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**In this issue of Outreach we present the viewpoints of a range of observer organisations and civil society representatives halfway through the Copenhagen climate negotiations.**



Flooding in the Pungwe River, Mozambique. Photo: J. Harlin

## Climate Change, Water and Capacity Development

**By: Joakim Harlin, Senior water resources advisor, UNDP and Paul Taylor, Director of Cap-Net**

Water is the primary medium through which climate change influences the Earth's eco-systems and therefore people's livelihoods and well-being. Already, water-related climate change impacts are being experienced and the poor, who are the most vulnerable, are affected the most. Improved water management is key to climate change adaptation; this has not been recognized politically, nor reflected in investment decisions. It is imperative that the Parties to the UNFCCC recognize the pivotal role of water in adapting to climate change in order to increase resilience and achieve sustainable development.

Climate change adaptation is about water and development – despite this, public, private and ODA related funding to water has decreased. Climate change has a large impact on the world's water resources with longer dry spells, more unpredictable rain patterns and more severe floods as clear examples. This in turn will impact a number of societal functions and operations, not least the agricultural and energy sectors. Access to clean water and sanitation are also fundamental for human health.

Efforts made so far are not sufficient to reduce vulnerability and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Our work needs to intensify and particularly to address capacity for improved water resources management systems.

*Continued on page 2...*

**Outreach is a multi-stakeholder newsletter which is published daily at the COP15. The articles written are intended to reflect those of the authors alone or where indicated a coalition's opinion. An individual's article is the opinion of that author alone, and does not reflect the opinions of all stakeholders.**

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Despite these realities the international community's support to development of water dependent sectors in developing countries has declined sharply the past years. Facts show that this trend is not related to the financial crisis.

UN's coordinating mechanism for water, UN-Water, has sent a powerful and positive message to the COP 15 negotiators: What needs to be done can be done. The water resources of the planet are sufficient and the technical solutions and knowledge are available. But the resources are unevenly distributed and the necessary technology and knowledge does not reach all. If done correctly the international community can muster the strength needed to meet the climate change challenge and contribute to reduced poverty, reduced vulnerability to climate change and fewer people that live without access to safe water supply and basic sanitation.

Adapting to increasing climate variability and change through better

water governance should include:

- Strengthening governance of water resources management and improving integration of land and water management;
- Building accountable and responsive water management institutions able to plan and adjust to water availability and extreme water events;
- Learning from drought and flood experiences of the past to reduce vulnerability of newly affected areas in the future;
- Improving and sharing knowledge and information on climate, water and adaptation measures, and investing in comprehensive and sustainable data collection and monitoring systems.

Human development is the mandate of UNDP and capacity development is the means to make it happen. Knowledge needs to be translated into concrete action to meet the climate challenges that already now are impacting many of

the poorest countries of the world. Climate change adaptation is about water and the water issues are about reducing vulnerability to extreme events and managing changes in water availability to ensure food security and water supplies for equitable and long-term sustainable development. The understanding of these linkages needs to be elevated high on the climate agenda and included in the agreement text here and now!

The sense of urgency for climate change adaptation and the recognition of the centrality of water therein, have not yet permeated the political world and are not systematically reflected in national plans or international investment portfolios for adaptation. We therefore urge all the parties to the climate negotiations: Integrate water issues in the Copenhagen agreement and in the implementation process that follows afterwards. It will have high returns – especially for the most vulnerable people. ❖



# Recognizing and Protecting Human Rights in the Copenhagen Agreement

There can no longer be any question: climate change is a human rights issue. Rising seas threaten the residents of small island nations. South American and Himalayan communities are losing their only sources of freshwater as mountain glaciers melt, while intruding seas contaminate groundwater in coastal communities. Millions of people in low-lying areas are the victims of increasingly severe floods and storms. Melting snow and ice threaten the food and security of Arctic peoples. These and other effects are destroying the culture of Indigenous and other people around the world.

By: Alyssa Johl, Climate Law and Policy Project & Martin Wagner, Earthjustice

In light of this, the final outcome of Copenhagen must include human rights protections with respect to all aspects of shared vision (whether adopted separately or incorporated into other texts), mitigation and adaptation. Among other benefits, doing so would emphasize obligations to the most vulnerable, help ensure that mitigation and adaptation measures do not cause further suffering, and support the participation of affected communities and people.

The foundation for these protections should be inclusion of the following language (emphasis indicates proposed additions to existing negotiating text):

“Noting the resolution of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC/10/4) on human rights and climate change, **which notes that climate change-related impacts have a range of implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights including, inter alia, the right to life, the right to adequate food, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to adequate housing, the right to self-determination and human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and recalling that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence. Mitigation of and adaptation to climate change shall be undertaken in a manner that respects, protects and promotes full and effective enjoyment of human rights consistent with international obligations.**”

***Climate justice for the poorest and most vulnerable requires integrating human rights into all aspects of the agreement, not just the shared vision.***

In addition, the definition of vulnerable peoples and communities must be expanded so as not to exclude vulnerable sectors or regions:

“Recognizing that **those segments of the population that have contributed least to climate change and that are already in vulnerable situations, owing to factors such as poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status, disability, or geography, including low-lying and other small island countries, countries with low lying coastal, arid and semi-arid areas or areas liable to floods, drought and desertification, areas dependent on ice and snow, and developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.**

Full and effective public participation is key to protecting human rights. More than “seeking” stakeholder participation, as currently proposed, the shared vision must guarantee access to information, effective participation, and access to justice, reinforcing Article 6 of the UNFCCC and the Rio Declaration. Similarly, the shared vision “**must establish procedures to consider and address public communications by or on behalf of individuals, local commu-**

**nities or indigenous peoples who may be adversely affected as a result of implementation of the Convention.**”

Climate justice for the poorest and most vulnerable requires integrating human rights into all aspects of the agreement, not just the shared vision. The mitigation and adaptation texts must reiterate parties’ existing human rights obligations. Adaptation text must recognize the fundamental human rights of internally or internationally displaced people. Finally, the text on spillover effects must ensure that human rights guide efforts to identify and prevent such harms.

