

A PLATFORM For CLIMATE JUSTICE

of Asian Movements, Organizations and Networks

August 2009

We believe that solving the climate crisis and injustice – requires basic transformation of the global system -- economic, political, socio-cultural. Given the narrow window of time to prevent catastrophic, irreversible consequences of the climate crisis – we must work even harder to hasten the process of profound social transformation, relying first and foremost on the collective strength, action and solidarity of peoples movements within our countries and across borders.

Part of this process is compelling the UN, other inter-governmental institutions and all governments today to take urgent and immediate steps to address the climate crisis. Challenging governments and inter-governmental institutions is important not only for specific gains that may be achieved -- it is part of the process of exposing the issues, promoting our alternatives, building movements, gaining political strength, weakening the forces defending the status quo. All of these serve the longer term goal of the fundamental change of the system.

We will build and strengthen our movements and struggle in various fronts and arenas. Our movements consist of basic sectors, grassroots communities, the marginalized and most vulnerable, including women, indigenous peoples, fisher folk and coastal communities, farmers and rural communities, forest communities, formal and informal workers, migrants and climate refugees, youth, urban poor, and others. We build alliances with scientists, academicians, experts and progressive policy-makers.

We do so to realize the strategic goals of transforming the system and building alternatives and carry out the immediate tasks of defending our rights, resisting policies that exacerbate the crisis, and fighting for urgent demands.

Together we are building our common platform as basis for our joint struggles, campaigns and actions. We begin with the following calls and demands, which will be further developed and refined as we continue our discussions, debates and learning:

A. The recognition of and reparations for Ecological Debt and Climate Debt – a fundamental starting point for climate justice.

1. Work for the recognition of ecological debt, which includes climate debt, owed by the northern governments, private corporations and all elites to the peoples of the South and all exploited and marginalized communities.
2. Demand reparations and restitution as a fundamental requirement of ecological and climate justice.

B. Carbon emission reductions through domestic measures and the just allocation of carbon space among nations and within countries; Resisting false solutions

3. Push northern governments to commit to drastic, deeper, unconditional cuts in carbon emissions through domestic measures with the goal of achieving 350 ppm by 2020 and keeping temperature rise to within 1.5 degrees centigrade.

Northern countries must commit to these cuts in recognition of the historical responsibility and climate debt owed by northern economies and corporations to the peoples of the South and all exploited communities.

Resist and oppose efforts by Northern governments and their allies to evade emissions reductions and create divisions among developing countries.

4. Call on all Southern governments to contribute to global efforts to reduce carbon emissions by developing and implementing programs and measures with clear national targets such as promotion of renewable energy sources, pursuing demand-side management, shifting to low carbon technologies shifting to low carbon technologies and adoption of domestically sustainable and equitable development models that are friendly to people and the planet.

In view of the depth and urgency of the crises, all countries and peoples must contribute towards the global effort in a just and equitable manner.

5. Call for just and equitable allocation of 'carbon space' among nations and within countries. Oppose maneuverings of northern governments, private corporations and elites to perpetuate and intensify their control of 'carbon space.'
6. Oppose "solutions" that
 - violate the rights of people especially indigenous communities, women and marginalized groups;
 - undermines ecological balance;
 - have no significant contribution to the reduction in carbon emissions;

- allow northern governments to evade their responsibilities and avoid carbon reduction through domestic measures
- pave the way for private corporations to generate profits from the climate crisis and for the elites (North and South) to exercise greater control over natural resources
- have uncertain long term effects

Our efforts will include educating the public about these false solutions.

7. Oppose the efforts of international financial institutions, private corporations and governments to promote these “solutions” and to pass off unsafe and dangerous technologies and “clean technologies”
8. Call for international and national measures for adoption and enforcement of strict regulation of the operations of TNCs.
9. Review and overhaul of all trade agreements – bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral. Oppose all trade agreements that lead to drastic worsening of the climate crisis and undermine or obstruct measures to solve the crisis.

C. Social Transformation towards equitable and sustainable global and domestic systems; Promoting peoples alternatives

10. Ensure that the reduction and control of carbon emissions in all nations be carried out as part of over-all efforts to transform social and economic structures and re-orient policies to move away from profit-driven, growth oriented, high-carbon, elite-dominated exploitative and unjust systems and instead pursue global and domestic equitable and sustainable development.

The point is not to simply cut aggregate emissions – the fundamental goal is to transform the social and economic systems and corresponding technologies to systems that are democratic, equitable and sustainable. These features are integral to each other.

11. Support alternatives from the people that deal with climate change and serve as strategies and solutions that cool down the planet, and benefit/strengthen social, economic and cultural aspects of humanity. These include -- sustainable agriculture based on family farming, integrated energy systems at village levels that use wind, biogas and other alternative forms of energy, etc.
12. Many communities are already practicing these alternatives and continue to do so at local, national, regional and international levels. Push Governments to support such alternatives.

13. Work to remove patent and intellectual property rights laws that prevent the transfer of alternative energy and other climate and environment friendly technologies from corporations to the public.

