



October 3, 2013

**Dear Members and Alternate Members of the Board of the Green Climate Fund:**

We are organizations, movements and civil society groups from developing countries with decades of experience working for the rights and aspirations of peoples and communities. We are writing to express our unified call for the adoption of the most robust environmental and social protections at the Green Climate Fund.<sup>i</sup> We are joined in solidarity by the undersigned organizations based in developed countries.

Consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other relevant international agreements, developed countries are obligated to provide the necessary finance to enable affected peoples to deal with climate impacts, build resilience, and shift to more sustainable, equitable low carbon development pathways. Similarly, States have the obligation to their citizens and all peoples to use climate funds for these purposes effectively and responsibly in a democratic, accountable, and transparent manner that respects human rights and does not harm the environment.<sup>ii</sup>


The following principles, obligations, and standards must be upheld by and applied to the GCF, the governments that contribute to or receive GCF funds, members of the GCF Board, and non-State actors that receive funds or implement GCF funded projects. These principles, obligations, and standards must apply to all GCF activities -- operations, modalities, terms of financing arrangements, financial instruments, financial intermediaries, projects, sub-projects, programs, etc.

**Sovereignty, self-determination, and the fulfillment of State obligations** -- The GCF must respect the sovereignty and self-determination of developing countries and their peoples. GCF funding should not be used as leverage to impose on recipient governments conditionalities that are extrinsic to fiduciary terms and mutual obligations of financial arrangements. Likewise, States should not invoke sovereignty as a reason for failing to fulfill their obligations to deliver on the following principles, obligations and standards, which are not conditionalities and must be upheld and operationalized by the GCF as a public institution.

**“Do no harm” principle** -- GCF activities should not have harmful impacts, whether social, gender, economic, or environmental. To ensure and verify that harm is not done, the GCF must develop strict mandatory due diligence and review procedures for all access modalities and all Fund activities to ensure compliance with the “do no harm” principle and rigorous monitoring of directly and indirectly financed activities throughout their lifetime. Binding “do no harm” language must be included in all contracts, sub-contracts, and agreements. GCF finance must not trigger involuntary displacement (shelter and/or livelihoods), nor be used to fund fossil fuel projects.

**Financial intermediaries (FIs)** -- It is especially difficult for FIs and other conduits of indirect finance to ensure adherence to the “do no harm” principle, as was clearly demonstrated by a 2013 CAO audit carried out on the International Finance Corporation (IFC)’s large FI portfolio.<sup>iii</sup> The IFC was proven unable to trace, understand or document the environmental and social impacts of its FI investments, presenting a dangerous risk to the environment and affected communities. We are opposed to the use of international FIs by the GCF. The use of domestic FIs, many of which are also opaque and non-transparent, must only be considered if directly proposed by recipient countries for their climate programs. In such cases, the GCF must then ensure due diligence in adequate assessment of the potential environmental and social impacts and risks associated with the FI’s existing and likely future portfolio; full public disclosure, consultation, and documentation of free, prior, and informed consent on all FI subprojects; and permanent transparent monitoring throughout the lifetime of projects and subprojects.

**Financial integrity and anti-corruption** -- Financial accounting and procurement practices should adhere to the highest international standards. The sources of funds must be demonstrably free of links to money laundering. There must be no use of secrecy jurisdictions/tax havens for domiciling funds flowing to or from the GCF. Any links



to public officials, their family members, or associates must be made public and publicly examined to ensure freedom from corruption. There should be no provision of immunity for violations of the law by those carrying out any service as part of the GCF.

