

To the
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany
Mr. Sigmar Gabriel
Auswärtiges Amt
Werderscher Markt 1
10117 Berlin

Bonn, February 16th, 2017

Re: G20 Foreign Ministers meeting

Dear Federal Minister Gabriel,

The year 2017 presents a pivotal moment for the global community. The world is facing both deeply interlinked, complex crises as well as unprecedented opportunities to address their drivers. According to the [2017 Global Risks Report](#) by the World Economic Forum. Climate change ranks as one of the top three trends to shape global developments over the next 10 years, and **remains one of the existential risks to our world**. This is the moment to strengthen and deepen global cooperation on solutions, not to erode it.

We are deeply concerned that statements by the Trump Administration, including those of Secretary of State Tillerson, do not reflect an understanding of the science or the urgency of the threat of climate change. Rather quite the opposite. At a moment when the world is moving forward in addressing this threat multiplier, through the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement and a shift to clean energy, it is vital that the United States treats climate change as the human-induced crisis that it is and responds accordingly. **We request that you, as the host of the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting, make your understanding of the threat of climate change and your commitment to act, a major topic of engagement with Secretary Tillerson.** It is vital that he understands the global commitment to act. The basis and the spirit of cooperation among the G20 cannot be "America First". It must be "Planet Earth First."

In regards to the G20 Foreign Ministerial conclusions, we urge you to

- Reaffirm that climate change remains a top tier national and foreign policy priority, including for the G20.

- Reaffirm your commitment to achieve the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 goals, as key to preventing conflicts, other security threats and forced migration.
- Consider creating a permanent working space under the G20 for sharing knowledge and experience in assessing and addressing security threats caused by climate change and other environmental drivers.
- Support your Head of Government in using the opportunity of the upcoming G20 Summit at Hamburg in July for sending a resolute signal for joint international climate action and for highlighting the strong business case for Renewable Energies worldwide.

The best way of putting the interests of our citizens first is to strengthen cooperation and address the global drivers of conflict based on the evidence.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Morgan
Executive Director
Greenpeace International