Supported by others, Bolivia has proposed that the Copenhagen outcome acknowledge the rights of Mother Earth. This proposal supports human rights, and should proceed in parallel with the inclusion of human rights provisions. After all, all human rights depend on a healthy planet and a viable climate. ❖

## Side Event

**Strengthening Capacities for Effective Public Participation in Climate Change Governance: Linking the Aarhus Convention, Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and Article 6 of the UNFCCC**

**Monday, 14 December 2009  
10:30-12:30, EU Pavilion**

**An Official COP 15 Side Event  
Sponsored by the Government of the Czech Republic in collaboration with UNECE, UNITAR and UNFCCC**

# COP15 Can Eliminate One of the Six Greenhouse Gases

**By: Mark Roberts, Samuel LaBudde and Fionnuala Walravens, Environmental Investigation Agency**

The best opportunity for rapid action to combat climate change is eliminating hydrofluorocarbons (“HFCs”). Often referred to as ‘super’ greenhouse gases, HFCs have global warming potentials (GWP) hundreds to thousands of times greater than CO<sub>2</sub>, and have become the primary replacements for ozone depleting substances (ODS) used in refrigeration and air-conditioning.

HFCs are the only gases under the UNFCCC that are primarily products, rather than emissions, and low-GWP alternatives already exist for replacing almost all HFCs. Current proposals for an HFC phase-out could prevent emissions of more than 140 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalence (Gt.CO<sub>2</sub>eq.) between 2013 and 2050, or almost five years of current global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The Montreal Protocol has successfully phased out the production and consumption of ODS in the same industrial sectors now using HFCs. It already has proven mechanisms for funding and technology transfer, as well as the scientific and technical expertise to immediately implement a phase-out of HFC production and consumption, while leaving HFC emissions in the UNFCCC basket.

Any real prospect for arresting and reversing global warming will require use of all available international resources and mechanisms. Recent estimates project that HFC emissions will increase to between 3.6 and 8.8 Gt.CO<sub>2</sub>eq. per year by 2050 if action is not taken, substantially negating the reductions of other GHGs achieved under the UNFCCC. Action by the UNFCCC and the Montreal Protocol to eliminate HFCs will be an extraordinary first step toward solving the global climate crisis.

During the past 20 years, the Montreal Protocol has provided full funding to enable developing countries to achieve target obligations. Parties to the Montreal Protocol have distinctive responsibilities and obligations with developed nations implementing regulations years in advance of developing nations. This two-tier approach reduces the risk of adverse fiscal impacts by creating extended transition schedules for less robust

economies. Developed nations are also obligated to contribute to financing the transitions by developing nations, assisting in technology transfer, and generally facilitating successful implementation of regulations internationally by supplying monetary support. Funding to pay for the incremental transition costs is distributed through the Fund’s Executive Committee, wherein voting power is equally shared between developed and developing countries.

Phasing out HFCs under the Montreal Protocol will provide climate mitigation at a fraction of the cost of other mitigation

measures, and will be far less expensive than regulating HFCs at the point of emission. The cost of a phase-out of HFCs will also be substantially cheaper than the cost of HFC control projects under the UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), as only the incremental costs of the transition to low-GWP alternatives will need to be funded. In the case of HFC-23, the cost of destruction is \$0.20 per CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent tonne, yet CDM credits have historically cost more than \$15.00 per tonne. Additionally, the benefits will be faster as HFCs stay in the atmosphere for decades while CO<sub>2</sub> may remain for up to 1000 years. ❖

