

Repay the climate debt A just and effective outcome for Copenhagen

We the undersigned groups, including development, environment, gender and youth organisations, faith-based communities, indigenous peoples and social and economic justice movements in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and North America call on the rich industrialized world to acknowledge its historic and current responsibility for the causes and adverse effects of climate change, and to fully, effectively and immediately repay its climate debt to poor countries, communities and people.

Climate change threatens the balance of life on Earth. Oceans are rising and acidifying; ice caps and glaciers are melting; forests, coral reefs and other ecosystems are changing or collapsing. The existence of some communities is imperilled, while others face growing barriers to their development. Unless curbed, an impending climate catastrophe risks increasingly violent weather, collapsing food systems, mass migration and unprecedented human conflict.

Poor countries, communities and people have contributed least to the causes of climate change, yet are its first and worst victims. At greatest risk are women, indigenous peoples, poor people, small farmers, fisher-folk and forest communities, people relying on scarce water resources, youth and other groups susceptible to harm and health impacts.

A wealthy minority of the world's countries, corporations and people, by contrast, are the principal cause of climate change. The developed countries representing less than one fifth of the world's population have emitted almost three quarters of all historical emissions. Their excessive historical and current emissions occupy the atmosphere and are the main cause of current and committed future warming.

Developed countries have consumed more than their fair share of the Earth's atmospheric space. On a per person basis, they are responsible for more than ten times the historical emissions of developing countries. Their per person emissions today are more than four times those of developing countries.

For their disproportionate contribution to the causes and consequences of climate change, developed countries owe a two-fold climate debt to the poor majority:

- For their excessive historical and current per person emissions – denying developing countries their fair share of atmospheric space – they have run up an “emissions debt” to developing countries; and
- For their disproportionate contribution to the effects of climate change – requiring developing countries to adapt to rising climate impacts and damage – they have run up an “adaptation debt” to developing countries.

Together the sum of these debts – emissions debt and adaptation debt – constitutes their climate debt, which is part of a larger ecological, social and economic debt owed by the rich industrialized world to the poor majority.

Honouring these obligations is not only right; it is the basis of a fair and effective solution to climate change. Those who benefited most in the course of causing climate change must compensate those who contributed least but bear its adverse effects. They must compensate

developing countries for the two-fold barrier to their development – mitigating and adapting to climate change – which were not present for developed countries during the course of their development but which they have caused.

Developed countries, however, intend to write-off rather than honour their debt. In their submissions to the climate negotiations they seek to pass on substantial adaptation costs to developing countries; evading rather than honouring their adaptation debt. And they seek to continue their high per person emissions; deepening rather than repaying their emissions debt, consuming additional atmospheric space, and crowding the world's poor majority into a small and shrinking remainder.

We are concerned that continued excessive consumption of atmospheric space by the world's wealthy at the expense of the world's poor – who need access to energy and resources to build the schools, houses and infrastructure that the rich world already has and continues to benefit from – puts at risk the prospects of any viable solution to climate change and, with it, the safety of all nations and peoples, and the Earth.

As the basis of a fair and effective climate outcome we therefore call on developed countries to acknowledge and repay the full measure of their climate debt to developing countries commencing in Copenhagen. We demand that they:

- Repay their adaptation debt to developing countries by committing to full financing and compensation for the adverse effects of climate change on all affected countries, groups and people;
- Repay their emissions debt to developing countries through the deepest possible domestic reductions, and by committing to assigned amounts of emissions that reflect the full measure of their historical and continued excessive contributions to climate change; and
- Make available to developing countries the financing and technology required to cover the additional costs of mitigating and adapting to climate change, in accordance with the Climate Convention.

Meeting these demands is a basic prerequisite for success in December 2009. Copenhagen must be a key turning point for climate justice – a major milestone on the journey towards safeguarding the Earth's climate system and ensuring a future in which the rights and aspirations of all people can be realized.

Endorsed by:

11.11.11- Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement, Belgium
5Cs Human Rights Group, Nairobi, Kenya
Acción Ecológica, Chile
ActionAid International
Africa Action, USA
Alianza de Pueblos del Sur Acreedores de Deuda Ecologica
Alianza por la Justicia Climática (Climate Justice Alliance), Chile
Alliance for Global Justice
Alliance of People's Movement, India
Almáciga Grupo de trabajo Intercultural, España, Colombia

