



MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES  
Dirección de Medio Ambiente y Asuntos Marítimos



## **Joint Declaration Chile – California on Climate Change**

On the occasion of the opening of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, the President of the Republic of Chile, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, and the Governor of California, Mr. Edmund G. Brown Jr., have highlighted the important achievements accomplished as a result of the long-standing cooperation between the Republic of Chile and the State of California.

Central to this work has been the framework of the Chile – California Plan, which has spanned in many diverse areas of fruitful cooperation, such as education, scientific research, agriculture and environmental protection.

Building on this common basis, and in the proximity of the COP21 in Paris, Chile and California wish to express their convergence on a common vision for a cleaner and sustainable world as well as the need to achieve the ultimate goal established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is to stabilize the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

This goal is not only an obligation emanating from international agreements, but an unavoidable need for the whole planet in order to have a sustainable future and above all, to remain a healthy and prosperous home for present and future generations.

Extreme weather events caused by climate change will increase in intensity and frequency. Both Chile and California have been seriously affected by these extreme weather events, damaging their economies and competitiveness in international markets. Their recurrence is a reminder that climate change affects the most vulnerable. They are, at the same time, the less responsible in causing global warming.

Bearing this in mind, it is crucial that the upcoming COP21 in Paris achieves the goal of delivering a package, consisting of an agreement and decisions, providing a framework that is both ambitious and far-reaching in scope. These instruments will allow the international community to act promptly and to catalyze the action needed in order to avoid a temperature increase of 2°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.



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In this regard, Chile and California commit themselves to develop a common work plan on climate change, building on the solid foundation achieved through long-lasting cooperation mechanisms and on the basis of some areas of common interests, such as:

1. **The Ocean:** Chile and California share a common interest in protecting the ocean. The ocean has a very relevant role in combating climate change. It is a natural carbon sink, which has absorbed almost 25% of all historical greenhouse gas emissions. However, this has had a significant cost in terms of biodiversity, pollution, acidification and sea-level rise, all of which are phenomenon that require urgent attention and timely action.
2. **Carbon Markets:** Chile has seen the success in the development of an Emission Trading System (ETS) that currently operates in California, which includes positive indications for the private sector, creating business opportunities while at the same time contributing to a cleaner economy. Chile is also exploring possible measures to adopt a similar system, through its participation on the Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR) of the World Bank.
3. **Adaptation:** Both Chile and California have a common interest in reducing vulnerabilities and increasing resilience to climate change. The similarities in the semi-arid zones, as well as coastal management and agricultural production constitute a clear indication of the potential in bilateral cooperation.
4. **Water Management:** Climate change poses a clear risk in the availability of freshwater resources, both for human consumption as well as for other uses. It is imperative that clear policies are developed with the participation of all stakeholders, to achieve a sustainable management of water.
5. **Forests:** One of the most effective ways to combat climate change is reducing deforestation and promoting effective policies of reforestation and afforestation. Forests are natural carbon sinks and play a critical role. Therefore there is a common interest to cooperate to implement the sustainable management of these resources as well as other critical policies, such as the prevention of forest fires.
6. **Air Quality:** Chile and California share challenges on air pollution due to particulate matter and ozone. Santiago and Los Angeles both face high emissions from mobile sources and industry. The Central Valley of Chile and California have wood burning and agricultural waste emissions which cause high wintertime pollution. Chile and California agree that an integrated



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approach to address local air pollution with climate change through short lived climate pollutants such as methane and black carbon generate smart and cost effective solutions for clean air and a safer planet.

7. Waste management: Chile and California collaborate at municipal levels on waste management. Both parties agree to share best practices on waste to energy, composting, anaerobic digestion, and recycling to reduce waste to landfill, and decrease methane emissions.

Finally, Chile and California support strong international, national, and subnational action to reduce carbon emissions consistent with keeping warming below 2 degrees Celsius. Chile and California support international recognition of the essential role for sub-nationals, including efforts such as the Subnational Global Climate Leadership Memorandum of Understanding.

Ms. Michelle Bachelet

REPUBLIC OF CHILE

Mr. Edmund G. Brown Jr.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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