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## 2014



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 28 January 2014 09:15

By [John Feffer](#)

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/175799/>In a future update of [The Devil's Dictionary](#), the famed Ambrose Bierce dissection of the linguistic hypocrisies of modern life, a single word will accompany the entry for "Pacific pivot": retreat.

It might seem a strange way to characterize the Obama administration's energetic attempt to reorient its foreign and military policy toward Asia. After all, the president's team has insisted that the Pacific pivot will be a forceful reassertion of American power in a strategic part of the world and a deliberate reassurance to our allies that we have their backs vis-a-vis China.

Indeed, sometimes the pivot seems like little less than a panacea for all that ails U.S. foreign policy. Upset about the fiascoes in Iraq and Afghanistan? Then just light out for more pacific waters. Worried that our adversaries are all melting away and the Pentagon has lost its *raison d'être*? Then how about going toe to toe with China, the only conceivable future superpower on the horizon these days. And if you're concerned about the state of the U.S. economy, then the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the regional free-trade deal Washington is trying to negotiate, might be just the shot in the arm that U.S. corporations crave.

In reality, however, the "strategic rebalancing" the Obama administration has been promoting as a mid-course correction to its foreign policy remains strong on rhetoric and remarkably weak on content. Think of it as a clever fiction for whose promotion many audiences are willing to suspend their disbelief. After all, in the upcoming era of Pentagon belt-tightening and domestic public backlash, Washington is likely to find it difficult to move any significant extra resources into Asia. Even the TPP is an acknowledgment of how much economic ground in the region has been lost to China.

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The administration’s much-vaunted pivot looks ever more like a divot -- a swing, a miss, and a hole in the ground rather than anything approaching a hole-in-one.

### **The Slowly Shrinking Footprint**

During the Cold War, the United States fought more battles and shed more blood in Asia than anywhere else on Earth. From 1950 to 1953, under a U.N. flag, U.S. forces struggled for control of the Korean peninsula, ending up without a peace treaty and with a stalemate at roughly the same dividing line where the war began. At one point, as the Vietnam War expanded in the 1960s and 1970s, U.S. troop levels in Asia swelled to more than 800,000.

Since the disastrous end of that war, however, Washington has been very slowly and fitfully retreating from the region. U.S. military personnel there have by now dropped under 100,000. The low point was arguably during the George W. Bush years when the U.S. military sank into the quicksand of Iraq and Afghanistan, and critics began to accuse his administration of “losing Asia” to a rising China.

Looking at the numbers, it’s hard not to come to the conclusion that Washington’s attention had indeed drifted from the Pacific. Consider Korea. Peace has hardly broken out on the peninsula. In fact, the North’s nuclear weapons and the South’s extensive military modernization have only had the effect of heightening tensions.

The United States, however, has repeatedly reduced both the size and the significance of its forces in South Korea in a process of punctuated devolution. On three occasions over the last 45 years, Washington has unilaterally withdrawn forces from the peninsula -- each time over the objections of the South Korean government. There were nearly 70,000 U.S. troops in South Korea in the early 1970s when the Nixon administration first recalled an entire division of 20,000 troops. Later, the Carter administration, initially keen to withdraw all

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It's not just Korea where the U.S. "footprint" is shrinking. A quieter set of redeployments has reduced U.S. ground forces in Japan, too, from approximately 46,000 personnel in 1990 to the 38,000-strong contingent today. Even larger changes are underway.

In 2000, on a visit to Okinawa, Japan's southern-most prefecture, President Bill Clinton [promised to shrink](#) the staggering American military footprint on that island. At the time, Okinawans were furious over a series of [murders](#) and [rapes](#) committed by U.S. soldiers as well as military-related accidents that had claimed Okinawan lives and health threats from [various kinds of pollution](#) generated by more than 30 U.S. bases. Ever since, Washington has been pursuing a plan to close the Futenma Marine Air Force Base -- an old facility dangerously located in the middle of a modern city -- and build a replacement

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The Pacific pivot has been billed as a way to halt this drift and reinforce the U.S. position as a player in Asia. So far, however, this highly touted “rebalancing” has essentially been a shell game, involving not a substantial build-up, but a shifting around of American forces in Asia.

This shell game has involved, among other elements, the contingent of 18,000 Marines at that base in Futenma. For more than 15 years, Washington and Tokyo have failed to come to an agreement on closing the decrepit base and building a replacement facility. The [vast majority of Okinawans](#) still reject any new base construction, which would damage the area’s fragile ecosystem. In addition, the island already houses more than 70% of all U.S. bases in Japan, and its residents are tired of the collateral damage that U.S. service personnel inflict on host communities.

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But it's far from a done deal. In elections this month in the town of Nago, which has jurisdiction over Henoko where the new base is to be built, Mayor Susumu Inamine won a second term after pledging to continue his opposition to the proposed construction. Turnout was high, and so was Inamine's victory margin -- despite a promise from the conservative ruling party to provide an [additional 50 billion yen](#) to Nago if residents rejected the incumbent. Civic groups, meanwhile, continue to try to tie the project up in court.

Beyond shuffling Marines around the Pacific, what else does the pivot consist of? Not much. Four new Littoral Combat Ships are being sent to Singapore to beef up patrols in the region. A small-scale gesture to begin with, that experimental vessel, which has experienced serious cost overruns, is a clunker. The first ship to reach Singapore had to return to port after a mere eight hours on the water, the latest in a series of problems that have prompted a congressional [inquiry](#) into the program's viability.

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Much of the Pentagon's future in Asia has been focused on "Air-Sea Battle," a joint Navy-Air Force integrated plan that made its debut in 2010 with the specific aim of denying adversaries (read: China) access to the seas and skies of the region. The Army, finding itself essentially left out, has put forward its own ["Pacific Pathways" initiative](#), which aims to transform a largely land-based force into a maritime expeditionary force, potentially bringing it into direct competition with the Marines.

However, Washington's Pacific allies shouldn't expect much from it. The program is really no more than an effort to stanch the hemorrhaging of Army personnel, already slated for a 10% drop in strength over the next few years -- with signs of more shrinkage ahead. As political scientist Andrew Bacevich [writes](#), "Pacific Pathways envisions relatively small elements milling about the Far East so that whatever happens, whether act of God or act of evil-doers, the service won't be left out."

While the pivot may not add up to much, one thing is certain: it will cost money, even with allied contributions factored in. For instance, the expansion of the Guam base is now priced at \$8.6 billion (or more), with only about \$3 billion of that picked up by Tokyo. The overall cost for the relocation of the Marines, the Pentagon estimates, is likely to be [\\$12 billion](#). And even that is undoubtedly a lowball figure, according to the



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The simple truth is that the Pentagon is no longer going to have the [same kind of loot](#) to throw around as it did in the go-go days of the last decade. If merely moving forces around the Pacific costs so much, it's hardly likely that outlays for major new deployments will make it past Congress. And this doesn't even take into account the inevitable tax revolt of the Japanese, Korean, and Australian publics when the bills for their own "contributions" start coming in.

### **Why Asia, Why Now?**

Even if the Pacific pivot is more smoke than firepower, the United States is hardly a paper tiger in Asia. It remains by far the most powerful military actor in the region. Aircraft carriers, destroyers, fighter jets, and nuclear subs all mean that the United States can throw its weight around when necessary.

But perception means a great deal in geopolitics and right now China is winning the perceptions game. Beijing is flush with money and has been using its considerable foreign exchange surpluses to win favor with countries in the region (even as it undercuts some of that good will with its territorial claims and military actions). In 2010, it teamed up with its Southeast Asian neighbors to form a [free-trade zone](#) large enough to compete favorably with Europe and North America.

Although China won't have power projection capabilities even remotely comparable to the United States in the foreseeable future, double digit military spending over the last decade has closed the gap with Japan and Korea. Tensions in the region have increased -- over [disputed islands](#) between Japan and China, around the potentially [oil-rich South China Sea](#), and in airspace as well after China unilaterally established its own "[air defense identification zone](#)" in November that covers the contested Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands.

China's muscle flexing is about the only thing that could turn the Pacific pivot into something real. Countries that were once ambivalent about the U.S. military presence -- such as Vietnam or the Philippines -- are eagerly putting out the [welcome mat](#) for American forces. Japan is using the "[China threat](#)" to further water down its "peace constitution" and ratchet up cooperation with the Pentagon. And the United States is eagerly stitching together its various bilateral relationships -- from India to Australia to Korea -- into a [cloak of containment](#) to stifle China's rise.

Even without much meat on its bones, the Pacific realignment "works" so far because so many disparate actors find it useful to believe in. For China, it provides a convenient rationale for buying or building new weapons systems to deny the United States complete control over air and sea. For U.S. allies, the pivot offers an additional insurance policy that requires them to pay premiums in the form of building up their own militaries. In the United States, hawks rejoice at a Rambo-like return to Asia, while doves bemoan the inherent militarism of the new policy. The Pentagon sees more basing options; arms manufacturers see more lucrative contracts; other U.S. corporations see greater access to overseas markets through the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

However, one major Asian reality has to be taken into account when considering Washington's increased focus on and interest in the Pacific: not since the end of World War II has the United States been able to impose its will on the region. It had to make do with a stalemate in the Korean War; it lost the Vietnam War; and it hasn't been able to prevent North Korea from acquiring nuclear weapons. It can't even stop allies Japan and South Korea from quarrelling over the ownership of a tiny [outcropping of rocks](#) that lies midway between the two countries. And the U.S. economic relationship with China -- a codependency grounded in overproduction and overconsumption -- is a brake on U.S. unilateralism in the region.

In an age of economic austerity and policy coordination

with China, the Pacific pivot amounts to a complicated dance in which the United States steps backward as we propel our allies forward. It might seem a penny-wise way of sharing the security burden, but the realignment is still woefully expensive. And “Asianizing” the Pacific through arms exports and visiting forces agreements only helps to fuel what has emerged as the most significant [arms race](#) in the world today.

The lumbering aircraft carrier known as the United States should be executing a pivot that lives up to its name: a shift from the martial to the pacific. Instead, it’s just roiling the waters and leaving instability in its wake.

*John Feffer is the co-director of [Foreign Policy In Focus](#) at the Institute for Policy Studies and the author of several books, including [Crusade 2.0](#). A [TomDispatch regular](#), he is currently writing a book about Eastern Europe 25 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. His articles can be read on his [website](#).*

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*Posted by Joan Russow*

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But perception means a great deal in geopolitics and right now China is winning the perceptions game. Beijing is flush with money and has been using its considerable foreign exchange surpluses to win favor with countries in the region (even as it undercuts some of that good will with its territorial claims and military actions). In 2010, it teamed up with its Southeast Asian neighbors to form a [free-trade zone](#) large enough to compete favorably with Europe and North America.

Although China won't have power projection capabilities even remotely comparable to the United States in the foreseeable future, double digit military spending over the last decade has closed the gap with Japan and

Korea. Tensions in the region have increased -- over **disputed islands** between Japan and China, around the potentially **oil-rich South China Sea**, and in airspace as well after China unilaterally established its own “**air defense identification zone**” in November that covers the contested Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands.

China’s muscle flexing is about the only thing that could turn the Pacific pivot into something real. Countries that were once ambivalent about the U.S. military presence -- such as Vietnam or the Philippines -- are eagerly putting out the **welcome mat** for American forces. Japan is using the “**China threat**” to further water down its “peace constitution” and ratchet up cooperation with the Pentagon. And the United States is eagerly stitching together its various bilateral relationships -- from India to Australia to Korea -- into a **cloak of containment** to stifle China’s rise.

Even without much meat on its bones, the Pacific realignment “works” so far because so many disparate actors

find it useful to believe in. For China, it provides a convenient rationale for buying or building new weapons systems to deny the United States complete control over air and sea. For U.S. allies, the pivot offers an additional insurance policy that requires them to pay premiums in the form of building up their own militaries. In the United States, hawks rejoice at a Rambo-like return to Asia, while doves bemoan the inherent militarism of the new policy. The Pentagon sees more basing options; arms manufacturers see more lucrative contracts; other U.S. corporations see greater access to overseas markets through the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

However, one major Asian reality has to be taken into account when considering Washington's increased focus on and interest in the Pacific: not since the end of World War II has the United States been able to impose its will on the region. It had to make do with a stalemate in the Korean War; it lost the Vietnam War; and it hasn't been able to prevent North Korea from acquiring nuclear weapons. It can't

even stop allies Japan and South Korea from quarrelling over the ownership of a tiny **outcropping of rocks** that lies midway between the two countries. And the U.S. economic relationship with China -- a codependency grounded in overproduction and overconsumption -- is a brake on U.S. unilateralism in the region.

In an age of economic austerity and policy coordination with China, the Pacific pivot amounts to a complicated dance in which the United States steps backward as we propel our allies forward. It might seem a penny-wise way of sharing the security burden, but the realignment is still woefully expensive. And “Asianizing” the Pacific through arms exports and visiting forces agreements only helps to fuel what has emerged as the most significant **arms race** in the world today.

The lumbering aircraft carrier known as the United States should be executing a pivot that lives up to its name: a shift from the martial to the pacific. Instead, it's just roiling the waters and leaving instability in its wake.

John Feffer is the co-director of [Foreign Policy In Focus](#) at the Institute for Policy Studies and the author of several books, including [Crusade 2.0](#). A [TomDispatch regular](#), he is currently writing a book about Eastern Europe 25 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. His articles can be read on his [website](#).

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## [Common crop pesticides kill honeybee larvae in the hive](#)

posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 08 February 2014 13:19

by **Sara LaJeunesse**

February 27, 2014

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. -- Four pesticides commonly used on crops to kill insects and fungi also kill honeybee larvae within their hives, according to Penn State and University of Florida researchers. The team also found that N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (MP) -- an inert, or inactive, chemical commonly used as a pesticide additive -- is highly toxic to honeybee larvae.

## [RCMP, CSIS accused of spying on environmental groups](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 06 February 2014 14:47

By [Jeremy Nuttall](#) ,24 hours Vancouver

Thursday, February 06, 2014 02:51 PM EST

<http://www.torontosun.com/2014/02/06/rcmp-csis-accused-of-spying-on-environmental-groups>

VANCOUVER The British Columbia Civil Liberties Association has accused Canadian law enforcement agencies of needlessly spying on environmental groups opposed to oil projects in the province, which it says may even amount to illegal activity by authorities.

[every cent that you invest in new projects is an investment in the death of our children and their children and future generations.](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 06 February 2014 07:00

BY Kumi Naidoo: Greenpeace Executive Director

We would say to all energy company leaders, right, from Gazprom to Shell to ExxonMobil and all the rest, as Greenpeace, when we look at you, we see you as an energy company. As an energy company, we cannot blame you, 20 years ago or, say, even 15 years ago, for building energy based on oil, coal and gas. However, now, you need to understand that the scientific consensus is completely clear, and even if the science was not clear, the last decade has seen more than a 10 percent increase in extreme weather events, the very events that the scientists say that that's how climate change will be looking at. So now you do not have an excuse. The facts are before you. And **you need to understand that every cent that you invest in new projects is an investment in the death of our children and their children and future generations.**

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doing it. It's still too little, too late. But what we are saying is that we are not trying to put any of these companies out of business. What we are wanting to do is put their fossil fuel projects out of business. And sadly, some of these companies, it's almost the same, because all they have is fossil fuel projects. And they have the technological capability—they don't have the political will yet—to actually make the transition into clean energy projects. [http://www.democracynow.org/2013/11/21/green\\_peace\\_in\\_opposing\\_oil\\_drilling\\_detained](http://www.democracynow.org/2013/11/21/green_peace_in_opposing_oil_drilling_detained)

## [Preliminary Report: Gold mining and the defence of water in El Salvador](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 07 February 2014 07:18

By Mining Watch Canada

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

### International Delegation to El Salvador, May 10–13, 2013

From May 10-13, 2013, [an international delegation](#) from 12 countries representing 22 human rights, social justice and environmental non-profit organizations and advocates, along with academics, journalists, artists and grassroots activists, carried out a three day tour of El Salvador to examine experiences with gold mining operations and the defence of water.

[Read more...](#)

## [El Salvadorean civil society position on Goldcorp's Cerro Blanco mine](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 07 February 2014 06:54

**Published by MAC on 2013-08-07**

Source: Statement (2013-08-03)

### **Position of the National Roundtable Against Metallic Mining on the temporary suspension of Goldcorp's Cerro Blanco mining project**

Statement by El Salvador National Roundtable Against Metallic Mining

3 August 2013

Given the recent announcement by Goldcorp Inc. on the indefinite suspension of the Cerro Blanco mining project, the most advanced project in the border of El Salvador and Guatemala, the National Roundtable Against Metallic Mining makes the following statement:

Last week, a Canadian mining company Goldcorp Inc., citing an unfavourable financial context for metal mining investment globally, announced the suspension of three mega projects, among them the emblematic Cerro Blanco gold project located in Guatemala, only 18 kilometres from the city of Metapan, in the western department of Santa Ana, El Salvador.

[Read more...](#)

## [Goldcorp's mine in El Salvador a 'threat' to human rights: government](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 07 February 2014 06:47

# Goldcorp's mine in El Salvador a 'threat' to human rights: government

[Cecilia Jamasmie](#) | January 14, 2013

<http://www.mining.com/goldcorps-mine-in-el-salvador-a-threat-to-human-rights-government-79803/>

The government of El Salvador has asked the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH) to help the country push for a halt of Vancouver-based Goldcorp's (TSX: G), (NYSE: GG) Cerro Blanco gold-silver project in southern Guatemala, [reports La Información \(in Spanish\)](#).

The article says El Salvador's human rights defense attorney general (PDDH), Oscar Luna, claims Cerro Blanco mine will greatly endanger the water quality in the Lempa River, which supplies not only to Guatemala but also to Honduras and El Salvador.

Luna has requested the CIDH for a special hearing to discuss the potential threats and asked the commission to "protect the locals" who have come forward, saying the project will affect them. He went on to say Cerro Blanco is a threat to their human rights.

Full document not available

# Students at UBC, SFU, and UVic vote for endowment funds to divest from fossil fuels



## Earth News

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 06 February 2014 17:20

by **Travis Lupick** **Georgia Strait**

<http://www.straight.com/news/579866/students-ubc-sfu-and-uvic-vote-endowment-funds-divest-fossil-fuels>

**on Feb 5, 2014 at 12:48**



pmm

An international network of student environmentalists called 350.org is helping coordinate divestment campaigns at universities around the world.

**Shadia Fayne Wood / 350.org**

Last week, students at two of the Lower Mainland's largest universities took steps to see those institutions divest themselves of financial interests in the fossil-fuel industry. Now, their counterparts at the University of Victoria have followed suit.

31, University of British Columbia students voted for the Alma Mater Society to urge the administration to shift money out of companies that harm the environment via contributions to climate change.

According to Molly Henry, campaign manager for UBCC350, the group credited with getting the question to a referendum, the vote was 77 percent in favour of divestment.

"It is now the official policy of the AMS to lobby for fossil-fuel divestment at the university," Henry told the Straight.

According to the UBC Investment Management Trust's 2013 annual report, the university's endowment fund is worth more than \$1 billion, with 12 percent of public-equity holdings in the energy sector.

Henry said the next step is for the AMS to take the call for divestment to UBC's board of governors and begin an awareness campaign informing alumni about where their investments are going.

The same week as the UBC vote, the Simon Fraser Student Society approved a recommendation that it write a letter to SFU's board of directors voicing students' support

for fossil-fuel divestment.

In a telephone interview, SFSS president Humza Khan told the Straight that the decision is about aligning SFU's investment practices with its stated commitment to sustainability and with its research record on climate change.

According to SFU's latest financial report, the university's endowment fund stood at \$235 million in 2012.

This week, on February 3, the University of Victoria Students' Society board of directors passed a motion calling on the UVic Foundation to freeze any new investments in businesses that focus on fossil fuels and to draft a three-year plan to divest from the industry.

"Investments in fossil fuels condone the environmental and human rights abuses associated with resource extraction based industries," said UVSS chairperson Kelsey Mech quoted in a media release. "By continuing to invest in fossil fuels, we ensure that our futures are entrenched in the status quo rather than alternative and renewable options."

Cameron Fenton, national director of the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, described the student decisions as "an acknowledgment of the role that universities play as thought leaders and early adopters".

He said that with these and other successes at postsecondary institutions, the CYCC plans to take its divestment campaigns to cities and pension and retirement funds.

"Those are some of the biggest pools of money in Canada," Fenton added. "They're also some of the things that are at the highest risk of the carbon bubble and some of the economic risks of fossil-fuel investments."

You can follow Travis Lupick on Twitter at [twitter.com/tlupick](https://twitter.com/tlupick).

Last Updated on Tuesday, 11 February 2014 02:04

## [RCMP, CSIS accused of spying on environmental groups](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 06 February 2014 14:47

By [Jeremy Nuttall](#), 24 hours Vancouver

Thursday, February 06, 2014 02:51 PM EST

<http://www.torontosun.com/2014/02/06/rcmp-csis-accused-of-spying-on-environmental-groups>

VANCOUVER The British Columbia Civil Liberties Association has accused Canadian law enforcement agencies of needlessly spying on environmental groups opposed to oil projects in the province, which it says may even amount to illegal activity by authorities.

[Read more...](#)

[every cent that you invest in new projects is an investment in the death of our children and their children and future generations.](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 06 February 2014 07:00

BY Kumi Naidoo: Greenpeace Executive Director

We would say to all energy company leaders, right, from Gazprom to Shell to ExxonMobil and all the rest, as Greenpeace, when we look at you, we see you as an energy company. As an energy company, we cannot blame you, 20 years ago or, say, even 15 years ago, for building energy based on oil, coal and gas. However, now, you need to understand that the scientific consensus is completely clear, and even if the science was not clear, the last decade has seen more than a 10 percent increase in extreme weather events, the very events that the scientists say that that's how climate change will be looking at. So now you do not have an excuse. The facts are before you. And **you need to understand that every cent that you invest in new projects is an investment in the death of our children and their children and future generations.**

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## [Fish Lake struggle comes to Victoria](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 05 February 2014 16:17

by Harjap Grewal

Pacific Regional Organizer  
The Council of Canadians



- 
- 

First Nations like the Tsilhqot'in and Hul'qumi'num are facing a massive push for new resource development on their lands and waters. Governments and corporations claim the law is on their side. What have Canadian courts and international human rights bodies said about this? What are the implications of the Tsilhqot'in case before the Supreme Court? And how can non-Aboriginal people support the struggle for justice?

Last Updated on Wednesday, 05 February 2014 16:25

Expanded doc not available.

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2408 readings

## [A Rare Indictment of US Atrocities](#)



[Peace News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 08 February 2014 09:06

By Gary G. Kohls

<http://consortiumnews.com/2014/02/06/a-rare-indictment-of-us-atrocities/>

**February 6, 2014**



Playwright Harold Pinter. (Photo credit: Huntington Theatre Company)

Since World War II, the U.S. government has routinely sidestepped blame for the slaughters that have accompanied American foreign policy. One of the few high-profile condemnations occurred when playwright Harold Pinter accepted the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2005, as Gary G. Kohls recalls.

British playwright Harold Pinter won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2005. For me, his [acceptance speech](#) was an important glimpse into – and sort of a summary of — the innumerable documentable U.S. war crimes that were facilitated by the multinational corporations, national security apparatus and political and military leaders that shaped American foreign policy since World War II.

