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COP15
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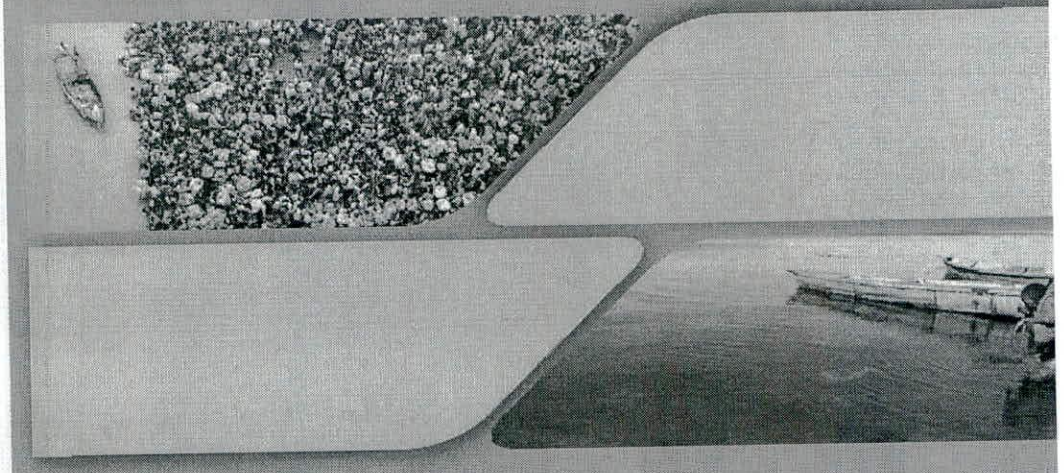
Most Vulnerable Countries' Civil Society

DECLARATION
ON
CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS



Most Vulnerable Countries' Civil Society Declaration on Climate Negotiations

29 July 2009, Dhaka, Bangladesh

We, the civil society of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, having met in Dhaka 27-29 July 2009 for the *International Civil Society Conference: The Rights of the Most Vulnerable Countries in Climate Negotiations*, call upon all governments to recognize the threats to survival and development that anthropogenic climate change poses to the most vulnerable countries, comprising Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and African countries. We urge our governments to join together to raise the voice in the international negotiations of those people who's very survival is threatened by anthropogenic climate change for which they are least responsible. We call on all Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to recognize the Most Vulnerable Countries (MVCs) as a legitimate collective voice at the negotiations, comprising the majority of Parties to UNFCCC; three quarters of the membership of the G77; and in excess of 1 billion people globally.

The Bali Action Plan states that the long-term cooperative action (LCA) process under UNFCCC should: *'reduce vulnerability of all Parties, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change especially the least developed countries and small island developing states, and further taking into account the needs of countries in Africa affected by drought, desertification and floods.'*

Climate change is now a reality for MVCs. Adapting to climate change is not a choice it is a necessity. We are being hit first and worst by the impacts of anthropogenic climate change for which we are not responsible. MVCs must be urgently supported to adapt to the climate change that is now unavoidable.

The amount of climate change that we must adapt to is entirely dependent upon the level of mitigation globally. Ambitious actions and deep emission cuts by developed countries can substantially reduce the

severity of the impacts we will face, and we call on the Annex 1 Parties to the UNFCCC to act urgently and ambitiously.

We urge all Parties to the UNFCCC to ensure that an agreement is reached at COP15, to ensure our continued survival.

Affirmations

1. We the civil society of MVCs reemphasis the principles enshrined in the UNFCCC that the global response to climate change should be undertaken on the basis of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and that they should not interfere with the realization of the right to survival and the right to equitable economic growth for developing countries.

2. We assert the authority of the UNFCCC as the legitimate forum for global climate change negotiations and not other foras where those countries who are most vulnerable to climate change are excluded. We call on our own governments to build capacity in our delegations to COP 15 and beyond, to ensure the voices of the people of the MVCs are fully considered in the outcomes to guarantee their survival in a changing climate.

3. We affirm that the global response to climate change that is agreed at COP15 must be consistent with what the science demands for the continued survival of the people, cultures and countries that are most vulnerable to climate change.

Demands

Shared Vision

1. The civil society of MVCs call on all Parties to the UNFCCC to act with renewed urgency and determination to ensure that a fair and safe agreement is reached at COP15 which will deliver long-term stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at levels that limit global average temperature increases to no more than 1.5°C compared with pre-industrial levels; that global greenhouse gas

emissions must peak no later than 2015; and must reduce by at least 95% below 1990 levels by 2050 (though this should be revised upwards if the science so dictates).

Mitigation

2. In line with the principles of common but differentiated responsibility and of historic responsibility for the causes of anthropogenic climate change; and in line with the urgent action that the science demands, Annex 1 Parties must reduced their emissions by at least 45% in aggregate against 1990 levels by 2020. The majority of this action must be undertaken domestically in order to guarantee a low carbon global future.

3. We encourage advanced developing countries to take necessary actions towards a lower carbon economy financed and technologically supported by Annex 1 Parties.

4. Financing must be made available for MVCs should they wish to prepare Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs). These plans must be fully financed, including capacity building, formulation and implementation.

