

February x, 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, and scientific, human rights, 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. 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,