True patriots must be honest about the dishonorable, dark side of their own nations. In the case of the United States – and its willing accomplice, his own Great Britain – Pinter (who died in 2008) saw that reality clearly.

There are obvious parallels between Pinter’s powerful speech and Martin Luther King Jr.’s courageous [“Beyond Vietnam” speech](#) of April 4, 1967, almost four decades earlier. Both indicted American foreign policy, but – while King focused on the Vietnam bloodbath then being waged by President Lyndon Johnson – Pinter concentrated on the slaughters in Central America under President Ronald Reagan and on the Iraq War, which was launched by President George W. Bush with the smooth-talking help of British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

In Pinter’s Nobel speech, after reflecting on some of his own plays – and their often ambiguous grasp of what is real and what is not – the playwright declared that in the realm of history and politics, “As a



citizen I must ask: What is true? What is false?"

Pinter continued, "Before I come back to the present I would like to look at the recent past, by which I mean United States foreign policy since the end of the Second World War. I believe it is obligatory upon us to subject this period to at least some kind of even limited scrutiny, which is all that time will allow here.

"Everyone knows what happened in the Soviet Union and throughout Eastern Europe during the post-war period: the systematic brutality, the widespread atrocities, the ruthless suppression of independent thought. All this has been fully documented and verified. ...

"My contention here is that the U.S. crimes in the same period have only been superficially recorded, let alone documented, let alone acknowledged, let alone recognized as crimes at all. I believe this must be addressed and that the truth has considerable bearing on where the world stands now.

"Although constrained, to a certain extent, by the existence of the Soviet Union, the United States' actions throughout the world made it clear that it had concluded it had carte blanche to do what it liked.

"Direct invasion of a sovereign state has never in fact been America's favored method. In the main, it has preferred what it has described as 'low intensity conflict.' Low intensity conflict means that thousands of people die but slower than if you dropped a bomb on them in one fell swoop.

"It means that you infect the heart of the country, that you establish a malignant growth and watch the gangrene bloom. When the populace has been subdued – or beaten to death – the same thing – and your own friends, the military and the great corporations, sit comfortably in power, you go before the camera and say that democracy has prevailed."

### **The Nicaraguan Slaughter**

Recalling a particularly egregious case under President Ronald Reagan, Pinter said: "The tragedy of Nicaragua was a highly significant case. I choose to offer it here as a potent example of America's view of its role in the world, both then and now. I was present at a meeting at the U.S. embassy in London in the late 1980s. The United States Congress was about to decide whether to give more money to the Contras in their campaign against the state of Nicaragua.

"I was a member of a delegation speaking on behalf of Nicaragua but the most important member of this delegation was a Father John Metcalf. The leader of the U.S. body was Raymond Seitz (then number two to the ambassador, later ambassador himself).

"Father Metcalf said: 'Sir, I am in charge of a parish in the north of Nicaragua. My parishioners built a school, a health center, a cultural center. We have lived in peace. A few months ago a Contra force attacked the parish. They destroyed everything: the school, the health center, the cultural center. They raped nurses and teachers, slaughtered doctors, in the most brutal manner. They behaved like savages. Please demand that the U.S. government withdraw its support from this shocking terrorist activity.'

"Raymond Seitz had a very good reputation as a rational, responsible and highly sophisticated man. He was greatly respected in diplomatic circles. He listened, paused and then spoke with some gravity. 'Father,' he said, 'let me tell you something. In war, innocent people always suffer.' There was a frozen silence. We stared at him. He did not flinch.

"'Innocent people, indeed, always suffer.' Finally somebody said: 'But in this case "innocent people" were the victims of a gruesome atrocity subsidized by your government, one among many. If Congress allows the Contras more money further atrocities of this kind will take place. Is this not the case? Is your government not therefore guilty of supporting acts of murder and destruction upon the citizens of a sovereign state?'

“Seitz was imperturbable. ‘I don’t agree that the facts as presented support your assertions,’ he said. As we were leaving the Embassy a U.S. aide told me that he enjoyed my plays. I did not reply. I should remind you that at the time President Reagan made the following statement: ‘The Contras are the moral equivalent of our Founding Fathers.’

“The United States supported the brutal Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua for over 40 years. The Nicaraguan people, led by the Sandinistas, overthrew this regime in 1979, a breathtaking popular revolution. The Sandinistas weren’t perfect. They possessed their fair share of arrogance and their political philosophy contained a number of contradictory elements. But they were intelligent, rational and civilized. They set out to establish a stable, decent, pluralistic society.

“The death penalty was abolished. Hundreds of thousands of poverty-stricken peasants were brought back from the dead. Over 100,000 families were given title to land. Two thousand schools were built. A quite remarkable literacy campaign reduced illiteracy in the country to less than one seventh. Free education was established and a free health service. Infant mortality was reduced by a third. Polio was eradicated.”

### **Denouncing ‘Subversion’**

Pinter continued, “The United States denounced these achievements as Marxist/Leninist subversion. In the view of the U.S. government, a dangerous example was being set. If Nicaragua was allowed to establish basic norms of social and economic justice, if it was allowed to raise the standards of health care and education and achieve social unity and national self-respect, neighboring countries would ask the same questions and do the same things. There was of course at the time fierce resistance to the status quo in El Salvador.

“I spoke earlier about ‘a tapestry of lies’ which surrounds us. President Reagan commonly described Nicaragua as a ‘totalitarian dungeon.’ This was taken generally by the media, and certainly by the British government, as accurate and fair comment. But there was in fact no record of death squads under the Sandinista government. There was no record of torture. There was no record of systematic or official military brutality.

“No priests were ever murdered in Nicaragua. There were in fact three priests in the government, two Jesuits and a Maryknoll missionary. The totalitarian dungeons were actually next door, in El Salvador and Guatemala. The United States had brought down the democratically elected government of Guatemala in 1954 and it is estimated that over 200,000 people had been victims of successive military dictatorships.

“Six of the most distinguished Jesuits in the world were viciously murdered at the Central American University in San Salvador in 1989 by a battalion of the Atlacatl regiment trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, USA. That extremely brave man Archbishop Romero was assassinated while saying mass. It is estimated that 75,000 people died.

“Why were they killed? They were killed because they believed a better life was possible and should be achieved. That belief immediately qualified them as communists. They died because they dared to question the status quo, the endless plateau of poverty, disease, degradation and oppression, which had been their birthright.

“The United States finally brought down the Sandinista government. It took some years and considerable resistance but relentless economic persecution and 30,000 dead finally undermined the spirit of the Nicaraguan people. They were exhausted and poverty stricken once again. The casinos moved back into the country. Free health and free education were over. Big business returned with a vengeance. ‘Democracy’ had prevailed.

“But this ‘policy’ was by no means restricted to Central America. It was conducted throughout the world. It was never-ending. And it is as if it never happened.

“United States supported and in many cases engendered every right-wing military dictatorship in the world after the end of the Second World War. I refer to Indonesia, Greece, Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, Haiti, Turkey, the Philippines, Guatemala, El Salvador, and, of course, Chile. The horror the United States inflicted upon Chile in 1973 can never be purged and can never be forgiven.”

### **A Memory Hole**

Referring to the extraordinary ability of the U.S. government and the U.S. media to whitewash these bloody realities, Pinter said: “Hundreds of thousands of deaths took place throughout these countries. Did they take place? And are they in all cases attributable to U.S. foreign policy? The answer is yes they did take place and they are attributable to American foreign policy. But you wouldn’t know it.

“It never happened. Nothing ever happened. Even while it was happening it wasn’t happening. It didn’t matter. It was of no interest. The crimes of the United States have been systematic, constant, vicious, remorseless, but very few people have actually talked about them.

“You have to hand it to America. It has exercised a quite clinical manipulation of power worldwide while masquerading as a force for universal good. It’s a brilliant, even witty, highly successful act of hypnosis.

“I put to you that the United States is without doubt the greatest show on the road. Brutal, indifferent, scornful and ruthless it may be but it is also very clever. As a salesman it is out on its own and its most saleable commodity is self love. It’s a winner. Listen to all American presidents on television say the words, ‘the American people,’ as in the sentence, ‘I say to the American people it is time to pray and to defend the rights of the American people and I ask the American people to trust their president in the action he is about to take on behalf of the American people.’

“It’s a scintillating stratagem. Language is actually employed to keep thought at bay. The words ‘the American people’ provide a truly voluptuous cushion of reassurance. You don’t need to think. Just lie back on the cushion. The cushion may be suffocating your intelligence and your critical faculties but it’s very comfortable. This does not apply of course to the 40 million people living below the poverty line and the 2 million men and women imprisoned in the vast gulag of prisons, which extends across the US.

“The United States no longer bothers about low intensity conflict. It no longer sees any point in being reticent or even devious. It puts its cards on the table without fear or favor. It quite simply doesn’t give a damn about the United Nations, international law or critical dissent, which it regards as impotent and irrelevant. It also has its own bleating little lamb tagging behind it on a lead, the pathetic and supine Great Britain.”

### **Moral Questions**

Given this grim reality, Pinter asked: “What has happened to our moral sensibility? Did we ever have any? What do these words mean? Do they refer to a term very rarely employed these days – conscience? A conscience to do not only with our own acts but to do with our shared responsibility in the acts of others? Is all this dead? Look at Guantanamo Bay. Hundreds of people detained without charge for over three years, with no legal representation or due process, technically detained forever.

“This totally illegitimate structure is maintained in defiance of the Geneva Convention. It is not only tolerated but hardly thought about by what’s called the ‘international community.’ This criminal outrage is being committed by a country, which declares itself to be ‘the leader of the free world.’ Do we think about the inhabitants of Guantanamo Bay?

“What does the media say about them? They pop up occasionally – a small item on page six. They have been consigned to a no man’s land from which indeed they may never return. At present many are on hunger strike, being force-fed, including British residents. No niceties in these force-feeding procedures. No sedative or anesthetic. Just a tube stuck up your nose and into your throat. You vomit blood. This is

torture.

“What has the British Foreign Secretary said about this? Nothing. What has the British Prime Minister said about this? Nothing. Why not? Because the United States has said: to criticize our conduct in Guantanamo Bay constitutes an unfriendly act. You’re either with us or against us. So Blair shuts up.

“The invasion of Iraq was a bandit act, an act of blatant state terrorism, demonstrating absolute contempt for the concept of international law. The invasion was an arbitrary military action inspired by a series of lies upon lies and gross manipulation of the media and therefore of the public; an act intended to consolidate American military and economic control of the Middle East masquerading – as a last resort – all other justifications having failed to justify themselves – as liberation.

“A formidable assertion of military force responsible for the death and mutilation of thousands and thousands of innocent people. We have brought torture, cluster bombs, depleted uranium, innumerable acts of random murder, misery, degradation and death to the Iraqi people and call it ‘bringing freedom and democracy to the Middle East.’

“How many people do you have to kill before you qualify to be described as a mass murderer and a war criminal? One hundred thousand? More than enough, I would have thought. Therefore it is just that Bush and Blair be arraigned before the International Criminal Court of Justice. But Bush has been clever. He has not ratified the International Criminal Court of Justice.

“Therefore if any American soldier or for that matter politician finds himself in the dock Bush has warned that he will send in the Marines. But Tony Blair has ratified the Court and is therefore available for prosecution. We can let the Court have his address if they’re interested. It is Number 10, Downing Street, London.

“Death in this context is irrelevant. Both Bush and Blair place death well away on the back burner. At least 100,000 Iraqis were killed by American bombs and missiles before the Iraq insurgency began. These people are of no moment. Their deaths don’t exist. They are blank. They are not even recorded as being dead. ‘We don’t do body counts,’ said the American General Tommy Franks.

“Early in the invasion there was a photograph published on the front page of British newspapers of Tony Blair kissing the cheek of a little Iraqi boy. ‘A grateful child,’ said the caption. A few days later there was a story and photograph, on an inside page, of another four-year-old boy with no arms. His family had been blown up by a missile. He was the only survivor. ‘When do I get my arms back?’ he asked. The story was dropped.

“Well, Tony Blair wasn’t holding him in his arms, nor the body of any other mutilated child, nor the body of any bloody corpse. Blood is dirty. It dirties your shirt and tie when you’re making a sincere speech on television.”

Pinter concluded his speech with these words: “I believe that despite the enormous odds which exist, unflinching, unswerving, fierce intellectual determination, as citizens, to define the *real* truth of our lives and our societies is a crucial obligation which devolves upon us all. It is in fact mandatory. If such a determination is not embodied in our political vision we have no hope of restoring what is so nearly lost to us – the dignity of man.”

*Dr. Gary G. Kohls is a retired physician who is involved in peace, nonviolence and justice issues and therefore resists fascism, corporatism, militarism, racism and all other movements that are violent and anti-democratic.*

Last Updated on Saturday, 08 February 2014 23:10

1807 readings

## Fair Elections Act will protect voters from fair Elections

Justice News

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 08 February 2014 11:18

by the Council of Canadians

Maude Barlow  
National Chairperson, The Council of Canadians

February 7, 2014 nn

At this very moment the Harper Conservatives are shutting down democratic debate on their so-called "Fair Elections Act" and trying to ram the 242-page bill through Parliament only three days after it was tabled.

In drafting their electoral reform bill, the Conservatives refused to consult with Elections Canada, with other political parties and, most importantly, with you and me. Now they're rushing to make it law without any public consultations despite the serious harm the reforms pose to voters' rights and our democracy.

Does this sound like the actions of a party that's concerned about your vote?

Now the good news. There's still a chance we can stop this – but it requires bold action from all of us right now.

This coming Monday, the Council of Canadians will table our [Democracy 24/7 Petition](#) in the House of Commons in an urgent intervention on behalf of voters across the country! There are deep fractures within the Conservative Party that make this bill vulnerable, but I need your help.

[Please sign the petition now and we'll take your voice to Parliament Hill this Monday!](#)

Better termed the "**Unfair** Elections Act," this bill fails voters in several serious ways by:

- Stripping Elections Canada of its independent power to investigate fraudulent activity like the fraud we saw in the robocall scandal. Investigation into this type of fraud would now be under federal oversight and susceptible to political interference.
- Making it illegal for Elections Canada to encourage people to vote and shutting down its vital voter education and outreach programs, and making it illegal for Elections Canada to even notify voters of fraudulent activity.
- Bringing in the U.S. Republican tactic of requiring people to present two pieces of photo ID in order to vote – making it more difficult for youth, senior and aboriginal voters to cast their ballots.

And there are even more serious problems. **Perhaps the most dangerous element of the bill isn't what's in it – but what's not.**

While on the surface the proposed new legislation appears to clamp down on fraudulent robocalls, the devil is in the details. Nothing in the act prevents another "Pierre Poutine" from perpetrating widespread voter suppression or electoral fraud. Nor does the act hold political parties responsible when their voter databases are used for fraudulent activity.

This isn't the comprehensive electoral reform Canadians deserve, and it's far from "fair." With your help, we'll pressure MPs to vote this bill down.

[Sign the Democracy 24/7 Petition now and we'll take your voice with us when we present in the House of Commons this Monday!](#)

The Council of Canadians, together with democracy defenders like you, came together to make sure the robocall scandal wasn't swept under the rug. We fought tirelessly, and in the end helped to achieve the landmark legal ruling that proved widespread fraud happened, and pointed directly to the Conservative Party's database as the source.

I know we come together again to stop this bill and protect our democracy.

Please [sign the petition now](#).

With hope and resolve,

Maude Barlow  
National Chairperson, The Council of Canadians

**The Council of Canadians**, 700-170 Laurier Ave W, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5V5  
[1-800-387-7177](tel:1-800-387-7177) | [inquiries@canadians.org](mailto:inquiries@canadians.org) | [www.canadians.org](http://www.canadians.org)  
[Facebook Page](#) | [@CouncilofCDNS](#)

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**1. This** coming Monday, **the Council of Canadians will table our [Democracy 24/7 Petition](#)** in the House of Commons in an urgent intervention on behalf of voters across the country! There are deep fractures within the Conservative Party that make this bill vulnerable, but I need your help. [Please sign the petition now and we'll take your voice to Parliament Hill this Monday!](#)

[2. Join us on Parliament Hill on Monday, February 10 for a mass call-in to Members of Parliament to stop the Unfair Elections Act.](#) **If you can't be there in person, including if you are outside Ottawa, join the synchronized action by calling the Conservative MP closest to your riding from wherever you are from 12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST.**

Last Updated on Tuesday, 11 February 2014 02:01

480 readings

## [Students at UBC, SFU, and UVic vote for endowment funds to divest from fossil fuels](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 06 February 2014 17:20

by [Travis Lupick](#) **Georgia Strait**

<http://www.straight.com/news/579866/students-ubc-sfu-and-uvic-vote-endowment-funds-divest-fossil-fuels>

**on Feb 5, 2014 at 12:48 pmn**



An international network of student environmentalists called 350.org is helping coordinate divestment campaigns at universities around the world.

[Shadia Fayne Wood / 350.org](#)

Last week, students at two of the Lower Mainland's largest universities took steps to see those institutions divest themselves of financial interests in the fossil-fuel industry. Now, their counterparts at the University of Victoria have followed suit.

31, University of British Columbia students voted for the Alma Mater Society to urge the administration to shift money out of companies that harm the environment via contributions to climate change.

According to Molly Henry, campaign manager for UBCC350, the group credited with getting the question to a referendum, the vote was 77 percent in favour of divestment.

"It is now the official policy of the AMS to lobby for fossil-fuel divestment at the university," Henry told the *Straight*.

According to the UBC Investment Management Trust's 2013 annual report, the university's endowment fund is worth more than \$1 billion, with 12 percent of public-equity holdings in the energy sector.

Henry said the next step is for the AMS to take the call for divestment to UBC's board of governors and begin an awareness campaign informing alumni about where their investments are going.



The same week as the UBC vote, the Simon Fraser Student Society approved a recommendation that it write a letter to SFU's board of directors voicing students' support for fossil-fuel divestment.

In a telephone interview, SFSS president Humza Khan told the Straight that the decision is about aligning SFU's investment practices with its stated commitment to sustainability and with its research record on climate change.

According to SFU's latest financial report, the university's endowment fund stood at \$235 million in 2012.

This week, on February 3, the University of Victoria Students' Society board of directors passed a motion calling on the UVic Foundation to freeze any new investments in businesses that focus on fossil fuels and to draft a three-year plan to divest from the industry.

"Investments in fossil fuels condone the environmental and human rights abuses associated with resource extraction based industries," said UVSS chairperson Kelsey Mech quoted in a media release. "By continuing to invest in fossil fuels, we ensure that our futures are entrenched in the status quo rather than alternative and renewable options."

Cameron Fenton, national director of the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, described the student decisions as "an acknowledgment of the role that universities play as thought leaders and early adopters".

He said that with these and other successes at postsecondary institutions, the CYCC plans to take its divestment campaigns to cities and pension and retirement funds.

"Those are some of the biggest pools of money in Canada," Fenton added. "They're also some of the things that are at the highest risk of the carbon bubble and some of the economic risks of fossil-fuel investments."

*You can follow Travis Lupick on Twitter at [twitter.com/tlupick](https://twitter.com/tlupick).*

Last Updated on Tuesday, 11 February 2014 02:04

## [On Climate Impasse: Appetite and Substitutes](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 27 March 2014 16:59

by Subhankar Banerjee, 27 March 2014

Oso is a small rural community along the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River. It's in the State of

Washington, where I live. As of Wednesday morning, the death toll in the tragic mudslide in Oso

has reached 24, and is expected to rise, with another 176 people still missing, although some may have

been double-counted. It's being called "one of the deadliest [mudslides] in recent U.S. history." The near-

record rainfall this month has been attributed as the likely cause of the mudslide. Although Washington

residents are used to rain, this recent deluge seems like an extreme weather event.

Warm air holds more moisture, and consequently a globally warmed earth will cause more precipitation

in some locations (while other places might suffer from extreme droughts). According to the Climate

Impacts Group at the University of Washington, some of the impacts of climate change in the Pacific

Northwest include: "Decreased mountain snowpack; earlier snowmelt; higher winter streamflow in

river basins that depend on snowmelt; higher winter streamflow in rain-fed river basins if winter precipitation

increases in the future as projected; and increased landslides due to increased winter rainfall." As the earth

continues to warm, it is likely that there will be more frequent and deadly mudslides in Washington, not

unlike the current one in Oslo.

On Monday, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change plans to release the second

part, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, of the multi-part Fifth Assessment Report. Till then, here is a bit

more on climate impasse.

This piece is part II of a multi-part exploration on ‘climate impasse’. Most nation states are not interested

in solving the climate crisis. This state of collective global inaction is what I call climate impasse. For the

sake of continuity, I’ll repeat one paragraph from part I:

The climate impasse is rooted, not simply in our dependence on a fossil fuel economy, but more

broadly, in our love affair with mass consumption, made possible by global capitalism, and in our

faith in Progress—that science and technology will forever improve the conditions of human life.

In part I, I had discussed mass consumption that you can read here. Let us now move forward, with

Progress.

Progress As Paradox

Progress is a promise—for a better life. Some contemporary critics, however, have framed Progress as a

modern myth. Philosopher John Gray’s book, *The Silence of Animals: On Progress and Other Modern*

*Myths* (2013), and writer Chris Hedges’ recent lecture “The Myth of Human Progress and the Collapse of

Complex Societies” (26 January 2014), are notable examples.

In the pursuit of Progress, freedom is perhaps the most desirable aspiration. The United States has 5% of

the world’s population, but 25% of the world’s incarcerated people; and tops the list on the rate of

incarceration, with Rwanda occupying the second spot. With more than two and a quarter million people

in prison (at year-end 2011); nearly seven million adults in correctional supervision (in 2011); more than

70,000 juveniles in detention (in 2010); and inmates in offshore gulags like Guantánamo—to think that

America is the “land of the free” is an illusion. So, yes, Progress is a myth.

For the purpose of interpreting the climate impasse, however, I’d frame Progress, not as a myth, but as a

paradox. Progress is as real as an apple, and it can also hold contradictions.

When I was growing up in India, I used to take bath with exactly one bucket of water. All aspects of

taking a bath—pre-soak, putting body soap and shampoo, and finally rinse—would get accomplished

with about twenty litres of water. Then, when I came to America, twenty-three years ago, in the desert of

New Mexico, I started taking bath by standing underneath a modern invention, called shower, where a

combination of hot and cold water flowed. The shower had significantly improved my experience of

taking a bath. I tasted Progress. But that Progress came at what cost? By the time I finished taking a bath,

I had no idea how many litres I had used, maybe 100, maybe less, maybe more, no one was counting.

Many activists and scholars point out that fresh water is becoming the scarcest resource, which will have

severe consequences for human and nonhuman life on earth. As you can see Progress improves the

quality of life for some, while degrades or destroys the same for others. In this sense, Progress is a

paradox. I can also give examples where Progress simultaneously improves and degrades the quality of life

for the same individual. But let's move on to climate impasse.

Greed Is Good

“Aren't the super rich worried about global warming?”

“Do they not care about the future of their children and grandchildren?”

Those two questions have been on the minds of many people lately. The one answer I've come across

more often than any other is: “Super rich are greedy bastards.”

