

NEWSLETTER

THE COUNTDOWN TO CO2PENHAGEN CAMPAIGN IS A GLOBAL MASS MOVEMENT SUPPORTED BY THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC), APRODEV, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND SOUTHERN NGOs FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

OBAMA - WHERE ARE THE DREAMS?

'Dear Mr. President!'

'Let's keep alive the dreams from our fathers', African civil society organisations today appeal to Obama as he receives his Nobel.

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, PACJA, take the opportunity to remind 'the son of Africa' of promises he made in his inauguration speech:

'...we can no longer afford indifference to the suffering outside our borders, nor can we consume the world's re-

sources without regard to effect.'

But one year into the Obama era conditions in Africa are as harsh as ever:

'Our rivers are drying. Our crops are turning to dust', PACJA says, strongly criticizing the American positions on climate change: The American emissions and the lack of commitment to the Kyoto Protocol - the only international instrument to establish binding targets for developed countries.

'Allowing temperatures to rise by up to 2 degrees globally and 3 degrees in Africa is a death sentence to literally millions of Africans', PACJA warns.

'We fear for our mothers and fathers, our sisters and brothers, and all the sons and daughters of Africa. It threatens not only our families but also your own!'

CLIMATE REFUGEES IN TOWN

DanChurchAid activists welcome you to our climate refugee camp at Vor Frue plads in central Copenhagen. The camp features a host of activities, events, debates and music.

The camp is open from today at 6 PM and Friday the 11th from 11 AM.



Join the "follow me" flash mob at Rådhuspladsen at 4.50 PM. Contact Gritt Holm Hedehus

THE REAL SPLIT OVER KYOTO

The hype around yesterday's split between developing countries has drawn a veil over the key issue - will the Kyoto Protocol survive Copenhagen?

There was much media coverage over this uncharacteristic division within the G77 and yet far less around Russia's withdrawal of its emissions targets from any new commitment period under Kyoto.

The division is in fact a distraction. The far greater divide is that between rich and poor countries.

Developing countries remain agreed, and indeed united, around the need for the Kyoto Protocol to form the foundation of any FAB (fair, ambitious, binding) deal in Copenhagen. What yesterday's dispute was about was the way in which developing countries can ensure that

Kyoto survives and is built upon.

There needs to be far more focus on making progress on Kyoto and getting second commitment period targets agreed. Countdown to Copenhagen will be reminding everyone at the Copenhagen talks that this is the key issue we must all be focusing on.

Eliot Whittington, Snr Climate Justice Advisor



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READ MORE

Latest news: and our daily newsletter::

countdowntocopenhagen.org

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TALK TO US:

More than 350 people make up the Countdown to Copenhagen delegation. Contact us to find global and local experts and spokespersons. We can comment and give you background on issues relevant for a fair, just and equitable deal.

Examples today:

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Gritt Holm Hedehus, Climate Campaigns Coordinator, DCA

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CLIMATE CHAOS IN CAMEROON

'On the coast in Cameroon, an entire village of 1500 people was wiped away in just one night by a wave which was caused by an extreme storm surge,' says Michel Takam of Action for Sustainable and Equitable Development (ADEID), a local NGO in this central African country.

'In another area, around 2500 houses collapsed because of abnormally heavy rain. All this is climate change but it does not get into the news.'

Health problems

'It used to be very rare to find malaria in the mountains where we live but now the number of mosquitoes are increasing because of the warmer temperatures.'

This leads to increasing health problems, greater expenditure on medicines and of course the loss of family members.

Climate refugees

'You can see what social disasters climate change causes, when you see parents who

cannot pay for their children's education, when you see people who have lost their personality and their respect within the community and society because they have lost everything and have been forced to become refugees in their own country or in neighbouring lands.'

Technology

'The damage is so great now that we need new technologies to cope with it such as water dams to collect water for use during the wet season for the dry season. In the past we had 4 months of rain. It was enough. Now it has dropped to two months. But for the dams, we need money and know how.'

'We need to grow corn that has a shorter growing season but this will involve science. In fact, I could give you all sorts of examples of how we could adapt our agriculture, energy or housing, but all of it needs technology, finance and know-how. We need those that are responsible - developed coun-

tries - to help pay for all this, but instead they say we must pay.'

Injustice

This, he says, is like someone setting your house on fire and then trying to sell you the pipes and water to put the fire out.

'It's an injustice. And think about it, your sons, your daughters, your aunts, your uncles are in that house. That is what we are facing in Cameroon.'

Solutions to the adaptation resourcing problem lie in the crucial COP15 negotiations, Michel believes.

'We need very high political will at the international level. We have to define the legal aspects and build institutional frameworks that support technology transfer and capacity building at a global, regional and local level.'

Amanda Farrant

Christian Aid

WITHOUT PRESSURE NO PROGRESS

Reduced pressure and expectations means fewer reasons for politicians to do their utmost to get a good agreement. Giving up on Copenhagen is not conducive to making progress.

We are concerned by trends in the EU and the US to talk only about **near-term** financial support for developing countries to deal with climate change - but saying nothing about how to provide **long-term**, predictable financial flows. This means that beyond 2012, developing countries could be left with nothing. And so far, it looks as if both near-term and any long-term

support will be nothing but re-directing existing ODA flows.

No new money

Without a clear commitment that climate finance should be new and additional to ODA commitments, the risk is that after all these years of talks and negotiations, there will still be no new money on the table.

The latest examples come from Denmark and Sweden, announcing climate finance for billions of kronar

But apparently it all comes from ODA.

These remain some of the crunch issues, where the EU and other developed countries urgently must shift their positions.

With hundreds of ministers and Heads of State present in Copenhagen, there is a significant political momentum which can lead to major position shifts, up to the morning of December 19th. The best way of using this momentum is not to start reducing expectations already, but to keep increasing public and media pressure until the very last second. *Marlene Grundström,*

Aprodev



SOUTHERN VOICE OF TODAY

Come and discuss technology transfer and climate change with Michel Takam today at the Countdown to Copenhagen stand (near the Cloakroom - close to the entrance) at 10.30

THE CLIMATE TOURIST

Event at the civil society summit 'Klimaforum99' at DGI-Byen

10 Decemer 2009, 1 - 3 pm, Brown meeting room

Participants: United Nations World Tourism Organisation, EED, ECOT, Pacific Conference of Churches, Naturefriends, Kabani India, Respect, NHTV Breda University, Climate Alliance Austria

SHARING EQUITABLY

'Climate justice from Copenhagen: Sharing the global effort adequately and equitably' is a Side Event for Friday, at 11 - 12.30 in the Halfdan Rasmussen Room 2 at the Bella Centre.

What are the essential elements of an agreement that effectively and fairly share out the effort of addressing the climate crisis?

A panel of experts, including Naomi Klein set out the key parameters for a deal to effectively tackle the dual crises of climate change and poverty.