

Focus on the Global South Climate Justice Campaign

Work plan 2010

Rationale

Social justice and equity issues are almost absent from the current negotiations, as evidenced by the outcomes of the Copenhagen climate talks, where the interests of the rich countries and large emitters overrode the demands of many countries of the South as well as global public opinion. However, for many in the growing movement for climate justice, the Copenhagen result was only to be expected but is actually a positive result, given that the current agenda and correlation of forces in the UNFCCC and internationally will not deliver a climate agreement sufficient to address the scope of the challenge. In our view, it is better to have no agreement than a weak agreement that locks in place low targets and expands market mechanisms. The year ahead presents many opportunities to continue to build the movement for climate justice, to work with like-minded governments, and to build national and international coalitions able to press governments to adopt national and international climate policies that are in line with the science and which have social justice at the core.

Focus sees that we can make a particular contribution to the movement for climate justice by linking the climate debates – both inside and outside the framework of the UNFCCC -- with ongoing campaigns, such as trade, debt, land and agrarian reform, international financial architecture, and by helping to build a broad-based global movement with the strong involvement of social movements from the Global South, and especially women, farmers, fishers, Indigenous Peoples, forest communities and workers.

We believe that future course of the struggle for our ecological future depends on the ability of the movements for economic, gender and ecological justice to constitute themselves into an effective trans-border movement able to unmask the latest schemes of pro-corporate forces and institutions to delay or obstruct genuine solutions to the climate crisis. In addition, we need to build together alternatives for addressing the urgent challenge of global warming and climate change based squarely on the principles of climate justice.

Objectives

- Replace the current market based response to climate change as exemplified by the Kyoto protocol with genuine alternatives based on 'common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities' to achieve social, economic, gender and ecological justice
- Building local, national and international climate justice coalitions
- Influence government responses to the climate and energy crises

Strategies

- Highlighting proposals by local communities on the control, use and conservation of natural resources and local energy systems
- Building platforms to articulate genuine solutions to the climate crisis.
- Promoting food sovereignty, community controlled renewable energy, local markets and trade, public transport, energy efficiency and reducing excessive production and consumption and phasing out of fossil fuels.
- Linking climate justice, social/economic justice and peace movements
- Building an international movement for climate justice
- Critiquing techno- and market-based solutions to climate change and exposing neoliberal framework of UNFCCC negotiations
- Engaging in debates on unsustainable energies such as large dams, nuclear, agro-fuels, 'clean' coal.
- Forging alliances with key progressive southern governments
- Provide alternative analysis of UNFCCC negotiations for activists, media and movements

Aims for 2010-2011

- Movement building, nationally and internationally, through CJN!, CJA and national coalitions
- Developing deeper understanding of climate policy/politics at international and national level
- Linking climate justice to local realities, struggles and alternatives and to ongoing programme work in areas of trade, finance, commons, etc
- Develop Focus position/strategy on key climate politics/policy vis-a-vis UNFCCC, MEF, G20 and other institutional frames
- Develop more comprehensive Focus positions on key issues, such as finance/CTT, agriculture, technology