



## Doha Climate Change Conference COP 18 – Qatar 2012: Climate Change & Personal Responsibility

- What is needed is a **profound shift in awareness** to transform the quality of the conversation and action among stakeholders: we need to recognize that our preferences and behaviors shape our actions. Real change must begin – and be sustained – in the minds and hearts of human beings.
- There is more than adequate data and evidence of the contribution of human activity to climate change, and therefore the need for change in our behavior. **All individuals and countries need to take responsibility and have a commitment to action.**
- It's time for individuals **to act with conscience**. Our planet is a home, not a commodity... it's time for individuals to use their inner resources in a sustainable way.
- We must **all seek equitable outcomes** that recognize we all inhabit the same planet, and that **we all inherit the outcomes of the collective actions taken on our behalf** by our communities and governments.
- Our failure to really see and act on the extent of the current problems is a reflection of our **collective reluctance to take personal responsibility** for what is happening. This failure is due to our inability to see the linkages between our individual and collective attitudes, thoughts and actions and the impact of these on nature and the planet.
- Nature is signaling **the need for a shift of consciousness** and a need to return to the values which sustain and nurture the planet, and all those who inhabit it. **Nature protects when she is protected.**
- The **loss of complex ecosystems causes serious problems for humanity**, such as an increased vulnerability to natural disasters, poverty and famine, and an overall reduction in the global population's health and wellbeing. We must address the problems that exist at the level of attitude, and its associated behaviour, within all of us.
- It's time for individuals and communities to use inner resources to help manage our response to these environmental issues. It will be difficult to stop or slow these impacts, but we can **support adaptation and sustain community values** through personal empowerment, inner resilience and a return to civic values.
- Adopting **a less materialistic or more sustainable lifestyle helps save the planet's resources**. Statistics indicate that after satisfying basic needs, a life of simplicity creates higher levels of well-being.
- **Mitigation and adaptation** must start within ourselves before we can hope to affect the systems and processes of the communities around us.
- The UN is rare in its ability to convene the world's member nations on behalf of the interests of the whole world. **The urgency of the Climate Change initiative requires our most profound vision and most unselfish action agenda.**

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