To begin with, it's a myth that super rich are not worried about global warming. They are. How else do

you explain the fact that the not-climate-denying left-leaning philanthropist Bill Gates is perhaps the lead

financier of geoengineering, and the climate-denying right-wing institutions, such as the American

Enterprise Institute and the Heartland Institute are among the grand plan's cheerleaders? In part III, I'll

say more about this nexus.

Secondly, there is no such thing as climate deniers anymore; it's a

myth, a farce. The so-called climate

deniers, do believe that global warming is happening, that this time it is anthropogenic, that it is getting

worse by the day, and that money could be made from the crisis. The tobacco industry was never worried

that smoking that increases the risk of cancer could actually destroy that industry. The climate denying

industry, however, is probably convinced by now that unless a quick fix is found (geoengineering is a

candidate), anthropogenic global warming will destroy global capitalism, the very foundation that makes

super rich—richer. In fact, anthropogenic global warming is the only thing that can destroy predatory

capitalism. In this sense, the climate deniers are different than all the other Merchants of Doubts of the

yesteryears. If you prefer calling people out by names, then I'd suggest that you start using 'climate

imposters' instead.

Now, back to the "greedy bastards". How did that subspecies evolve? To understand that evolution we

need to look at three distinct phases of American consumption: consumption that shows that a person is

rich; consumption that shows that a nation is rich; and finally, mass consumption.

In part I, I said much about mass consumption. Let us now turn our attention to the first two forms of

consumption.

More than a century ago, in his path-breaking book, *The Theory of the Leisure Class* (1899), economist -

sociologist Thorstein Veblen had introduced the dark side of American consumption. It was the first in-

depth socioeconomic analysis of American consumption. That book isn't an old relic, however, but a

book of immense contemporary relevance, as the latest edition suggests (Oxford University Press, 2007).

In that landmark study, Veblen had introduced the concept of 'conspicuous consumption', which is the

form of consumption that makes visible that a person is indeed rich. While a rich person shows off

with 'conspicuous consumption', the nation embraces the notion that 'greed is good'.

The next phase of consumption shows that the whole nation is indeed rich. That concept was brilliantly

articulated by economist John Kenneth Galbraith in his influential book, *The Affluent Society* (1958). That

book isn't an old relic either. The 40th anniversary edition is still in print (Mariner Books, 1998), and

being read by many, including this writer. It isn't Galbraith's *The Affluent Society*, however, but instead, an

eleven-page rather obscure essay he wrote in that same year, in 1958, to which we will turn our attention

soon.

The Tragic Story of Joe

To understand climate impasse, we have to cast a net large enough to catch much more than just the

"greedy bastards". If you blow the dust away, and scrape the surface a bit, you will see that there is

a common ground among...climate impostors, climate not - impostors, climate activists, and climate

scientists. This common ground is commonly known as Progress. Of course, the motivations and

aspirations of those four groups vary widely. Nevertheless, they are connected at the umbilical cord

through their faith in Progress.

“Give me good statistics, hard facts, and hyperlinks that work, to back up your outrageous accusation,” an

editor might shout. But, I’ m neither a statistician, nor a politician; as a rhetorician, the best I can do is to

begin with a fable instead: the tragic story of Joe. Joe is a glutton, loves potato, has diabetes.

Doctor: Your diabetes is getting worse, Joe. I want you to stop eating potato, and substitute it with

broccoli.

Joe: Well, Doc, I can certainly substitute potato with broccoli, when I eat my daily twenty - ounce

steak, but you don’ t understand.

D: Understand what, Joe?

J: I have more than a hundred recipes, and in each one I put potato. Can you imagine making lamb

vindaloo with broccoli? It’ s not possible, Doc.

After discussing several potential substitutes, but finding none suitable, they hit an impasse. Joe was

one of the most significant customers at the town’ s only grocery store. Fearing economic loss for

the store, the doctor didn’ t suggest to him that instead of just



substituting potato with broccoli, Joe

should reduce his appetite through exercise, eat less and simple food, and get healthy eventually.

Joe's diabetes got worse, and he died a few months later. In remembrance, after remembrance, at

the funeral, townspeople said that Joe lived a happy life, always ate what he loved, including lamb

vindaloo the day he died, someone recounted.

Joe's story is a good starting point for responding to a question that a climate activist might ask: "If we

replace fossil fuels with clean, alternative technologies, won't we be able to solve the climate crisis?"

Our daily life—from brushing teeth in the morning, to brushing teeth at night, before going to bed—

is profoundly dependent on petroleum products and byproducts (not unlike potato in Joe's diet). While

we can certainly substitute some aspects of our lives with "clean, alternative technologies" (not unlike

Joe, who was ready to substitute potato with broccoli), it is impossible for us to extrude ourselves from

petroleum (not unlike how Joe found it impossible to give up on potato)—unless we fundamentally

change how we live.

But What of the Appetite Itself?

Joe's story highlights two concepts: 'appetite' and 'substitutes'. While appetite is a human attribute,

substitutes are either found in nature, or are products of Progress. The idea of appetite and substitutes,

as it relates to materials consumption and conservation, was first articulated by John Kenneth Galbraith

in an essay, “How Much Should a Country Consume?” that appeared in the anthology, Perspectives on

Conservation: Essays on America’s Natural Resources (1958). In it, he had analyzed the unsustainability of

materials consumption in America.

Galbraith had first acknowledged the important contribution that the conservationists had made in

“dramatizing the vast appetite which the United States has developed for materials of all kinds.” He

further went onto to say that “we now recognize [this appetite] to be exponential.” And finally, he

critiqued the conservationists’ approach to addressing the issue of impending resource crisis: by increasing

supply; by increasing efficiency; and by developing substitutes.

We are in a very similar situation today. The US is projected to become the largest oil producer in the

world by around 2020. Additionally, the Obama administration is rapidly increasing the supply of natural

gas through hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking, across the nation. The Environmental

Defense Fund, a conservation organization, has been cheerleading the fracking boom.

The climate activist organizations, however, are campaigning to decrease production through the fossil

fuels divestment campaign, and various resistance movements across geographies—Arctic, Alberta, Cove

Point. Furthermore, the carbon ‘fee - and - dividend’ system that

climate scientist Dr. James Hansen has

proposed, is another attempt at reducing fossil fuels production. It should be noted, however, that both

the divestment campaign and the ‘fee - and - dividend’ system rely on substitutes—that “clean, alternative

technologies” will save the day.

Moreover, conservationists are championing projects that increase efficiency (the work of Amory Lovins,

for example), and develop substitutes (“clean, alternative technologies”).

“But what of the appetite itself?” Galbraith had asked. “Surely this is the ultimate source of the problem.

If it continues its geometric course, will it not one day have to be restrained? Yet in the literature of

resource problem this is the forbidden question. Over it hangs a nearly total silence.”

Six decades later, we are faced with a similar “silence.” The Green Consumerism has hijacked the discussion

of appetite (that Galbraith had suggested) and turned it into an optimistic, but deeply flawed and

exploitative, future with green substitutes. “We can’ t buy our way to a green planet,” is how Kendra

Pierre - Louis articulates it.

At this juncture, I’ d note that an attempt to get rid of fossil fuels, without also addressing the appetite, and

believing in efficiency and substitutes to solve the climate crisis—is eventually a road to Mordor.

As I noted in part I, and will repeat here again: many people and communities are indeed addressing the

issue of 'appetite', and many individuals are quietly practicing—  
living with less.

Let us now turn our attention to the follies of efficiency and  
substitutes.

Why Does the NSA Hate Efficiency?

The promise of solving resource crisis through efficiency has been  
thoroughly debunked. Consider this as

an example. Personal automobiles have certainly become more fuel  
efficient. But the sizes of cars, at the

same time, have gone up, up, and up. We may have forgotten that only a  
few years ago there was a craze

for Hummers! And, you might not even know that almost exactly a decade  
ago, in 2005, the International

RXT and International MXT were introduced at the Chicago Auto Show. At  
that time, some popular

public figures, including Ashton Kutcher, Roy Jones Jr., Shaquille  
O' Neal, and Jalen Rose had given those

cars visibility, by owning it—an example of twenty-first century  
'conspicuous consumption'. To give you

an idea about how monstrous those cars were, the RXT weighted nearly  
three times, and the MXT about

twice, the weight of a Hummer H1.

You might think that I've just given an extreme example that may  
never become an object of mass

consumption. In the 1960s how many people would have imagined that  
half a century later, many middle-

income families would own a 5,000+ sq feet home with three-car garage  
and large lawn, in a suburbia, in

the water-stressed desert southwest? But that is the reality today in places like Phoenix—yet another

example of ‘conspicuous consumption’.

Fortunately, the craze for Hummers, and the possibility of RXT and MXT as personal vehicles, faded

away (blame it on the economic depression), and good many people happily opted for something

smaller—one of the many gas-guzzling SUVs. But, America will soon be the largest oil producer in the

world. Then, don’t be surprised if you see—Hummers, RXT, MXT, or their successors—further clogging

up the already clogged up streets, from Seattle to Bellevue, and back.

There is nothing wrong with efficiency though. It’s just that as soon as we get efficient, we want more

efficiency. Nowhere is this tendency more visible than in communication. We are communicating with

each other with such efficiency that our attention span is diminishing rapidly, and steadily reaching toward

the duration of a hummingbird’s wing beat. This super-efficiency is costing the US taxpayers serious

money, like the whopping \$2 billion that the NSA had to spend for building the largest Spy Center in

America (in Bluffdale, Utah), to process all of our very efficient, and the enormous heaps of

communications data that we are rapidly generating by using varieties of electronic gadgets.

“But why bring up speedy communication during a conversation on climate impasse?” you might ask.

Wait till you hear about the connection between electronic gadgets and

hybrid cars.

Now, back to substitutes.

The Delusion of Substitutes

Remember the biofuel - as - clean - alternative - energy boom? The production of biofuel started in the

mid 90s, and had turned into a boom, after the Bush administration passed a law in 2005 that required

refiners to mix large quantities of biofuel into gasoline. Less than a few years later, however, the boom

had become a colossal bust—economically (for the “greedy bustards” ), ecologically (biodiversity loss), and

socially (destruction of indigenous communities). The icing on the cake was that the damn thing wasn’ t

even “clean” as promised, and contributed significantly to climate change.

The whole charade was nothing more than a delusion, as Mario Giampietro and Kazo Mayumi point out

in their book, *The Biofuel Delusion: The Fallacy of Large Scale Agro - Biofuels Production* (2009).

Here are three quotes from articles published during 2008 - 2009 that I think collectively sum up the folly

of the biofuel - as - clean - alternative - energy substitute:

“Investors...are sitting on billions of dollars in losses after buying into the corn - based ethanol

industry that George W. Bush embraced as the answer to US energy woes. ... Investor losses come as

taxpayers have paid billions to support the ethanol industry. More than \$11.2bn has been spent since

2005 on tax breaks for companies that blend ethanol into petrol. Billions more have been spent on

direct state and federal subsidies for US ethanol production.”

—Kevin Allison and Stephanie Kirchgaessner, Financial Times, 21 October 2008

“[T]oday, mounting evidence indicates that producing biofuels—particularly those derived from

food crops such as corn and oil palm—may be doing considerably more harm to the planet than

good, actually increasing greenhouse gas emissions and driving up food prices worldwide. ... Some

of the most devastating costs of the biofuel revolution are on display in Indonesia, where massive

clearing of tropical forests for oil palm plantations has caused staggering environmental damage and

tremendous loss of biodiversity. Only the Amazon and Africa’s Congo basin harbor more tropical

forests than Indonesia, but the reality today is that all three regions are seeing their rain forests

disappear at an alarming rate. And in the Amazon and Indonesia, growing world demand for food

and biofuel is now driving much of the damage.”

—Tom Knudson, Yale e360, 19 January 2009

“Indigenous and minority communities across the world are...hurt by the planting of biofuel crops

championed as a solution to climate change. Communities face forceful eviction and destruction to

their livelihoods and culture for biofuel crops to be planted. In South American countries such as

Colombia, Brazil and Argentina indigenous and minority communities have been forced off their

lands, in some cases with the use of violence, to make way for biofuel plantations.”

—A review of the State of the World’s Minorities report, Climate&Capitalism;, 12 March 2008

Not unlike his predecessor, President Obama (with champion of fracking Ernest Moniz as the Secretary

of Energy) is now drumming up a new charade—natural - gas - as - somewhat - clean - but - not - so -

alternative - nevertheless - bridge - fuel. How long do you think before this delusion will be over and we

nosedive into yet another colossal bust—ecological, social, and economic?

“Wait a minute, there are ways we can drive around and not pollute,” a friend insists. “Hybrid vehicles

reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, right?”

The batteries on those cars, however, require hard - to - find rare earth elements. To meet our ravenous

appetite for batteries for hybrid vehicles and varieties of electronic gadgets, the mining companies are

now pushing to pry open the deep seabed, to extract “precious metals, methane gas, and rare minerals.”

On 16 February at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Chicago,

“Deep - Ocean Industrialization: A New Stewardship Frontier,” scientists warned that the deep - sea

ecosystems are now under threat of mass industrializations, and urged international co - operation and



stewardship.

The prospect of deep ocean industrialization, forces us to think about varieties of ‘new frontiers’ . To

satisfy the promise of Progress, nation states are continuously looking for substitutes, in new frontiers. As

you can see, Progress is intimately connected to climate impasse. The subject of new frontiers, however, is

rather large. I’ ll discuss it in part III. I’ d also note here that, after reading part I, some readers complained

about my silence on the subject of population. Population will be in part IV, when we discuss extinction.

Perhaps Joe could have lived a while longer, if the doctor had focused primarily on appetite, and to a

lesser degree on substitutes.

Subhankar Banerjee is a photographer, writer, and activist. His most recent book is Arctic Voices: Resistance at the

Tipping Point (Seven Stories Press). He was recently Director’ s Visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton,

Distinguished Visiting Professor at Fordham University in New York, received Distinguished Alumnus Award from the

New Mexico State University, and Cultural Freedom Award from Lannan Foundation. For more information visit his

website [www.subhankarbanerjee.org](http://www.subhankarbanerjee.org).

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[U. S. Military Averaging More Than a Mission a Day in Africa](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 27 March 2014 07:24

## **Documents Reveal Blinding Pace of Ops in 2013, More of the Same for 2014**

By [Nick Turse](http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/175823/)

The numbers tell the story: 10 exercises, 55 operations, 481 security cooperation activities.

For years, the U.S. military has publicly insisted that its efforts in Africa are small scale. Its public affairs personnel and commanders have repeatedly [claimed](#) no more than a “[light footprint](#)” on that continent, including a remarkably modest presence when it comes to military personnel. They have, however, balked at specifying just what that light footprint actually consists of. During an interview, for instance, a U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) spokesman once [expressed](#) worry that tabulating the command’s deployments would offer a “skewed image” of U.S. efforts there.

It turns out that the numbers do just the opposite.

Last Updated on Sunday, 30 March 2014 23:35

No expanded doc available.

## [Risk Expert: GMOs Could Destroy the Global Ecosystem](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 27 March 2014 05:05

March 26, 2014 by WashingtonsBlog



Painting by Anthony Freda:

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

## “BLACK SWAN” AUTHOR NASSIM NICHOLAS TALEB *DEMOLISHES* THE CLAIM THAT GMOS ARE LOW-RISK

Risk analyst Nassim Nicholas Taleb [predicted the 2008](#) financial crisis, by pointing out that commonly-used risk models were wrong. Distinguished professor of risk engineering at New York University, author of best-sellers *The Black Swan* and *Foiled by Randomness*, Taleb became financially independent after the crash of 1987, and wealthy during the 2008 financial crisis.

Now, Taleb is using his statistical risk acumen to take on genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Taleb’s conclusion: GMOs could cause “an irreversible termination of life at some scale, which could be the planet.”

Sound crazy?

Last Updated on Sunday, 30 March 2014 23:56  
No expanded doc available.

## [National Day of Action for a New Health Accord](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 31 March 2014 07:19

### By The Council of Canadians

Monday, March 31, 2014 - 12:00



On March 31, sound the alarm for public health care!

We are facing an important moment in the history of public health care. The Health Accord – an agreement between the federal, provincial and territorial governments that sets federal funding for health care, and ensures all Canadians can access good quality services regardless of where they live – will expire on **March 31**.

No expanded doc available.

638 readings

## [California Tribes Front and Center at Sacramento Anti-Fracking Rally](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 30 March 2014 20:24

By: [Marc Dadigan](#) 3/21/14

### Klamath Riverkeepers

Chook Chook and Annelia Hillman (Karuk) from the Klamath Riverkeepers pose with Ishikihara Ekor, their son, and a family friend at the March 15 Don't Frack California rally at the State Capitol in Sacramento. (Photo: Marc Dadigan)

### Raising the Drum

Wicahpiluta Candelaria (Rumsen Ohlone/Apache) raises his drum to the air during a song with AIM-West Rally March 15 at the Capitol in Sacramento. (Photo: Marc Dadigan)

### Dakota Protesters

Two Dakota Oyate protesters, who asked they simply be named as Warrior Woman (left) and Ojon-Jon-Wakon, stand defiantly at the March 15 Don't Frack California rally at the State Capitol in Sacramento where more than 4,000 protesters gathered to

demand Gov. Jerry Brown pass a fracking moratorium. (Photo: Marc Dadigan)

## Against Fracking in California

Laura Cedillo of AIM-West sings during the Don't Frack California Rally March 15 at the Capitol in Sacramento. (Photo: Marc Dadigan)

## Pomo Youth

Pomo students from the Big Valley Rancheria's youth group show off their protest signs at the March 15 Don't Frack California rally at the State Capitol in Sacramento. (Photo: Marc Dadigan)

## No Dam Raise

Tribal representatives from the Yurok, Ohlone, Winnemem Wintu, Karuk, Hoopa Valley, Karuk, Pomo and many other tribes gather at the State Capitol in Sacramento during the March 15 Don't Frack California rally. (Photo: Marc Dadigan)

# California Tribes Front and Center at Sacramento Anti-Fracking Rally

Read more at

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/gallery/photo/california-tribes-front-and-center-sacramento-anti-fracking-rally-154110>

## Don't Frack California!

Flanked by her Winnemem Wintu tribal members, Chief and Spiritual Leader Caleen Sisk gave the keynote speech at the Don't Frack California Rally March 15 at the Capitol in Sacramento. More than 4,000 people attended the rally, including members of dozens of California tribes. (Photo: Marc Dadigan)

Read more at

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/gallery/photo/california-tribes-front-and-center-sacramento-anti-fracking-rally-154110>

By: Marc Dadigan - 3/21/14

Parched by drought that is causing water shortages and threatening crops and fisheries, California and the tribes residing there are embattled over fracking, which uses millions of gallons of water per shale well.

California has more tribes than any other state, and scores of them were out in force on March 15 at a “Don’t Frack California” rally at the State Capitol in Sacramento. More than 4,000 people gathered to demand that Governor Jerry Brown pass a moratorium on hydraulic fracking for oil.

Carrying signs ranging from the simple “Honor Tribal Water Rights” to the more provocative “Gov. Brown Is a Fracking Mother Earth Molestor,” hundreds of California Indians representing the Winnemem Wintu, Miwok, Chumash, Hoopa Valley, Karuk, Yurok, Lakota, Ohlone, Pomo and many other tribes voiced a unified position against the practice.

In September, Brown signed into law the first regulations on hydraulic fracturing, which environmentalists and tribal officials say would allow for the practice to be widespread. Fracking uses water, sand and chemicals to crack rock formations underground in order to reach oil and gas. The technology makes it possible for oil companies to unlock California’s vast Monterey Shale deposit, estimated to hold 15.4 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

Tribal representatives and activists at the rally unanimously opposed the authorization of any fracking, which is known to use vast quantities of water, because it threatens the health of their rivers and important fisheries at a time when water shortages are already affecting ecosystems and ancestral lands.

RELATED: [Hoopa Valley Tribe Declares Drought Emergency as California Dries Out](#)

There are also concerns that fracking can cause earthquakes. "[Shaky Ground](#)," a new report from Clean Water Action, Earthworks and the Center for Biological Diversity, states that more than half of the state's permitted oil wastewater injection wells are located less than 10 miles from an active fault and that 87 of them, or six percent, are located within a mile of an active fault.

Politicians, too, are seeking at the very least further study. State Senators Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles) and Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) introduced legislation in February calling for a moratorium on fracking until a comprehensive independent review of the environmental and public health impacts can be completed.

“There are a million Angelenos that live within a five-mile radius of the largest urban

oil field in the country,” said Mitchell, whose predominantly minority district includes the Inglewood Oil Field, in a statement. “Complaints that residents are exposed to hazardous chemicals and toxic pollutants and which cause all kinds of health symptoms have been ignored. When industrial operations like fracking and acidization disproportionately impact minority communities, environmental justice has been breached and needs to be restored.”

Winnemem Wintu Chief and Spiritual Leader Caleen Sisk, who gave the keynote speech at the rally, said the governor’s fracking bill was connected to Brown’s \$25 billion proposal to build twin tunnels to pump water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to Southern California municipalities and industrial agriculture. Many Winnemem Wintu sacred sites could be inundated if Congress authorizes the federal government’s proposal to raise Shasta Dam by 18 feet, a plan Sisk said is part of the effort to find more water for fracking.

RELATED: [California’s \\$25 Billion Delta Tunnels Plan Leaves Tribes Behind](#)

“Here at the Capitol is where the big minds and big thinkers are supposed to be taking care of us, but there are a lot of ‘Brown water’ plans going on here,” she said. “We pray to the Creator that you will have strength in your work to fight this so the ones that come after us will have clean water when they get here.”

Pennie Opal Plant of Gathering Tribes spoke to the crowd about the connections between the fight against fracking and efforts to stop oil extraction in the Alberta oil sands of Canada, as well as the shipment of explosive crude oil by train in the Midwest.

“It’s time to transition,” Plant said. “[Mother Earth] is expecting us to be strong. We are not her failed experiment. We are her immune system. We are her cells activating on behalf of her fish, our two-legged relatives, those who fly and all of her life.”

Read more at <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/gallery/photo/california-tribes-front-and-center-sacramento-anti-fracking-rally-154110>

Last Updated on Monday, 31 March 2014 00:20

## [Scholars denounce Conservatives’ proposed Fair Elections Act](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 30 March 2014 20:12

By [JOSH WINGROVE](#)

OTTAWA — The Globe and Mail Wednesday, Mar. 26 2014, 8:50 AM EDT





The Conservative government's Fair Elections Act threatens Canada's global reputation as a "guardian of democracy and human rights," a group of international researchers says.

Last Updated on Monday, 31 March 2014 07:35 No expanded doc available.

2384 readings

## ["The More We 'Won,' The More We Lost" An Interview with Jonathan Schell on America's Vietnam Debacle](#)



[Peace News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 30 March 2014 16:14

By [Chris Appy](#)

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/175824>

[The following interview from Chris Appy's 2003 book [Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides](#) is used with the kind permission of his publisher, Viking Penguin, and is posted at [TomDispatch.com](#) as a memorial to Jonathan Schell, who died on March 25th, and to his work, which will long outlast him.]