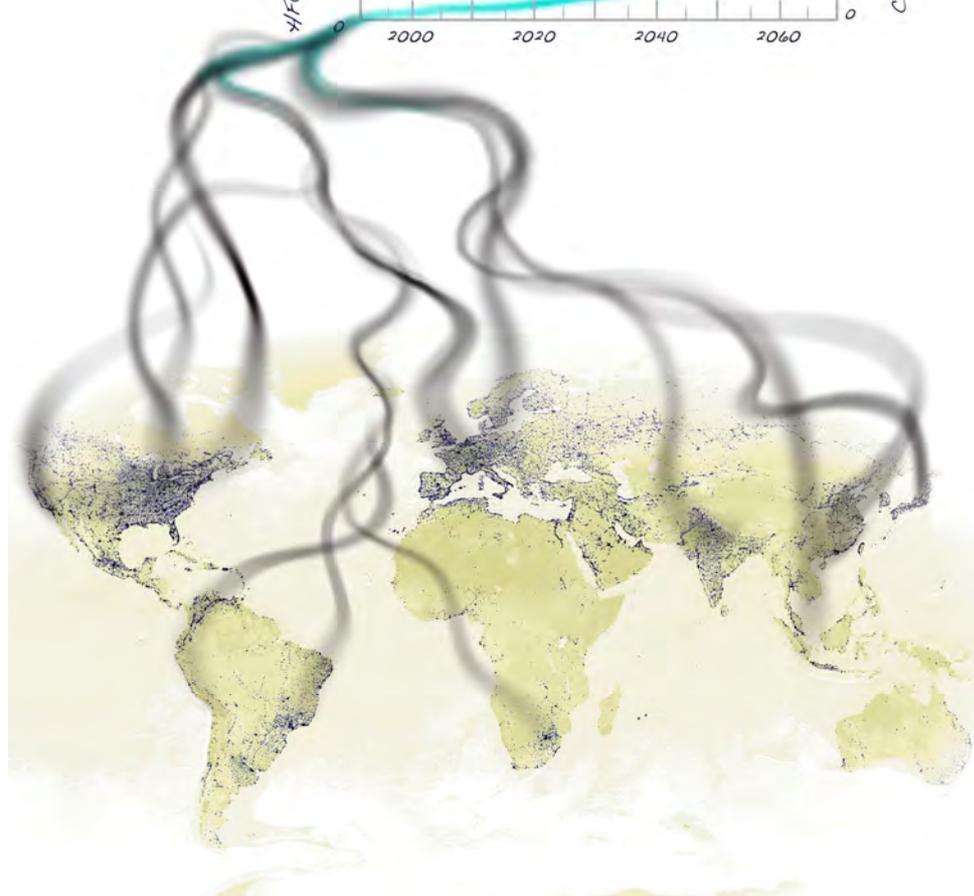
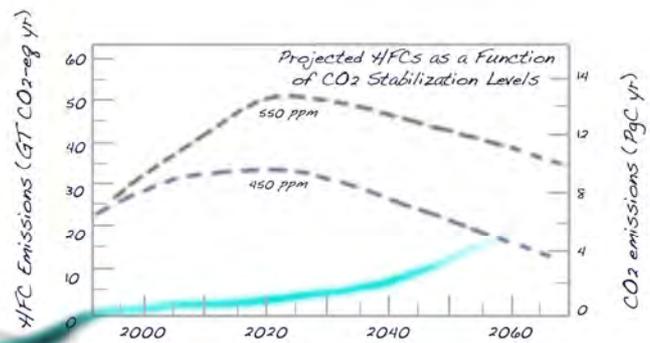


Image courtesy of IGSD/Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development

# Vigilia por un Acuerdo con Rostro Humano

Una pequeña agricultora indígena está desesperada porque no sabe cómo habrá de subsistir, cómo criará a sus hijos y cómo seguirá su vida cuando la isla en la que vive desaparezca.

By: Por Raúl Pierri

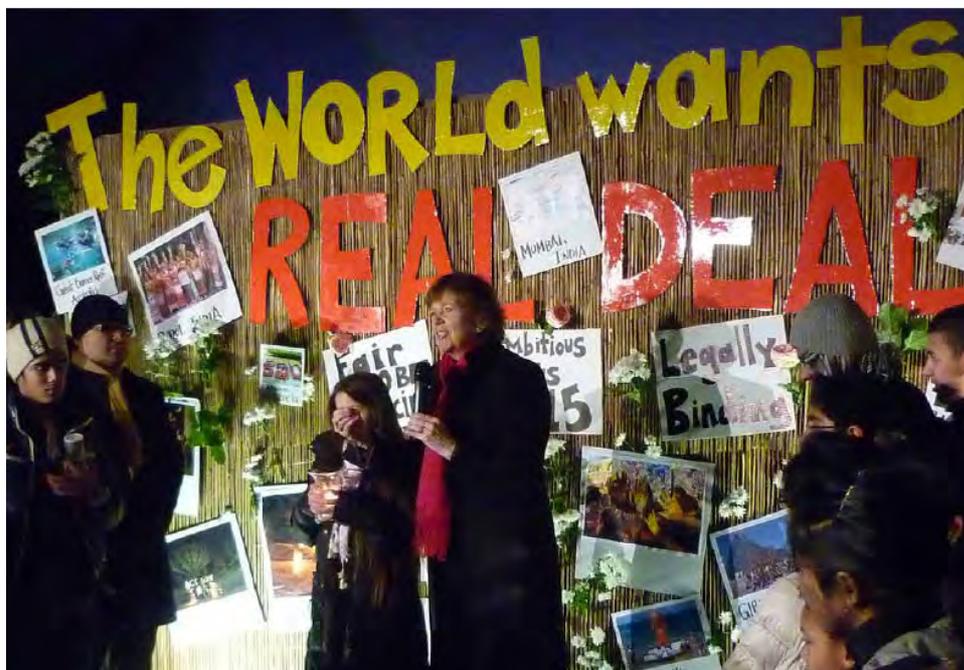
Esa es la imagen que tiene del cambio climático Mary Robinson, ex presidenta de Irlanda (1990-1997) y ex alta Comisionada de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (1997-2002), que participó el sábado de una vigilia con velas contra el recalentamiento planetario en Copenhague. La vigilia, celebrada antes de la puesta del sol que en la capital danesa se asomó apenas en la mañana tras espesas nubes, fue parte de una serie de acciones convocadas por la organización Avaaz para exigir un “acuerdo real” en la COP-15.

