

Anthropogenic climate change is the greatest challenge humanity has ever faced.

Climate change harms our ecosystems with intense wildfires, floods, and heat waves. It exacerbates the health impacts of poor air quality, creates and worsens food shortages, and makes clean water more difficult to access. The climate crisis destroys communities by damaging homes, increasing unemployment, and weakening local economies.

With supply chains in jeopardy, the global economy has become more uncertain. Marginalized groups, without the means to adapt, are experiencing the harshest impacts of climate change, with 'climate refugees' becoming more common.

Things will get worse before they get better: Extreme weather events are expected to become more frequent and more damaging unless urgent global action is taken to address the crisis by equitably implementing carbon emissions reduction solutions at a significant scale and speed. Those who have benefited most from the industrial age have been responsible for the vast majority of carbon emitted into the atmosphere and thus have a duty to lead.

As a global community of athletes, Olympians, major-leaguers, and students, we have witnessed the effects of the climate crisis on our sports, the sports industry, and how our sports intersect with the rest of society.

Extreme weather due to climate change, from wildfires, to more intense storms and heat waves, to declining snowfall, are threatening the viability of some sports and making some mega-sporting events difficult to organize and host. Poor air and water quality, in many cases exacerbated by climate change, are making sports and life much more challenging. It is becoming harder for young athletes to play, train and achieve the same level of success we've been fortunate to attain.

While the world is behind in the climate fight — the 2018 UN IPCC report said that humanity needs to decarbonize by 45 percent by 2030 if we are to avoid the harshest impacts of climate change — there is time for a meaningful #ClimateComeback.

That is why, as members of the global sporting community, we are raising our voices to call for much needed change that needs to start now. We stand in support of the millions of young people who are demanding meaningful, global climate action and implore global leaders in government and business to heed this call.

Finally, we call on fellow athletes, fans, organizations, government, and business leaders to unite to achieve the four goals of COP26:

1

Secure global net zero emissions by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach.

We urge all governments to end their financial and legal support for the fossil fuel industries which have largely driven this crisis.



2

Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats.

We advocate that governments, businesses, and NGOs prioritize decarbonization programs over offsets.



3

Mobilize finance to deliver on 1 and 2.

We endorse the adoption of equitable carbon pricing regimens that would accelerate decarbonization and reduce income inequality.



4

Collaborate to finalize the Paris rulebook.



By doing so, we will be helping to lead the much needed #ClimateComeback that is necessary for humanity to meet this challenge. We owe no less to ourselves, our youth, and the future of sport.

This is a game we can and must win.



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