D. End to the policies and operations of global financial institutions that exacerbate climate change; Stop to the use of public finance to support projects and policies that intensify global warming

14. Stop the World Bank, regional development banks, export credit agencies and northern governments from using loans, aid and subsidies to promote dirty technologies, fossil fuel and other extractive industries, and all harmful projects and policies.
15. Stop these institutions from supporting private corporations and private equity funds engaged in such activities.
16. Stop all governments from guaranteeing and subsidizing the profits of private corporations. Stop tax and other investment incentives for private corporations engaged in environmentally harmful activities.

E. Financing of climate programs as part of reparations for climate debt

17. Demand and compel northern governments and private corporations to fulfill their responsibility and obligation to provide financing to strengthen the capacity of countries and peoples of the South to deal with the impacts of the climate crisis and make the transformation to sustainable and equitable development. These funds are not forms of assistance or aid but part of reparations for their much greater share of the historical as well as continuing responsibility for climate change and their huge ecological debt.

Initial minimum estimate of the monetary equivalent climate debt owed to South countries from 1800 to 2008 is about US\$ 24 trillion. This does not include the emissions debt that northern countries will incur in the future as they continue to consume more than their share of atmospheric space.

Mechanisms should be established to ensure obligatory, clear and predictable, additional and unconditional financing. Climate financing should not simply be voluntary and arbitrary. It should be in addition to other financial obligations and commitments. Climate financing should not be used to impose conditionalities on South countries. It should not be used to justify carbon trading.

18. Demand that climate finance not be in the form of loans, should not be debt creating or lead to the accumulation of illegitimate debt.

F. Cancellation and repudiation of debts claimed from South countries and peoples

19. Call for unconditional cancellation of all debts claimed by northern governments, international financial institutions, private banks and other lenders from the countries and peoples of the South – as a matter of justice and as an urgent step towards addressing the global economic and climate crises. Demand the immediate cancellation of all debts deemed to be illegitimate which includes those that contributed to the exacerbation of the climate crisis.
20. Call on South governments to undertake comprehensive, transparent and participatory debt audits and repudiate all illegitimate debts. These include debts that contributed heavily to the climate crisis.

G. Democratic, transparent and accountable control and management of climate funds globally and nationally; Equitable and just distribution of climate funds among nations and within each country; Direct access for the most affected and vulnerable communities

21. Push for a “New Global Climate Fund” under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that
 - Involves strong representation in the governance and oversight structures from constituencies most affected by climate change (ie South countries, Indigenous peoples, women, etc);
 - Provides for structures and processes that are democratic, transparent and accountable
 - Ensures just and equitable allocation among countries and peoples;
 - Provides for direct access to peoples’ organizations and movements and indigenous peoples
22. Call for regional and national climate fund mechanisms to be established along these same principles
23. Oppose initiatives, proposals, policies and agreements for the World Bank, the ADB and other IFIs to have a role in the control, management and implementation of climate funds and climate programs.

H. Governments and inter-governmental structures, especially those of Southern countries, to immediately develop and implement policies and programs to enable and empower peoples, especially the most vulnerable communities, to deal with the impacts of climate change

24. Work for peoples' control over resources and the just and equitable distribution of benefits from these resources. These are fundamental requirements for enabling people to deal with the impacts of climate change, in the same way that these serve as foundations for sustainable development.
25. Press Southern governments to allocate domestic resources to deal with impacts of the climate crisis and "climate proof" government projects and programs.
26. Call for immediate programs in critical areas of impacts including the following examples
 - Agriculture and food production
 - Livelihoods in coastal and farming communities, in forest peoples and indigenous peoples communities
 - Housing and habitation in coastal and urban/rural flood prone areas
 - Migration and community dislocation due to climate (Climate refugees)
 - Protection and conservation of freshwater sources, groundwater, watersheds
 - Health and sanitation
27. Call for the international and national recognition of climate refugees and the establishment of international and national programs for their rehabilitation and resettlement.

INITIAL SIGNATORIES:

REGIONAL MOVEMENTS and NETWORKS

JS- Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt and Development
NGO Forum on the ADB
SEAFish - Southeast Asia Fish for Justice Network
South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication
Migrant Forum in Asia
Least Developed Countries (LDC) Watch
Focus on the Global South

NATIONAL MOVEMENTS and NETWORKS

EquityBd - Bangladesh
VOICE - Bangladesh
Unnayan Onneshan - Bangladesh
Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF) - India
Nadi Gati Morcha - India
National Hawkers Federation - India
River Basin Friends (NE) - India
Koalisi Anti Utang - Indonesia
KRUHA Water Coalition - Indonesia
KAPAL Perempuan (Circle of Women's Alternative Education) - Indonesia
Institute for Essential Services Reform - Indonesia
GARPU - Indonesia
Solidaritas Perempuan - Indonesia
Serikat Nelayan Indonesia (Indonesian Fisherfolk Union) - Indonesia
Taraz Initiative Centre- Kazakhstan
Human Development Center 'Tree of Life' - Kyrgyzstan
Rural Reconstruction Nepal - Nepal
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum - Pakistan
Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) - Philippines
ODA Watch - Philippines
Kalayaan - Philippines
BISIG - Philippines
SANLAKAS - Philippines
Koalisyon Pabahay ng Pilipinas (Philippine Housing Rights Coalition) - Philippines