A ella se sumaría más tarde el arzobispo sudafricano Desmond Tutu, premio Nobel de la Paz. Copenhague fue capital mundial el sábado, ya que aquí se celebraron numerosas movilizaciones de la sociedad civil, reproducidas en distintas partes del planeta, para exigir a los negociadores un pacto climático que contemple las amenazas que sufren los países más pobres.

Robinson sostuvo que la mejor forma de abordar el problema es hablar de “justicia climática”. “Cincuenta por ciento de los países más pobres han contribuido con menos de uno por ciento de los gases de efecto invernadero (causantes del recalentamiento planetario), pero son los que están sufriendo”, indicó. “En todo el mundo la gente se está manifestando hoy porque quiere que esta conferencia esté más centrada en la gente, que se entienda que la gente sufre por el cambio climático”, subrayó.

“Para que sepan que la vida de las personas ha sido socavada por el cambio climático, que está dañando a los países más pobres que no son nada responsables”, añadió.

Robinson insistió en la importancia de dar un rostro humano al problema del recalentamiento y en “no perder de



Mary Robinson hablando en la vigilia. Crédito: Ana Libisch/IPS

vista el hecho de que se trata de la gente”. Para ello insistió en la importancia de las “imágenes”, que deben alejarse de la habitual exhibición de “osos polares” y apelar en cambio a situaciones reales.

Robinson se refirió al caso de una agricultora de Uganda que conoció meses atrás, y que se encontraba presente en la vigilia. “Ella nos dijo que ya no hay estaciones donde vive. Son sequías e inundaciones, sequías e inundaciones. Esto está socavando todos los derechos humanos y los Objetivos de Desarrollo de la ONU para el Milenio”, afirmó.

“Ella quiere que los gobiernos de los países que están en condiciones contribuyan a la adaptación de la agricultura, una agricultura que sea real para los países que están tratando de afrontar” los efectos del cambio climático.

Rodeada de una multitud con velas en sus manos y vasos con chocolate caliente en las afueras del Bella Center, donde se desarrolla la COP-15, Robinson

llamó a los negociadores a plantearse metas ambiciosas y repudió a la Unión Europea por ofrecer un recorte de 20 por ciento de sus emisiones para 2020 y condicionar uno de 30 por ciento a medidas similares de otros países. ❖

*Originally printed in Terraviva 13th Dec  
<http://www.ips.org/TV/copenhagen/download>*

# The Final Countdown

Interview with Anabella Rosemberg, Sustainable development officer, International Trade Union Confederation

*We are entering the very last week of the UNFCCC negotiations under COP15 and much is at stake for millions of workers across the world. Will a deal be sealed that is fair, ambitious and binding for people and for our planet? Trade unions are still hopeful but efforts will have to be stepped up in terms of delivering and making the future deal contain elements of equity, justice and solidarity.*

## **What are the reasons behind the trade union engagement at COP15?**

“Actually, trade unions stepped up their mobilising around climate change issues three years ago, when the ITUC was created, and since then, the level of engagement has grown massively. Our delegation in Copenhagen consists of approximately 300 dedicated national trade union leaders and officers from all over the world. They are here because we are aware of our common responsibility in protecting our future but also to explain that we are a part of the solution in building a fairer, environmentally responsible society.”

## **What are the main priorities for the trade union movement?**

“Trade unions are very clear on what we are hoping will be the outcome on Friday, and we are aiming towards ambitious and effective emission reduction targets which will ensure global temperatures would not increase further of 2°C, implying among other things, ambitious and binding emission reductions in developed countries in the short run.

We are calling for adaptation strategies to be well-funded and to target vulnerable communities, and for R&D and deployment of new green technologies to be scaled up.

And thirdly, we believe that the agreement needs to signal that its signatories are mindful of the social and

economic aspects emerging from its implementation. We need the final agreement to confirm support for putting in place a “Just Transition” for workers and communities, in order to create the decent and green jobs of the future.”

## **In your view, what is at stake in this critically important week?**

“To us everything is at stake. Parties are still far from agreeing on how to ensure adequate funding to finance mitigation and climate change actions that deal with the damage and with the suffering of so many vulnerable people in developing countries. So far, we have not seen consensus among governments on necessary emission reduction targets, and it is time to bridge the adaptation gap to allow technology transfer, capacity building and sustainable production methods because the poor cannot be left to plunge into even greater misery.”

## **It sounds like there is still a lot left on the table before we can seal the deal?**

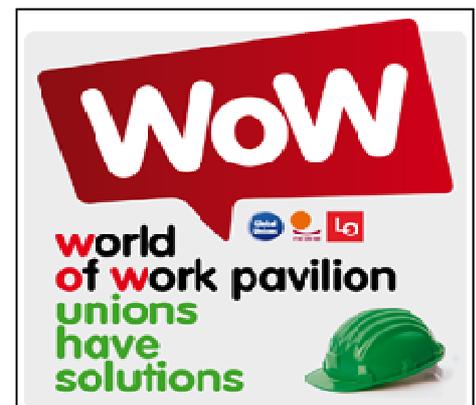
“True and yet, we are expecting the working groups on Long-Term Cooperative Action and the Kyoto Protocol to submit the outcome of their work by tomorrow to Ministers, so the deadline is approaching rapidly. For this particular reason, trade unions in Copenhagen are doing everything they can to maintain pressure on government negotiators to reach an agreement that will put our world on a path to protect our societies, our environment and the generations to come.”

