

Open letter to governments: World Bank out of Climate Finance Now!

Over 200 organizations signed an open letter that was presented in climate negotiations earlier this year in Tianjin calling for the creation of a new Global Climate Fund independent of the World Bank.

The letter asserts that the World Bank and other multilateral development banks should not be given a role in establishing or governing a new Global Climate Fund nor in managing any climate finance. The World Bank is undemocratic, dominated by rich countries and privileges private capital markets over public interests; and if the World Bank were to manage a Global Climate Fund it would likely do so with loans tied to conditionalities. The letter maintains that given the World Bank's on-going history of financing the causes of global warming (in 2010 the WB financed \$6.3 billion of fossil fuel projects, a 138% increase over 2009) it should not be given a role in global climate finance, but rather pressed to put an end its destructive policies and

practices.

The letter calls on the governments of the world to comply with their obligations and to ensure that sufficient climate finance is made



available now based on the principle of historic responsibility, and without debt burdens or policy conditionalities.

It urges governments to set up a Global Climate Fund under the UNFCCC that has an equitable governance structure, prioritizes the participation of affected communities, operates with full transparency and accountability, and provides direct access to funding.

Specifically, it calls for a new Global Climate Fund that:

- Supports ecological integrity and the public good;
- Has a majority representation of South countries, since they are the world's majority & most affected by climate change;
- Prioritizes the needs and rights of communities most impacted by climate change and provides them with direct funding;
- Ensures that the transition to equitable and sustainable economies is based on sovereign, democratic control;
- And is generated through public resources, rather than market mechanisms.

The letter calls on governments to consider innovative means for financing such as redirecting fossil fuel subsidies and military spending, & taxing financial speculation.

To sign on the letter or to see the full list of more than 200 signatories visit:

www.worldbankoutofclimatefinance.org

Support for Bolivia's rejection of carbon trading to finance REDD

Many governments are keen to finalise a deal on REDD this week. However, environmental organizations, social movements and indigenous peoples' organisations stand firmly with Bolivia and impacted communities on the need to secure genuine protection for the world's forests by guaranteeing the rights of forest dependant peoples, and insisting that any agreement on

'REDD' does not allow developed countries to continue burning fossil fuels in exchange for forest protection.

The REDD text under discussion now contains three options on finance. Bolivia has asked that REDD not constitute the establishment of market mechanisms or the use of offsets. This position has wide support from civil society, but

strong opposition from Australia, Canada and others whose main interest in REDD is for offsets, in order to avoid any emissions reductions at home. These governments are pushing for a REDD decision that includes the use of markets and flexible mechanisms. Many other governments support a compromise option to further discuss

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(WikiLeaks, Continued from front)

the implications of different financing sources on the effectiveness and impacts of REDD.

Any decision in Cancun that opens the door to the use of offset trading to fund forests would be a disaster for the climate, the forests and the people who depend on them. Far from blocking progress, Bolivia is advocating for real solutions that will protect the forests

and ensure that developed countries honor their commitments to solve the problem they created.

Attempts to “divide and conquer” ALBA countries in secret consultations should be halted. Bolivia has the right and responsibility to advocate for her citizens, especially those who have been historically marginalized and silenced.

Kate Dooley
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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.

FCCC Process Disconnected, Not Responsive to Impacted Communities

Well before hearing that the official meeting venues were called the Cancun Messe and Moon Palace, it was evident that the COP16 would be totally disconnected from real life.

While insiders were feeding the press misleading accounts of “progress” on REDD, this past Tuesday thousands of peasants, Indigenous Peoples and social movements took to the streets in opposition to REDD, false solutions and carbon markets. Many of those marching live in and around the forests that the REDD negotiators are trying to sell, and represent the communities that pro-REDD NGOs and other carbon traders claim to speak for when they say that REDD will benefit Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women. These women and men know their reality to be otherwise.

They see a profit-oriented carbon trading system that will trample their rights and ignore their basic needs. They see so-called safeguards that are not only weak, but

non-binding. They see a definition of forests so bloated as to include the very monoculture tree plantations that now occupy that land that once they farmed. They see a system of forced dependency and bureaucracy, where over 50% of all

rendering any second, third or fourth commitment period totally meaningless. And they see patronizing government and corporate leaders disregarding their expertise in protecting forests that they alone have conserved and restored for centuries.

For years, the FCCC process has been tilted to benefit the more politically and economically powerful countries. One need only to look comparatively at delegation size - in some cases 50+ for developed countries, while many developing countries have only one delegate, if any at all. It is little wonder that the interests of poor communities and smaller countries are continuously wiped off the table, and little wonder that thousands have chosen the streets of Cancun over the lunacy of the Moon Palace as the venue in which their voices have the greatest potential to be heard.

Simone Lovera,
*Sobrevivencia-Paraguay
and Global Forest Coalition*



REDD funding will go to pay the salaries of World Bank staff and other carbon counters. They see European foresters promoting REDD while claiming massive subsidies for forest-depleting, wood-based bio-energy. They see loopholes in the LULUCF text that create an accounting abyss capable of