

February 14, 2011

Re: Civil Society Observer Role in the Transitional Committee of the Green Climate Fund

Dear Ms. Figueres and Ambassador Espinosa,

As development, faith, environment, scientific, human rights, Indigenous Peoples, and women's organizations, we would like to underscore our support for the establishment of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Green Climate Fund. We are eager to work with you to ensure that the Transitional Committee achieves success in designing an effective fund based on principles of environmental integrity and equity. We are writing to you now with specific suggestions on how to structure a productive role for civil society observers in that process.

First, let us emphasize how essential it is for the Transitional Committee to actively and meaningfully engage with civil society. Civil society organizations have been working on the ground in adaptation, mitigation, and forest protection for many years and, in many cases, work alongside or represent affected communities. The input from civil society will greatly benefit the effectiveness of the Transitional Committee and contribute to its legitimacy and credibility moving forward.

In order to have the most productive engagement of civil society, we suggest that:

1. All meetings of the Transitional Committee be open to all accredited observers of the UNFCCC and webcast;
2. A number of observers, whom we suggest be chosen from a self-selection process run by the relevant UNFCCC focal points that ensures North/South balance, have an "active observer role," meaning that they can (a) take the floor in meetings just as a Transitional Committee members can, (b) suggest agenda items, and (c) be active participants in all drafting groups or executive sessions. While we strongly urge that all sessions be open, should there be any executive sessions, the "active observer" should be able to fully participate;
3. All documents to be discussed at Transitional Committee meetings be translated into the five official UN languages and posted to a website created for the Green Climate Fund, at least one month before each meeting; and
4. Specific time should be dedicated for the Transitional Committee members to dialogue with civil society during the meetings.

Though these decisions will likely be taken at the first meeting of the Transitional Committee, we urge that arrangements be made for civil society engagement at the first meeting, with a minimum of ensuring that the meeting is open to all accredited UNFCCC observers and is webcast.

Additionally, as you work to second staff from a variety of agencies to support the work of the Transitional Committee, we urge you to ensure balance in their expertise and experience. We particularly encourage you to ensure the secondment of staff with expertise in areas such as gender, sustainable development and poverty alleviation, new renewable energy and efficiency technologies, and social and

environmental safeguards and not over-rely on experts from the finance community and multilateral development banks.

We thank you for your attention to these important issues and look forward to working with you on this process.

Sincerely,

ActionAid
African Foundation Farmapu Inter Cecotrap Rcogl
Amigos del Viento, Uruguay
Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)
Australian Climate Justice Program
Bank Information Center
CAFOD
Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (CEMDA)
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Environmental Law
CDM Watch
Christian Aid
Church World Service
Climate Action Network Europe
Climate Action Network – International
Climate Action Network South Asia
Climate Action Network Uganda (CAN-U)
Climate Change Adaptation Programme of the RMIT University (Melbourne Australia)
CNCD-11.11.11
Conservation International
DanChurchAid
Diakonia
Environmental Defense Fund
Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change hosted by Forum for Environment
Friends of the Earth Europe
Friends of the Earth Norway
Friends of the Earth US
Gender Action
GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice
Germanwatch
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
Global Witness
Greenpeace USA
Hands Across the Ocean Foundation, Ghana (HATOF)
Heinrich Boell Foundation
HELIO International

Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities
International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests
International Forum on Globalization
International-Lawyers.org
International Trade Union Confederation
Jubilee USA
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Les Amis de la Terre France
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Nord-Sud XXI
Norwegian Church Aid
ONG Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement, Togo
Oxfam
Oxford Climate Policy
Pacific Indigenous Peoples Environment Coalition (PIPEC)
Population Action International
Practical Action
Presencia Ciudadana Mexicana A.C.
Rainforest Foundation Norway
Réseau Action Climat-France (CAN-France)
Sierra Club
Sustainable Energy & Economy Network, Institute for Policy Studies
The Development Fund, Norway
The Nature Conservancy
The World Council of Churches
United Methodist Women
US Climate Action Network
Women's Environment and Development Organization
Women in Europe for a Common Future
World Development Movement
WWF International