

## Partnership for Global Justice: September, 2007 ALERT

Over the last two decades, scientific evidence of climate change has been accumulating providing us with indisputable evidence that the Earth's climate is warming. According to substantial reports, the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the warmest in at least 1,000 years. Burning fossil fuels, particularly coal and oil has been identified as the single most instrumental factor in these climatic events. The loss of habitat and biodiversity and the severe disruptions to human societies that result make climate change one of the most critical challenges facing all living species.

As we come to understand the crisis of climate change, there is a strong link between poverty and environmental degradation whether it is desertification, water security, deforestation or threats to biodiversity, coastlines and indigenous ways of life. While there is action for legislation and remedies underway for environmentally friendly products, the cost is beyond most of the poor. In our cities and countries where poverty is high the environmental debt is getting higher.

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The G8 and the UN are holding meetings in mid-September regarding Global Warming.

Write to your governmental leaders who will be attending in the name of our governments. Send postcards to:

United States:  
Stephen L. Johnson  
EPA Administrator  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Canada:  
Hon. John Baird  
Minister of the Environment  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K3B 7E0

Marcus Peacock  
Deputy Administrator  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Michael Horgan  
Deputy Minister Environment  
10 Wellington Street  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

I am concerned about our country's response to Global Warming. Greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced in all countries for climate change to take place. I urge you to take socially responsible actions so that all nations will work together for a solution to this crisis of our Earth that will have a lasting effect on both the rich and the poor and on all living species.

Sincerely,

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Background information:

-Environmentally friendly products come at a high price. To pay for such products, poorer nations will have to export more industrial goods thus generating more pollution.

-Each living thing makes its unique contribution to the good of the whole and therefore our survival is intimately connected to the survival of the other species of Earth. We can no longer maintain a posture that separates human well-being from the rest of creation.

-The latest report of the intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change affirms that global warming is caused by human action and will have its greatest impact on poor people who are the least responsible for carbon emissions. See [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch).

-As each country prepares for the effects of inevitable climate change, understandably they will look to protect their own territory. However, the weather is no respecter of national borders. The stronger defense is to consider Region by Region looking beyond boundaries for solutions.

-Measures need to be taken to help bring environmental and social considerations from the margins to the decision-making and development strategies. Multidisciplinary research efforts are required to reduce information gaps needed for appropriate decision making.

More:

[www.redefiningprogress.org](http://www.redefiningprogress.org)

[www.bestfootforward.com](http://www.bestfootforward.com)

[www.epa.gov/climatechange](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange)

[www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com)

[www.carbonfund.org](http://www.carbonfund.org)

[www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/index.asp](http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/index.asp)

[www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)