

Partnership for Global Justice: December Alert

UN Conference on Climate Change

From December 3 to 14, 2007 representatives of world governments will meet in **Bali**, Indonesia to address the historic challenges of setting new parameters on human activity in preparation for the expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, stated that “We need to set the stage for a comprehensive agreement that tackles climate change on all fronts-including adaptation, mitigation, deforestation, clean technologies and resource mobilization...” UN experts say a new global plan must be in place by 2009 to ensure a smooth transition after the expiration of the Kyoto terms. (In December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, industrial nations agreed to binding targets to reduce their collective emissions of greenhouse gases. Canada ratified the Kyoto Protocol, the United States did not.)

On Saturday, November 17, 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released its fourth and final report in Valencia, Spain. The panel distilled research from more than 2,000 scientists and concluded that “Global warming is unequivocal” and that “climate change will bring abrupt and irreversible changes.” The panel reported that the world would have to reverse the rapid growth of greenhouse gases by 2015 to avert the worst consequences. “What we will do in the next two to three years will determine our future,” said Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the panel, “this is the defining challenge.” Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon released the final report and called climate change “the defining challenge of our age.”

Please take action today by writing to one of the following:

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20005
Email: comments@whitehouse.gov

Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
Ottawa
K1A 0A2
pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear _____:

The final report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly states the need for immediate and collaborative action on the part of all countries to reduce the risks of climate change. I urge you to be a leader in negotiating for a comprehensive climate change agreement which clearly articulates **mandatory** targets to reduce greenhouse emissions and offers incentives to help developing countries move towards mitigation and adaptation. I urge you to provide funding for clean energy technologies and cooperating with other countries to develop clean technologies for energy supplies and adaptation. (U.S. writers may want to mention their disappointment that the United States did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol)

Sincerely,

(For further information go to www.un.org/climatechange)

This alert was written in collaboration with the Elizabeth Seton Federation