**Public consultations; fully documented free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC); and grievance mechanism --** The GCF must carry out regular public consultations about its operations, programs, and projects in a manner that is responsive and appropriate to the needs and concerns of affected groups and communities. These consultations should be transparent, inclusive, and in accordance with the international right of FPIC. The GCF should ensure upward harmonization with the highest standards and practices. Consultations should cover concept, design, and location of the projects and programs; assumptions, objectives, and methodologies; assessment of impacts and risks (economic, environment, gender, and social); and monitoring and evaluation. Information and all documents should be provided at least 120 days in advance of any funding decision -- in languages that communities understand and with concerted outreach to marginalized groups. Special attention should be paid to affected communities through processes that uphold their right to make decisions about matters affecting their lives, livelihoods, and/or environment. This must include the right to veto projects or programs, as well as protection from intimidation and coercion by project proponents and their supporters. Further, the GCF must provide an easily accessible independent complaints or grievance mechanism with civil society oversight.

**Equity, non-discrimination and inclusion --** The GCF must develop principles, criteria, and a clear system and indices for equitable and fair allocation of climate finance across countries, founded on consensus and agreement by developing countries with full input by civil society groups from developing countries. The GCF should not finance activities that reinforce inequities and discrimination across and within countries. No country, or population group within a country, should suffer discrimination, exclusion, or marginalization on the basis of economic status, gender, race/ethnicity/caste, religious belief, or other social constructs. All GCF activities and measures must be based on an equitable assessment of capacities, potential, vulnerabilities, and the needs of countries, peoples, and groups. Inclusion as an operational guideline logically extends from diligent compliance with principles of equity and non-discrimination.

**Transparency --** The Governing Instrument of the GCF mandates it to operate in a transparent and accountable manner.<sup>iv</sup> Maximum transparency – to the public, and especially to those most affected by the climate crisis – and avoidance of the use of “business confidentiality” clauses<sup>v</sup> are prerequisites for compliance with the aforementioned principles, standards, and obligations. Live web streaming of the GCF Board Meetings is a fundamental first step for transparency.

**Compliance with international law and upward harmonization with the highest national and international standards:** The GCF must operate in compliance with international law and binding obligations pertaining to human rights (including economic, social, cultural, gender, indigenous, and labor rights, among others), and the environment. In addition, all GCF activities must meet or exceed the highest of national and international standards on transparency, social and environmental protection, labor, gender, and Indigenous Peoples rights. Standards should account for gender segregated baseline information, and assessment of direct, indirect, induced, cumulative, and long term social, gender, and environmental impacts and risks associated with proposed financing. Further, there must be recognition that human and environmental rights obligations have primacy over financial obligations.

Thank you for your serious consideration of these most important matters.

Sincerely,

## SIGNATORIES

### **GLOBAL SOUTH and REGIONAL SOUTH NETWORKS and ORGANIZATIONS**

Jubilee South – Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD)  
Africa Jubilee South  
African Biodiversity Network  
African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)  
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact  
Asian Indigenous Women's Network  
Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives (ARENA)  
Association of African Women for Research and Development  
Climate Action Network (CAN) South Asia  
Focus on the Global South  
Friends of the Earth International  
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives  
Global Forest Coalition  
IBON International  
Indigenous Peoples' Global Partnership on Climate Change and Forests  
Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)  
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)  
LDC Watch  
Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)  
NGO Forum on the ADB  
No REDD in Africa Network (NRAN)  
Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)  
Red SUSWATCH (Observatorio de la Sostenibilidad)  
South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)  
Third World Network

### **NATIONAL NETWORKS and ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **ASIA and the PACIFIC**

Aksi for Gender, Social and Ecological Justice, Indonesia  
Aksyon Klima Pilipinas, Philippines  
Alyansa Tigil Mina, Philippines  
Ateneo School of Government, Philippines  
Bangladesher Jatiyo Sramik Jote-BJSJ, Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Krishok Federation  
Centre for Environmental Justice/Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka  
Campaign for a Life of Dignity for All (KAMP), Philippines  
Campaign for Climate Justice (CCJN), Nepal  
All Nepal Peasants Federation  
All Nepal Women's Association  
Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON), India  
Citizens' Institute for Environmental Studies, Korea  
Climate & Energy Group, Beyond Copenhagen collective (BCPH), India  
Coastal CORE, Inc, Philippines  
Cooperation of Small Islands - MIMAROPA, Philippines  
debtWATCH Indonesia  
Ecological Society of the Philippines  
EcoWaste Coalition, Philippines  
Environment Support Group, India



