

28 November 2014

From: Friends of the Earth – Sweden

To: Organizing Local Committee COP 20

To: Organizing Committee Peoples' Climate Summit

Dear Participants at the Climate Summit (COP20) and at the Peoples Climate Summit in Lima.

Copy to: Swedish Official Delegation to the COP20 meeting in Lima, December 2014

We, members of Friends of the Earth Sweden are a chapter of the international NGO with the same name. As our name suggests, we are friends of the Earth, our lovely and generous blue planet supporting all forms of life, including human life.

We, concerned about the future, appeal to you from our hearts and minds. Please, we ask you to kindly listen to our voice, which echoes the voices of concerned people all over the world.

While we wish not to be redundant repeating information already in your hands, we wish to outline a few related issues as the major causes of climate change:

(1) Unwillingness by most governments to acknowledge the link between economic activity, consumption and life style with climate change. For example, global trade based on an unequal ecological exchange rate contributes to the gap between "haves" and "have nots," by increasing the concentration of resources in the North at the expense of the poor peoples of this world.

(2) The "neo-extractivist mode of production" associated with the neoliberal project of globalization, irrespective of the region of the world and/or type of government, is a major cause of climate change and violent social conflict. Neo-extractivism refers to a pattern of accumulation based in the over-exploitation of non-renewable natural goods, which is expanding its frontiers towards areas populated by indigenous and peasant communities, previously regarded as unproductive. As such it contributes to climate change, the destruction of hidric systems, agricultural and pastoral activities of the local peasant population, forcing them to migrate to urban slums. Quite often, it entails corrupting national and local authorities, human rights violations and criminalizing non-violent protest by the affected and displaced population.

(3) Regarding nuclear power and climate change we quote Charlotte Mijeon of Sortir du Nucleaire France who said 15 December 2009 at the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, "Nuclear power is a distraction from real climate change solutions. The nuclear industry is shamelessly trying to use the climate catastrophe as an excuse to become relevant to our global energy future. This however does not make any economic sense; for the same amount of money invested in wind power you can reduce double the emissions compared to nuclear without the potentially horrific side effects, including accidents and terrorism."<sup>1</sup>

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1 Source: <http://www.dont-nuke-the-climate.org/spip.php?article693&lang=en>

(4) A real solution to the challenge and problem of climate change, discussed at an international level, must fundamentally include the right of countries to food and energy security and sovereignty. This includes eco-agro-forestry and valuing Indigenous knowledge of fishing and herding communities in Sweden as well as in Peru. Attention must be given to the rights of Indigenous peoples to land, territorial autonomy, public consultation concerning their natural resources and sacred places and putting an end to the concentration and abuse of argibusiness and mining companies.

(5) In Sweden we had a great transition after the Second World War, leading to the construction of the welfare state. A social process of transformation led by the organized popular and grassroots movements of our country. Even though this welfare system was built with resources from global extractivism, it also strengthened the democratic voice and public control of the economic process by the Swedish people. Thereby, acknowledging the primacy of the common good, over private profit. We request and expect that the Swedish official delegation shares this valuable experience with the participants at COP 20 in Lima.

What we know is that our Planet is rapidly racing towards catastrophe due to climate change and, moreover, that the previous world climate summits have been conducted in the spirit of "business as usual," ignoring the hard facts and challenges ahead for the governments of the countries of the world.

We ask you to take effective action at COP 20 in Lima. Not to do so is a crime against Humanity!

For Environmental, Climate and Social Justice

Draft prepared by Friends of the Earth – Uppsala

for the endorsement by Friends of the Earth - Sweden