*Rushing into the magazine's office, his cheeks flushed, he flops down on a couch looking impossibly burdened by the distractions of a journalist's life. The odds seem slim that much of value will be gained by dredging up a 30-year-old topic. As soon as the subject is mentioned, however, the present evaporates. It's as if the middle-aged man has entered a time machine dated 1966. That was the year he went to Vietnam on a whim, at age 23, hoping to write "something" about the war. On the basis of that trip, and another in 1967, he wrote two book-length articles for The New Yorker that were later published as The Village of Ben Suc and The Military Half.*

I wasn't very political in college but I do remember noticing that this Vietnam War seemed to be a sort of unsolvable problem. At the time, I didn't see how we could pull

out and I suppose I bought into the domino theory. But I didn't see how we could win. It just looked bad. When I graduated from college in 1965, I went to Japan to study and spend a year abroad. On the way back from Japan I had a round-the-world ticket that permitted me to stop anywhere I wanted. I had a certain ambition to be a writer of factual pieces so I decided I would go to Vietnam. I remember reading Bernard Fall's latest book on the plane, which was my little crash education. When I landed in Vietnam I was the very definition of a pest -- a graduate student who had no knowledge and who vaguely thought he might like to write something.

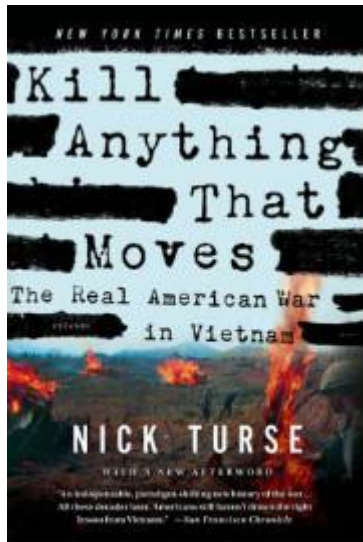
Somehow or other it occurred to me that François Sully might be in Vietnam working for *Newsweek*. He was a French reporter I'd met at Harvard when he was a Nieman Fellow so I called up the *Newsweek* office and, lo and behold, he was there and invited me over.

It was a loft-like office with a back room full of the pseudo-military gear that journalists wore. When I greeted Sully I had Bernard Fall's book under my arm and mentioned that I had been reading it. There was another fellow at a desk who said, "Could I see the book?" So I went over and gave him the book.

He opened it up and signed it. It was Bernard Fall!

So here were these two ebullient, life-loving Frenchmen, brave and brilliant journalists, both. And just out of sheer high spirits, they took me up -- this nuisance, this pest, this ignorant graduate student. They used their connections to perform a kind of miracle. They persuaded the military to give me a press pass on the somewhat deceptive basis that I was there for the *Harvard Crimson*. I had actually written for the *Crimson*, and very possibly they would have wanted me reporting for them, but we made up that little tale.

Well, if you had a press pass in Vietnam, it was a free travel ticket all over the country. You could hitchhike rides on helicopters and transport planes, wherever you wanted. It was a meal ticket. It was a hotel reservation anywhere. It gave a fantastic freedom to see what you wanted to see. I think the reason was the cooperation between the press and the military during the Second World War, and the Korean War had carried over for a while to Vietnam. So just a day or two later Fall and Sully called me up at my ratty hotel and said, "Something is going to happen. It's all secret, but you can go and see it if you want. Come over to such-and-such a place at four-thirty A.M. and there'll be a bus." These two wonderful journalists, both of whom later lost their lives in the war, gave me this one-hundred-and-eighty-degree life-changing gift, which set me on the journalistic path I've been on ever since.



### Buy the book

We got on a bus and were taken out to an airstrip where we were flown off in a C-5 to a big dusty field in the jungle. A spiffy major with an easel told us we were there for Operation Cedar Falls -- the largest military operation of the war to that date. The idea was to clear out the infamous Iron Triangle [a 40-square-mile patch of jungle with its southernmost tip just a dozen miles north of Saigon], which had been the source of so much woe for the South Vietnamese army and a revolutionary stronghold since the war against the French. The American military wanted to clear it out once and for all. On the major's easel there was a great menu of things they were going to do. One of the items on the list was a helicopter attack on the village of Ben Suc. When we got to that item on the list, I asked, "What's going to happen to the village after it's attacked?" The major said, "Well, we're going to destroy it and move the people out."

"Then what?" I said.

"Well, we're going to bulldoze it and bomb it."

So I thought, okay, I'll just follow that particular story from start to finish. It didn't feel like a singularly adventurous or bold thing to do. And I do recall one little act of cowardice. When they asked which of the 60 helicopters we wanted to go on, many of the journalists were clamoring to be on the first or second helicopter. I was delighted to be on helicopter number 47. You could say that the operation came off beautifully. It worked exactly as planned. The helicopters flew in, moved the people out, destroyed the village. Mission accomplished. But to what end? Most of the reporting about Operation Cedar Falls told you how many Viet Cong were captured or killed, and those may have been true facts. But they left out what I believed was fundamental -- that we were destroying villages and throwing people off their land.

The unmistakable fact was that the general population despised the United States and if they hadn't despised it before we arrived, they soon did after we destroyed their villages. Our whole goal was to build up a political system that would stand after we left, with a functioning government supported enough by its people so it could fight on its own. But our policies were destroying whatever support that government might ever

have had, which was probably about zero to begin with. The more we'd win on the battlefield -- and we did just about every day in just about every battle -- the more we lost the political war.

The more we "won," the more we lost. That was the paradox of Vietnam. American soldiers went over thinking they were freeing an enslaved people from their oppressors. I do think the Communists were pretty oppressive. However, it just so happened that they were the representatives of national dignity and that seemed to trump whatever oppression they dealt out. Whatever the reason, the people by and large supported them and they were the de facto government of a very considerable part of South Vietnam. So the idea that the Viet Cong were a sort of mysterious band of people that could be rooted out and separated from the population at large just didn't have a basis in political reality.

One thing that struck me very powerfully was the capacity of both the officer corps and the press corps to see things in terms of a story they had brought with them to Vietnam and not to see what was actually going on under their noses. For example, when I came back to Vietnam in the summer of 1967 I went up to Quang Ngai Province and saw that the place was being leveled by American bombing. But when I got home, I remember reading a story in the *New York Times* about how the marines had built a hospital in this area. Apparently the Hiroshima-like devastation that was around that hospital was not visible to the reporters of the *New York Times* because they weren't telling about that.

And it wasn't a subtle thing. The fire and smoke was pouring up to the heavens. You didn't have to be a detective or do any investigative journalism. The flames were roaring around you. I mapped it all out and seventy, eighty percent of the villages were just dust -- ashes and dust. But that was not the story. The story was still how we were going to help the South Vietnamese resist the attack from the North. In Vietnam I learned about the capacity of the human mind to build a model of experience that screens out even very dramatic and obvious realities.

When I first went back to Vietnam that summer I joined the journalistic pack, the "boys on the bus." What they were covering at the time was this fraudulent election, a completely farcical election. One day we were all taken to a village for a campaign rally, but the candidates somehow didn't make it. Apart from the journalists, the only person who showed up was an ancient guy going around with a bullhorn shouting that there was going to be an election rally. This was supposed to be democracy in action and we were the only people there.

To report on that as if it was something real would have been absolutely absurd so I just took the next helicopter out and somehow decided to begin covering the air war in the South -- the air slaughter, really. People had been writing about the bombing of North Vietnam, but the air war in the South was far more devastating and not getting much attention.

So in Quang Ngai I started going up in forward air control (FAC) planes -- little Cessna two-seater spotter planes that would direct the pilots to their targets. These little planes were constantly turning and twisting, in part to avoid enemy ground fire. That

and the overwhelming heat made me constantly nauseous. But I had my notebook right there in the plane and the setup was unbelievably perfect for reporting. It was as if it had been designed for reporting. It gave you this fantastic perch. You could sit over the scene of the action, witness it, and you were conveniently supplied with earphones in which you heard conversations among the pilots, the forward air controller, and the ground. The quotes were coming right into the earphones and I wrote them down as if it were a lecture at Harvard. It was an amazing stroke of journalistic luck.

The idea that the U.S. military was operating under constraints in South Vietnam is ridiculous. We pulverized villages from the air if we merely imagined that we received hostile fire. I witnessed it with my own eyes and I saw the leaflets we dropped which said, "If you fire on us, we will destroy your village," and then a follow-up leaflet that said, "You did fire on us, and we did destroy your village." And U.S. planes were actually bombing churches. They would see the church, target it, and blow it up. I saw that happen.

And sometimes they cracked jokes about it. They were trying to imagine that the war was something like World War II. When you were in the air you could try to forget about all the paradoxes of policy that made your very successes counterproductive. But I sensed a deep uneasiness and regret among the pilots. They sometimes sang rather brutal ditties that seemed to me like confessions in a way:

*"Strafe the town and kill the people,  
Drop napalm in the square,  
Get out early every Sunday  
And catch them at their morning prayer."*

I wasn't inclined to blame the people doing it so much as the people ordering it. I got along well with the soldiers and their officers. I liked them very much. Maybe that was a defensive thing. It would have been very uncomfortable for me to be in a position of feeling fury at the people doing it. Those are deep questions. You know, just following orders is no excuse. These were atrocities -- bombing villages from the air, just pulverizing houses, attacking people on the basis of little or no information. And there was this absurd supposition that if someone ran away from your attack, they automatically belonged to the Viet Cong.

It was a massacre from the air that was going on every day and I was a part of it in a way. I was kind of doing it. That was the feeling. The FACs were equipped with phosphorous rockets. They were used as markers for the bombers, but phosphorous rockets are particularly horrifying weapons -- worse than napalm. It's something that burns that you can't put out. The rocket would blow up the house and then people would run out. I was witnessing from a distance, but I had a real feeling of complicity. I mean I didn't push the button, but I was there.

When I got back from Vietnam I met Jerry Wiesner, provost of MIT and a friend of my parents. He had been Kennedy's science adviser and knew Secretary of Defense McNamara. We had lunch and when I told him about what I'd seen in Vietnam he said, "Would you be willing to go and talk to McNamara about this?" I said, "Yeah, sure," and the meeting was arranged. So I went down to the Pentagon, where I'd never set

foot, and was ushered into the secretary of defense's office. It's the size of a football field -- a proper imperial size. And there was McNamara, all business as usual, with that slicked-back hair of steel. I began to tell my story and he said, "Come over to the map here and show me what you're talking about."

Well, I truly had my ducks in a row. I had overflown the entire province of Quang Ngai and half of Quang Tin. And so I really had chapter and verse. After a while he interrupted and asked, "Do you have anything in writing?" I said, "Yes, but it's all in longhand." So he said, "Well, I'll put you in General so-and-so's office -- he's off in South America -- and you can dictate it." And so for three days I sat in the general's office dictating my longhand, book-length *New Yorker* article on the air war in South Vietnam. Up from the bowels of the Pentagon would come typed copy. It was a dream for me, probably saving me a month's work because this was long before word processors.

Three days later, stinking to high heaven because I had no change of clothes, I reappeared in McNamara's office. I handed it to him, he took it, and that was the last I heard about it from him. But I learned later that a foreign service officer in Saigon was sent around Vietnam to retrace my steps and re-interview the pilots and the soldiers I had quoted. He even read back to the pilots the gruesome ditties they had sung for me at the bar. The foreign service officer had to admit that my book was accurate but he added, "What Schell doesn't realize is what terrible circumstances our troops are in. He doesn't realize that old ladies and children are throwing hand grenades because the people are against us." Hence, the Vietnam War makes sense because the South Vietnamese are against us!

So why couldn't we get out? When it became clear that the costs were so much greater than anything at stake on the ground in Vietnam itself, then why couldn't we just withdraw? None of the official war aims made much sense. It was hard to maintain that we were fighting for freedom or democracy in South Vietnam since the government we were defending was so obviously corrupt and dictatorial. Nor could we honestly claim to be preventing aggression when the only foreign combatants in Vietnam were Americans or soldiers paid for by the United States like the South Koreans. Even the domino theory seemed to fall apart in the face of intense nationalism, support for reunification throughout Vietnam, and the historical conflicts between Vietnam and China.

But the one justification that proved most durable was this idea of credibility. Fighting for American credibility was not a tangible goal; it was the defense of an image -- an image of vast national strength and the will to use it. According to the doctrine of credibility, the United States was engaged in a global public-relations struggle in which a reverse in any part of the world, no matter how small, could undermine the whole structure of American power.

Part of the concern with maintaining credibility stemmed from a kind of psychological domino theory. In other words, policy makers worried that if the United States did not prevail in Vietnam, it would cast doubt on our determination to prevail anywhere. If the United States lost in Vietnam, then countries and revolutionaries all over the world would see that we were a paper tiger who couldn't win wars and they would be

emboldened to resist our will. So what was at stake in Vietnam was the ability of the United States to maintain control all over the world on a psychological basis.

But there was another component of the doctrine of credibility that is in a way the most subtle and the least noticed, but I think the most important. It was nuclear policy. In nuclear strategy one of the crucial facts is that you can't actually fight a nuclear war. The moment that you fight the war you've lost it because everybody loses in a nuclear war. The purpose of deterrence is to prevent a nuclear war from happening. It depends entirely on producing a psychological impression in the mind of the enemy that you are a very tough guy -- so tough you're ready to commit suicide and drag the enemy down with you.

Well that is a kind of crazy proposition. It doesn't have a lot of inherent credibility. Why would you commit suicide to defend yourself? So it's a real strain to keep producing an impression of toughness. All you could do in the arena of nuclear confrontation was build up your arms and talk tough. You couldn't prove your toughness by actually using the weapons. 'Round about the end of the 1950s there were a number of thinkers, including Henry Kissinger, who began to say, well, okay, we're paralyzed in the nuclear arena, but we can go out and win a few on the periphery. Here's a place where we can actually fight wars and show how tough we are. At the same time [Soviet Premier] Khrushchev began to talk about the necessity of fighting wars of national liberation in the Third World so the Soviets were making their own contribution to the rhetorical battle. Thus, the model for Vietnam was actually created before we ever went directly into that war. Because the so-called peripheral wars were supposedly winnable, and since they occurred in a context of a very shaky credibility based on nuclear weapons that you couldn't use, these limited wars came to bear an additional burden.

It was as if World War III were being fought in Vietnam. In the nuclear age, the whole structure of credibility and deterrence seemed to depend on winning these wars out there on the periphery. This was the sort of theoretical trap that the policy makers found themselves in. They thought they were not only preventing the toppling of dominoes but total war itself. And if you believed the assumptions, then almost no cost was too high to pay in Vietnam.

*The above interview is from [Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides](#) by Christian Appy, copyright (c) 2003 by Christian G. Appy. Used by permission of Viking Penguin, a division of Penguin Group (USA) LLC.*

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[Critics cry foul as Conservatives table](#) 

## [another bloated budget bill](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 30 March 2014 14:55

**By: Bruce Cheadle, The Canadian Press**

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/new-conservative-budget-bill-loaded-with-unrelated-measures-say-critics-252923851.html>Posted: 03/28/2014 12:21 PM Last Modified: 03/28/2014 8:59 PM



[Enlarge Image](#)

A locomotive pulls grain and oil rail cars in Rosser, Man., Monday, March 24, 2014.  
THE CANADIAN PRESS/John Woods

OTTAWA - The latest Conservative omnibus bill weighs in at 359 pages and alters everything from the food and rail safety regimes to the Judges Act, the National Defence Act and the handling of temporary foreign workers.

In all, almost 40 different pieces of legislation are being altered by the single bill tabled Friday.

No expanded doc available.

481 readings

[Company right to not release GM](#)





## [alfalfa this spring, says NFU](#)

### [PEJ Events](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 30 March 2014 14:41

**Submitted by Anonymous on Fri, 03/28/2014 - 12:51**

(March 28, 2014, North Bay, ON)– The National Farmers Union (NFU) is pleased to learn that Forage Genetics International (FGI) has decided not to begin selling herbicide-tolerant genetically modified (GM) alfalfa this spring. The company's decision to delay the introduction of GM alfalfa into Canada was confirmed in the March 27 edition of *The Western Producer* and is consistent with recent statements made by seed companies in Quebec and Ontario. In 2013, without public input or notification, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) granted registration to several varieties of GM Roundup Ready alfalfa, which means FGI and their distributors could legally sell the herbicide-tolerant GM alfalfa across Canada.

Ontario grass-fed beef farmer and NFU member, Dave Lewington said, "By deciding not to sell GM alfalfa in Canada for spring planting, FGI is, at some level, admitting that the concerns of farmers across Canada are serious. It is unfortunate that our own government has failed to acknowledge the severe economic impact that the commercial release of GM alfalfa would have on Canadian farmers."

In 2013, Lewington and another Ontario farmer and fellow NFU member requested a full environmental assessment of GM Roundup Ready alfalfa under Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights. Their application stated that the public interest was not served by the federal process for approving GM crops, nor by the variety registration process. In their application, the two farmers detailed the gaps in the federal approval process for GM crops, pointing out that it does not consider the social and economic consequences of releasing crops such as Roundup Ready alfalfa and that the whole process takes place behind closed doors.

"FGI's decision for this year is the right decision. Even so, NFU members will continue to pressure both industry and the government to stop the release of GM alfalfa," said Jan Slomp, NFU President and Alberta dairy farmer. "The federal government should de-register all varieties of RR alfalfa. Before approving any more GM crops, the

government must revamp its process so that it conducts a full assessment of the environmental, economic and social impacts based on public research and input from a cross-section of farmers and Canadians, rather than simply relying on information provided by the seed companies seeking regulatory approval for their products.”

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Dave Lewington, NFU Member: 705-594-1823

Jan Slomp, NFU President: 403-843-2068, Cell 403-704-4364

## [CSW58:CHALLENGING MILITARIZED SECURITY: DELEGITIMIZATION OF WAR](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 29 March 2014 06:53

The enclosed petition was submitted, by Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, to the Chair Chair of the Bureau for the 58<sup>th</sup> session (2014 )

During the Commission on the Status of Women the petition received four hundred, half collected here at the meeting and half online (www.vowpeace.org).

The signatories are from thirty-six countries, and sixty-seven organizations. The countries represented are: Hungary, Iceland, USA, Canada Uganda, Hong Kong, Sierra Leone, UK, Sudan, Tunisia, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Taiwan, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Bulgaria, Malaysia, Germany, Nepal, Nigeria, Burma, Pakistan, Australia, Greece, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway ,Guatemala, Japan. France, Finland.

Last Updated on Saturday, 29 March 2014 07:10

No expanded doc available.

## [Russia to protect citizens from genetically modified food](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 29 March 2014 06:43

By Tass March 27, 19:36 UTC+4 EPA/LASZLO CZIKA

NOVO-OGARYOVO, March 27. /ITAR-TASS/.




The Russian president noted that it should be done without violating obligations to the WTO



NOVO-OGARYOVO, March 27. /ITAR-TASS/. Russia has enough mechanisms to protect the market and citizens from genetically modified food, without violating its obligations to the WTO, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

Last Updated on Saturday, 29 March 2014 06:53

No expanded doc available.

[Is it natural for humans to make war?](#)  
[New study of tribal societies reveals](#)     
[conflict is an alien concept](#)

[Peace News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 01 April 2014 13:42



War is an alien concept among tribal societies, new research finds

Mankind learned the art of going into battle much later than previously thought, a new academic study

[Steve Connor](#)

Science Editor - Tuesday 01 April 2014

Is it natural for humans to make war? Is organised violence between rival political groups an inevitable outcome of the human condition? Some scholars believe the answer is yes, but new research suggests not

A study of tribal societies that live by hunting and foraging has found that war is an alien concept and not, as some academics have suggested, an innate feature of so-called "primitive people. The findings have re-opened a bitter academic dispute over

whether war is a relatively recent phenomenon invented by “civilised” societies over the past few thousand years, or a much older part of human nature. In other words, is war an ancient and chronic condition that helped to shape humanity over many hundreds of thousands of years?

The idea is that war is the result of an evolutionary ancient predisposition that humans may have inherited in their genetic makeup as long ago as about 7 million years, when we last shared a common ancestor with chimpanzees – who also wage a kind of war between themselves. However, two anthropologists believe this is a myth and have now produced evidence to show it. Douglas Fry and Patrik Soderberg [umlaut over o] of Abo Akademi University in Vasa, Finland, studied 148 violently lethal incidents documented by anthropologists working among 21 mobile bands of hunter-gatherer societies, which some scholars have suggested as a template for studying how humans lived for more than 99.9 per cent of human history, before the invention of agriculture about 10,000 years ago. They found that only a tiny minority of violent deaths come close to being defined as acts of war. Most the violence was perpetrated by one individual against another and usually involved personal grudges involving women or stealing. About 85 per cent of the deaths involved killers and victims who belonged to the same social group, and about two thirds of all the violent deaths could be attributed to family feuds, disputes over wives, accidents or “legal” executions, the researchers found. “When we looked at all the violent events about 55 per cent of them involved one person killing another. That’s not war. When we looked at group conflicts, the typical pattern was feuds between families and revenge killings, which is not war either,” said Dr Fry.

>Only a tiny minority of cases involved more organised killing between rival bands of people, which could fall into the definition of war-like behaviour. Most of these involved only one of the 21 groups included in the study – the Tiwi people of Australia who seemed to be particularly prone to violent incidents, Dr Fry said.

Rather than finding war ubiquitous, the two researchers found little evidence that hunter-gatherer societies were in a constant state of violent conflict with rival groups. In short they found that some of the most “primitive” peoples on Earth were actually quite peaceful compared to modern, developed nations.

“These findings imply that warfare was probably not very common before the advent of agriculture, when most if not all humans lived as nomadic foragers,” Kirk Endicott, an anthropologist at Dartmouth College told the journal *Science*, where the study is published.

The findings also question the conclusions of well-respected academics such as Harvard’s Stephen Pinker and University of California’s Jared Diamond, both of whom have recently published best-selling books on the subject of war-like aggression and tribal societies.

In Diamond’s “*The World Until Yesterday*”, for instance, war is defined as recurrent violence between groups belonging to rival political units that is sanctioned by those units. Under this definition, many tribal societies, left to their own devices, would be in a state of chronic war, Diamond says.

He cites the case of the Dani people living in the Baliem Valley of the New Guinea Highlands who in 1961 engaged in a series of violent conflicts that led to many deaths. Although the Dani are agriculturalists, Diamond uses them as examples of how early humans societies may have interacted with one another.

Meanwhile, Pinker in his book “*The Better Angels of Our Nature*” argues that humans

are innately violent and have only become less so in recent years because of cultural influences that have kept this aggressive nature in check.

Both Pinker and Diamond have been criticised by some anthropologists for simplifying and exaggerating the research they use to support their conclusions. Even worse, some argue that they used discredited work of anthropologists such as Napoleon Chagnon who has claimed that the Yanomami people of the Amazon are in a state of chronic warfare with one another.

“Chagnon’s work is frequently used by writers such as Jared Diamond and Stephen Pinker who want to portray tribal peoples as ‘brutal savages’, far more violent than ‘us’. But none of them acknowledge that his central findings about Yanomami violence have long been discredited,” said Stephen Corry, director of Survival International.

“This latest research is the latest nail in the coffin for Pinker's 'Brutal Savage' thesis. Pinker selects highly questionable data, and leaves out anything which contradicts his argument,” Mr Corry said.

