

STRENGTHENING COUNTRY OWNERSHIP, COUNTRY DRIVEN APPROACH, DIRECT ACCESS

May 19, 2014

Dear Green Climate Fund Board Members and Alternates,

A global climate fund is of vital importance to ensuring the delivery of climate finance to peoples and communities adequately and equitably across and within developing countries, to finance programs and projects designed according to developing country needs and priorities which are determined through processes involving robust participation of its citizens. We have been engaging in the processes of the Green Climate Fund with the aim that the GCF fulfills these functions as effectively, efficiently and quickly as possible.

One of the things that have been encouraging about the Green Climate Fund is the possibility that this Fund would be fundamentally different from existing international financial institutions and entities that have thus far dominated development and climate finance, that it could better reflect developing country needs and contexts rather than the goals of a development bank's largest shareholders, that it could go against the trend of private finance supplanting the role of public finance. These tenets should be at the core of the GCF's orientation and strategies if it is to contribute to genuinely transformative change.

However, we are gravely concerned that decisions of the GCF Board thus far and the proposed decisions in the draft documents for this 7th meeting -- pose huge risks that Country Ownership, Country Driven Approach, and developing countries' Direct Access to the GCF will be greatly eroded. These decisions and proposals could lead to scenarios in which international entities, such as the World Bank or Citibank, would receive the lion's share of GCF funding, dominate the management and implementation of programs and projects, and ultimately prove corrosive to the founding aspirations of developing countries and communities regarding the GCF.

We urge you to inject far more rigor in distinguishing treatment between national / sub-national intermediaries and implementing entities on the one hand, and international intermediaries and implementing entities on the other. A strong program for readiness and capacity-building for national and sub-national entities is crucial but not enough. There should be clear prioritization of national and sub-national entities over international entities. There should also be established, ever evolving metrics that encourage and institutionalize participation of people and communities as a fundamental determinant of country ownership.

This can be done through several measures that include:

- a. A comprehensive, adequately funded and robust **readiness and preparatory support program** that will empower countries and their national and sub-national entities to meet capacity requirements as well as comply with standards and safeguards especially fiduciary, social, environmental, gender, labor and on participation of people and communities.
- b. An **accreditation policy** that generally restricts international entities to the role of intermediaries. That implementation and execution of projects and programs be undertaken only by national and sub-national entities that comply with robust fiduciary, social, environmental, gender, labor standards and safeguards and ensure full and meaningful participation of people and communities. That international entities be allowed to take on an implementing role only under a few highly exceptional circumstances.
- c. An **allocation policy** that provides for a "floor" for allocation for national and sub-national entities relative to total GCF funds and a ceiling for allocation to international entities relative to total GCF funds
- d. An **approval policy** that states that international intermediaries support only programs and projects that cannot be funded through relevant national and sub-national entities.

We urge you to consider these and other policies to secure and strengthen country ownership and direct access, and the participation of the people and communities of developing countries to define, manage and implement climate programs and projects.



SIGNATORIES

Global and Regional Movements, Organizations and Networks

Jubilee South - Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD)
Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
Inter-American Association for Environmental Defence (AIDA)
Greenpeace
Least Developed Countries (LDC) Watch
South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)
Migrant Forum Asia (MFA)
Third World Network (TWN)
IBON International

Heinrich Boell Foundation North America

National Movements, Organizations and Networks

Zambia Climate Change Network ZAMBIA
Ateneo School of Government PHILIPPINES
Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities ICSC PHILIPPINES
Freedom From Debt Coalition PHILIPPINES
Philippine Movement for Climate Justice PHILIPPINES
Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) PHILIPPINES
SANLAKAS PHILIPPINES
Partido ng Manggagwa PHILIPPINES
Peoples Movement on Climate Change PHILIPPINES
Ecological Society of the PHILIPPINES
Ecowaste Coalition PHILIPPINES
Solidaritas Perempuan INDONESIA
Kruha Peoples Right to Water Coalition INDONESIA
AKSI INDONESIA
Institute for Essential Services Reform INDONESIA
debtWatch INDONESIA
Gema Alam West Nusa Tenggara INDONESIA
Korean Federation for Environment Movement KOREA
Transparency International Korea Chapter KOREA
Green Environment Youth KOREA
Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF) INDIA
mines minerals and People (mmP) INDIA
PAIRVI INDIA
Beyond Copenhagen INDIA
Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON), INDIA
Center for Environmental Justice / Friends of the Earth SRI LANKA
All Nepal Peasant Federation NEPAL
Jagaran NEPAL
Campaign for Climate Justice Network NEPAL
Rural Reconstruction NEPAL
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum PAKISTAN
EquityBD BANGLADESH
Nabodhara BANGLADESH
Bangladesher Jatyo Sromik Jote-BJSJ BANGLADESH
Taiwan Climate Youth Coalition TAIWAN
Climate Justice Program AUSTRALIA
Both Ends NETHERLANDS
Friends of the Earth - England Wales and Northern Ireland UK
Friends of the Earth SPAIN
Action Aid USA
Jubilee USA Network USA
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program, USA
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) USA
Friends of the Earth USA