

**SUBMISSION TO THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE
DURBAN PLATFORM FOR ENHANCED ACTION CALLING FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTIONS IN THE 2015 CLIMATE AGREEMENT**

7 February 2015

We, the undersigned organisations, call for language in the 2015 climate agreement stating that the Parties to the UNFCCC shall, in all climate change-related actions, respect, protect, promote, and fulfil human rights for all.

Climate change is a global injustice to present and future generations, and one of the greatest human rights challenges of our time. We are highly concerned about the grave harm that climate change is already causing, and will continue to cause, to people and communities as well as to the environment on which we all depend. It has a disproportionate impact on the world's poorest and most vulnerable, and we are increasingly exceeding adaptation limits, resulting in significant loss and damage, as documented by the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This report also highlights that current emission reduction actions are insufficient to limit global warming to the 1.5 degrees needed to avoid the most catastrophic of predicted impacts.

A safe climate is critical to the full enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water, adequate housing, and self-determination. However, it is well recognized—by the UN Human Rights Council and others—that climate change and certain actions being taken to address climate change interfere with the enjoyment of human rights protected under international law. For this reason, in 2010, the Parties to the UNFCCC agreed that “Parties should, in all climate change-related actions, fully respect human rights.” We regard this recognition of existing obligations as critical for a range of aspects, including with regard to safeguards and accountability for all climate actions, full and effective participation, and support for poorer countries whose capacities to protect their citizens’ human rights are strained by climate change impacts. However, we are concerned that this language has not been further operationalised in the UNFCCC process.

With negotiations for the Paris agreement underway, NOW is the time to fully integrate rights protections in the climate regime.

We welcome the reference to human rights, indigenous peoples rights and gender in the current version of the draft negotiating text annexed to the “Lima call for climate action”, which stresses that “all actions to address climate change and all the processes established under this agreement should ensure a gender-responsive approach, take into account environmental integrity / the protection of the integrity of Mother Earth, and respect human rights, the right to development and the rights of indigenous peoples.”

Yet we urge all Parties to include human rights in the *operational provisions* of the 2015 agreement. In doing so, we endorse the recommendations of 28 independent experts of the Human Rights Council, set forth in their “Open Letter from Special Procedures mandate-

holders of the Human Rights Council to the State Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change,” dated 17 October:

We urge the State Parties to the UNFCCC to recognise the adverse effects of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights, and to adopt urgent and ambitious mitigation and adaptation measures to prevent further harm. We call on the State Parties to include language in the 2015 climate agreement that provides that the Parties shall, in all climate change related actions, respect, protect, promote, and fulfil human rights for all. And we urge the State Parties at COP 20 in Lima to launch a work program to ensure that human rights are integrated into all aspects of climate actions.

These UN experts highlight the fact that climate change threatens to undermine the protection of human rights, and that the UNFCCC has a crucial role in effectively protecting human rights for all. We wholeheartedly agree.

The following organizations have signed on to this letter calling for human rights to be integrated in the 2015 climate agreement:

350.org
350.org Africa & Arab World
Academics Stand Against Poverty
Acción Ecológica
Aclimatando
ActionAid International
Active Remedy Ltd
Active Remedy Ltd
Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
Aide et Action pour la Paix
Al-Hakim Foundation
Alaska Institute for Justice
Alaska Native Science Commission
Alianza para la Conservación y el Desarrollo (ACD)
All India Women's Conference
American Jewish World Service
Aotearoa New Zealand Human Rights Lawyers Association
APRODEV
ARUANA
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)
Asociacio Ambiente y Sociedad
Asociación Ambientalista de Chiriquí
Asociacion Ambientalista MAYU SUMAJ
Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad

Asociación Catalana para el Agua y el Ambiente (ASCA)
Asociación para la Justicia Ambiental
Asociacion Raxcho'ch' Oxlaju Aj (Tierra Verde 13 Aj)
Asociación Regional Centroamericana para el Agua y el Ambiente (ARCA)
Ateneo School of Government
BankTrack
BERNARDINE ANSAH ASARE
Beyond Copenhagen Collective
Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha
Both ENDS
Bread for the World - Protestant Development Service
Bureau d'Etudes Scientifiques et Techniques (B.E.S.T)
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
CAN Europe
CAN International
Carbon Market Watch
Carbone Guinée
CARE International - Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network
Caribbean Policy Development Centre
Caritas Norway
Cayman Institute
CCFD-Terre Solidaire
CEDDRE PERU
Center for Environment
Center for Human Rights and Environment (CEDHA)
Center for International Environmental Law
Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North
Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), Rutgers University
centre des ressource et de formation pour les femmes
Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON)
Centre for Health Rights Advocacy (CfHRAD)
Centre for Research and Advocacy Manipur
Centre For Research Documentation and Publication Manipur
Centro Alexander von Humboldt
Centro de Incidencia Ambiental
Centro de Planificación y Estudio Social
Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental
Centro Mesoamericano de Estudios sobre Tecnología Apropriada
Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental
Centro para la Sustentabilidad y los Riesgos Climaticos
Change Partnership
CIDSE
Climate & Development Advice
Climate & Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet)
Climate Action Network - Latin America
Climate Change Australia - Hastings Branch
Climate Emergency Institute
Climate Justice Programme
Climate Wise Women
CliMates