“Although he and his supporters, such as Jared Diamond, present those of us who question them as 'anti-science', in fact their own work is simply a social and political argument with a pseudo-scientific wrapper,” he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Diamond said that many scholars agree with his conclusions that tribal societies are on average more violent than state societies.

“This conclusion might at first seem surprising, but tribal warfare tends to be chronic, while even nations with the highest war-related death tolls in the 20th Century – Russia, Germany and Poland – were mostly at peace and only intermittently at war,” Dr Diamond said.

“Corry’s passionate and error-laden condemnation of my book is clearly driven by something other than the facts. It’s Corry’s romanticised view of traditional societies that is really dangerous,” he said.

Last Updated on Thursday, 03 April 2014 16:26

## [Exon Mobil says climate change unlikely to stop it selling fossil](#)



### [fuels](#)

[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 03 April 2014 06:51

**Exon Oil giant issues report on risks that climate policies could pose to the value of its assets and future profitability**

Associated Press [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com), Tuesday 1 April 2014 16.38 BST



Exxon Mobile said climate change policies were 'highly unlikely' to changes to affect its future profitability. Photograph: Jonathan Nackstrand/AFP/Getty Images

Exxon Mobile said climate change policies were 'highly unlikely' to changes to affect its future profitability. Photograph: Jonathan Nackstrand/AFP/Getty Images

On the same day the world's scientists issued their latest report on climate change and the risks it poses to society, America's biggest oil and gas company said the world's climate policies are "highly unlikely" to stop it from selling fossil fuels far into the future.

[Exxon Mobil issued a report on Monday](#) on the risks that climate change policies could pose to the value of its assets and future profitability, by coincidence on the same day as the [latest paper by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), a Nobel Prize-winning United Nations group assembled to assess the science and risks of climate change.

Both Exxon and its critics used IPCC research to bolster their cases.

Exxon's report was in response to the [contentions of some shareholders and environmental activists](#) that the assets underpinning the value of Exxon and other fossil fuel companies will be worth less as society restricts consumption of fossil fuels to fight climate change.

The report, the first detailed response to these concerns by a major oil company, acknowledges the need to adopt policies to address climate change. But it concludes that because oil and gas are so critical to global development and economic growth, governments are "highly unlikely" to adopt policies that cut emissions so sharply that fossil fuel consumption would be severely restricted.

"We know enough based on the research and science that the risk (of climate change) is real and appropriate steps should be taken to address that risk," Ken Cohen, Exxon's government affairs chief, said in an interview. "But given the essential role that energy plays in everyone's lives, those steps need to be taken in context with other realities we face, including lifting much of the world's population out of poverty."

Natasha Lamb, director of equity research at Arjuna Capital, a sustainable wealth management group that filed the shareholder resolution with Exxon, called Exxon's report a "milestone." "It's a huge first step in the right direction and it shows a lot of leadership," she said.

Arjuna and As You Sow, a nonprofit that promotes environmental corporate responsibility, agreed to withdraw their resolution after Exxon agreed to issue a report on climate risks.

But Lamb said she was disappointed that Exxon declined to explain what would happen if society did in fact adopt policies that would lead to sharply lower emissions, something known broadly as a low-carbon standard.

"The question is not whether or not we'll face the low carbon standard, but whether



they are prepared to address it. We need to know what's at stake," she said. "But at least now investors know that Exxon is not addressing the low carbon scenario and (is) placing investor capital at risk."

Exxon and the environmental groups agree that climate change is a risk and that society will take steps to reduce emissions from fossil fuels to slow the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. They differ, however, on how drastic society's response could be, and what would cost more severely restricting fossil fuel consumption or not doing so and allowing more carbon dioxide to build in the atmosphere.

Exxon, along with other private and government energy researchers, believes that demand for fossil fuels will continue to grow around the world as more people demand access to electricity, heat, and transportation. Exxon predicts that carbon dioxide emissions from energy sources will peak by about 2030 and then begin to decline as society becomes more efficient and switches to lower-carbon fuels.

The Irving, Texas-based company's report notes that its emissions predictions track closely with the IPCC's "intermediate" scenario considered in its last report.

Exxon says that renewable energy sources are not now cheap enough nor technologically advanced enough to meet growing demand for energy, let alone also replace oil and gas. Governments therefore face a choice between restricting access to energy or raising the cost of energy significantly. In Exxon's view, governments will chose to raise the cost of fossil fuels to encourage alternatives somewhat, but stop well short of enacting policies that will sharply curtail consumption, especially in developing countries, because populations would resist and social upheaval would result.

Arjuna Capital's Lamb disagrees. "There's greater risk of social upheaval from climate change itself," Arjuna Capital's Lamb says. "[Exxon's report] ignores the cost of inaction."

Lamb points to some of the conclusions in the latest IPCC report, which says climate change will worsen problems that society already has, such as poverty, sickness, violence and displacement.

The report also says climate change will slow down the benefits of a modernising society, such as regular economic growth and more efficient crop production exactly the types of things that Exxon argues are delivered now only by relatively cheap and available fossil fuels.

Last Updated on Thursday, 03 April 2014 16:05

['Extreme levels' of Roundup are the norm in GMO soya](#) 

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 03 April 2014 06:31

**BY Thomas Bøhn and Marek Cuhra**

Source Article [Here](#)



Crop dusting near Ripley, Mississippi, USA. Roger Smith via Flickr.com.

**MRL values appear to have been adjusted, not based on new scientific evidence, but in response to actual observed increases in the content of residues in GM soybeans.**

To accommodate high levels of Roundup residues in GM soya, limits were raised 200-fold – with no scientific justification and ignoring growing evidence of toxicity. What Monsanto calls 'extreme levels' are now the norm – but only in GM crops.

## [Fair Elections Act: Sheila Fraser Slams Bill C-23 As Attack On Democracy](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 03 April 2014 08:10

CP | By Joan Bryden, The Canadian Press

Posted: 04/03/2014 4:00 am EDT | Updated: 04/03/2014 8:59 am EDT

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/04/03/sheila-fraser-fair-elections-act\\_n\\_5081865.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/04/03/sheila-fraser-fair-elections-act_n_5081865.html)



## THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - Sheila Fraser, the former auditor general who became a virtual folk hero for exposing the sponsorship scandal, is training her sights on what she sees as a new abuse by the federal government: its controversial overhaul of Canada's election laws.

Fraser, who co-chairs an advisory board created by chief electoral officer Marc Mayrand last fall, told The Canadian Press she believes Bill C-23, if allowed to pass without significant amendments, would constitute an attack on Canada's democracy.

Among other things, the proposed legislation would disenfranchise thousands of voters, undercut the independence of the chief electoral watchdog, impede investigations into wrongdoing, give a financial advantage to rich, established parties and undermine Canadians' faith in the electoral system, she said.

And she urged Canadians to speak up against the sweeping bill.

"Elections are the base of our democracy and if we do not have truly a fair electoral process and one that can be managed well by a truly independent body, it really is an attack on our democracy and we should all be concerned about that," Fraser said in an interview.

"When you look at the people who may not be able to vote, when you look at the limitations that are being put on the chief electoral officer, when you see the difficulties, just the operational difficulties that are going to be created in all this, I think it's going to be very difficult to have a fair, a truly fair, election."

The Harper government has so far been impervious to the near-universal condemnation of the bill by federal and provincial elections watchdogs, academics and electoral

experts at home and abroad.

On Wednesday, Democratic Reform Minister Pierre Poilievre said the bill is "terrific" just the way it is. Other Conservatives brushed off critics as ill-informed, resistant to change or downright hysterical.

But Prime Minister Stephen Harper may find it harder to shrug off Fraser's scathing critique. As Opposition leader, he was one of her most ardent fans 10 years ago when she concluded that civil servants "broke just about every rule in the book" in administering the Chretien government's sponsorship program.

"Her competence and her courage have shone a bright light on the mismanagement, incompetence and corruption that this Liberal government has been trying to hide for more than a decade," Harper said in a 2004 speech, referring to Fraser as "the mother of all accountants" and praising her for not pulling any punches.

"(She) did not say that she thought that something smelled fishy. She identified the fish."

Fraser is equally blunt about the fishy smell she believes is emanating from the so-called Fair Elections Act.

She said it appears to be motivated by a desire to rein in Elections Canada, which has been a thorn in the side of the Conservatives.

The independent agency nailed the Conservative party for the illegal in-and-out scheme used to exceed its spending limit in the 2006 election, exposed illegal over-spending by former cabinet minister Peter Penashue, has charged Harper's one-time parliamentary secretary Dean Del Mastro with filing a false campaign return and failing to report campaign expenses, and is still investigating complaints about robocalls that misdirected primarily non-Conservative voters to the wrong polling stations in the 2011 election.

Fraser pointed to the bill's proposal to hive off the elections commissioner, who investigates alleged wrongdoing and enforces elections laws, from Elections Canada, thereby separating the regulation and enforcement functions of the agency and making it more difficult for investigators to tap the expertise of elections officials. She also noted that the bill fails to give the commissioner the power to compel witness testimony.

"Those provisions say to me that this is really a bit of an attack on Elections Canada and I find that really unfortunate because I really do believe Mr. Mayrand has done his job with great integrity, has certainly not shown the bias that some would like to claim he has and I just think it's really terrible the way he's been treated by government."

As a former independent officer of Parliament, Fraser is particularly troubled by the limitations the bill would impose on the chief electoral officer's independence. Among other things, it would prohibit him from communicating with Canadians on anything but the mechanics of how, when and where to vote and it would prohibit the elections

commissioner from talking about investigations.

"Independent officers of Parliament and the government is now restricting what they can say? It's just so inappropriate," she said.

The bill would also require the chief electoral officer to seek prior Treasury Board approval to enter into contracts with people with specialized or technical knowledge — including the advisory board which Fraser now co-chairs.

"It's just offensive that the chief electoral officer can not have an advisory group without having to get approval from ministers. It's just astounding to me."

Not only that, she said it could create "operational headaches" if Elections Canada must get prior approval to hire the thousands of temporary specialists and elections officials needed to run an election.

It's crucial to the credibility of Elections Canada that the chief electoral officer have the independence to say and do what he feels necessary to ensure the integrity of the electoral system, Fraser argued.

"Not only for Elections Canada but for all the agents of Parliament, the credibility of what these agents do is really based upon their independence and that they are viewed by the public as being objective, that they base their rulings, opinions, whatever they may do based on fact, that they run, in the case of Elections Canada, a fair elections process.

"And if that independence from government is attacked or is viewed as not being there, I really think those institutions lose the credibility and the respect that they have from the public. And then if people start to doubt about the elections process, where does that leave us in this country?"

The former auditor general is also troubled by a provision that would allow political parties to exempt from their campaign spending limits any money spent to raise funds from people who've donated at least \$20 over the previous five years. She said that amounts to a giant loophole that would allow well-established parties to spend untold millions more during campaigns but would be "unfair" to new parties, which have no history of past donors.

Moreover, she questioned how pitches for donations can be distinguished from pitches for support and how Elections Canada could monitor and verify that the exemption was not being abused, given that the bill does not give the agency the power to audit party books or demand to see their records, invoices or receipts — a power successive chief electoral officers have long sought.

"There's such a fuss being made about lunch money and what (politicians) spend for travel and (yet) the political parties get more than \$30 million (in rebates and tax credits) and there's no real accounting back," Fraser said.

"In this era when everybody's talking about increased transparency and accountability,

why would they not be subject to some kind of audit?"

Last Updated on Thursday, 03 April 2014 16:02

## [U. S. built secret 'Cuban Twitter' to stir unrest - AP](#)



[Peace News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 03 April 2014 14:15

**WASHINGTON Thu Apr 3, 2014 4:56pm BST** WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A U.S. agency created a 'Cuban Twitter' to undermine Cuba's communist government and get around its strict Internet prohibitions, using secret shell companies financed through foreign [banks](#), The Associated Press reported on Thursday. The two-year project drew 40,000 users who did not know the communications network was devised by a U.S. agency and designed to push them toward political dissent, according to the AP. They also did not know their personal information was being gathered. The report identified the U.S. Agency for International Development, which delivers aid to the world's poor, as being behind the project. by REUTERS

by Reuters <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/04/03/uk-usa-cuba-twitter-idUKBREA321F720140403#comments> WASHINGTON Thu Apr 3, 2014

The communications network was called "ZunZuneo," Cuban slang for a hummingbird's tweet, and the AP said its goal was to build an audience of young users.

The plan for the social network was to draw in a certain number of users with messages on sports, music, weather and other noncontroversial topics. Then the operators would introduce political content to try to inspire spontaneous demonstrations, the AP reported. One USAID document cited by the AP said the goal was to "renegotiate the balance of power between the state and society."

It was not clear if the program was illegal. USAID spokesman Matt Herrick told AP that U.S. congressional investigators reviewed their programs last year and found them to be legal.

USAID did not immediately return requests for comment from Reuters.

Interviews and more than 1,000 pages of documents obtained by the AP showed USAID was careful to hide Washington's ties to the project, the report said. It used companies in Spain and the Cayman Islands to conceal the money trail.

"There will be absolutely no mention of United States government involvement," read a 2010 memo

from Mobile Accord Inc., one of the project's creators, published by AP. "This is absolutely crucial for the long-term success of the service and to ensure the success of the Mission."

ZunZuneo began shortly after Cuba's arrest of American contractor Alan Gross, 63, in [Cuba](#) in December 2009, the AP said. Gross was sentenced to 15 years in prison for installing Internet networks under a secretive U.S. programme the Cuban government considers subversive.

USAID said ZunZuneo ended in September 2012, the AP reported.

(Writing by [Doina Chiacu](#); Editing by [Bill Trott](#) and [David Gregorio](#))

## RESPONSE FROM THE CUBAN MISSION AT THE UNITED nATIONS

### PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THE UNITED STATES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(Thursday, April 4, 2014. 22:30 hrs.)

The information contained in the article published by the U.S. news agency AP confirms the repeated denunciations made by the government of Cuba. It is once again demonstrated that the government of the United States has not given up on its subversive plans against Cuba, which seek to create destabilizing situations in the country in order to provoke changes in our political order, to which the government of the United States continues to dedicate budgets of millions of dollars every year.

The government of the United States must respect International Law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and it must, therefore, cease on its illegal and covert actions against Cuba, which are rejected by the Cuban people and the international public opinion.

### NOTA DE PRENSA. DECLARACIÓN DE LA DIRECTORA GENERAL DE ESTADOS UNIDOS DEL MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES.

(Jueves 3.04.2014. 22:30 hrs.)

La información contenida en el artículo de la agencia norteamericana AP confirma las reiteradas denuncias del gobierno cubano. Se demuestra una vez más que el Gobierno de Estados Unidos no ha renunciado a sus planes subversivos contra Cuba, que tienen como propósito crear situaciones de desestabilización en el país para provocar cambios en nuestro ordenamiento político y a lo cual continúa dedicando presupuestos multimillonarios cada año.

El Gobierno de Estados Unidos debe respetar el Derecho Internacional y los propósitos y principios de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y, por tanto, cesar sus acciones ilegales y encubiertas contra Cuba, que son rechazadas por el pueblo cubano y la opinión pública internacional.

*Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations*

*Address: 315 Lexington Avenue*

*New York, NY 10016*

*Teléfono:  [\(212\) 689.7215 ext 340](tel:(212)689.7215)*

*Fax :  [\(212\) 689.9073](tel:(212)689.9073)*

<http://www.cubadiplomatica.cu/onu/ES/CUBAONU.aspx>

COMMENT BY Joan Russow in Reuters Report on the AP story

[http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/04/03/uk-usa-cuba-twitter-Global Compliance Research Project](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/04/03/uk-usa-cuba-twitter-Global%20Compliance%20Research%20Project)

What is needed is the following:

Draft Declaration Countering the Destabilization of Member States of the United Nations

AWARE THAT the foreign state or states call for the reestablishment of democracy, in the targeted state, after years of oppression;

COGNIZANT of the fact that there has been evidence over the years of powerful states or a powerful Coalition of states engaging in activities which have either led to a coup d`Etat or to "regime change" in a targeted state;

AWARE ALSO that tactics have been used by foreign states to propose that producers, in a target state, increase inventories and export goods in order to create a scarcity of goods;

NOTING THAT foreign governments will seek out foreign-educated opponents of the government and the opposition party leader, in targeted states and work with them to organize rallies and instigate conflict

CONCERNED THAT strategies have been used by foreign states to dismantle infrastructure, particularly energy systems of the targeted state so that the citizens will blame the government for negligence and inefficiency;

CONCERNED ALSO THAT government-funded NGOs will be inserted into the targeted state to declare that the targeted state is denying freedom of speech and of the press and cite the 1994 Declaration of Chapultepec, and to instil fear of the elected or the to be elected government;

DISMAYED THAT States have used Aid organizations to attempt to destabilize, through social media, a target state

We affirm that any state that attempts to destabilize another state will be taken to



the International Court of Justice under chapter VI Art. 33 of the Charter of the United Nations

(Inspired by Wikileaks' leaked document about destabilization in Venezuela, by La Prensa Grafica in El Salvador and by the above Article about Cuba.)

Last Updated on Friday, 04 April 2014 17:53

220 readings

## [Moving towards a Global ban on Genetically engineered food and crops](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 04 April 2014 07:46

### **Countries & Regions With GE Food/Crop Bans**

From GENET, the European NGO Network on Genetic Engineering ([genetnl@xs4all.be](mailto:genetnl@xs4all.be)):

With its new GE free Newsletter GENET will inform about the worldwide increasing activities of citizen groups that call for GE free zones and try to convince their municipalities, governments or private companies to ensure a GE free status of a distinct region or certain commodities. The aim of this grassroots movement is not to work as an isolated group but to establish a worldwide network of like-minded organizations and to steadily increase and connect GE free zones.

Below you will find a short summary on different regions which have declared to be GE free by banning some or all GE crops from their territory. This list is by far not complete nor can we provide all respective official documents related to GE free zones. If you know more GE free zones, have relevant articles or even can supply us with copies of official documents, do not hesitate to contact GENET at [genetnl@xs4all.be](mailto:genetnl@xs4all.be).

Yours,  
Hartmut Meyer

## **EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

The recently adopted revised EU regulation 90/220 on deliberate release does not contain direct provisions to enable Member States to declare GE free zones. A respective amendment introduced by the Parliament to give national authorities the unqualified power to take action to protect environmentally sensitive areas was lost. The safeguard clause on health and environmental protection derived from the EU Treaty, known in the existing 90/220 as Article 16, still exists as a mechanism for national protection but is intended to be only a short-term measure pending arbitration at EU level. In practice this Article has been invoked so far by six member states without any enforcement measures being taken by the Commission to repeal the bans.

**Italy:** The four regions Tuscany, Molise, Lazio and Marche and around 25 provinces, cities and communes banned GE crops, including Rome, Milan, Turin, Brescia and Genoa. These are all democratically-taken decisions in local or regional councils and in the case of Tuscany, the result has been ratified by the national government - the decision means that regional governments have been given the authority under Italian law to overturn decisions taken at EU level.

**Austria:** Bans on three GE maize (Novartis, Monsanto and AgrEvo), the Federal Institute for Less-Favoured and Mountainous Areas is pressing for GM free legislation and published a study on GE-free zones, initiatives in the States of Vorarlberg and Salzburg to ban GE trials.

**France:** ban of PGS and AgrEvo HR rapeseed

**Germany:** Ban of Novartis Bt maize. The initiative "No GE on communal land" of BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) launched activities in several German communities to discuss and vote on the GE-free resolutions. Application are launched in: Bad Vilbel, Blauenstein, Lahr, Konstanz, Hannover, Hamburg. Application are accepted in: M,nchen, Reutlingen, Freidrichsdorf, Blomberg, Seligenstadt, Niddatal, Maintal, Riedstadt, Adendorf, Schwebheim, Pinneberg, Schwabach, Langenhagen, Wyhe, Burgdorf, Neetze, District Traunstein. Several protestant regional church organisations: banned GE crops from their land: Hannover, Hessen und Nassau, Sachsen, Protestant Church of Westfalen, Protestant Church in Berlin-Brandenburg, Church Province of Sachsen.

**Luxembourg:** Ban of Novartis Bt maize.

**Portugal:** Ban of Novartis Bt maize.

**Greece:** Ban of AgrEvo HR rapeseed, moratorium of GE crop trials.

**Spain:** The Basque Government went for a five year blanket moratorium for GMOs. The Basque Government claims full powers for agricultural policy and thus that they can provisionally ban GMOs if they so wish. The three provinces of Castilla-La Mancha and Baleares banned GE food, Andalucía declared a five year moratorium on GE crop trials and GE food.

**UK:** The Church of England has refused permission for GE crop trials on 60,000 hectares of its land, dozens of local authorities supply GE free school lunches, the House of Commons banned GE foods for its catering. The vote of the Welsh Assembly to keep Wales GE free was counteracted by the ministry of Agriculture approving a GE maize variety. The Island of Jersey banned GE crops.

## **OTHERS**

**Switzerland:** Although a center of GE science and industry, only two trials with GE potatoes in 1991/92 have been performed until now.

**Norway:** Banned the import of several GE crops and products which contain antibiotic resistance genes.

**Australia:** The State of Tasmania banned GE rapeseed as weed, Western Australia has banned commercial GE planting. Australian States are given the right to declare themselves GE free. Some communities (e.g. Bondi/Sydney, West Wimmera Shire) declared themselves GE free.

**New Zealand:** Some local bodies in Auckland and Wellington have declared themselves GM free. Trials with GE salmon have been blocked by the government.

**Thailand:** Banned imports of 40 GE crops for commercial planting, but not for research purposes.

**Philippines:** The community of Valencia called for a five-year moratoria on GE food and GE crop trials and commercialization. The Philippine president announced a moratorium on GE crop research.

**Saudi Arabia:** Banned food that are made from GMOs and declared not to import GE wheat.

**Egypt:** Declared not to import GE wheat.

**Algeria:** Banned the import, distribution, commercialisation and utilization

of GE plants except for research purposes.

**Brazil:** Planting GE seeds is prohibited by federal law in Brazil for the time being, the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Mato Grosso do Sul have declared their intentions to remain GM-free, 18 States called upon the Central government to block commercial GE crop planting.

**Paraguay:** The Ministry of Agriculture plans to ban GE crops from commercial planting.

**USA:** Various bills calling for moratoria on GE food (Vermont), bans of GE wheat (North Dakota, Montana) have been filed within the last year. Several municipalities declared moratoria on GE food (Burlington/Vermont), bans of GE crops (City of Boulder/Colorado), or urged the federal government to ban GE food (City and County of San Francisco/California). Many attempts to adopt such bills or resolutions failed in the past.

GENET will update the situation in the USA in a subsequent GE-free Newsletter.

[N.B.: At this point nearly 20 states (the count was 16 6 months ago) are discussing GMO-related legislation, including moratorium bills in New York, Massachusetts and several others.]

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COMMENT (Joan Russow)

The precautionary principle should be invoked, a global ban on Genetically engineered food and crops instituted, the charters of Monsanto et Al, revoked, and they should be charged with gross. criminal negligence

<http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/the-un-general-assembly-institute-a-global-ban-on-genetically-engineered-food-and-crops>

I first found out about Genetically engineered food and crops in 1997 when I attended a presentation by Dr John Fagan. After his talk I said the precautionary principle should be invoked and genetically engineered food and crops, banned. He said no they should be labeled. IN 1998, I found out from the Canadian Agricultural department, that Dr John Fagan had invented a technique for distinguishing between GMOS and non GMOs. I realized that he would benefit from labeling but not banning . I gather that his technique is used to support the non-GMO labeling process, which is leading to the absurd proposal of co-existence. In 1999, I attended the Biodeviation Conference II organized by Vandana Shiva. At this Conference, all but one of the participants signed a Global declaration calling for a ban.