5. All NAMAs in developing countries must not count towards fulfillment of any Annex 1 emissions reductions.

Adaptation

6. Three key principles crucial to adaptation must be articulated in the text of the Copenhagen agreement:

    (i) focus on the most vulnerable countries, communities and people in all developing countries;
    (ii) rights-based approach to adaptation;
    (iii) transparent, participatory, sustainable, gendered, community-based, and drawing on local and indigenous knowledge.

7. Priorities for adaptation under the Copenhagen agreement must include:

- Adaptation should be defined in communities and countries, not globally.
- Communities empowered to take local action and decide what is needed for their adaptation.
- Urgent implementation of the NAPAs in an accountable manner.
- Establish an international climate risk insurance mechanism, which in particular delivers rapid payouts for countries struck by very severe weather events.
- Ensure activities related to national and international migration and planned relocation of climate displacees from the MVCs.

Finance

8. At least USD 150 billion per year must be made available through the UNFCCC for climate change requirements in developing countries, of which at least USD 50 billion per year must be for adaptation, and MVCs should be prioritized Finance for developing countries must not be in the form of loans. and the scale of finance required must be reviewed and revised as necessary as more information regarding adaptation needs and the extent of impacts becomes known. This finance must be raised through binding commitments for Annex 1 Parties, based on their historical responsibility and financial capability.

9. Climate finance to developing countries must be additional to, and distinct from, ODA targets of 0.7% of GNI. It must also be predictable, reliable, sustainable and adequate, in order to effectively plan and implement the long-term strategies that are required to combat climate change.

10. The particular adaptation needs of MVCs must be prioritized for financing.

11. The governance of this finance must be under the direct control of the UNFCCC COP in a new fund for developing country climate change actions. This fund must be managed by an executive board with

balanced representation from MVCs as with the current KP Adaptation Fund Board, and disperse finance through 'windows' for adaptation, mitigation, insurance and others as are necessary, under the guidance of an expert panel for each.

Existing funding sources should be integrated into this one mechanism to:

- ensure continuity in national climate change planning and priority setting,
- to avoid ambiguity over international financial flows for adaptation entering countries, enabling the citizenry and civil society to monitor their own government's progress against national plans,
- to allow for common and simplified access, including direct access by country governments and civil society,
- to avoid a proliferation of funds.

Financing through other channels must not be counted towards Annex 1 Parties binding commitments.

12. Recognizing the delay in operationalizing new finance for adaptation under a new agreement in Copenhagen, we demand immediate financing of NAPAs to meet the urgent and immediate needs of LDCs.

13. MVC must be prioritized for existing adaptation finance. Existing barriers to accessing that finance, such as multiple and complex access criteria, must urgently be removed.

Capacity Building & Technology Transfer

14. Annex 1 Parties must provide adequate support for socially acceptable and gendered technology research, training, development and diffusion. Emphasize and first prioritize adaptation technologies already available in the South, including indigenous knowledge and skills.

15. The needs of MVCs and developing countries must be provided for through balanced representation on all technical panels.

16. Intellectual Property Rights must not hinder the access to necessary adaptation and mitigation technologies.

17. Recognizing that identification of adaptation needs will primarily occur at the local level, capacity building, knowledge generation, information sharing and institution building at local, district and sub-national levels must be facilitated and financed.

Concluding Remarks

We all have a role to play in combating this global challenge of climate change. We call upon our governments to engage fully and effectively in the international negotiations in support of our demands herein, and we urge all Parties to the UNFCCC to work urgently and resolutely to agree a fair and safe deal at Copenhagen COP15 for the benefit of us all. We, the MVCs can afford no delay and no excuses.

There is an urgent need to secure the rights of the vulnerable countries and their people in the global climate change response regime to commence from 2012.

The negotiations over the next few months until Copenhagen offer the only window of opportunity.

To achieve this, citizens worldwide must work collectively, and act relentlessly to present the case for the most vulnerable countries.

This DECLARATION is an outcome of the International Civil Society Conference on the Rights of Most Vulnerable Countries in Climate Negotiations, held during 27-29 July 2009 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, organized by Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) and Oxfam International. Representatives from the following organizations collectively drafted and endorsed this DECLARATION.

BANGLADESH CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES (BCAS), BANGLADESH

BLUEPEACE, MALDIVES

CAMBODIAN NGO NETWORK, CAMBODIA

CAMPAIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL LIVELIHOODS (CSRL)

CENTRE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE (CGC), BANGLADESH

CONSERVE SWAZILAND, SWAZILAND

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DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF INDIGENOUS VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS, UGANDA

ECONOMIC JUSTICE NETWORK, LESOTHO

EQUITY AND JUSTICE WORKING GROUP (EJWG), BANGLADESH

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE NETWORK (GENANET)

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

JUBILEE SOUTH ASIA PACIFIC MOVEMENT ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

OXFAM INTERNATIONAL

PARTICIPATORY ECOLOGICAL LANDUSE MANAGEMENT (PELUM), ZAMBIA

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF NATURE, BHUTAN

SAMOA UMBRELLA OF NGOs AND CBOs (SUNGO), SAMOA

SELAM ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (SEDA), ETHIOPIA

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE CENTER (SDRC), BANGLADESH

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