## **Lastly, what message will the trade union movement emphasise during the final stretch of negotiations?**

“A message of opportunity. We have the chance to change our unsustainable, carbon-intensive societies to provide workers with new green, decent jobs and to transform and improve traditional employment. The

decision-making process this week but also later in the implementation phase has to be inclusive, democratic and just. We believe that the transformation ahead of us in reaching sustainable, climate-resilient development must come along with a social pact – a pact for a global and just transition.”

“If the outcome agreed in Copenhagen is to send a message of social justice and hope to workers worldwide to gain their support for the necessary and far-reaching transformation of industries, workplaces and societies that is needed, there must be elements for addressing income and employment, in particular regarding flexibility mechanisms, deforestation, adaptation strategies and financial mechanisms. Now is the time for workers to become actors of their future.” ❖



Three days of seminars, workshops and debates with trade unions from all over the world will take place from 14-16 December at the LO-Denmark building (on the COP15 bus route). See full programme at: <http://bit.ly/89a8xS>

Today, the "World of Work" pavilion, will open at 10.30 in the building of the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions (easily accessible with the COP15 bus).

# Make Your Commitment NOW to Respect International Human Rights Standards

**By: International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change**

The International INDIGENOUS PEOPLES Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) made up of all indigenous peoples here at COP 15 feel that it has been extremely difficult over the last week of negotiations to get States to accept that their human rights obligations towards indigenous peoples also apply in the context of climate change in any negotiations, decisions, framework, or political statement coming out of Copenhagen, Mexico, or any future meetings.

Indigenous Peoples continue to demand and urge States to commit themselves to respect international human rights standards because it is their moral and legal obligation to respect and protect the full enjoyment of indigenous peoples' collective human rights in all matters relating to climate change.

Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific along with other indigenous brothers and sisters feel encouraged by the leading role that the chief negotiator of Tuvalu took in the UNFCCC negotiations. We feel that it is turning into the little island nation of Tuvalu that could just be the game changer in these talks. After making headlines at least twice this week about insisting for a legally binding outcome from Copenhagen, Tuvalu again in the plenary meeting of the resumed COP made an impassioned plea, which many observers immediately called the signature moment of the talks thus far.

Fry defended his standing firmly in the way of consensus, demanding that the legally-binding nature of a deal be discussed in open sessions, not closed door backrooms. Fry urged that the entire population of Tuvalu lives within 2 meters of sea level, that their very existence as a nation is at stake, and that he isn't trying to embarrass anyone, cause trouble, or make a show, but merely serve the people of Tuvalu and protect their future. With tears in his eyes, Fry closed saying, "I woke this



Photo: Ben Powless

morning, and I was crying, and that's not easy for a grown man to admit. The fate of my country rests in your hands".

The IIPFCC was informed that in the Friday evening negotiations there has been a small breakthrough and indigenous peoples' rights and a reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) are now found in the latest draft text of AWG-LCA 8 item 3 on REDD and REDD plus. Although this is a small breakthrough indigenous peoples feel that it is a step forward and that the door has been opened. Indigenous Peoples will continue throughout this week to make sure that this text remains in the document and should be included in all and any political statement, decisions, or agreements that come out of Copenhagen.

All Indigenous Peoples are impacted directly, not only by the effects of climate change, but also by the decisions that States make in these negotiations. The collective rights of indigenous peoples, including our rights to lands, territories and resources, as well as to the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, subject to our Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), must be explicitly included in all texts. The protection of the collective rights of indigenous peo-

ples must be guaranteed, including the recognition of our roles and contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation through our traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

The UNDRIP is firmly based on and is coherent with existing legally binding human rights instruments and international human rights jurisprudence developed in various mechanisms. Certain provisions reflect general principals of international law and international customary law.

The inclusion of the collective rights of indigenous peoples consistent with the UNDRIP will provide the framework and guarantee for constructive engagements between Indigenous Peoples and States in addressing climate change. It will also enhance the invaluable contributions of our indigenous communities in finding real solutions to climate change.

Human rights cannot be selectively recognized or they cease to be rights. We continue to demand that States and the Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC to protect and recognize our rights, and to uphold their commitments and responsibilities. ❖

*For more information on indigenous peoples and climate change visit us at- <http://www.indigenousportal.com/Climate-Change/>*

# Without Local Governments, National CO2 Reduction Targets Will Not Be Met

By: Veronica Perez Sueiro, ICLEI

Back in 1997 when the Kyoto Protocol was signed, no reference to the role of local governments was included in the text. This was a missed opportunity for local communities around the world. In fact, little can be achieved by national governments without the intervention of local governments. Local authorities play a key role in the design and implementation of climate-resilient and climate-friendly urban growth when fulfilling their functions of infrastructure and service provision. Taking into consideration that by 2030, two-third of humanity will live in urban centres, where currently more than 73% of all energy is consumed, the role of cities become even more relevant.

