



CATASTROPHE NOW: TIPPING POINTS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

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My job as introducer and convener of this session is to motivate you towards change. As a philosopher, scientist and educator, I speak to you about the fact that we are beyond the tipping point. For the past 14 years, I have observed incredible changes in environments around the world: from seeing the Arctic icecaps melt, to flooding processes caused by rising water levels, desertification, floods caused by intense rain, to consequences of disease and devastation due to economic instability, insufferability of ecosystems productivity and pressures mounted by these environmental events as well as people's need to survive on the natural resources of our planet.

We are beyond the point of hope. My message is that today we need to discuss atrophy management rather than simple conservation. Today, literally thousands of people are being starved at this moment. Tens of thousands of people are being presented with new types of diseases and in the next ten years, millions of people will need to be relocated from the places they live. Discussion is no longer needed. Action is imperative. This morning and this afternoon, you will hear more detailed information about the changes we are seeing in the environment, in the economy, in the health of people and ecosystems and learning about the challenges we face to educate our civil stakeholders about which actions need to take place. We hope that the findings from this side event can be simply incorporated into the document from the findings of the conference at the end of the week. Over 60% of the changes that need to take place immediately can be done on an individual basis to affect a reversal in the anthropogenic process.

Moreover, at the other levels of our civil stakeholder society, corporations, and governments, actions they can take now will begin to make a difference. However, in longer terms, our individual, corporate and civil society changes are not meant as a stopgap to the problems today, they are really meant as a new way of living in harmony with our environment and our society. We expect engagement in the schools, in religious organizations, in the union halls, and in other unconventional places to begin this discussion as part of our everyday communication and thereby action being to consistently apply and actually improve the economic and environmental conditions for the future.

In summary:

1. Civil society needs to take action now.
2. Communication at all levels of civil society needs to focus on what appropriate actions need to taken at each level.
3. Finally, there needs to be measurement tools to evaluate effectiveness of these messages and the actions thereby taken.

Thank you for considering your actions today that can make an impact on our shared future.