AMAN - Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago, Indonesia
 American Jewish World Service (AJWS), USA
 Analysis, Dili, Timor-Leste
 Anti Debt Coalition (KAU), Indonesia
 Arid Lands Institute
 Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
 Asia Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN)
 Association for Taiwan Indigenous Peoples' Policies (ATIPP)
 ATTAC - Argentina
 ATTAC - France
 ATTAC - Japan
 Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network
 Bali Collaboration on Climate Change
 BanglaPraxis, Bangladesh
 Berne Declaration, Switzerland
 Bharatiya Krishak Samaj, India
 Boro People's Forum (BPF)
 CADPI (Centro Para La Autonomia Y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indigenas), Nicaragua
 Campagna per la Riforma della Banca Mondiale (CRBM), Italy
 Center for Human Rights and Development, Mongolia
 Centre for Civil Society Environmental Justice Project, South Africa
 Centre for Society and Religion, Sri Lanka
 Chile Sustentable, Chile
 Christian Aid, UK
 CIRUM Culture Identity and Resources Use Management, Vietnam
 CODE Consultancy on Development, Vietnam
 Community Research and Development Centre (CREDC), Nigeria
 Consumers Association of Penang, Malaysia
 Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), Philippines
 Core Centre for Organisation Research and Education, India
 CREED Citizens' alliance in Reforms for Equitable and Efficient Development, Pakistan
 Defendamos la Ciudad, Chile
 Defensores del Bosque Chileno
 Development Fund, Norway
 Down to Earth (DTE), Indonesia
 Eagle Clan Arawaks of Barbados and Guyana
 Earthlife Africa, South Africa
 Ecologistas en Acción, Spain
 Economic Justice and Development Organization (EJAD), Pakistan
 Economic Justice Network (EJN) of the Fellowship of Christian Councils, South Africa
 Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA, Southern Africa
 Environmental Investigation Agency, USA
 Environmental Rights Action, Nigeria
 Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh (Equitybd)
 FASE - Solidarity and Education, Brazil
 Federation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Asia (FITPA)
 Fiscalía del Medio Ambiente (FIMA), Chile
 FOCO Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos, Argentina
 Focus on the Global South, Thailand
 Friends of the Earth International (with 77 member groups)

Fundacion Solon, Bolivia
Global Exchange, USA
Global Forest Coalition
Global Youth Climate Movement
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters JPIC, USA
IBON Europe
IBON Foundation, Philippines
Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples North East Zone (ICITP-NEZ)
Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF), India
Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples (IKAP), Thailand
Indigenous Peoples Caucus of the Greater Caribbean
Indigenous Peoples Development Facilitators Forum (IPDFF)
Indigenous Peoples' Forum of North East India
Indonesian Society for Social Transformation (INSIST), Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR)
Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR), Indonesia
International Forum on Globalization
IWA (Indigenous World Association)
Janice Howard
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement- International, Togo
Jubilee Debt Campaign, UK
Jubilee Montana Network
Jubilee South
Jubilee South Africa
Jubilee South-Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JS APMDD)
Jubilee USA
Jubileo Sur-Americas
Kediri Bersama Rakyat, Indonesia
Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre, Nigeria
La'o Hamutuk - Timor-Leste Institute for Development Monitoring
LDC Watch, Global
Maleya Foundation
Marcha mundial de las Mujeres, México- Zona Centro
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, USA
Montagnard Foundation, Inc.
Movimento pelas Serras e Águas de Minas, Minas Gerais, Brasil
Mujeres para el Dialogo, A.C.
Naga Women's Union, Manipur
National Alliance for Human rights and Social Justice (HR Alliance), Nepal
National Fisheries Solidarity Movement Of Sri Lanka
National Forum of Forest People & Forest Workers, India
National Network of Indigenous Women
NEPAD, Centrafrique
Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples
NGO Forum on the ADB
Nicaragua Network, USA
North East Alliance on Trade, Finance and Development, North East India
Ocean Revolution
Ole Siosiomaga Society Incorporated (OLSSI) in Samoa, the Pacific
Oxfam International
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum

Participatory Research & Action Network-PRAN, Bangladesh
 Pax Romana-IMCS Asia Pacific
 Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), Philippines
 Practical Action UK
 Q'eqchi Council of Belize
 Rapa Nui Parliament
 REBRIP - Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples
 Red Nacional Género y Economía (REDGE)
 Red Wamani - (IMP)
 Resource Institute of Social Education-RISE, India
 RNDD Niger
 Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN), Nepal
 Rural Women's Liberation Movement, India
 Rural Workers Movement, India
 Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM)
 Sawit Watch, Indonesia
 Shimin Gaikou Centre (SGC), Japan
 Siembra, A.C.
 Society for Rural Education and Development
 Society for Threatened Peoples International
 Solidarity Workshop
 SONIA, Italie
 South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), Nepal
 South Durban Community Environmental Alliance, South Africa
 SPERI, Vietnam
 Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), Liberia
 Sustainable Energy and Economy Network, USA
 Tamil Nadu Dalit Women's Movement, India
 Tamil Nadu Women's Forum, India
 TARA-Ping Pu, Taiwan
 TEBTEBBA - Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research & Education
 The European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad)
 The Grassroots Policy Network (Columbia University School of International and Public
 Affairs), USA
 The Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)
 The Right to Food Network (RtFN), Nepal
 The United Confederation of Taino People, Caribbean
 Third World Network
 Ulashi Sreejony Sangha (USS), Bangladesh
 Vanessa Miller
 Watch Indonesia!
 Women Environmental Conservation based in Uganda - Karamoja and other indigenous
 organizations
 World Development Movement (UK)
 World March of Women, Kenya
 World Rainforest Movement
 Yayasan Tanaman, Flores, Indonesia
 Zero Corruption Coalition, Nigeria

Total number of endorsements as of 12 June 2009: 232