Despite the lack of recognition in the Global Climate Agreement, many cities around the world took up the challenge to reduce their CO2 emissions. Over the years, they have demonstrated their potential for reducing emissions by setting their own voluntary climate action plans. They have achieved this through efficient use of energy in buildings, street lighting, water and sewage operations, introducing renewable energy sources, sustainable management of solid waste, sustainable procurement and promotion of public transport, and public awareness campaigns. These are considered some of the most effective policies and measures for rapid reduction of greenhouse gases.

It is now about time that national governments recognize the efforts of cities. Local governments need the power and resources to continue their reduction and mitigation work. Cities and local governments do not want to be ignored once again. In Copenhagen they are requesting their national delegations to recognize them as key partners in implementation of the future climate change agreement. They are also requesting a UNFCCC Adaptation Fund which takes into ac-



Photo courtesy of ICLEI

**Local governments urge parties of developed countries to take more responsibility by committing to a mid-term goal of 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions based on 1990 levels by 2020 as recommended in the 4th Assessment Report of the IPCC.**

count the key role that local governments can play and which understands that adaptation measures cannot be pursued in isolation from the development realities faced by cities, towns and regions.

During the last week, the local governments delegation at COP15 has been talking to numerous national delegations. This is bringing some positive and encouraging responses. On the last negotiation draft text released, a clear mention of local governments has been included. Slowly but surely the message is getting across. However, it stills remains to be seen if the inclusion

will be removed in the next draft that will be on the negotiation table next week. If this happens, Copenhagen will be another missed opportunity for local communities around the world.

As the negotiation enters the second week, it remains unclear if a new international binding agreement to replace Kyoto Protocol in 2012 will be reached at all. There is still no long-term money on the table, and the chances of getting really ambitious emissions cut agreements from the rich countries are minimal. Local governments urge parties of developed countries to take more responsibility by committing to a mid-term goal of 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions based on 1990 levels by 2020 as recommended in the 4th Assessment Report of the IPCC.

If finally, as the entire world is hoping, a strong, comprehensive and global climate agreement is reached, national governments can rest assured that local governments and cities are ready to take up the challenge to meet the commitments. Local governments are ready to act and willing to cooperate. ❖

# Gender Equality: One Message, Many Drafts

Over 40 Parties have called for the inclusion of gender equality aspects since COP-14 in Poznan, Poland, via written submission or interventions on the floor of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA). It has contributed to, at this point, specific gender references within the Shared Vision, Adaptation, REDD, and Capacity-Building of the LCA.

Gender equity principles appear to have found their most stable placement in the **Shared Vision**, although paragraphs are under review and it is unknown which version of paragraphs with gender language – if any – will be retained through to the end. Even less known is whether gender equality language will ultimately be taken up and placed in the LCA Chairs draft. For now, one gender reference within the Shared Vision preambular paragraphs calls for recognition that “gender equality and active participation of women are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change; adaptation, mitigation, technology sharing, financing and capacity building”, and a more recently tabled paragraph includes “...acknowledging ... the need to promote gender equity in all aspects of climate change”. Both are positive options, which could be strengthened – even shortened – if merged to include the language ‘gender equity and active participation of women’ of the former and action orientated ‘promote’ of the latter.

Gender considerations in **Adaptation** have been the most consistently expressed by Parties, many of whom readily recognize how vulnerability is exacerbated by gender equality. And while gender advocates were hesitant that this vocalization would narrow the complex gender dimensions of climate change down to a simple statement that “women are vulnerable”, Parties have tabled more empowering language.

Specifically, draft para 3 (f) reads, “The implementation of the adaptation [framework] [programme] [shall] [should]: (e) Involve [all] relevant stakeholders [at all levels] through a participatory and gender-sensitive approach to ensure [ownership and inclusiveness].” It is the term ‘gender-sensitive’ that although considered vague by some, may act as a placeholder to mainstream gender more deeply adaptation implementation strategies if fleshed out thoughtfully, post Copenhagen.

***Gender advocates continue to point out that allocation of adaptation and mitigation funds for women must be specifically articulated if the Convention is to be effectively implemented.***

Gender language has surfaced in **Capacity Building** and is also pivotal. It reads “Strengthening climate change communication, education, training and [public awareness] at all levels, including at the local and community levels, taking into account gender issues” [Option 2, Para 4bis (h)]. Once implementation of the LCA is unpacked, there is expectation by gender advocates that language such as this will provide guidance for institutions providing capacity-building support to ensure women and men have equitable access to opportunities for capacity-building at the local level, and will take into account economic, political or social barriers which may limit women’s access and aim to address them.

Draft text on **REDD** [BAP I (b) iii] reflects the growing synergy of interests between various civil society stakeholders around REDD. Currently paragraph 4 reads, “Encourages Parties when developing and implementing national [action plan][strategy][or sub-

national strategies] to address, *inter alia*, drivers of deforestation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues and means of ensuring the full and effective participation, taking into account gender considerations and indigenous peoples and local communities”.

As it stands there are no references to gender-specific issues in either the **technology** or **finance** drafts. Meanwhile, gender advocates continue to advocate that the development and deployment, or transfer of technology have very real gender implications. At the most basic level, language is needed to ensure that technology transfer efforts should include the spectrum of mitigation and adaptation needs – household up through massive infrastructure and industrial. Simple explicit language to this end can help ensure that the technology needs of billions of households in the developing world, primarily managed by women, will not be neglected. The risk for financial mechanisms are similar. Gender advocates continue to point out that allocation of adaptation and mitigation funds for women must be specifically articulated if the Convention is to be effectively implemented.

