

## **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