With Nnimmo Bassey from Nigeria, I have been circulating a global petition to call for a outright global ban.

<http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/the-un-general-assembly-institute-a-global-ban-on-genetically-engineered-food-and-crops>

Last Updated on Friday, 04 April 2014 17:49

## [Indigenous Mayans Ban Monsanto - So Why Can't the US and Europe Do the Same?](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 06 April 2014 04:50

**April 5, 2014 By [21wire](#)**

**by [21st Century Wire](#)**

<http://21stcenturywire.com/2014/04/05/indigenous-mayans-ban-monsanto-so-why-cant-the-us-and-europe-do-the-same/>



Residents of this relatively poor Campeche region of Mexico have kicked out GMO

'gene giant' **Monsanto Corp**, located in the southwestern portion of the Yucatán Peninsula, have a set of *cojones* which have long since become extinct in the US and Europe.

How did they do it? The [Latin American Bureau](#) explains:

“The contemporary Mayan heirs of great millennial civilizations are the pivotal inhabitants of this land and everywhere match the state’s rich biodiversity. The great transnational corporation Monsanto just learned this the hard way. A company fabricated out of thin air; based essentially on bits of paper filed somewhere in a secretary of state office in the U.S. less than a half generation ago; this fictive entity that is now considered a person by the delusional Supremes just found out what it is like to go up against a bunch of deep rooted angry Indians [sic]. Why the anger? Essentially, because **Native beekeepers** are against the presence of GMOs of any kind in the pollen that bee populations are exposed to.”



*CORPORATE SOCK PUPPETS CLUELESS: “What about GMOs? Look, we bought General Motors already.”*

Back at home, things are more pathetic by an order of magnitude, where the corruption has been cemented within government institutions through share holding, promises of boardroom positions, perks and other bribes. Washington, London and Brussels have failed to protect the public interest regarding food security and generational health while acting like Banana Republics themselves - only with a lot more

bling, more concrete and flexing its corporate media muscle to brainwash its own populations. But ‘relax’ we are told, “*We have freedom and democracy, we aren’ t corrupt*” .

Time to learn a trick from the Mayans who, unlike western legion of nanny-states, have some clue who they are, *and what it means to live...*



*IMAGE credit at [LAB.org.uk](http://LAB.org.uk)*

### [Natural Health Warriors](#)

**Mayans of the Campeche Region [have just won](#) a two-year legal battle to get rid of Monsanto and their GMO soybeans (suicide beans). Following the ban of GM maize in Mexico, this ancient and agriculturally savvy culture has [won a major battle](#) against biotech monopolies around the globe.**

The Second District Court ruled in favor of three Mayan communities from the Hopelchén township who dared to take on the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock , Rural Development, Fisheries and Food ( Sagarpa) and the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources ( SEMARNAT).

This means that Saragapa now must make a concerted effort to be sure that no GM soybeans are planted throughout Pachen and Cancabchen communities in Hopelchén. Just two years ago, the same agency allowed Monsanto’s RoundUp Ready GMO soybeans to be planted in the region – infecting more than 253,000 hectares with suicide seeds that cause human infertility and poison the environment.

Seven states were under Monsanto’s reign – free then to plant their GM seeds wherever they liked within those borders, including the municipalities of: Campeche, Hopelchén , Tenabo , Calkiní , Escárcega, Carmen and Palisade.

In just a few of these places, the authorities were angry that the government had given Monsanto authorization, and they decided to fight the ruling. Campeche beekeepers were especially upset since this would affect bee-keeping negatively in the region. They called Monsanto’s influence, ‘pollution of production,’ resulting in loss of income and closing of markets for many bee keepers with international contracts.

After two years of litigation, and arguing that the planting of GM soybeans was in direct opposition of traditional beekeeping practices, AND that it was in violation of



their right to a healthy environment – pointing out that increased use of herbicides and deforestation were both outcomes of GM planting – the Mayans won their case. These small indigenous communities have taken on the multi-billion-dollar biotech and Big Ag companies and won. They are an example to us all.

Original Source: [naturalsociety.com](http://naturalsociety.com)

Join the next March Against Monsanto on May 24th in your area: <http://bit.ly/lgCpTgf>

## [Bolivia Gives Legal Rights To The Earth.](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 05 April 2014 17:58

By NaturalHealthWarriors

<http://naturalhealthwarriors.com/bolivia-gives-legal-rights-to-the-earth/sthash.bB9XeKXj.dpuf>

February 23, 2014



Law of Mother Earth sees Bolivia pilot new social and economic model based on protection of and respect for nature. Bolivia is to become the first country in the world to give nature comprehensive legal rights in an effort to halt climate change and the exploitation of the natural world, and to improve quality of life for the Bolivian people. Developed by grassroots social groups and agreed by politicians, the Law of Mother Earth recognises the rights of all living things, giving the natural world equal status to human beings. Once fully approved, the legislation will provide the Earth with rights to: life and regeneration; biodiversity and freedom from genetic modification; pure water; clean air; naturally balanced systems; restoration from the effects of human

activity; and freedom from contamination -

The legislation is based on broader principles of living in harmony with the Earth and prioritising the “collective good.” At its heart is an understanding that the Earth is sacred, which arises from the indigenous Andean worldview of ‘Pachamama’ (meaning Mother Earth) as a living being. An initial act outlining the rights – which was passed by Bolivia’s national congress in December 2010 and paves the way for the full legislation – defines Mother Earth as a dynamic and “indivisible community of all living systems and living organisms, interrelated, interdependent and complementary, which share a common destiny.” Bolivia’s government will be legally bound to prioritise the wellbeing of its citizens and the natural world by developing policies that promote sustainability and control industry.

The economy must operate within the limits of nature and the country is to work towards energy and food sovereignty while adopting renewable energy technologies and increasing energy efficiency. Preventing climate change is a key objective of the law, which includes protecting the lives of future generations. The government is requesting that rich countries help Bolivia adapt to the effects of climate change in recognition of the environmental debt they owe for their high carbon emissions. Bolivia is “particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change,” according to an Oxfam report in 2009, with increasing drought, melting glaciers and flooding.

On the international stage, the government will have a legal duty to promote the uptake of rights for Mother Earth, while also advocating peace and the elimination of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Following a change in Bolivia’s constitution in 2009, the law is part of a complete overhaul of the legal system. It represents a shift away from the western development model to a more holistic vision, based on the indigenous concept of Vivir Bien (to live well). The proposal for the law states: “Living Well means adopting forms of consumption, behaviour and and conduct that are not degrading to nature. It requires an ethical and spiritual relationship with life. Living Well proposes the complete fulfilment of life and collective happiness.” Unity Pact, an umbrella group for five Bolivian social movements, prepared the draft law. They represent over 3m people and all of the country’s 36 indigenous groups, the majority of whom are smallscale farmers with many still living on their ancestral lands. The bill protects their livelihoods and diverse cultures from the impacts of industry.

Undarico Pinto, a leader of the social movement Confederación Sindical Única de Trabajadores Campesinos de Bolivia, said: “It will make industry more transparent. It will allow people to regulate industry at national, regional and local levels.” Signifying a fundamental shift away from exploitation of nature, the draft law refers to mineral resources as “blessings” and states that Mother Earth, “is sacred, fertile and the source of life that feeds and cares for all living beings in her womb. She is in permanent balance, harmony and communication with the cosmos.” A Ministry of Mother Earth is to be established to promote the new rights and ensure they are complied with. But with its economy currently dependent on exports of natural resources, earning nearly a third of its foreign currency – around £300m a year – from mining companies, Bolivia will need to balance its new obligations against the demands of industry. Bolivia Rain forest The full law is expected to pass within the next few months and is unlikely to face any significant opposition because the ruling party, the Movement Towards Socialism, has a considerable majority in parliament. Its leader, President Evo Morales, voiced a commitment to the initiative at the World

People's Conference on Climate change, held in Bolivia in April 2010.

The Law of Mother Earth includes the following: The right to maintain the integrity of life and natural processes. The right to not have cellular structure modified or genetically altered. The right to continue vital cycles and processes free from human alteration. The right to pure water. The right to clean air. The right to balance, to be at equilibrium. The right to be free of toxic and radioactive pollution. The right to not be affected by mega-infrastructure and development projects that affect the balance of ecosystems and the local inhabitant communities. The law also promotes "harmony" and "peace" and "the elimination of all nuclear, chemical, biological" weapons. - See more at: <http://naturalhealthwarriors.com/bolivia-gives-legal-rights-to-the-earth/sthash.bB9XeKXj.dpuf#sthash.r7duszrF.dpuf>

Last Updated on Saturday, 05 April 2014 18:05

## [Moving towards a Global ban on Genetically engineered food and crops](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 04 April 2014 07:46

### **Countries & Regions With GE Food/Crop Bans**

From GENET, the European NGO Network on Genetic Engineering ([genetnl@xs4all.be](mailto:genetnl@xs4all.be)):

With its new GE free Newsletter GENET will inform about the worldwide increasing activities of citizen groups that call for GE free zones and try to convince their municipalities, governments or private companies to ensure a GE free status of a distinct region or certain commodities. The aim of this grassroots movement is not to work as an isolated group but to establish a worldwide network of like-minded organizations and to steadily increase and connect GE free zones.

Below you will find a short summary on different regions which have declared to be GE free by banning some or all GE crops from their territory. This list is by far not complete nor can we provide all respective official documents related to GE free zones. If you know more GE free zones, have relevant articles or even can supply us with copies of official documents, do not hesitate to contact GENET at [genetnl@xs4all.be](mailto:genetnl@xs4all.be).

Yours,  
Hartmut Meyer

### **EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

The recently adopted revised EU regulation 90/220 on deliberate

release does not contain direct provisions to enable Member States to declare GE free zones. A respective amendment introduced by the Parliament to give national authorities the unqualified power to take action to protect environmentally sensitive areas was lost. The safeguard clause on health and environmental protection derived from the EU Treaty, known in the existing 90/220 as Article 16, still exists as a mechanism for national protection but is intended to be only a short-term measure pending arbitration at EU level. In practice this Article has been invoked so far by six member states without any enforcement measures being taken by the Commission to repeal the bans.

**Italy:** The four regions Tuscany, Molise, Lazio and Marche and around 25 provinces, cities and communes banned GE crops, including Rome, Milan, Turin, Brescia and Genoa. These are all democratically-taken decisions in local or regional councils and in the case of Tuscany, the result has been ratified by the national government - the decision means that regional governments have been given the authority under Italian law to overturn decisions taken at EU level.

**Austria:** Bans on three GE maize (Novartis, Monsanto and AgrEvo), the Federal Institute for Less-Favoured and Mountainous Areas is pressing for GM free legislation and published a study on GE-free zones, initiatives in the States of Vorarlberg and Salzburg to ban GE trials.

**France:** ban of PGS and AgrEvo HR rapeseed

**Germany:** Ban of Novartis Bt maize. The initiative "No GE on communal land" of BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) launched activities in several German communities to discuss and vote on the GE-free resolutions. Application are launched in: Bad Vilbel, Blauenstein, Lahr, Konstanz, Hannover, Hamburg. Application are accepted in: M, nchen, Reutlingen, Freidrichsdorf, Blomberg, Seligenstadt, Niddatal, Maintal, Riedstadt, Adendorf, Schwebheim, Pinneberg, Schwabach, Langenhagen, Wyhe, Burgdorf, Neetze, District Traunstein. Several protestant regional church organisations: banned GE crops from their land: Hannover, Hessen und Nassau, Sachsen, Protestant Church of Westfalen, Protestant Church in Berlin-Brandenburg, Church Province of Sachsen.

**Luxembourg:** Ban of Novartis Bt maize.

**Portugal:** Ban of Novartis Bt maize.

**Greece:** Ban of AgrEvo HR rapeseed, moratorium of GE crop trials.

**Spain:** The Basque Government went for a five year blanket

moratorium for GMOs. The Basque Government claims full powers for agricultural policy and thus that they can provisionally ban GMOs if they so wish. The three provinces of Castilla-La Mancha and Baleares banned GE food, Andalucía declared a five year moratorium on GE crop trials and GE food.

**UK:** The Church of England has refused permission for GE crop trials on 60,000 hectares of its land, dozens of local authorities supply GE free school lunches, the House of Commons banned GE foods for its catering. The vote of the Welsh Assembly to keep Wales GE free was counteracted by the ministry of Agriculture approving a GE maize variety. The Island of Jersey banned GE crops.

## **OTHERS**

**Switzerland:** Although a center of GE science and industry, only two trials with GE potatoes in 1991/92 have been performed until now.

**Norway:** Banned the import of several GE crops and products which contain antibiotic resistance genes.

**Australia:** The State of Tasmania banned GE rapeseed as weed, Western Australia has banned commercial GE planting. Australian States are given the right to declare themselves GE free. Some communities (e.g. Bondi/Sydney, West Wimmera Shire) declared themselves GE free.

**New Zealand:** Some local bodies in Auckland and Wellington have declared themselves GM free. Trials with GE salmon have been blocked by the government.

**Thailand:** Banned imports of 40 GE crops for commercial planting, but not for research purposes.

**Philippines:** The community of Valencia called for a five-year moratoria on GE food and GE crop trials and commercialization. The Philippine president announced a moratorium on GE crop research.

**Saudi Arabia:** Banned food that are made from GMOs and declared not to import GE wheat.

**Egypt:** Declared not to import GE wheat.

**Algeria:** Banned the import, distribution, commercialisation and utilization of GE plants except for research purposes.

**Brazil:** Planting GE seeds is prohibited by federal law in Brazil

for the time being, the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Mato Grosso do Sul have declared their intentions to remain GM-free, 18 States called upon the Central government to block commercial GE crop planting.

**Paraguay:** The Ministry of Agriculture plans to ban GE crops from commercial planting.

**USA:** Various bills calling for moratoria on GE food (Vermont), bans of GE wheat (North Dakota, Montana) have been filed within the last year. Several municipalities declared moratoria on GE food (Burlington/Vermont), bans of GE crops (City of Boulder/Colorado), or urged the federal government to ban GE food (City and County of San Francisco/California). Many attempts to adopt such bills or resolutions failed in the past.

GENET will update the situation in the USA in a subsequent GE-free Newsletter.

[N.B.: At this point nearly 20 states (the count was 16 6 months ago) are discussing GMO-related legislation, including moratorium bills in New York, Massachusetts and several others.]

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COMMENT (Joan Russow)

The precautionary principle should be invoked, a global ban on Genetically engineered food and crops instituted, the charters of Monsanto et Al, revoked, and they should be charged with gross. criminal negligence

<http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/the-un-general-assembly-institute-a-global-ban-on-genetically-engineered-food-and-crops>

I first found out about Genetically engineered food and crops in 1997 when I attended a presentation by Dr John Fagan. After his talk I said the precautionary principle should be invoked and genetically engineered food and crops, banned. He said no they should be labeled. IN 1998, I found out from the Canadian Agricultural department, that

Dr John Fagan had invented a technique for distinguishing between GMOS and non GMOs. I realized that he would benefit from labeling but not banning . I gather that his technique is used to support the non-GMO labeling process, which is leading to the absurd proposal of co-existence. In 1999, I attended the Biodevastation Conference II organized by Vandana Shiva. At this Conference, all but one of the participants signed a Global declaration calling for a ban.

With Nnimmo Bassey from Nigeria, I have been circulating a global petition to call for a outright global ban.

<http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/the-un-general-assembly-institute-a-global-ban-on-genetically-engineered-food-and-crops>

Last Updated on Friday, 04 April 2014 17:49

## [Open Letter to Darth Vader](#)



Posted by Dragonslayer

Wednesday, 14 May 2014 12:23

Hi Mr Vader,

I realize you are very busy with the Empire business and all that, but it seems there is some upstart in Syria called Bashar Assad who is trying to upstage you. Perhaps you might want to remove that competitive upstart problem.

Thank you in advance,

Dragonslayer

Last Updated on Wednesday, 14 May 2014 12:36

# **BILL 24; FOR NUMEROUS REASONS THE ALR SHOULD BE EXPANDED NOT REDUCED.**



**Earth News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Wednesday, 14 May 2014 07:17

## **SUBMISSION ON BILL 24: THE AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION ACT**

Joan Russow PhD

Global Compliance Research Project

Premier Clark fails to recognize that reducing the land base in the ALR will impact on the BC policies related to ``putting families first`` and related to ``protecting farm land and farming families``. The BC government`s proposal of reducing farm land in the ALR is out of sync with embracing the important concepts of food security, food sovereignty, precautionary principle and the rights of future generations

## **BILL 24 APPEARS TO CONTRADICT KEY BC GOVERNMENT PRIORTIES**

### **Reducing the ALR does not put ``families first or`` conserve farm land` `and support farming families**

On March 11, 2014 Premier Clarks announced the policy of Putting Families First`` She stated our government has made significant progress on putting families first, and **we will do more.** Surely the ``more`` that she mentioned should have been the expanding of the ALR to ensure that families have the right to an unadulterated, organically grown locally based food supply.

On April 11 2014 ``Premier Christy Clark stated ``The protection of farmland and support for farming families is a priority for this government``. There appears to be a clear disconnect between her stated goals and her proposed policy of reducing the land base of the ALR.

## **BILL 24 WOULD REDUCE FOOD SECURITY WHICH HAS BECOME A MAJOR GLOBAL PRIORITY**

It was with great foresight that the agricultural land reserve was created. More and more citizens want to grow food and buy locally and also establish GE free zones.. Now with lack of foresight on the forty first anniversary of the ALR, the BC government is proposing not an increase but a decrease in food security



The World Food Summit of 1996 defined food security as existing:

“When all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life”. Commonly, the concept of food security is defined as including both physical and economic access to food that meets people's dietary needs as well as their food preferences...

Food security is built on three pillars:

- 
- Food availability: sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis.
- Food access: having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.
- Food use: appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation.

A reservation was also expressed about the impacts of globalization

...Globalization may - or may not - lead to the persistence of food insecurity and poverty in rural communities.

With the increase in support for the 100 mile diet and buying local produce, it is unfortunate that the BC government should cause citizens to possibly be more and more dependent on the importation of food.

## **BILL 24 APPEARS TO SACRIFICE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

La Via campesina defined Food sovereignty as

The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

Food Secure Canada's policy platform, [Resetting the Table: A People's Food Policy for Canada](#), provides a detailed account of what food Sovereignty is

Food Sovereignty

The people's food policy is based on the principles of food sovereignty. Food sovereignty calls for a fundamental shift in focus from food as a commodity to food as a public good. As such it can once again assume its central role in strengthening communities, ecosystems and economies

Food sovereignty was first proposed by La Campesina- the global movement co – founded by the Canadian Farmer's Union at the world food summit in 1996. It has since been defined through an international consensus process:

**The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.**

The language of food sovereignty as distinct from food security in being explicit about food citizenship; it emphasized that people must have a say in how their food is produced and where it comes from. The core of food sovereignty is reclaiming public decision making power in the food system

While the BC government is giving citizens the opportunity to make submissions about Bill 24, the question remains will the government actually listen and address citizens' concerns, and act on the recommendations made by citizens

**BILL 24 IGNORES THE NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its latest report stated the following:

IPCC AR5 2014 WG2

Global warming induced **heat waves, drought,** and flooding constitute a global food security emergency for us all today, to protect our near and long term future food security - the world's top food producing regions of the temperate Northern hemisphere are now global warming & climate change vulnerable.

Without adaptation local temperature increases of 1.0C (global average also 1.0C) above pre-industrial are projected to negatively impact yields for major crops (wheat rice and maize) in tropical and temperate regions.

With or without adaptation, negative impacts on average yields become likely from the 2030s with median yield impacts of 0 to -2% per decade projected for the rest of the century, and after 2050 the risk of more severe impacts increases. These impacts will occur in the context of rising crop demand

Changes in climate are already affecting the sustainability of agricultural systems and disrupting production.

Unless the emissions of GHGs are curbed, changes in temperature, precipitation, and other climate variables will undoubtedly affect agriculture around the world

In 2011 the American Society of Agronomy Crop Science Society of America Soil Science Society of America made the following **Position statement**: <https://www.agronomy.org/files/science-policy/asa-cssa-sssa-climate-change-policy-statement.pdf>

**Position statement** of the American Society of Agronomy Crop Science Society of America Soil Science Society of America.

From their report

**I. Introduction**

A comprehensive body of scientific evidence indicates beyond reasonable doubt that global climate change is now occurring and that its manifestations

threaten the stability of societies as well as natural and managed ecosystems. Increases in ambient temperatures and changes in related processes are directly linked to rising anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere.

The potential related impacts of climate

change on the ability of agricultural systems, which include soil and water resources, to provide food, feed, fiber, and fuel, and maintenance of ecosystem services (e.g., water supply and habitat for crop landraces, wild relatives, and pollinators) as well as the integrity of the environment, are major concerns.

Changes in climate are already affecting the sustainability of agricultural systems and disrupting production. While climate is the average weather conditions in given locations over multiple decades, weather consists of the hourly and day-to-day variations in temperature, precipitation, and other variables. In many places around the world, increased incidence of extreme events such as heat waves, droughts, and floods have been documented.

Although no singular event can be attributed to climate change, collectively recent extreme weather events have had a significant impact on agricultural production. There have been several major weather events in Iowa, the Northern Great Plains, Europe, Australia, and Ukraine that have affected agriculture, for example:

- The 2008 floods in Iowa which affected nearly 10% of corn and soybean acreage, causing over \$1 B in losses to crops, livestock, property, and income;
- back-to-back 100-year floods in the Northern Great Plains during 2009 and 2010;
- extreme heat waves during the summer of 2003 in Europe;
- recent multi-year droughts in Australia that peaked in 2007;
- the 2010 failure of the Ukrainian grain crop;
- and devastating drought in Niger during the summer of 2010.

Agriculture has an important role to play in responding to climate change, both mitigating its causes and adapting to its unavoidable impacts. Agriculture contributes to mitigation through minimizing GHG emissions, sequestering atmospheric carbon... The overall aim of the response to climate change is to ensure food security and other essential human enterprises, while protecting ecosystems

and their vital services.

Since the above report of 2011, the impacts of Climate change have exacerbated

To address the probable outcomes of climate change, the BC government must place more not less land in the Agricultural Land reserve. The future possibility of increase droughts and floods could impact not only on our local food supply but also on the

source of imported food. For this reason there is an ethical imperative to ensure a strong extensive land base for Agriculture and to not facilitate the increased dependence on fossil fuel.

In addition, land that may be perceived now, to be presently unusable for agriculture, could become usable in the future. We are living in the wake of years of corporate/government collusion leading to the destruction of ecosystems and arable land. We are also living in a state of uncertainty and we should proceed with caution invoking the precautionary principle.