It was well-known among gender advocates involved in the environmental regime that the Kyoto Protocol has no references to gender or women and is, in fact, the only multilateral environmental agreement to not have any such reference. It appears, however, that Parties are on the verge of changing this, recognizing that gender equality is an essential component of truly sustainable development and poverty eradication—both key principles of the UNFCCC and Bali Action Plan, and critical for all of society to address climate change. It only need be clearly articulated in the Copenhagen outcome. ❖

# Agriculture and Food Security Must Be Part of the Climate Deal

**By: Nora Ourabah, Senior Policy Officer, International Federation of Agricultural Producers**

Agriculture and climate change are intrinsically intertwined. One cannot go without the other. “There is no climate security without food security and no food security without climate security” as one of the high officials rightly stated in one of the side events held during the Copenhagen Climate Conference.

Agriculture is at the center stage of climate change. It is both an affected sector and one that is capable of providing solutions to both mitigate and adapt to its adverse effects. Climate change is not a new issue for agriculture; it is however going to exacerbate already existing problems faced by agriculture.

Despite that, agriculture and food security have been integrated into the discussions only at a late stage of the negotiations, in 2009. Since then, farmers are pleased with the increasing attention given to the sector and the recognition of its key role to address the climate agenda. However, a lot still needs to be achieved to reach a balanced agreement where agriculture would be given due recognition in a future climate deal.

The creation of an informal group of parties on agriculture is a good evidence of this progress. This group of parties, which includes observers such as farmers during its first meetings, has been instrumental in driving the agricultural agenda higher up in the LCA text, through direct and indirect references.

The main direct reference to agriculture in the ongoing draft includes a section under the co-operative sectoral approaches of the mitigation part. This section includes mentions of the potential of agriculture to mitigate climate change and highlights the need to enhance the linkages between adaptation and mitigation as well as the importance of addressing gaps and opportunities in terms of knowledge and research. For farmers it is important that this reference remains in the final outcome text and leads to the early establishment of an agricultural

work program under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). This is a critical decision for the future of the agricultural sector, providing the mandate to discuss issues of substance such as: research needs, knowledge gaps, and financial needs including payment schemes for ecosystem services.

Without this decision to establish a work program on agriculture, the entire agricultural community and the food value chain will be penalized and farmers will not get the right tools to be able to address the climate change challenges properly.

Moreover, we already know that climate change will be putting additional pressure on the food security of farmers and rural communities, in a context of increased food demand due to a population which will reach the 9 billion by 2050. Therefore, the agricultural sector will need to increase its production capacity by at least 70% by then- according to the FAO-, while developing sustainable agricultural practices. This can only be achieved through significant investments geared to this sector and its prioritization in national budgets.

It is therefore critical that the “the shared vision” section of the final outcome clearly recognizes the link between food security, poverty reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

This recognition should pave the way to increased investment –including in research- and support to the whole sector including farmers and their organizations to adaptation and mitigation; a compensation to catch up years of neglect and underinvestment in the sector.

Climate change represents an opportunity for farmers and the agricultural community to divert from business as usual. It is also an opportunity to prove to the world that the best way to increase the resilience of agriculture to climate change and to reduce its emissions is to invest in the modernization of the sector.

Sustainable development and poverty reduction can only be achieved if agriculture is part of the final deal. Farmers are counting on Parties to be on board on these issues and to take appropriate actions. Farmers, for their part, stand ready to take up this challenge. ❖



# Youth Speak Up On State Of Play: United For The Strongest Deal

By: Liz McDowell, member of the International Youth Climate Movement

It's Monday morning and we're one week into negotiations at COP. Oh no, wait - make that 17 years and one week. And big surprise - delegates are trying to play the same old game as before. Annex 1 countries are holding closed-door 'green room' negotiations, convened by the Danish presidency that exclude less powerful countries, playing into old unfair politics and perpetuating divides between rich and poor countries.

This old style of dirty politics is completely unacceptable. As youth, we won't stand for this. Negotiations need to happen in a transparent and democratic manner. If the youth constituency can work together across more than 110 countries with vastly disparate backgrounds, capacities and cultures, the UN should be able to do the same. Countries need to cast aside those vested interests that hamper the negotiation talks and unite under the umbrella of ambition and survival.

So as we enter into the last few days of negotiation, we want to remind negotiators that back-room dealings are not fair and are ultimately ineffective – instead, it's time to shake off this old legacy, leave behind the divisive policies of the past and work together to achieve something that ensures the survival of all countries and all people.

In the discussion over numerical commitments, countries are also deadlocked in a quagmire, waiting for others to take the lead before daring to pledge further commitments. This apparent regard for self-interest is exactly what stymies progression in the negotiations. We urge countries to be proactive and take up the helm of leadership in these talks. The world does not need a group of countries crouching in the backseat, but rather a group of leaders in the global fight against climate change.

As youth, we are not just fighting for our own future but also united with others



who are fighting for their own survival – Africa, Small Island states, Less Developed countries and Indigenous peoples. This is about the future of ALL of us.

