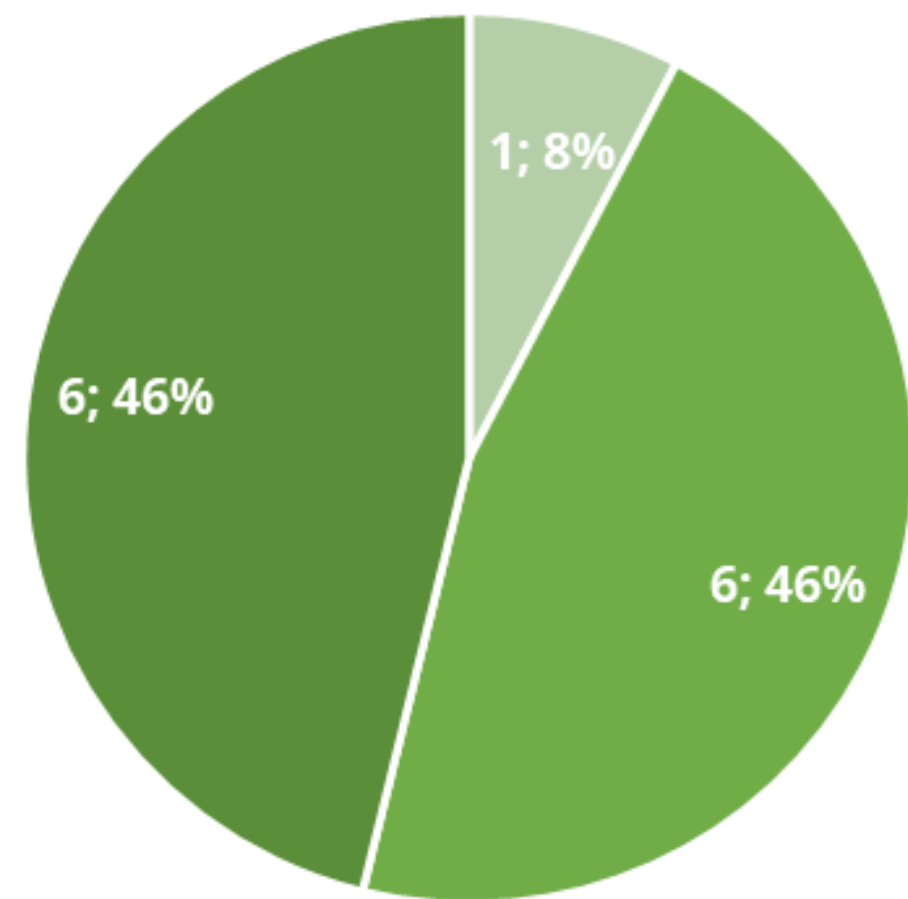
Complex questions - on the nature of the reduction

6 organisations calculate the reduction in relative terms, 1 in absolute terms, 6 have not yet decided

→ far-reaching consequences, as it raises questions about the **growth of international aid organisations**

Behind this...

- *Do all organisations have to reduce their emissions in the same proportion, regardless of their level of emissions at the reference date?*
- *Are all activities with similar environmental impacts equally valid?*
- *Do they have the same social value?*

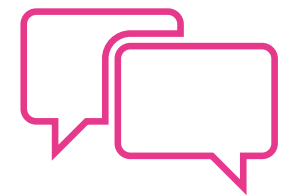


■ absolute ■ don't know ■ relative

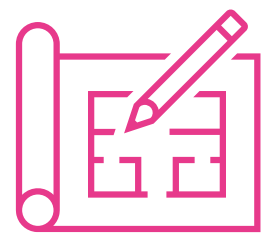
"Is this reduction absolute or relative?"

(n=13)

Complex questions – on communication



Different communication strategies (internally, externally, etc.)

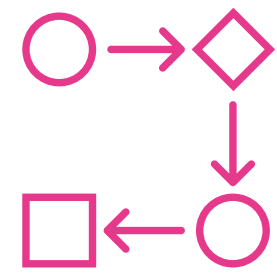


Due to technical and reputational issues

Link to the [report](#) and its [summary](#)



Next steps for the signatories...



Commitments are a driving force



But beyond the signing, the putting the commitments into practice looks different between the organisations

Important to discuss openly, for actors to form their **own opinion**

An appeal to the sector

Reflect

Ask yourself these **complex questions** and **their consequences** that go hand in hand with the need to reduce our emissions



Commit and reduce

Sign the Statement of Commitment

Adapt

Help communities become more resilient, prepare for and adapt to this **new reality**, and preserve and conserve the environment in which we operate

Link to the [report](#) and its [summary](#)





RESEAU ENVIRONNEMENT HUMAINITAIRE

Thank you !