Equity BD, Bangladesh  
Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)  
Freedom from Debt Coalition-Eastern Visayas, Philippines  
Freedom from Debt Coalition, Philippines  
Green Convergence for Safe Food, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Economy, Philippines  
Haburas Foundation/Friends of the Earth East Timor  
Himalaya Niti Abhiyan, India  
Human Rights Alliance Nepal  
Indian Social Action Forum  
Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, Philippines  
Institute for Essential Services Reform, Indonesia  
Jagaran Nepal  
Jagrata Juba Shangha (JJS), Bangladesh  
Jatio Sramik Jote, Bangladesh  
Kalayaan, Philippines  
Keystone Foundation, India  
KFEM/Friends of the Earth Korea  
Kitanglad Integrated NGOs (KIN), Philippines  
Koalisi Anti Utang, Indonesia  
Maleya Foundation, Bangladesh  
mines, minerals and People, India  
Nabodhara, Bangladesh  
National Coastal Women's Movement, India  
National Forum for Advocacy, Nepal (NAFAN)  
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, Pakistan  
Pakistan Kissan Rabita Committee, Pakistan  
Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (National Rural Women Congress), Philippines  
Partnership for Clean Air, Inc. Philippines  
Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, Philippines  
Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement  
Pro Public/ Friends of the Earth Nepal  
Project Survival Pacific: Fiji's Youth Climate Movement, Fiji  
Public Advocacy Initiative for Rights and Values in India (PAIRVI), India  
Resource Integration Centre, Bangladesh  
River Basin Friends, India  
Rural Reconstruction Nepal  
Sanlakas, Philippines  
Sarilaya, Philippines  
Save Our Urban Lakes (SOUL), India  
Sibuyan Island Sentinels League for Environment Inc., Philippines  
Solidaritas Perempuan (Women's Solidarity For Human Rights) - Indonesia  
Stree Mukti Sanghtana, India  
Taiwan Youth Climate Coalition  
Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) - Philippines  
The Ecological Justice, Indonesia  
Vasudha Foundation, India  
VOICE, Bangladesh  
WOCAN (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and NRM), Thailand

#### **AFRICA**

Abibiman Foundation, Ghana  
Alliance Nationale de lutte contre la Faim et la Malnutrition (ACFM), Niger



Alternative Information and Development Center (AIDC) , South Africa  
AMASOT (Association pour le Marketing Social au Tchad), N'Djaména (Tchad)  
Association Nigérienne des Scouts de l'Environnement (ANSEN), Niger  
Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Issues, Nigeria  
Centre for Civil Society, Durban, South Africa  
Daughters of Mumbi Global Resource Center, Kenya  
Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria  
Ethiopian Consumer Society  
Friends of the Earth-Ghana  
GrassRootsAfrica, Ghana  
groundwork/Friends of the Earth South Africa  
Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Nigeria  
Jamaa Resource Initiatives, Nakuru, Kenya  
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE-Togo)  
Justica Ambiental (JA!) / Friends of the Earth Mozambique  
Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre, Nigeria  
Le Forum National sur la Dette et la Pauvreté de Côte d'Ivoire  
Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN), Malawi  
Million Climate Jobs Campaign, South Africa  
NGO Coalition for Environment, Calabar, Nigeria  
Niger Delta Women's movement for Peace and Development  
Organisation de Bienfaisance et de développement, Djibouti  
PAEDD, Senegal  
SEATINI, Uganda  
Social Forum Senegal  
Somali Organisation for Community Development Activities (SOCDA)  
Worldview-The Gambia  
Youth Network for MDG, Madagascar  
Zambia Climate Change Network

