

## The Elders' Foundation

### Senior Policy Adviser - Climate Change

#### 1. Overview

The Elders is seeking a Senior Policy Adviser to lead The Elder's political advocacy on climate change. The post holder will deliver The Elders' climate change work in line with the Foundation's vision, mission and values. The post holder will be responsible for researching and pro-actively developing an advocacy work stream for The Elders that responds to their climate change positions, as well as conducting policy analysis to support climate related areas of work.

#### 2. Reporting to: Programme Director

#### 3. Main Duties and Responsibilities:

##### Research and analysis

- Research, analyse and monitor political developments related to climate change on the international stage. This will involve monitoring the UNFCCC, the G20, the G7 and other relevant international fora. It will also involve staying abreast of the latest climate science and climate innovations of relevance to The Elders, as well as relevant campaigns led by civil society.

##### Development of climate change initiatives

- Building on research and networking, develop proposals for the Elders' consideration for climate change related advocacy activities. This will include proactively leading the development of an advocacy strategy for The Elders on climate change for 2018 and revising and updating this thereafter.
- Lead implementation of agreed initiatives through, for example, consulting and coordinating with key partners, briefing Elders orally and in writing, drafting letters for the Elders and the CEO, assisting with preparation of communications materials, arranging meetings and visits and preparing reports on these.
- Develop and implement methodologies to monitor and evaluate the impact of climate change initiatives.

##### Policy analysis for thematic initiatives

- Assist colleagues leading on thematic Elders' initiatives on e.g. health and peace and security, by researching and analysing climate change linkages, and recommending climate change messaging and advocacy as part of other Elders' work streams.

##### Relationship building and representation

- Build and maintain relationships with governments, civils society organisations, opinion-leaders, parliamentarians, academic institutions and think tanks to aid research and analysis, develop collaboration and further Elders' initiatives.

- Develop relationships with climate champions and frontline communities to facilitate the Elder's efforts to stand in solidarity with brave climate leaders and to demonstrate strong moral authority.

#### Other Responsibilities:

- Prepare papers for regular Elders' board meetings and contribute to reporting as required e.g. to funders and to the Annual Report.
- Contribute to communications activities related to climate change.
- Undertake special projects or other tasks as requested by the Programme Director.

#### **4. The Elders' ways of working**

The Elders ways of working can be generally described as political advocacy – hence the need for the post holder to have proven skills and experience in this regard.

The Elders occupy a space between the most senior levels of decision making and civil society. The Elders' have access to Heads of State and Government, yet they have close working relationships with civil society organisations and stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable people and communities. This positioning and the personal reputations of the individual Elders is their collective currency and must be used wisely and carefully.

The Elders' ways of working include: writing letters to heads of state and government; quiet diplomacy and bilateral meetings; writing op eds, blogs, statements; delivering key note speeches and participating in panels and roundtables; country visits including meetings with political leaders and civil society activists; Elders and youngsters – where The Elders share a platform with young people; media interviews; social media campaigns.

Climate change political advocacy work will need to be designed cognisant of these ways of working.

#### **5. The Elders climate change work**

The Elders' Strategic Framework 2014-2017 set as an objective for work on climate change that *'by 2017 the international community is collaborating more effectively to develop urgent solutions and agreements on climate change'*. In 2014 and 2015 The Elders' used their influence to help persuade governments to establish and honour bold and ambitious international agreements on climate change. They did this in two ways: i) by engaging leaders at the highest level to encourage leadership for an equitable, ambitious and legally binding agreement from COP21 in Paris; and ii) by supporting broad citizen mobilization at the grassroots in the lead up to COP 21 in Paris.

The Elders' contribution was one amongst many others that pushed for an ambitious outcome from COP21 and a robust Agenda 2030; these agreements were important milestones towards The Elders' objective. From 2016 onwards the focus has been on activities to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. While recent political events may

challenge this progress, The Elders' continue to advocate for a strong multilateral response to climate change.

The Elders' unique role in the lead up to the Paris Agreement was to establish a moral imperative for action that transcended religious beliefs and called for action on human and moral grounds. This moral imperative remains the unique selling point of The Elders and it is a cornerstone for future advocacy efforts.

The current work of The Elders continues to be focused on high level advocacy on climate change, specific climate related themes such as fossil fuel subsidy reform and the links to financing Universal Health Coverage, and an ongoing effort to stand in solidarity and shine a light on brave climate champions and climate vulnerable people, communities and countries.

## **6. Skills and Experience required:**

We are looking for a senior climate change policy professional with at least 10 years' experience in political advocacy; this political advocacy experience can be from fields outside climate change, but direct expertise in the climate change arena is required. The post holder will be proactive, innovative, analytical, flexible and energetic and committed to the mission and values of The Elders. Candidates should be self-starters with capacity to direct and proactively develop The Elders' work on climate change and to understand and respond to The Elders' unique selling points. They must have an excellent network of contacts and relationships with key players in the climate change arena.

Candidates should have the following experience, skills and qualifications:

- An excellent understanding of international climate change policy and politics;
- Demonstrated senior-level policy experience on global climate change issues in international organisations, government, NGOs or development institutions;
- A track record of developing political advocacy strategy, implementing plans and activities, and achieving results on international policy initiatives;
- An excellent network of contacts and relationships with key players in the climate change arena;
- Strong diplomatic skills, political acumen and experience of analyzing complex global political situations and in collaborating with a range of organisations and high-profile individuals to develop and influence policy;
- Analytical and research strength including the ability to understand, interpret and present complex and sensitive information from a variety of sources;
- A flexible, collegiate style and willingness to work in a small, collaborative team;
- Excellent written and spoken English including demonstrated ability to write clear / concise briefing and documents for high-level audiences;
- Relevant graduate or postgraduate qualification;
- Fluency in French and other languages desirable.

### Salary

A competitive salary is offered, commensurate with experience.

### To Apply

Please send a CV and a covering letter of no more than 2 sides of A4 explaining your motivation for applying and how you meet the Skills and Experience required for the post to Mark Hilton, Chief of Staff at The Elders, on [jobs@theelders.org](mailto:jobs@theelders.org) by close on Monday 6 November 2017. If you would like to discuss the role, please contact Jenny Yates, Programme Director at The Elders, on [jobs@theelders.org](mailto:jobs@theelders.org).

Please note that you must have permission to live and work in the UK to be considered for this position.