

Climate Risk Statement of The Geneva Association

The new *Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (IPCC) strongly indicates that climate change is happening, mankind's influence is very material and the changes are occurring faster than earlier projected. The prospect of extreme climate change and its potentially devastating economic and social consequences are of great concern to the insurance industry.

Against this backdrop, we, the leaders of the world's largest insurance and reinsurance companies as assembled in The Geneva Association, want to make known our view through the following key messages.

Customers

- We are committed to enhancing our research capabilities in order to provide a better evaluation and management of climate risks.
- We promote mitigation efforts by developing products which incentivise offsetting or reducing greenhouse gas emission levels.
- We are willing to design insurance products to support low-carbon energy development projects and to help attract investments to such projects.
- As a major institutional investor, the insurance industry encourages mitigation and adaptation efforts, such as investing in low-carbon energy projects.

Policymakers

- The insurance industry is prepared to help counter climate risks through active cooperation in implementing building codes or similar means which encourage the use of sustainable practices.
- We offer to work closely with policymakers on communicating to our customers their climate risk levels, possible strategies of mitigation and adaptation, and in quantifying the financial benefits of those strategies.
- The insurance industry provides innovative solutions for climate risk issues. These include funding relevant research and providing tools to its customers to assess and counter climate risks.
- We recognise the significant benefit of pooling climate risks. We urge policymakers to collect robust data and make it freely available to allow risk assessment and to facilitate efficient solutions where premiums are risk-based.

United Nations

- The insurance industry is uniquely positioned to provide specialised services for countries and businesses facing climate risks worldwide.
- Insurers have the expertise to develop a broad range of affordable private insurance solutions for climate risks.
- Insurance mechanisms are an effective tool to promote climate-related risk management and reduction.
- We recognise that no stakeholder can succeed alone in solving the challenges of climate change. Insurance can and should be a strong complementary mechanism in a wider framework of adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Insurance industry

- We encourage political processes to work towards a better understanding of the potential costs of climate change and the advantages of market-based solutions.
- We continue to work towards further reducing the—relatively moderate—carbon footprint of the insurance industry.
- We are willing to play a major and concerted role in the global efforts to counter climate risks.

The Geneva Association offers a unique platform to pool the knowledge and expertise of the insurance sector. It acts as a hub for expert networking within the industry as well as with external communities. The Geneva Association strives to create opportunities for the insurance industry to join their forces to deal with climate risks where relevant and appropriate.

Toronto, 16 May 2014