

ALTER-ECO

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Climate Justice Views from Social Movements and Impacted Communities

Protest Erupts at Press Conference, Youth Expelled and Badges Seized

Following a press conference Tuesday, youth activists led a protest out of the conference onto the front stairs of the Moon Palace, where Bolivarian Ambassador Pablo Solon spoke to the crowd and media frenzy.

The press conference began with a statement evoking the name of Lee Kyung Hae, the South Korean farmer and member of La Via Campesina who committed suicide during protests against the World Trade Organization in Cancún in 2003. The moderator charged that it is now climate change that is killing farmers and other marginalized peoples, and that the UNFCCC has degenerated into the World Carbon Trade Organization.

Speakers at the press conference included Delegates from the Paraguayan and Nicaraguan delegations, as well as Tom Goldtooth, of Indigenous Environmental Network, Mary Rose Taruc of the the Asian

Pacific Environmental Network and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, Kari Fulton of Youth 4 Cli-



Photo: Langelle/GJEP-GFC

mate Justice, Josie Riffaud of La Via Campesina, Luis Enrique of the MST of Brazil, and Ricardo Navarro of Friends of the Earth

International.

After the march out, the youth activists went on to loudly denounce the inaccessibility and unjust nature of the talks and express outrage over having been repeatedly denied permission to hold a youth delegation protest on the UN grounds.

As the youth marched away, they were accosted by UN security, stripped of their badges, put on buses and evicted from the center.

Contributors to Alter-ECO are appalled at these blatant actions by the UNFCCC to squelch dissenting voices. This protest was nominally disruptive and the action against the youth, whose voices should be heard more than any other as the generation who will have to face our inaction on climate change, were completely unwarranted.

— Anne Petermann
Global Justice Ecology Project

Whatever happened to the Text from the Cochabamba People's Accord?

As supporters of the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, we are extremely concerned that the principles agreed upon in the Cochabamba People's Agreement have been unilaterally removed from the LCA negotiating documents released on November 24 and December 4.

Equally alarming is the misrepresentation of the Copenhagen Accord as a legitimate way forward in

the LCA track, despite its widespread denouncement by civil society and its lackluster reception last year in Denmark, when the UNFCCC merely "took note of" it. Beyond the lack of transparency in the negotiation process, there are several concerns as to its content.

First, the Copenhagen document gives full support for REDD (Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation). REDD, by generating

"offsets" will allow industrial polluters to continue their practices virtually unabated, also threatens indigenous and land-based peoples with eviction and marginalization. It contains no safeguards, no guarantee of rights, and a disturbing array of potential governance challenges. Furthermore, it leaves the door wide open for the expansion of carbon markets tied to forests.

Second, according to a recent
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(Cochabamba, Continued from front)

report by the journal, Nature, the mitigation commitments under the Accord are not sufficient to prevent warming of 3°C or more. A rise in global temperatures of this magnitude virtually condemns many island and lesser developed nations to death. Further the level of adaptation funding promised in the Accord is not enough to “close the

gap” between adaption to and mitigation of climate change.

In Tianjin, more than 40 organizations in Climate Justice Now! signed a letter to governments and delegates to demand consideration of the Cochabamba Agreement. We reiterate that call now and demand full transparency in negotiations moving forward.

— Nicola Bullard
Focus on the Global South

Who We Are

Alter-ECO is published by a group of social movements and impacted communities organizations at the UNFCCC COP-16, who call for climate change solutions based on social and ecological justice.

Alter-ECO does not necessarily reflect the views of the participating organizations, networks or contributors to Alter-ECO.

To submit articles, cartoons, etc., please email smg.justice@gmail.com.

Bolivia Struggles to Close LULUCF Loopholes

Decisions coming out of Cancun rest more than many realize, on the ground. Literally.

Industrialized countries, Canada, Australia and US especially, are pushing forward proposals under “LULUCF (land use land use change and forestry) that would provide the “loophole of their dreams.” The proposal will allow them to claim offsets through all manner of land “management” practices – not “just” forests, but also those involving soils, agriculture practices, wetlands, “sustainable forest management (aka logging), “cropland manage-

ment”, “revegetation” and more via the CDM (Clean development mechanism).

Not only would the scope of CDM projects be expanded, but also the current limit on the amount of land-based project credits would be lifted. Those limits were put in place specifically due to doubts about the reliability of using lands as sinks - the flow of carbon in and out of landscapes is extremely difficult to assess, and there is no way to ensure “permanence” given the unpredictable impacts of fires, droughts, pests etc.

So now – unbelievably, the pro-

posal is to revise the permanence requirement. Countries could purchase offsets that may, or may not, actually sequester carbon, but would result in expanding use of GMOs, biochar, logging etc. Bolivia and others have bravely opposed this nonsense, but some countries have stated that their willingness to agree to the 2nd commitment period depends on access to cheap and unreliable land offsets. Hence, those opposing LULUCF risk in the end being blamed for scuppering the entire KP. Between a rock and a hard place lies Bolivia, the lands, and our future.

— Rachel Smolker
Global Forest Coalition

Civil Society Demands Justice on Technology Transfer & Property Rights

Excerpt from Climate Justice Now! SBI Intervention by Silvia Ribeiro, ETC Group:

Technology transfer should help developing countries access the technologies they need to confront the climate crisis, a crisis ironically caused mostly by these same companies and industrialized countries. An agreement on technology in Cancun that is not precautionary will launch untested and high-risk

technologies on the global market place: carbon capture and storage, biochar, industrial plantations and other forms of so called “bio-energy”.

Multinational companies are stockpiling patents on “climate-ready crops”, undermining the ability of small-scale farmers to adapt and strengthen their own resilience to climate change by making them dependent on multinational seed corporations. To prevent dumping

of dangerous technologies and new patent monopolies on the South, any new Technology Mechanism must have the mandate to evaluate the social and environmental impacts of new climate technologies and to fully include civil society, Indigenous Peoples and affected communities in its deliberations.

Intellectual property on all forms of life and on technologies to confront climate crisis has to be radically challenged.