



Climate Litigation Network

ANBI POLICY PLAN

November 2023

1. Background

The Climate Litigation Network (CLN) is a not-for-profit foundation that works with partners around the world to bring ground-breaking litigation against high-emitting actors to drive stronger climate action.

CLN was established following the historical *Urgenda* climate case in the Netherlands, which led to the first decision of a court globally to order a national government to increase its climate ambition. To harness the ground-breaking legal strategy and expertise developed in bringing the *Urgenda* case, the Urgenda Foundation set up CLN in 2016 to inspire and strengthen climate cases brought by local organisations and affected communities against governments.

Since then, CLN has provided support (without charge) to individuals, NGOs and grassroots movements all over the world to help them to initiate and develop effective lawsuits against their governments, towards limiting global warming to 1.5°C and protecting human rights.

In November 2023, CLN became an independent *stichting* (not-for-profit foundation) registered in the Netherlands.

2. Mission and vision

CLN's vision is a world in which there is a safe and sustainable climate and environment for all, in which human rights are respected and protected by governments and corporations.

CLN's mission is to ensure that high-emitting actors globally adopt climate plans that hold global temperature increase below 1.5°C based on best available science and the protection of human rights, and that such plans are regularly reviewed, updated and implemented.

CLN works towards achieving its vision by working in partnership with national legal and advocacy teams to support high-impact litigation. Consistent with principles of climate justice, CLN focuses on litigation against those actors that have contributed the most to the climate crisis – in particular, but not limited to, high-emitting governments that have historically contributed the most to climate change and have the highest capacity to address the crisis.

CLN is committed to:

- Ensuring accountability;
- Advancing climate justice;
- Empowering local communities; and
- Driving systemic change.

3. Action

Climate change is here now. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded in its Sixth Assessment Report 2022 that the “cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health”. It noted that “any further

delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.”

There remains a small window of time during which we can take action to minimise the worst impacts of climate change for present and future generations.

In light of this, CLN takes the following actions towards achieving its mission:

1. CLN supports individuals, organisations and grassroots movements around the world to develop legal strategies and related communications activities to ensure that high emitting actors worldwide adopt and implement plans that preserve a safe and sustainable climate, prevent biodiversity loss and ensure a just transition to a sustainable society.
2. CLN connects individuals, organisations and grassroots movements working on legal strategies to develop a global legal sustainability movement.
3. CLN undertakes research and analysis in the field of climate litigation and related areas to inform the development and execution of its programmes.

CLN provides the above support at no cost to local partners, who are NGOs, affected communities and concerned individuals. CLN is able to provide support to its local partners through fundraising (outlined below).

The decade ahead is critical for limiting global warming to 1.5°C. CLN therefore intends to increase its capacity across all of its activities in the next three years – providing support to local partners, connecting those working on legal strategies, and engaging in research.

4. Fundraising and deployment of funds

The Climate Litigation Network generates all income through fundraising from private foundations and individual donations. CLN will continue to raise funds in this manner.

As a not-for-profit organisation, all funds raised go directly toward the execution of activities that further the mission of CLN, as outlined above.

Assets are disbursed consistently by Directors, in accordance with the budget that is approved annually by the Board (see below). CLN’s main expenditure is salaries for staff and associated expenses.

Accounts are audited on an annual basis by external accountants.

5. Governance

CLN is overseen by a Board consisting of at least three members.

The current Board members are:

- Marjan Minnesma: Director of the Urgenda Foundation.

- Jim Fitzgerald: Director of the Equal Rights Trust.
- Catherine Higham: Policy Fellow (Climate Change Laws of the World) at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment.

Board members do not receive remuneration for the performance of their duties, other than a reimbursement for reasonable costs actually incurred.

6. Organisation information

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