#### **LATIN AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN**

ACICAFOC, Honduras  
Bolivian Climate Change Platform, Bolivia  
CEMDA, Mexico  
Centro Humboldt, Nicaragua  
CTS EMBARQ Mexico  
Dejusticia, Bogota, Colombia  
Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales DAR, Peru  
Eco Sitio, Argentina  
Equidad, Mexico  
Fronteras Comunes, Mexico  
FUNAM, Fundación para la defensa del ambiente, Argentina  
Fundacion Solar, Guatemala  
Instituto de Políticas para el Transporte y el Desarrollo, Mexico  
Instituto del Tercer Mundo of Montevideo, Uruguay  
La Fundación de Iniciativas de Cambio Climático, Honduras  
LIDEMA, Bolivia  
M´Biguá, Ciudadanía y Justicia Ambiental, Entre Ríos, Argentina  
Programa de Integridad en el Financiamiento Climático, Mexico  
Taller Ecologista, Argentina

<sup>i</sup> For further background, see “Submission to the GCF Board, Jubilee South – Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt and Development,” March 11, 2013.

<sup>ii</sup> The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action highlight the fact that governments should be inclusive in setting up national policies and plans -- including through consultation with CSOs; should be consistent with their international commitments on gender equality, human rights, disability, and environmental sustainability; fight corruption; and be transparent and accountable to people in developing and donor countries. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/41/34428351.pdf>.

<sup>iii</sup> CAO Audit of a Sample of IFC Investments in Third-Party Financial Intermediaries. Office of the Compliance Advisor-Ombudsman, World Bank Group, February 2013.

<sup>iv</sup> Governing Instrument of the Green Climate Fund, paragraph 3 under Objectives and guiding principles.

<sup>v</sup> “Confidentiality” should be narrowly defined and applied only to strictly limited and specific data contained in project documents (e.g. home addresses of project proponents, a specific formula calculated for a specific project, etc.).

## **Annex**

### **ENDORSERS from DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

#### **Global and Regional Networks**

ActionAid International  
BirdLife International  
CARE Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network (CARE PECCN)  
Conservation International  
European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad)  
Feminist Task Force  
Food & Water Europe in Europe  
Food & Water Watch in North America  
Global Witness  
Greenpeace  
International Forum on Globalization  
Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF)  
Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)  
WWF International

#### **National Networks and Organizations**

##### **North America**

American Environmental Health Studies Project, USA  
Bank Information Center, USA  
Center for Biological Diversity, USA  
Center for International Environmental Law, USA  
Disciples Justice Action Network, USA  
Earthjustice  
Ecumenical Peace Institute/Clergy and Laity Concerned, Northern California, USA  
Environmental Investigation Agency USA  
Environmental Investigation Agency, US  
Friends of the Earth Canada  
Friends of the Earth US  
Green Chalice (Disciples of Christ), USA  
Heinrich Boell Foundation North America  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Institute for Policy Studies, Climate Policy Program, USA  
International Rivers

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Jubilee USA Network

Labor Network for Sustainability, USA

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, USA

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Justice, Peace/Integrity of Creation Office , USA

Oil Change International

Pacific Environment, USA

Rainforest Action Network, USA

SF Bay Area Jubilee Coalition, USA

Sierra Club, USA

'Ulu Foundation, USA

### **Europe**

11.11.11 - Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement, Belgium

Alliance Sud, Switzerland

Both ENDS, The Netherlands

Bretton Woods Project, UK

CAFOD, UK

Centre national de coopération au développement, CNCD-11.11.11, Belgium

Christian Aid, UK

Ecologistas en Acción (Spain)

Forest Peoples Programme, UK

Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland

InspirAction (Christian Aid), Spain

Jubilee Debt Campaign, UK

KULU - Women and Development, Denmark

Naturvernforbundet/Friends of the Earth Norway

NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark

Réseau Action Climat-France

Tearfund, UK

United Kingdom Without Incineration Network (UKWIN), UK

World Development Movement, UK

### **Pacific**

Alliance for a Clean Environment, Australia

ATTAC Japan

Climate Action Network Australia

Climate Justice Programme, Australia

Friends of the Earth Australia

Jubilee Australia