Coalition des Volontaires pour la Paix et le Développement
Collectif des Associations Féminines pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Consejo de Pueblos de Tezulutlán
DanChurchAid
Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Diverse Voices and Action for Equality
Drowning Islands
Earthjustice
Earthlanka Youth Network
EcoEquity
Ecological Forum of Kazakhstan (network of environmental organizations and experts)
Ecological Society of the Philippines
Edmund Rice Centre Sydney
Edmund Rice Centre/Pacific Calling Partnership
Egyptian Centre for Economic & Social Rights
Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia
European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO)
Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)
Fiji Women's Rights Movement
Fiscalía del Medio Ambiente-FIMA Chile
Fond des Femmes Congolaises
Food & Water Watch
Forest Peoples Programme
Forests of the World
Foundation for GAIA (GAIA)
Franciscan Action Network
Freshwater Action Network (FAN)
Friends of the Earth International
Friends of the Earth U.S.
Friends World Committee for Consultation
Fundación +Verde+Humano
Fundación Alianza para un Mundo Verde
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Fundar, Center for Analysis and Research
FUNDEPS - Foundation for the Development of Sustainable Policies
GAIA - Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice
Germanwatch
Global Education Motivator (GEM)
Global Gender and Climate Alliance
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Global Network for Disaster Reduction
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Green Alliance
Greenpeace International
Gret - Professionals for Fair Development
Groupe Energies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités (GERES)
Gujarat Forum on CDM
Habi Center for Environmental Rights

HEDA Resource Centre
Heinrich Boell Foundation North America
HELIO International
Hivos
HUMA
Human Rights Advocates
Human Rights Foundation Aotearoa New Zealand
IBON International
Iceland Nature Conservation Association (INCA)
Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change
Indigenous Educational Network of Turtle Island/IEN
Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA)
Indigenous Peoples Links (PIPLinks)
Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN)
Iniciativa Construyendo Puentes
Institute for Planetary Synthesis
Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs
International-Lawyers.Org (INTLawyers)
Irish Doctors' Environmental Association (IDEA)
ITDP
Jubilee South Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD)
Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre
LIFE e.V.
Ligue pour la solidarité congolaise
Love Thy Neighbour (LTN)
Loyola Human Rights Advocacy Project
MAISON DE L'ENFANT ET DE LA FEMME PYGMEES ()
Maison des Mines du Kivu (MMKi)
Maloca Internationale
Many Strong Voices
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Maryknoll Sisters of Saint Dominic
Mesa Nacional de Cambio Climático
Minority Rights Group International
Misereor
Moravian College
Movimiento 10 de Abril para Defensa del Río Tabasará (M10)
Naga Women's Union (NWU)
Nature and Youth Sweden
NGO Coalition for Environment (NGOCE)
Noa Sustentable
NRDS, Bangladesh
Oil Change International
Oxfam
Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
Panay Rural Development Center, Inc.
Paola Vasconi Reca

Papua New Guinea Eco-Forestry Forum
Paryavaran Mitra (Janvikas)
People's Movement on Climate Change
Perspectives Monde Juste (PMJ)
PhilNet
Pivot Point
Planetary Association for Clean Energy (PACE)
Plataforma Boliviana frente al Cambio Climático
Polish Climate Coalition
Population and Sustainable Development Alliance
Public Advocacy Initiative on Rights & Values in India
Quaker Earthcare Witness
QUERCUS – National Association for Nature Conservation
rainbow sunrise mapambazuko
Rainforest Foundation Norway
Red Centroamericana de Acción del Agua (FANCA)
Red Colombiana Para la Defensa de Los DH, el Medio Ambiente y La Paz
Réseau Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme (RECODH)
Réseau des Organisations de la Société Civile pour l'Economie Verte en Afrique Centrale (ROSCEVAC)
Reseau GATT-RN
Rio+NOA
Savera Swayamsevi Sangathan
SEE Change Net
Sierra Club
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team
Social Justice Connection
Sociedad Amigos del Viento
Society for Sustainable Development Design
Society of Development and Education for Small Households-SoDESH
SONIA for a Just New World
SOS Africa
South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy
Stand Up For Your Rights
Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN)
SustainUS: U.S. Youth for Sustainable Development
SUSWATCH Latinamerica Network
Taiwan Environmental Protection Union
Taiwan Youth Climate Coalition
The Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation
The Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice
The Climate and Development Lab
The Shalom Center
The University of the South Pacific – Marshall Islands
Tribal Environmental Policy Center
Uganda Environmental Education Foundation (UEEF)
UK Youth Climate Coalition
UNESCO Etxea-UNESCO Centre Basque Country
Union des Juristes Engages pour les Opprimés, la Paix et le Développement
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
VINCENT MARK ABEDI
Water Initiatives Odisha & Combat Climate Change Network, India
WaterLex International Secretariat
Women Environmental Programme
Women in Europe for a Common Future
Women United Together Marshall Islands
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network
Women's Environment and Development Organization
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)
World Council of Churches
WWF Canada
WWF International
Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)
Zeliangrong Boudi, Assam, Manipur & Nagaland (ZBAM&N)