



Manifesto of Foundations and French Endowment Funds for the Fight against Climate Change

Aware that the major challenge of the age we live in is the fight against climate change, even though it is still not high enough on the agenda of the powers that be, the Coalition Française des Fondations pour le Climat (CFFC) is committed to mobilizing all philanthropic organizations around this priority question. More than a mere manifesto, it is a call for action, collective mobilization and engagement.

We, the foundations and endowment funds, solemnly declare that action to fight climate change is a matter of great urgency. As actors working for the common good, we make a significant contribution in the fields of solidarity, culture, health, research, education, the environment and in reducing inequality.

The Covid-19 crisis has revealed the frailty of our society and spotlighted the need for greater awareness of the various possible courses of action available to build a more resilient world. However, the probable cause of this crisis is indicative of a deeper, enduring and global crisis, namely the imbalance in natural ecosystems due to overexploitation and destruction by human activity, which is aggravated by climate change, which is already having an impact on the most vulnerable. The advent of this crisis and its impacts are a warning sign urging us to act quickly. We, the foundations and endowment funds, call upon all philanthropic organizations to mobilize and adopt structural measures commensurate with their reality in order to help fight climate change. We are convinced that we can all act and assume our share of responsibility by:

- Acknowledging that it is urgent for us to act in response to climate issues, their current impacts and the risks they pose to humankind and more particularly to the most vulnerable populations.
- Committing actively and in practical terms to the fight against the causes and consequences of climate change by doing all we can to mitigate their impacts.

This cause is everyone's concern. The time for collective transformation has come. We have less than 10 years to change the course of events and make our contribution to the Paris Agreement on climate change. The scientists keep warning us. The human race is in danger of extinction if we do not change our way of producing, consuming and living.

We, the foundations and endowment fund, must assume our responsibility. Our sector can be a source of inspiration and a force for innovation. In France, we have a great deal of capacity for action: every year, 4200 or so active foundations and endowment funds fund projects totalling nearly €3 billion, spend nearly €11 billion, manage €28 billion of assets and employ 136,000 staff.

That is why the CFFC calls on the foundations to embrace this cause by signing a manifesto, and offers to empower them on this course through training programmes, tools and focus groups to contribute actively to taking up this challenge.

Our undertaking

We, the foundations and endowment funds who have signed this manifesto, undertake to take the following measures according to our means and possibilities for action:

1) Educate ourselves and share knowledge

It is crucial to intervene with our structures' governing body, staff and voluntary workers to ensure they **factor in** the effects of climate change with regard to its challenges. We wish to create opportunities for sharing knowledge and good practices. Training and awareness-raising underpin change and the move to action for a fairer, more sustainable green and social transition.

2) Innovate and Integrate

Make progress by factoring the climate issue into our practices and strategies whenever it is relevant and possible:

INTERNAL FUNCTIONING: for instance, our power consumption, our waste management, our transport choices and frequency, the impact of carbon on the organization of our events, etc.

OPERATORS: for instance, factoring the climate issue into our activities, raising our beneficiaries' awareness about this issue, etc.

FINANCIAL BACKERS: for instance, factoring the climate issue into our missions or the projects we back, raising awareness among the beneficiaries of our funding and empowering them in respect of this issue, etc.

FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS: for instance, factoring sustainability criteria into our selection of assets, investments in sustainable specialized funds, ruling out assets based on fossil energy, etc.

We also recognize that climate change poses a risk to our investments, the sustainability of our operations and the functioning of our structures. Therefore, it will be essential to jointly identify the threats and opportunities associated with the transition to the green low-carbon economy.

COLLECTIVE ACTION

Beyond the individual commitment of each fund and foundation, we undertake to contribute collectively to:

- **Capitalizing on what has already been achieved**

The CFFC will represent the French foundations and endowment funds engaged in favour of the climate by taking part in research and petitions with our European counterparts federated by the *Donors And Foundations Networks in Europe* (DAFNE). It will also have a global reach through the worldwide dissemination of the manifesto by a partner in the process of being identified. It will lend its support, its ability to federate and showcase good practices to all the signatory foundations and endowment funds.

- **Mobilizing resources**

The financial and human resources mobilized by the Coalition will enable it to:

- support the foundations and endowment funds who join it (exchanges of information between peers, seminars, training programmes, toolbox, web site, etc.);
- represent them collectively in various public and private-sector bodies on this subject, in France and abroad;
- monitor the progress of the signatory foundations through indicators gauging the extent to which they have factored in climate issues;
- produce all types of work on the philanthropic sector's engagement to tackle the climate crisis;
- bring the action of the signatory funds and foundations to the public's attention;
- ensure the economic sustainability of this far-reaching project to enduringly further the impact of the funds and foundations on the climate question.

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