

# ADAPTATION

November 2010, Cancún

*We demand that developed countries ... assume their adaptation debt related to the impacts of climate change on developing countries by providing the means to prevent, minimize, and deal with damages arising from their excessive emissions.*

People's Agreement, April 2010, Cochabamba

## Key messages

- Industrialized countries have the legal obligation to compensate for historical, current and future climate change impacts
- Efforts to divide developing countries in the negotiations on the basis of their vulnerability is unacceptable
- Institutional arrangements under the Convention are needed to ensure decisions are made fairly and respect the sovereignty of nations and peoples
- Adaptation under bilateral cooperation and donor-driven international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, limit the voice and participation of those suffering adverse impacts.
- Adaptation is not resignation. Those who caused climate change must change their polluting lifestyles rather than imposing new costs on the poor.

Developed countries must fulfill their commitment to compensate poor countries and communities for the costs of adapting to climate change, and repay their climate debts.

### **Impacts on poor countries and people**

Climate change is threatening the lives and livelihoods of people everywhere and threatening the stability of life on our planet.

Current atmospheric concentrations have already committed the planet to decades of disruption of the normal cycle of life. This will affect the entire planet. But the worst impacts will be felt by the poor and marginalized.

Because of the global distribution of the impacts and the limited capacity of vulnerable communities to respond to abrupt changes, they are the first victims of the excessive emissions by industrialized countries that are causing climate change.

### **Responsibility of rich countries and corporations**

The rich industrialized world has an obligation to compensate for historical, current and committed climate change impacts. The countries and companies that caused climate change must repay their debts for damages incurred and lost opportunities suffered by poor countries and communities.

This includes compensating the full costs of current and future dama-

ges, loss of opportunities due to extreme and gradual climactic events, and additional costs that could present themselves if our planet surpasses ecological thresholds.

### **Respecting and protecting rights**

All humans have equal right to be protected from the adverse effects of climate change.

Adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change must protect, respect and fulfil rights, with particular attention to those who are vulnerable, such as local communities, women and indigenous peoples.

Developing countries must supported to establish lines of defence against growing impacts, while all peoples seek a fundamental change of paradigm that allows us to protect and to take care of Mother Earth and all its forms of life.

### **Adaptation not resignation**

The notion of adaptation to climate change as a resignation to impacts provoked by the historical emissions of developed countries must be rejected.

Support to combat the impacts is a debt not aid. And industrialized

### Key issues for negotiations

As part of an Adaptation Framework for Implementation:

- An Adaptation Committee to enhance coherence and provide advice to the new fund
- Full compensation for avoiding impacts, actual impacts and lost opportunities
- A new adaptation fund or window under the authority of the Conference of Parties
- A mechanism to address loss and damage
- Capacity in developing countries to assessment of vulnerability and adaptation measures
- Full repayment by developed countries of their adaptation debts

countries must adapt their modes of life and consumption in the face of this global emergency.

Many people are already forced to move from affected areas. Industrialized countries must meet their responsibilities to the hundreds of millions of people that will be forced to migrate due to climate change.

#### **Business as usual won't work**

The proposals by developed countries on adaptation offer to continue the business-as-usual model: obtain loans from the World Bank when a disaster hits, beg for aid assistance to prevent disasters, and come to the UNFCCC to be told to keep planning for adaptation.

Efforts to bring adaptation under bilateral cooperation and interna-

tional financial institutions controlled by developed countries will limit the ability of those suffering the impacts to participate and respond.

#### **The need for effective institutions**

New institutions for adaptation under the Convention are needed to ensure decisions are transparent and equitable and respect the sovereignty of nations and peoples.

They must recognize that support to address adverse impacts is a responsibility, not charity, and provide developing countries with the space to decide how to best manage the response to the crises created by the historical accumulation of greenhouse gases.

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People's Agreement, April 2010, Cochabamba

ActionAid

Arab NGO Network for Development

Asian Indigenous Women's Network

Campagna per la Riforma della Banca Mondiale (CRBM), Italy

Friends of the Earth International

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

International Forum on Globalization

International Rivers

JS - Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD)

Jubilee South

Nord-Sud XXI

Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)

Sustainable Energy & Economy Network, Institute for Policy Studies

Tebtebba

Third World Network

Unnayan Onneshan Bangladesh

What Next Forum