#### Bill 24 WOULD UNDERMINE THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

The Canadian government signed and ratified the UN framework convention on Climate Change, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

in addition, both these conventions were endorsed at the BC cabinet level in 1992. (document received through Freedom of Information). Thus BC is bound by the two conventions); thus BC is bound by these conventions.

This precautionary principle is contained In the Convention on Biological Biodiversity, and reads as the following:

where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat

Undoubtedly by removing sections from the ALR will contribute to a loss of biodiversity.

Under Principle 3, of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Changes is the following enunciation of the precautionary principle;

The Parties should take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing such measures,...

Hopefully the BC Government will not agree to fossil fuel projects which will exacerbate climate change and be a threat to food security.

#### **BILL 24 WOULD THREATEN THE RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

Since at least 1972, there has been an internationally established norm related to the rights of future generations;

**Under the article 4 of the 1972 legally binding UN**

# **Convention on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage is the following commitment to future generations**

## **There is the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, preservation and transmission to future generations of cultural and natural heritage**

Under the definition of "Sustainable use" is a link to future generations

"Sustainable use" means the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

And under the preamble of the Convention on biological Diversity is expressed the following affirmation;

Determined to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity for the benefit of present and future generations

In the Preamble of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, is expressed an obligation to present and future generations:

Recalling the provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 44/207 of 22 December 1989, 45/212 of 21 December 1990 and 46/169 of 19 December 1991 on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Determined to protect the climate system for present and future generations

And in Article 3, the following principle is enunciated;

Article 3

### **PRINCIPLES**

In their actions to achieve the objective of the Convention and to implement its provisions, the Parties shall be guided, inter alia, by the following:

1. The Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Accordingly, the developed country

Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

With the proposal to reduce the ALR, BC government`s own commitments seem to

be ignored and the bill is out of sync with the important considerations, principles and directions of the global community. With bill 24 the BC government will be negligent in its defying of the precautionary principle and in its moving towards food insecurity and towards lack of food sovereignty. BILL 24 has also been conceived with little regard for the rights on future generations.

162 readings

## Public Service Announcement Run or Dye 5k Benefits Every Step Counts

**Justice News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Tuesday, 13 May 2014 13:01

### **Public Service Announcement** **Run or Dye 5k Benefits Every Step Counts**

For Release: May 13 to June 28, 2014

The most colourful walk and run on earth is coming to Victoria. Run or Dye is a fun 5k race that will shower you in colour at every kilometer, and give you the chance to coat friends and family alike in the bright shades of summer.

This year Run or Dye benefits the Victoria Cool Aid Society's Every Step Counts program, a local service that helps people struggling with mental health and homelessness make positive choices through fitness and nutrition. The fun happens on June 28<sup>th</sup>, visit [coolaid.org/runordye](http://coolaid.org/runordye) to register.

-30-

**Information:** [www.CoolAid.org/runordye](http://www.CoolAid.org/runordye)      [www.CoolAid.org/esc](http://www.CoolAid.org/esc)

Jess Patterson, Viral Events,  
[\(385\)313-4852](tel:3853134852) or [jess@viralevents.com](mailto:jess@viralevents.com)

Gillie Easdon, Program Coordinator, Every Step Counts  
[250-882-5261](tel:2508825261) or [geasdon@CoolAid.org](mailto:geasdon@CoolAid.org)

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Alan Rycroft, Community Relations  
Victoria Cool Aid Society  
102-749 Pandora Avenue, Victoria BC, V8R 2Z9

250-414-4781, 250-383-1639 fax

[www.CoolAid.org](http://www.CoolAid.org)  
[arycroft@CoolAid.org](mailto:arycroft@CoolAid.org)

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Together we will end homelessness.

## Zombie NATO

Posted by Joan Russow  
Tuesday, 13 May 2014 05:21

by Harvey B. Feigenbaum [rights@agenceglobal.com](mailto:rights@agenceglobal.com)

In the mid 1990s over lunch with a friend in the State Department, he remarked: “We should have dismantled NATO when we had the chance.” That’s not what happened, and we are currently reaping the consequences of the path not taken.

When the Berlin Wall collapsed in 1989 and the atavistic coup in the Soviet Union failed in 1991, NATO lost its mission. The military alliance had been formed to fight the Communist Menace (defence against fascism was never on the agenda). Without Communism, the alliance had no raison d’etre. Implicitly, of course, the mission was not simply about defence but about maintaining American hegemony, yet this was never said out loud, except by leftist critics in Europe—and eventually by Vladimir Putin.

[Read more...](#)

## **The Snowden Saga Begins “I Have Been to the Darkest Corners of Government, and What They Fear Is Light”** **Justice News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*



Tuesday, 13 May 2014 05:15

By [Glenn Greenwald](#)

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/175843/>

[This essay is a shortened and adapted version of Chapter 1 of Glenn Greenwald's new book, [No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA, and the U.S. Security State](#), and appears at [TomDispatch.com](#) with the kind permission of Metropolitan Books.]

On December 1, 2012, I received my first communication from Edward Snowden, although I had no idea at the time that it was from him.

The contact came in the form of an email from someone calling himself Cincinnatus, a reference to Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, the Roman farmer who, in the fifth century BC, was appointed dictator of Rome to defend the city against attack. He is most remembered for what he did after vanquishing Rome's enemies: he immediately and voluntarily gave up political power and returned to farming life. Hailed as a "model of civic virtue," Cincinnatus has become a symbol of the use of political power in the public interest and the worth of limiting or even relinquishing individual power for the greater good.

The email began: "The security of people's communications is very important to me," and its stated purpose was to urge me to begin using PGP encryption so that "Cincinnatus" could communicate things in which, he said, he was certain I would be interested. Invented in 1991, PGP stands for "pretty good privacy." It has been developed into a sophisticated tool to shield email and other forms of online communications from surveillance and hacking.

In this email, "Cincinnatus" said he had searched everywhere for my PGP "public key," a unique code set that allows people to receive encrypted email, but could not find it. From this, he concluded that I was not using the program and told me, "That puts anyone who communicates with you at risk. I'm not arguing that every communication you are involved in be encrypted, but you should at least provide communicants with that option."

"Cincinnatus" then referenced the sex scandal of General David Petraeus, whose career-ending extramarital affair



with journalist Paula Broadwell was discovered when investigators found Google emails between the two. Had Petraeus encrypted his messages before handing them over to Gmail or storing them in his drafts folder, he wrote, investigators would not have been able to read them.

“Encryption matters, and it is not just for spies and philanderers.”

“There are people out there you would like to hear from,” he added, “but they will never be able to contact you without knowing their messages cannot be read in transit.” Then he offered to help me install the program. He signed off: “Thank you. C.”

Using encryption software was something I had long intended to do. I had been writing for years about WikiLeaks, whistleblowers, the hacktivist collective known as Anonymous, and had also communicated with people inside the U.S. national security establishment. Most of them are concerned about the security of their communications and preventing unwanted monitoring. But the program is complicated, especially for someone who had very little skill in programming and computers, like me. So it was one of those things I had never gotten around to doing.

C.’s email did not move me to action. Because I had become known for covering stories the rest of the media often ignores, I frequently hear from all sorts of people offering me a “huge story,” and it usually turns out to be nothing. And at any given moment I am usually working on more stories than I can handle. So I need something concrete to make me drop what I’m doing in order to pursue a new lead.

Three days later, I heard from C. again, asking me to confirm receipt of the first email. This time I replied quickly. “I got this and am going to work on it. I don’t have a PGP code, and don’t know how to do that, but I will try to find someone who can help me.”

C. replied later that day with a clear, step-by-step guide to PGP: Encryption for Dummies, in essence. At the end of the instructions, he said these were just “the barest basics.” If I couldn’t find anyone to walk me through the system, he added, “let me know. I can facilitate contact with people who understand crypto almost anywhere in the world.”

This email ended with more a pointed sign-off:  
“Cryptographically yours, Cincinnatus.”

Despite my intentions, I did nothing, consumed as I was at the time with other stories, and still unconvinced that C. had anything worthwhile to say.

In the face of my inaction, C. stepped up his efforts. He produced a 10-minute video entitled PGP for Journalists.

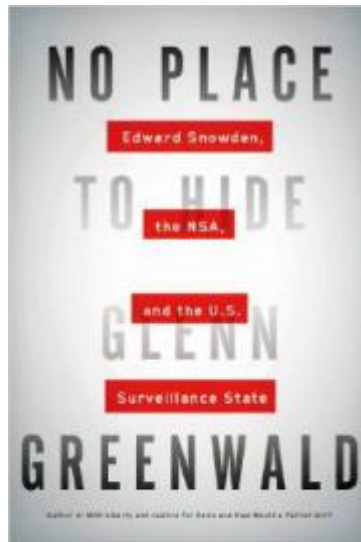
It was at that point that C., as he later told me, became frustrated. “Here am I,” he thought, “ready to risk my liberty, perhaps even my life, to hand this guy thousands of Top Secret documents from the nation’s most secretive agency -- a leak that will produce dozens if not hundreds of huge journalistic scoops. And he can’t even be bothered to install an encryption program.”

That’s how close I came to blowing off one of the largest and most consequential national security leaks in U.S. history.

### “He’s Real”

The next I heard of any of this was 10 weeks later. On April 18th, I flew from my home in Rio de Janeiro to New York, and saw on landing at JFK Airport, that I had an email from Laura Poitras, the documentary filmmaker. “Any chance you’ll be in the U.S. this coming week?” she wrote. “I’d love to touch base about something, though best to do in person.”

I take seriously any message from Laura Poitras. I replied immediately: “Actually, just got to the U.S. this morning... Where are you?” We arranged a meeting for the next day in the lobby at my hotel and found seats in the restaurant. At Laura’s insistence, we moved tables twice before beginning our conversation to be sure that nobody could hear us. Laura then got down to business. She had an “extremely important and sensitive matter” to discuss, she said, and security was critical.



## Buy the book

First, though, Laura asked that I either remove the battery from my cell phone or leave it in my hotel room. “It sounds paranoid,” she said, but the government has the capability to activate cell phones and laptops remotely as eavesdropping devices. I’d heard this before from transparency activists and hackers but tended to write it off as excess caution. After discovering that the battery on my cell phone could not be removed, I took it back to my room, then returned to the restaurant.

Now Laura began to talk. She had received a series of anonymous emails from someone who seemed both honest and serious. He claimed to have access to some extremely secret and incriminating documents about the U.S. government spying on its own citizens and on the rest of the world. He was determined to leak these documents to her and had specifically requested that she work with me on releasing and reporting on them.

Laura then pulled several pages out of her purse from two of the emails sent by the anonymous leaker, and I read them at the table from start to finish. In the second of the emails, the leaker got to the crux of what he viewed as his mission:

The shock of this initial period [after the first revelations] will provide the support needed to build a more equal internet, but this will not work to the advantage of the average person unless science outpaces law. By understanding the mechanisms through which our

privacy is violated, we can win here. We can guarantee for all people equal protection against unreasonable search through universal laws, but only if the technical community is willing to face the threat and commit to implementing over-engineered solutions. In the end, we must enforce a principle whereby the only way the powerful may enjoy privacy is when it is the same kind shared by the ordinary: one enforced by the laws of nature, rather than the policies of man.

“He’s real,” I said when I finished reading. “I can’t explain exactly why, but I just feel intuitively that this is serious, that he’s exactly who he says he is.”

“So do I,” Laura replied. “I have very little doubt.”

I instinctively recognized the author’s political passion. I felt a kinship with our correspondent, with his worldview, and with the sense of urgency that was clearly consuming him.

In one of the last passages, Laura’s correspondent wrote that he was completing the final steps necessary to provide us with the documents. He needed another four to six weeks, and we should wait to hear from him.

Three days later, Laura and I met again, and with another email from the anonymous leaker, in which he explained why he was willing to risk his liberty, to subject himself to the high likelihood of a very lengthy prison term, in order to disclose these documents. Now I was even more convinced: our source was for real, but as I told my partner, David Miranda, on the flight home to Brazil, I was determined to put the whole thing out of my mind. “It may not happen. He could change his mind. He could get caught.” David is a person of powerful intuition, and he was weirdly certain. “It’s real. He’s real. It’s going to happen,” he declared. “And it’s going to be huge.”

### **“I Have Only One Fear”**

A message from Laura told me we needed to speak urgently, but only through OTR (off-the-record) chat, an encrypted instrument for talking online securely.

Her news was startling: we might have to travel to Hong Kong immediately to meet our source. I had assumed that our anonymous source was in Maryland or northern Virginia. What was someone with access to top-secret U.S. government documents doing in Hong Kong? What did Hong Kong have to

do with any of this?

Answers would only come from the source himself. He was upset by the pace of things thus far, and it was critical that I speak to him directly, to assure him and placate his growing concerns. Within an hour, I received an email from Verax@\*\*\*\*\*. Verax means “truth teller” in Latin. The subject line read, “Need to talk.”

“I’ve been working on a major project with a mutual friend of ours,” the email began. “You recently had to decline short-term travel to meet with me. You need to be involved in this story,” he wrote. “Is there any way we can talk on short notice? I understand you don’t have much in the way of secure infrastructure, but I’ll work around what you have.” He suggested that we speak via OTR and provided his user name.

My computer sounded a bell-like chime, signaling that the source had signed on. Slightly nervous, I clicked on his name and typed “hello.” He answered, and I found myself speaking directly to someone who I assumed had, at that point, revealed a number of secret documents about U.S. surveillance programs and who wanted to reveal more.

“I’m willing to do what I have to do to report this,” I said. The source -- whose name, place of employment, age, and all other attributes were still unknown to me -- asked if I would come to Hong Kong to meet him. I did not ask why he was there; I wanted to avoid appearing to be fishing for information and I assumed his situation was delicate. Whatever else was true, I knew that this person had resolved to carry out what the U.S. government would consider a very serious crime.

“Of course I’ll come to Hong Kong,” I said.

We spoke online that day for two hours, talking at length about his goal. I knew from the emails Laura had shown me that he felt compelled to tell the world about the massive spying apparatus the U.S. government was secretly building. But what did he hope to achieve?

“I want to spark a worldwide debate about privacy, Internet freedom, and the dangers of state surveillance,” he said. “I’m not afraid of what will happen to me. I’ve accepted that my life will likely be over from my doing this. I’m at peace with that. I know it’s the right thing to do.” He then said something startling: “I want

to identify myself as the person behind these disclosures. I believe I have an obligation to explain why I'm doing this and what I hope to achieve." He told me he had written a document that he wanted to post on the Internet when he outed himself as the source, a pro-privacy, anti-surveillance manifesto for people around the world to sign, showing that there was global support for protecting privacy.

"I only have one fear in doing all of this," he said, which is "that people will see these documents and shrug, that they'll say, 'We assumed this was happening and don't care.' The only thing I'm worried about is that I'll do all this to my life for nothing."

"I seriously doubt that will happen," I assured him, but I wasn't convinced I really believed that. I knew from my years of writing about NSA abuses that it can be hard to generate serious concern about secret state surveillance.

This felt different, but before I took off for Hong Kong, I wanted to see some documents so that I understood the types of disclosures the source was prepared to make.

I then spent a couple of days online as the source walked me through, step by step, how to install and use the programs I would need to see the documents.

I kept apologizing for my lack of proficiency, for having to take hours of his time to teach me the most basic aspects of secure communication. "No worries," he said, "most of this makes little sense. And I have a lot of free time right now."

Once the programs were all in place, I received a file containing roughly twenty-five documents: "Just a very small taste: the tip of the tip of the iceberg," he tantalizingly explained.

I unzipped the file, saw the list of documents, and randomly clicked on one of them. At the top of the page in red letters, a code appeared: "TOP SECRET//COMINT/NO FORN/."

This meant the document had been legally designated top secret, pertained to communications intelligence (COMINT), and was not for distribution to foreign nationals, including international organizations or coalition partners (NO FORN). There it was with incontrovertible clarity: a highly confidential communication from the NSA,

one of the most secretive agencies in the world's most powerful government. Nothing of this significance had ever been leaked from the NSA, not in all the six-decade history of the agency. I now had a couple dozen such items in my possession. And the person I had spent hours chatting with over the last two days had many, many more to give me.

As Laura and I arrived at JFK Airport to board a Cathay Pacific flight to Hong Kong, Laura pulled a thumb drive out of her backpack. "Guess what this is?" she asked with a look of intense seriousness.

"What?"

"The documents," she said. "All of them."

**"README\_FIRST"**

For the next 16 hours, despite my exhaustion, I did nothing but read, feverishly taking notes on document after document. One of the first I read was an order from the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court, which had been created by Congress in 1978, after the Church Committee discovered decades of abusive government eavesdropping. The idea behind its formation was that the government could continue to engage in electronic surveillance, but to prevent similar abuse, it had to obtain permission from the FISA court before doing so. I had never seen a FISA court order before. Almost nobody had. The court is one of the most secretive institutions in the government. All of its rulings are automatically designated top secret, and only a small handful of people are authorized to access its decisions.

The ruling I read on the plane to Hong Kong was amazing for several reasons. It ordered Verizon Business to turn over to the NSA "all call detail records" for "communications (i) between the United States and abroad; and (ii) wholly within the United States, including local telephone calls." That meant the NSA was secretly and indiscriminately collecting the telephone records of tens of millions of Americans, at least. Virtually nobody had any idea that the Obama administration was doing any such thing. Now, with this ruling, I not only knew about it but had the secret court order as proof.

Only now did I feel that I was beginning to process the true magnitude of the leak. I had been writing for years

about the threat posed by unconstrained domestic surveillance; my first book, published in 2006, warned of the lawlessness and radicalism of the NSA. But I had struggled against the great wall of secrecy shielding government spying: How do you document the actions of an agency so completely shrouded in multiple layers of official secrecy? At this moment, the wall had been breached. I had in my possession documents that the government had desperately tried to hide. I had evidence that would indisputably prove all that the government had done to destroy the privacy of Americans and people around the world.

In 16 hours of barely interrupted reading, I managed to get through only a small fraction of the archive. But as the plane landed in Hong Kong, I knew two things for certain. First, the source was highly sophisticated and politically astute, evident in his recognition of the significance of most of the documents. He was also highly rational. The way he chose, analyzed, and described the thousands of documents I now had in my possession proved that. Second, it would be very difficult to deny his status as a classic whistleblower. If disclosing proof that top-level national security officials lied outright to Congress about domestic spying programs doesn't make one indisputably a whistleblower, then what does?

Shortly before landing, I read one final file. Although it was entitled "README\_FIRST," I saw it for the first time only at the very end of the flight. This message was an explanation from the source for why he had chosen to do what he did and what he expected to happen as a result -- and it included one fact that the others did not: the source's name.

"I understand that I will be made to suffer for my actions, and that the return of this information to the public marks my end. I will be satisfied if the federation of secret law, unequal pardon, and irresistible executive powers that rule the world that I love are revealed for even an instant. If you seek to help, join the open source community and fight to keep the spirit of the press alive and the internet free. I have been to the darkest corners of government, and what they fear is light.

Edward Joseph Snowden, SSN: \*\*\*\*\*



CIA Alias “\*\*\*\*\* ”

Agency Identification Number: \*\*\*\*\*

Former Senior Advisor | United States National Security Agency, under corporate cover

Former Field Officer | United States Central Intelligence Agency, under diplomatic cover

Former Lecturer | United States Defense Intelligence Agency, under corporate cover”

Glenn Greenwald, a former constitutional lawyer and a Guardian columnist until October 2013, has earned numerous awards for his commentary and investigative journalism, including most recently the 2013 George Polk Award for national security reporting. In early 2014, he cofounded a new global media outlet, [The Intercept](#). This essay is adapted from his new book, [No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA, and the U.S. Security State](#) (Metropolitan Books), published today.

Excerpted and adapted from [No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA, and the U.S. Security State](#) by Glenn Greenwald, published by Metropolitan Books, an imprint of Henry Holt and Company, LLC.

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## Noise from Our Electronics Disorients Migratory Birds



**Earth News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Monday, 12 May 2014 19:25

The finding from a study of European robins in shielded huts suggests that cities have significant effects on the migration patterns of birds that rely on internal magnetic compasses

May 7, 2014 |By [Jessica Morrison](#) and [Nature magazine](#)

The findings imply that the birds' navigation is controlled by a biological system sensitive to artificial electromagnetic noise, but the biophysical mechanism is unclear.

*Credit: [Charlesjsharp via Wikimedia Commons](#)*

Interference from electronics and AM radio signals can disrupt the internal magnetic compasses of migratory birds, researchers report today in *Nature*. The work raises the possibility that cities have significant effects on bird migration patterns.

Decades of experiments have shown that migratory birds can orient themselves on migration paths using internal compasses guided by Earth's magnetic field. But until now, there has been little evidence that electromagnetic radiation created by humans affects the process.

Like most biologists studying magnetoreception, report co-author Henrik Mouritsen used to work at rural field sites far from cities teeming with electromagnetic noise. But in 2002, he moved to the University of Oldenburg, in a German city of around 160,000 people. As part of work to identify the part of the brain in which compass information is processed, he kept migratory European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*) inside wooden huts — a standard procedure that allows researchers to investigate magnetic navigation while being sure that the birds are not getting cues from the Sun or stars. But he found that on the city campus, the birds could not orient themselves in their proper migratory direction.

“I tried all kinds of stuff to make it work, and I couldn't make it work,”

Mouritsen says, “until one day we screened the wooden hut with aluminium.”

### **Peace at last**

Mouritsen and his colleagues covered the huts with aluminium plates and electrically grounded them to cut out electromagnetic noise in frequencies ranging from 50 kilohertz to 5 megahertz — which includes the range used for AM radio transmissions. The shielding reduced the intensity of the noise by about two orders of magnitude. Under those conditions, the birds were able to orient themselves.

When the team disconnected the grounding, the aluminium plates failed to keep the artificial noise out, and the robins could not find their way. To further test whether electromagnetic noise was responsible, the researchers simulated it using a commercially available signal generator. The birds again became disoriented.

Before sharing the results, the team spent seven years conducting double-blind tests, independently replicated by different generations of students. “We wanted to make sure that we could really document that what we were seeing was real,” says Mouritsen.

### **Navigational error**

The findings imply that the birds' navigation is controlled by a biological system sensitive to artificial electromagnetic noise, but the biophysical mechanism is unclear. Even so, the work raises the controversial prospect that it might be necessary for humans to stop using the relevant part of the electromagnetic spectrum, says Joseph Kirschvink, a geobiologist at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, and the author of a commentary accompanying the paper.

Roswitha Wiltschko, a bird navigation researcher at the University of Frankfurt in Germany, has not seen the effect in her own work. “We never used any shielding, and our birds were perfectly oriented,” she says.

“This is really a surprising thing for me that there can be such a strong disrupting field.”

Wiltchko cautions against concluding that electromagnetic noise affects migratory birds in all cities, but other researchers report seeing evidence of the phenomenon. “These effects are real,” says John Phillips, a sensory biologist at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. Phillips conducts behavioral studies related to navigation and spatial memory in other species, including mice and newts, and shields them from electromagnetic interference that he contends could skew experiments. “You wouldn’t study a vision mechanism with flashbulbs going off at irregular intervals,” he says.

Mouritsen plans further work on the effects of electromagnetic noise, in part to examine the precise workings of the birds' magnetic sense. But he says that noise could already be causing practical problems for birds: “If birds can’t use one of their most significant compasses when they are in towns, what effect will that have on survival?”

