

May 30, 2011

The Honorable Ernesto Cordero
Minister of Finance and Public Credit
Government of Mexico

The Honorable Kjetil Lund
State Secretary, Ministry of Finance
Government of Norway

The Honorable Trevor Manuel
Minister in the Presidency
Government of the Republic of South Africa

Dear Co-Chairs of the Transitional Committee of the Green Climate Fund,

On behalf of our organizations and constituencies, we are writing to you in your role as co-chairs of the Transitional Committee of the Green Climate Fund concerning civil society participation and transparency in the Transitional Committee (TC) process.

We believe that the ability of civil society organizations to access documents and other information and to meaningfully participate in the design process will play a critical role in determining the TC's—and ultimately the Green Climate Fund's—success and effectiveness. In addition to bringing the needs and priorities of civil society and communities to decision-makers, we have substantial technical expertise and experience from which the TC can benefit. In addition, early inclusion of civil society in the design process can significantly enhance the public legitimacy of the Green Climate Fund and strengthen its ability to attract contributions.

We appreciated the co-chairs' acknowledgement of the role of civil society observers during the first meeting of the TC, and we hope that in future meetings and work processes civil society will be able to engage in substantial and meaningful participation beyond that at the first meeting. To that end, we urge you to take the actions described below.

Transitional Committee Plenary Meetings

- 1) All plenary meetings and workshops of the Transitional Committee should be open to accredited civil society observers and webcast, and there should be no limit on the number of observers able to be present in the room where the meetings and workshops are held.
- 2) A specified number of civil society observers should be given an “active observer role,” meaning that they can take the floor during the ebb and flow of deliberations for each agenda item and can propose agenda items.
- 3) There should be at least two weeks' notice given to observers in advance of meetings and workshops. We appreciate the recent invitation to the June 1 consultation, but we regret that the short notice will likely preclude the participation of many in civil society.

Transitional Committee Work Streams

- 1) Accredited civil society observers should be able to act as active participants in all work streams and drafting groups. We appreciate the recent opportunity given to comment on issues relevant to work streams I and III; we hope this initiative will be proposed by the co-chairs to the facilitators as a good practice in the future for all work streams, including II and IV. We would suggest at least 2 weeks' notice in order to be able to provide thorough responses.
- 2) All work stream sessions should be open to observers, as the Parties have already agreed that "the Transitional Committee meetings will be open to observers." (Cancun Agreements, paragraph 110). Civil society representatives should also be able to engage in drafting processes and other deliberations, including those that are online and those that take place in between formal meetings.
- 3) We recognize that a specific number of observer representatives may need to be designated for these fora and that considerations based on regional and gender balance should be considered.

Transparency

- 1) Ensure that the website of the TC is fully accessible to the public, including for all processes and key documents in the work streams and plenary meetings.
- 2) Ensure that all documents and working papers to be discussed at Transitional Committee meetings and work streams are posted to the website at least two weeks before each meeting.
- 3) Establish a clear, defined process for inputs into all TC bodies; ensure that all inputs are placed on the TC website; and disclose how inputs are taken into account in decisions of the TC and its bodies.
- 4) Ensure that all individuals involved or nominated for the Technical Support Unit and other TC expert bodies are publicly disclosed.

Technical Support Unit

- 1) Enhance the range of knowledge and experience of the Technical Support Unit (TSU) by drawing on experts from civil society (including experts from academia, independent research institutions, labor unions, human rights and women's rights organizations, organizations representing climate-affected communities and Indigenous Peoples, and other areas of civil society focus).
- 2) Facilitate financial support for such participation by civil society in the TSU as needed.

We look forward to working with you and the other members of the Transitional Committee in the period leading up to COP 17 in Durban. We believe that the Green Climate Fund can serve as a powerful new, transformative model for climate change finance, and we are eager to participate in the process of achieving that result.

Sincerely,

ActionAid International
Beyond Copenhagen Coalition (India)
CAFOD (UK)
Campagna per la Riforma della Banca Mondiale (Italy)
CDM Watch

Centre for Environmental Justice/Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka
Centro Alexander von Humboldt (Nicaragua)
Climate Action Network France
Climate Action Network International
EcoNexus
EFICOR (India)
Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change
Fair (Italy)
Friends of the Earth England Wales and Northern Ireland
Friends of the Earth US
GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice
Germanwatch
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
Heinrich Boell Foundation
Huairou Commission
ICAE - International Council for Adult Education
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
Mexican Center of Environmental Law (CEMDA)
New Zealand Youth Delegation
Oxfam
Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
Plataforma Boliviana Frente al Cambio Climático
Polaris Institute (Canada)
Project Survival Pacific
Sierra Club (US)
Sustainable Energy & Economy Network, Institute for Policy Studies
Sustainlabour
SustainUS
Third World Network
UNFCCC Women's Constituency
UNFCCC Youth Constituency (YOUNGO)
Women's Environment and Development Organization
World Development Movement

cc: Members of the Transitional Committee of the Green Climate Fund
Henning Wuester, Secretary of the Transitional Committee