To ensure our survival, we need negotiators to push forward with the strongest proposals on the table right now. These are the minimum conditions needed for survival – what science and justice demands. Several texts on the table right now contain elements that we need to see in a final, legally binding agreement, including:

- A justice-based framework that includes substantial amounts of long-term financing with additional fast-start contributions, additional to all existing aid contributions.
- The adaptation fund must be a fund, not a market mechanism.
- Strong mitigation targets for Annex 1 countries of at least 45% by 2020, focusing on a global emissions peak by 2015 and a return to 350 PPM CO2 equivalent.
- Intellectual property rights must be relaxed to allow the transfer of technology to the developing world.
- LULUCF emissions must be counted with consistent baselines and accounting – no loopholes.
- The REDD text must distinguish between intact natural forests and plantations. In addition, REDD is not a substitute for mitigation.

Youth Freeze Action, photo by ECO Singapore

- No rights, no REDD: the rights of forest-dwelling and Indigenous peoples must be guaranteed.
- No carbon capture and storage (CCS) or nuclear in the CDM.

We know that greatness is possible. In the past, leaders have transformed society in ways that many thought impossible. With the right vision and political will, this process can and must succeed.

Over the next 5 days as negotiations pick up pace and heads of state roll in, the 1,000+ young people here at the negotiations will be urging our leaders to take up this momentous opportunity. At every chance we get, we will remind them that the unjust politics of the past are over and a better, just future begins today. If Annex 1 countries agree to cut their emissions, find the necessary funds and close all loopholes, a strong and just deal can still happen here in Copenhagen. Like the cliché says, if not now, when? And if not us, who? ❖

### Today's Youth Actions

Silent action united across countries to demand a strong deal – 1.30pm near Document Centre.

Youth Press Conference “Back to the future with the girl who silenced the world for five minutes” – 8:00pm at Asger Jorn room.

**Food for Thought...** *Felix Dodds, Stakeholder Forum*

# Green Buildings — Regulate Now

I had the pleasure to listen to a wonderful talk by Ron Dembo, CEO of Zerofootprint Inc. in Barcelona at a UN Habitat event in October. He certainly for me is someone who is starting to map out some very interesting ideas on practical ways to address the way we might reduce our carbon footprint in buildings and other footprints as well. He is a Toronto-based developer of carbon-emission measurement and management software; He contends that the construction and operation of buildings generates 40% of North America’s carbon emissions, in some of the larger cities the numbers are far higher: 63% in Toronto and 79% in New York.

He argues that we won’t solve the greenhouse-gas problem if we don’t deal with our buildings. Dembo says “Poor insulation, archaic heating and cooling systems, and inefficient lighting have rendered many buildings energy hogs. Green retrofits that make buildings more efficient — such as installing energy-saving lighting, re-insulating walls and “re-skinning” buildings with new exteriors — are the best way to deal with the carbon problem”.

It has been estimated that the value of such green upgrades will account for 30% of all U.S. renovation projects by 2014 — six times their 2009 share. This

is where the Green Economy makes a clear contribution to employment through the creation of Green Jobs. Buildings need to be intelligent not only in their carbon but also their water and waste services which means more investment in up-fitting and maintenance .

C40, the Large City Network working on Climate Change has been doing a lot of innovative work. They report that 80% of the worlds greenhouse gas emissions are emitted from or for cities. The majority of emissions are caused by cities in industrialised countries, and the effectiveness of additional reductions can be much higher when tackled through an off-setting scheme in cooperation with a partner from a developing country.

Working with the Clinton Climate Initiative they have found some interesting new ways to help finance change in cities.

They are helping offer financial advice on:

- Advisory Services – Consultation on project financing options, including analysis of access to carbon markets and equity funds.
- Financial Institution Relationships – Introductions to local and global lending institutions.
- Cost-Justification Analysis – Life-

cycle cost and payback analyses tailored to cities’ unique equipment, performance, and operation and maintenance requirements.

The growth in cities isn’t just in the North but in the South also, China plans to build four hundred new cities by the year 2020. Yes 400 new cities. The question is what kind of cities. The buildings we build now are going to last 60-100 years and so we need to stop exporting bad building design, high energy, high water use, and high waste production. The new cities of the developing world should be green cities. Perhaps we need global legislation to stop exporting the bad designs of the north to the south, meanwhile ensuring they have access to the best and most upto date green building technologies.

UNEP have estimated that the: “right mix of appropriate government regulation, greater use of energy saving technologies and behavioural change can substantially reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from the building sector which accounts for 30-40 % of global energy use”.

So why is it taking so long for governments to change building regulations? ❖

## EDITORIAL TEAM

**Executive Editor:** Felix Dodds, Stakeholder Forum  
**Senior Editor:** Richard Sherman, Stakeholder Forum  
**Daily Editor:** Stephen Mooney, Stakeholder Forum  
**Design and Layout:** Erol Hofmans, Center for a World in Balance

## Contributing writers:

- Joakim Harlin, Senior water resources advisor, UNDP and Paul Taylor, Director of Cap-Net  
 - Alyssa Johl, Climate Law and Policy Project & Martin Wagner, Earthjustice  
 - Mark Roberts, Samuel LaBudde and Fionnuala Walravens, Environmental Investigation Agency

- Raúl Pierri  
 - International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change  
 - Veronica Perez Sueiro, ICLEI  
 - Nora Ourabah, Senior Policy Officer, International Federation of Agricultural Producers  
 - Liz McDowell, member of the International Youth Climate Movement

