

Declaration of Women in Asia on Climate Change

We, the indigenous, peasant, fisher, labour, rural and urban women, face the bulk of negative impacts of climate change and the false solutions offered to us. We produce and provide food; work inside and outside homes to augment our family income and are often the principal income earners; and through our productive and reproductive labour, ensure the welfare of our families and communities.

However, we are still not recognised by governments, national and international institutions as contributors to sustain lives in our families, communities and societies; and therefore we are systematically excluded from decision making about our lives, environment and natural resources. Particularly in this climate crisis we are exposed as victims only, but not as decision makers in determining on how to deal with climate change and in contributing solutions based on our wisdom and knowledge.

We, over 70 women from many parts of Asia with various backgrounds -indigenous, peasant, fisher, labour- and from different networks and social justice movements, met on September 28-29 2009, in Bangkok. We exchanged experiences with our sisters and discussed the impacts of climate change in our communities and on us, the women, from these communities. We discussed strategies and solutions to bring our voices and thoughts into the discourse on climate change and shape solutions to tackle the climate crisis. We also resolve to continue our own education about climate issues, educate other women and policy makers, and build alliances and coalitions to work towards genuine climate justice with the principles of gender justice.

We recognise that the climate crisis is complex and far reaching, and we need to act urgently in order to put into place systems that can address the climate crisis in long term and sustainable ways. For this we need real solutions that will tackle the roots of the climate crisis rather than mechanisms that allow corporations to profit from the climate crisis and allow the wealthy to keep consuming and depleting resources, and polluting the atmosphere.

We want that our children and the future generation to come to live in a world that is just, healthy and capable to sustain their lives. Therefore, we declare our positions regarding issues that related to our lives as follows:

Indigenous women:

1. Respect and upheld right to self-determination, as women, and as part of the indigenous communities.
2. Those should be made integral part of the process of obtaining genuine free, prior and informed consent from indigenous communities on development projects within their traditional territories.

Agriculture

1. Promote and fund sustainable agriculture and organic/agro-ecological farming.
2. No to subsidies and supports to industrial agriculture and agri-business corporations.
3. Recognize women farmer rights and existence in agriculture.
4. Oppose carbon trading and clean development mechanisms (CDMs) in agriculture.
5. No to GMOs.
6. No to free trade agreements and export-oriented agriculture.
7. Defend security of land tenure for smallhold farmers, and equally for women and men;
8. Local ecological resources to local communities, with equal rights to women and men.

Fishery

1. Call for all governments to enforce and protect fisherfolk rights (UNCLOS; UNFCCC).
2. Protect, promote and fund fish sanctuaries and mangroves based on community rights (fishery-based community rights), which are proved low carbon of life either by local government and international agreements.

3. No carbon market-based solutions on marine regarding to Climate change.
4. Fishers should be involved in building community resilience to Climate Change and that this has to be based on local knowledge and capacity.
5. Regulate fish trade and enhance domestic markets towards food security and building community resilience.

Forest

1. Exclude forest from carbon market and source of offsets.
2. Recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples and their rights to territory, and especially Indigenous Peoples women's rights.
3. Uphold the role, interest and rights of women.
4. No to mining in forest and ecologically sensitive areas, including coastal areas, and subject mining activities in all areas to strong and legal environmental and social regulations.
5. No to REDD.

Health

1. The recognition of the rights of women for the healthy and safe environment and the government should ensure and commit delivery of basic health services in adaptation measures that benefit women, children and communities.

Energy

1. No nuclear power plants, coal-fired power plants, large-scale hydropower and incinerators.
2. No to agrofuels, geo-engineering and oppose all false solutions proposed by IFIs, governments, TNCs/ MNCs, UNFCCC and others.
3. Decentralization of power production and distribution, with regulations that small scale utilities. Promote and fund community-based renewable energy.

Water and Sanitation

1. No to privatization.
2. Protect water as commons.
3. Promote sustainable sanitation.

Furthermore, **Financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation** should be:

1. Commitment for reparation and restitution
2. From the North to the South in recognition of the historical and ecological debt
3. In a form that does not create new debt for developing countries
4. Commitments that are free from policy conditions
5. NOT managed by the International Financial Institutions (IFIs)
6. Cancellation of existing debt
7. Gender sensitive and account for women's unique economic needs and priorities

Bangkok, 29 September 2009