This article is reproduced with permission from the magazine **Nature**. The article was **first published** on May 7, 2014.

Last Updated on Tuesday, 13 May 2014 05:24

## **New Canadian Labour Congress chief vows aggressive approach**



**Justice News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Monday, 12 May 2014 18:16

by **Grant Robertson** The Globe and Mail

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/new-canadian-labour-congress-chief-vows-aggressive-approach/article18574387/>

Thursday, May. 08 2014,



- Hassan Yussuff is secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress.  
CFROM BROCHURE

- The Canadian Labour Congress has chosen a new president for the first time in 15 years, in a move that suggests a deeper shift within the organization that represents most of Canada's unions.

Hassan Yussuff, who served as secretary-treasurer of the CLC since 2002, defeated incumbent president Ken Georgetti in a close vote held Thursday at the organization's annual convention in Montreal.

#### **Video: Unions to Couillard: Don't make cuts**

Mr. Yussuff becomes the first minority president of the labour congress, defeating Mr. Georgetti by a slim margin. Mr. Yussuff received 2,318 votes, which was 40 votes ahead of Mr. Georgetti's 2,278.

The CLC represents 3.3 million workers and includes many of the largest unions and trade organizations in the country. Mr. Georgetti held the president's job since 1999 and won the endorsement of several large groups, including the Telecommunications Workers Union, which publicly backed his bid for re-election last month.

However, Mr. Yussuff is said to have amassed support among a number of unions that were unhappy with the congress in recent years, and wanted the organization to

employ new approaches to guiding the labour movement.

Born in Guyana, Mr. Yussuff came to Canada to work as a heavy truck mechanic and joined the labour movement through membership in the Canadian Auto Workers. He joined the CLC as executive vice-president in 1999, becoming the first person of colour to serve at the executive level of the organization. He also served as an observer in the 1994 South African elections, which saw Nelson Mandela named president.

Mr. Georgetti, who is from Trail, B.C., was the longest-serving president. The CLC grew by 750,000 members, or almost 30 per cent, during his presidency. But that growth came at a time when Canadian economists and academics have debated whether the power of unions has been eroded in Canada, due to shifting industries and changing legislation.

Conversations within the labour movement have questioned whether new approaches are needed, and Mr. Yussuff has said he wanted to bring a more aggressive approach back to the CLC and its membership.

"There is a wind of change blowing in Canada's trade union movement," Mr. Yussuff said in a statement on his campaign website. "There is a desire and a demand to return to the offensive for rights and progress for workers after decades of retreat and decline."

While the race was close, the victory was helped considerably when challenger Hassan Hussein ended his campaign this month and threw his support behind Mr. Yussuff. That move gave him enough votes to unseat the incumbent.

Mr. Yussuff has been a vocal critic of the federal government's approach to labour negotiations and its interventions in several public sector disputes, which he argues has unilaterally stripped rights from workers in B.C., Alberta, Ontario and Nova Scotia. He has also been vocal about conditions in the private sector, particularly as pensions come under fire.

"The reality for private sector unions is that the manufacturing base has been weakened, pensions are under severe attack, and union density has declined," Mr. Yussuff said on his website.

"An entire generation is being offered lower wages, fewer benefits, and a less stable future than their parents before them."

## UN report on aboriginals warns of crisis in Canada



### Justice News

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Monday, 12 May 2014 13:31

CTVNews.ca Staff

Published Monday, May 12, 2014 10:20AM EDT

Last Updated Monday, May 12, 2014 5:15PM EDT

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/un-report-on-aboriginals-warns-of-crisis-in-canada->

1.1817505



A United Nations envoy says there's a crisis in Canada when it comes to how aboriginal people in this country are treated, noting that the relationship between the federal government and indigenous peoples is even more strained than a decade ago.

**In a new report** released Monday, James Anaya -- the UN's Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples -- says there appears to be a high level of distrust among aboriginal Canadians toward both the federal government and the provinces.

The report notes that the "disturbing phenomenon" of missing and murdered aboriginal women has further strained relations, and it calls on Ottawa to launch "a comprehensive, national inquiry" into the issue of why aboriginal women and girls remain vulnerable to abuse.

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United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, holds a press conference at the National Press Theatre in Ottawa on Tuesday, Oct, 15, 2013. (Sean Kilpatrick / THE CANADIAN PRESS)



A group of First Nations protesters hold hands and dance in a circle during a demonstration in Surrey, B.C., in January 2013. (Darryl Dyck / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

Further, the report notes the “distressing socio-economic conditions of indigenous peoples” in Canada and says it’s particularly jarring given that Canada is so highly developed.

“It is difficult to reconcile Canada’s well-developed legal framework and general prosperity with the human rights problems faced by indigenous peoples in Canada that have reached crisis proportions in many respects,” the report reads.

Anaya spent nine days in Canada last year meeting with First Nations representatives and government officials, as a follow-up to a visit made in 2004 by the previous Special Rapporteur.

Anaya notes that the previous envoy recommended that Canada intensify its measures to close the gaps between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians in health care, housing, education, and social services. But he says it appears “there has been no change in that gap,” while acknowledging that socio-economic conditions for Metis and non-status Indians have improved.

During Monday’s question period in the House of Commons, Justice Minister Peter MacKay said a nationwide inquiry was unnecessary.

“Over the last number of years there have been some 40 different reports and inquiries and measures taken to identify issues. But the reality is more work needs to be done directly to get to the problem,” he said.

MacKay dismissed claims that the government failed to act upon indigenous issues since taking power, referencing renewed funding for the Aboriginal Justice Strategy.

“The reality is we are taking action into this very serious issue and have been since forming office,” he said. “This is coupled with numerous efforts, including introducing a number of criminal justice initiatives giving police more tools to do their important work. And yes, action is very important.”

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Bernard Valcourt also issued a response to the report Monday, acknowledging that more work needs to be done.

But he added that the government is proud of “the effective and incremental steps taken in partnership with Aboriginal communities” and committed to making “significant progress” in improving the lives of Aboriginal people.



Valcourt said his office would review the report to determine how to address the recommendations and thanked Anaya for "his important work."

He said the government has already:

- passed legislation to ensure women living on reserves have the same matrimonial rights as all Canadians, including access to emergency protection orders in violent situations
- passed legislation to provide First Nations communities with similar drinking water standards as those off-reserve
- invested billions of new funding to improve housing on reserves

Read more: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/un-report-on-aboriginals-warns-of-crisis-in-canada-1.1817505#ixzz31XUwr0cq>

Last Updated on Monday, 12 May 2014 13:34

## Noam Chomsky and the Public Intellectual in Turbulent Times



**Peace News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Monday, 12 May 2014 06:36

**Written by Henry A. Giroux By Henry A. Giroux, Truthout | Op-Ed**

<http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/23590-noam-chomsky-and-the-public-intellectual-in-turbulent-times>

Monday, 12 May 2014 09:3



Noam Chomsky at the University of Toronto. (Photo: [Andrew Rusk](#))

Noam Chomsky is a world renowned academic best known not only for his pioneering work in linguistics but also for his ongoing work as a public intellectual in which he has addressed a number of important social issues that include and often connect oppressive foreign and domestic policies - a fact well illustrated in his numerous path breaking books.(1) In fact, Chomsky's oeuvre includes too many exceptionally important books to single out any one of them from his extraordinary and voluminous archive of work. Moreover, as political interventions, his many books often reflect both a decisive contribution and an engagement with a number of issues that have and continue to dominate a series of specific historical moments over the course of 50 years. His political interventions have been historically specific while continually building on the power relations he has engaged critically. For instance, his initial ideas about the responsibility of intellectuals cannot be separated from his early criticisms of the Vietnam War and the complicity of intellectuals in brokering and legitimating that horrendous act of military intervention.(2) Hence, it becomes difficult to compare his 1988 book, *Manufacturing Consent*, coauthored with Edward S. Herman, with his 2002 bestseller, *9/11*. Yet, what all of these texts share is a luminous theoretical, political, and forensic analysis of the functioning of the current global power structure, new and old modes of oppressive authority, and the ways in which neoliberal economic and social policies has produced more savage forms of global domination and corporate sovereignty.

His many recent books, articles, and interviews have addressed how the new reign of neoliberal capital is normalized not only through military and economic relations but also through the production of new forms of subjectivity organized around the enslavement of debt, the security-surveillance state, the corporatization of higher education, the rise of finance capital, and the powerful corporate-controlled cultural apparatuses that give new power and force to the simultaneously educative and repressive nature of politics. Chomsky does not subscribe to a one-dimensional notion

of power that one often finds among many on the left who view power as driven exclusively by economic forces. He keenly understands that power is multifaceted, operating through a number of material and symbolic registers, and he is particularly astute in pointing out that power also has a pedagogical function and must include an historical understanding of the public relations industry, existing and emerging cultural apparatuses, and that central to matters of power, agency, and the radical imagination, are modes of persuasion, the shaping of identities, and the molding of desire.

Rooted in the fundamentals of anarcho-syndicalism and democratic socialism, he has incessantly exposed the gap between the reality and the promise of a radical democracy, particularly in the United States, though he has provided detailed analysis of how the deformation of democracy works in a number of countries that hide their diverse modes of oppression behind the false claims of democratization. Chomsky has attempted to refigure both the promise of democracy and develop new ways to theorize agency and the social imagination outside of the neoliberal focus on individualization, privatization, and the assumption that the only value that matters is exchange value. Unlike many intellectuals who are trapped in the discourse of academic silos and a sclerotic professionalism, he writes and speaks from the perspective of what might be called contingent totalities. In so doing, he connects a wide variety of issues as part of a larger understanding of the diverse and specific economic, social and political forces that shape people's lives in particular historical conjunctures. He is one of the few North American theorists who embrace modes of solidarity and collective struggle less as an afterthought than as central to what it means to connect the civic, social and ethical as the foundation for global resistance movements. Implicit to his role as a public intellectual is the question of what a real democracy should look like, how are its ideals and practices are subverted, and what are the forces necessary to bring it into being?

**CHOMSKY DOES NOT SUBSCRIBE TO A ONE-DIMENSIONAL NOTION OF POWER THAT ONE OFTEN FINDS AMONG MANY ON THE LEFT WHO VIEW POWER AS DRIVEN EXCLUSIVELY BY ECONOMIC FORCES.**

As someone who has been writing about youth, neoliberalism, disposability, the rise of the punishing state, the centrality of education to politics, and the notion that politics is about not only the struggle over power and economics but also the struggle over particular modes of culture, subjectivity and agency, his work has been invaluable to me and many others. While it is often pointed out that he is one of the most influential left critics of American foreign policy, what is unique about his ongoing analyses is that his work is layered, complex, often connecting issues far removed from more narrow analyses of foreign policy. For Chomsky, crises are viewed as overlapping, merging into each other in ways that often go unrecognized. Accordingly, in this paradigm, the war on education cannot be understood if removed from the war on the social state, just as the rise of the punishing state cannot be removed from a harsh and punitive survival-of-the-fittest ethic that now characterizes a mode of savage neoliberalism in the United States in which the ruling classes no longer believe in political concessions because their power is global while politics is local and colonized by neoliberal geopolitical power relations. In fact, Chomsky often brings together in his work issues such as terrorism, corporate power, United States exceptionalism, and other major concerns so as to provide maps that enable his readers to refigure the landscape of political, cultural and social life in ways that offer up new connections and the possibility for fresh modes of theorizing potential resistance.

He has also written about the possibility of political and economic alternatives, offering a fresh language for a collective sense of agency and resistance, a new understanding of the commons, and a rewriting of the relations between the political and the up-to-date institutions of culture, finance and capital. And, yet, he does not provide recipes but speaks to emerging modes of imaginative resistance always set within the boundaries of specific historical conjunctures. His work is especially important in understanding the necessity of public intellectuals in a time of utter tyranny, cruelty, financial savagery and a mode of soft authoritarianism. His work should be required reading for all academics, students and the wider public. Given that he is one of the most cited intellectuals in the world suggest strongly that his audience is general, diverse and widespread, inhabiting many different sites, public spheres and locations.

Chomsky is fiercely critical of fashionable conservative and liberal attempts to divorce intellectual activities from politics and is quite frank in his notion that education both in and out of institutional schooling should be involved in the practice of freedom and not just the pursuit of truth. He has strongly argued that educators, artists, journalists and other intellectuals have a responsibility to provide students and the wider public with the knowledge and skills they need to be able to learn how to think rigorously, be self-reflective, and to develop the capacity to govern rather than be governed. But for Chomsky it is not enough to learn how to think critically. Engaged intellectuals must also develop an ethical imagination and sense of social responsibility necessary to make power accountable and to deepen the possibilities for everyone to live a life infused with freedom, liberty, decency, dignity and justice. On higher education, Chomsky has been arguing since the '60s that in a healthy society, universities must press the claims for economic and social justice and that any education that matters must not merely be critical but also subversive. Chomsky has been unflinching in his belief that education should disturb the peace and engage in the production of knowledge that is critical of the status quo, particularly in a time of legitimized violence. He has also been clear, as were his political counterparts, the late Pierre Bourdieu and Edward Said, in asserting that intellectuals had to make their voices accessible to a wider public and be heard in all of those spheres of public life in which there is an ongoing struggle over knowledge, values, power, identity, agency, and the social imagination.

Capitalism may have found an honored place for many of its anti-public intellectuals, but it certainly has no room for the likes of Chomsky. Conservatives and liberals, along with an army of unyielding neoliberal advocates, have virtually refused to include him in the many discussions and publications on social issues that work their way into the various registers of the dominant media. In many ways, Chomsky's role as an intellectual and activist is a prototype of what may be called an American radical tradition and yet appears out of place. Chomsky appears to be an exile in his own country by virtue of his political interventions, the shock of his acts of translation, and his displays of fierce courage. This is not to suggest that he would make a claim to be in exile in the sense claimed by many intellectuals, though he might agree with the late Edward Said, who was interested in what he called "traveling theory" in the sense of "being errant, provisional, intellectually on the hoof, [as one of] several ways in which he remained true to the exiled people to whom he lent his voice." (3) Exile in this sense suggest that as a "traveler," Chomsky is not interested staking out academic territory and consequently has no disciplinary sphere to protect. The latter, of course, being the hallmark of many academics today who are caught in the cult of specialization and forms of disciplinary terror - forever excoriating those intellectuals who attempt to breach the steadfast rules of the discipline.

Terry Eagleton offers a definition of how academics are different from public

intellectuals that I think is useful in understanding Chomsky's work. He writes:

Intellectuals are not only different from academics, but almost the opposite of them. Academics usually plough through a narrow disciplinary patch, whereas intellectuals ... roam ambitiously from one discipline to another. Academics are interested in ideas, whereas intellectuals seek to bring ideas to an entire culture.... Anger and academia do not usually go together, except perhaps when it comes to low pay, whereas anger and intellectuals do. Above all, academics are conscious of the difficult, untidy, nuanced nature of things, while intellectuals take sides. ... in all the most pressing political conflicts which confront us, someone is going to have to win and someone to lose. It is this, not a dull ear for nuance and subtlety, which marks them out from the liberal. (4)

While this description does not perfectly fit Chomsky, I think it is fair to say that his main role as a public intellectual is to lift ideas into the public realm in the hopes of exposing how power relations work for and against justice, how they are legitimated, and what can be done to challenge them. Many have commented on his staid delivery when he gives talks, but what they fail to recognize is the sense of political and moral outrage that animates his diverse roles as a public intellectual. At the same time, Chomsky is certainly an academic in terms of his rigorous intellectual work, but the point is that he is more than that. In the end, Chomsky's dialectical move between theory and practice, rigor and accessibility, critique and action offers up less a reason to praise him than to offer a noble vision of what we should all strive for.

**FOR CHOMSKY, IGNORANCE IS A POLITICAL WEAPON THAT BENEFITS THE POWERFUL, NOT A GENERAL CONDITION ROOTED IN SOME INEXPLICABLE HUMAN CONDITION.**

As an engaged academic, Chomsky publicly argues against regimes of domination organized for the production of violence, and social and civil death. His ghostly presence offers up the possibility of dangerous memories, alternative ways of imagining society and the future, and the necessity of public criticism as one important element of individual and collective resistance. And, yet, Chomsky's role as a public intellectual, given the huge audiences that he attracts when he lectures as well as his large reading public, suggests that there is no politics that matters without a sense of connecting meaningfully with others. Politics becomes emancipatory when it takes seriously that, as Stuart Hall has noted, "People have to invest something of themselves, something that they recognize is of them or speaks to their condition, and without that moment of recognition . . . politics will go on, but you won't have a political movement without that moment of identification." (5) Chomsky has clearly connected with a need among the public for those intellectuals willing to make power visible, to offer an alternative understanding of the world, and to point to the hopes of a future that does not imitate the scurrilous present.

Chomsky has been relentless in reminding his audience that power takes many forms and that the production of ignorance is not merely about the crisis of test scores or a natural state of affairs - an idiotic argument if there ever was one - but about how ignorance is often produced in the service of power. According to Chomsky, ignorance is a pedagogical formation that is used to stifle thinking and promotes a form of anti-politics, which undermines matters of judgment and thoughtfulness central to politics. At the same time, it is a crucial player in not just producing consent but also in squelching dissent. For Chomsky, ignorance is a political weapon that benefits the powerful, not a general condition rooted in some inexplicable human condition. One of his most insistent themes focuses on how state power functions in various forms as a mode of terrorism reigning violence, misery and hardship, often as a function of class warfare and American global imperialism, and how people are often complicitous with such acts of barbarism.

At the same time, Chomsky is an ardent defender of the poor, those populations considered disposable, the excluded, and those marginalized by class, race, gender and other ideologies and structural relations considered dangerous to tyrants both at home and abroad. There is no privileged, singularly oppressed group in Chomsky's work. He is capacious in making visible and interrogating oppression in its multiple forms, regardless of where it exists. Yet, while Chomsky has his critics, ranging from notables such as Sheldon Wolin and Martha Nussbaum to a host of less-informed interlocutors, he rarely shies away from a reasoned debate, often elevating such exchanges to a new level of understanding, and in some cases, embarrassment for his opponents. (6) Some of his more illustrious and infamous debaters have included Michel Foucault, William Buckley, Jr., John Silber, Christopher Hitchens and Alan Dershowitz. At the same time, he has refused, in spite of the occasional and most hateful and insipid of attacks, to mimic such tactics in responding to his less civil denigrators. (7) Some of Chomsky's detractors have accused him of being too strident, not theoretical enough, or more recently, not understanding the true nature of ideology. These criticisms seem empty and baseless to me and appear irrelevant considering the impact Chomsky's work has had on a younger generation, including many in the Occupy Movement, in calling into question the reckless mechanizations

and dynamics of politics, power and policies of the United States government and other authoritarian regimes.

It is important to note that I am not suggesting that Chomsky is somehow an iconic figure who inhabits an intellectual version of celebrity culture. On the contrary, he deplores such a role and is an enormously humble and self-effacing human being. What I am suggesting is that, in an age when the models for political leadership and civic responsibility are put forth in American society for young people and others to learn from, they are largely drawn from the ranks of a criminal, if not egregiously anti-democratic, class of elite financiers and the rich. Chomsky offers a crucial, though often unacknowledged, standard for how to be engaged with the world in ways in which issues of commitment and courage are tied to considerations of justice and struggle and not merely to the accumulation of capital, regardless of the social costs. His decisive influence on a range of fields, extending from linguistic theory to theories of the state and education, have not only opened up new modes of inquiry but also give gravitas to the political impulse that underscores such contributions. The point here is neither to idolize nor demonize Chomsky - the two modalities that often mark reactions to his work. Rather, the issue is to articulate the ways in which Chomsky as a public intellectual gives meaning to the disposition and characteristics that need to be in place for such critical work: a historical consciousness, civic courage, sacrifice, incisiveness, thoughtfulness, rigor, compassion, political interventions, the willingness to be a moral witness and the ability to listen to others.

**"[U]NIVERSITIES FACE A CONSTANT STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR INTEGRITY, AND THEIR FUNDAMENTAL SOCIAL ROLE IN A HEALTHY SOCIETY, IN THE FACE OF EXTERNAL PRESSURES."**

As a public intellectual, Chomsky offers academics a way to be both scholars and critical citizens, and calls upon them to use their talents and resources to promote public values, defend the common good and connect education to social change. He strongly rejects the notion that academics are merely servants of the state and that students are nothing more than enterprising consumers. The role of academics as public intellectuals has a long history in Chomsky's work and is inextricably connected to defending the university as a public good and democratic public sphere. Chomsky made this clear in a talk he gave at the Modern Language Association in 2000 when he insisted that:

[U]niversities face a constant struggle to maintain their integrity, and their fundamental social role in a healthy society, in the face of external pressures. The problems are heightened with the expansion of private power in every domain, in the course of the state-corporate social engineering projects of the past several

decades . . . To defend their integrity and proper commitments is an honorable and difficult task in itself, but our sights should be set higher than that. Particularly in the societies that are more privileged, many choices are available, including fundamental institutional change, if that is the right way to proceed, and surely including scholarship that contributes to, and draws from, the never-ending popular struggles for freedom and justice. (8)

Higher education is under attack not because it is failing, but because it is a potentially democratic public sphere. As such, conservatives and neoliberals often see it as a dangerous institution that reminds them of the rebellious legacy of the '60s, when universities were the center of struggles over free speech, anti-racist and feminist pedagogies, and the anti-war movement. Higher education has become a target for right-wing ideologues and the corporate elite because it is capable of teaching students how to think critically, and it offers the promise of new modes of solidarity to students outside of the exchange value proffered by neoliberal instrumentalism and the reduction of education to forms of training. Chomsky extends the democratic legacy of higher education by insisting that universities and faculty should press the claims for economic and social justice. He also argues more specifically that while higher education should be revered for its commitment to disinterested truth and reason, it also has a crucial role to play in its opposition to the permanent warfare state, the war on the poor, the squelching of dissent by the surveillance state, the increasing violence waged against students, and the rise of an authoritarian state engaged in targeted assassination, drone warfare and the destruction of the environment. Part of that role is to create an informed and reflective democratic citizenry engaged in the struggle for social justice and equality. Standing for truth is only one role the university can assume, and it is not enough. It must also fulfill its role of being attentive to the needs of young people by safeguarding their interests while educating them to exercise their capacities to fulfill their social, political, economic and ethical responsibilities to others, to broader publics, and the wider global social order. As Chomsky reminds us, caring about other people is a dangerous idea in America today and signals the transformation of the United States from a struggling democracy to a full-fledged authoritarian state. (9)

Given the intensive attack that is currently being waged against higher education, Chomsky's defense of the latter as a democratic public sphere and his insistence on the responsibility of intellectuals - be they academics, students, artists, educators, or



cultural workers, to name only a few - takes on a new urgency. Public intellectuals can play a crucial political role in not only translating private issues into public concerns, but also offering up a discourse of interrogation and possibility, one that understands the new historical configuration in which we find ourselves when power is separated from politics, demanding not only a new consideration of the relationship between politics and power but also what it means to think otherwise in order to act otherwise. Chomsky is an important public intellectual because he has become a model for what it means to put a premium on social and economic justice, display a willingness to raise disquieting questions, make power accountable, defend democratic values, take political risks and exhibit the moral courage necessary to address important social issues as part of an ongoing public conversation.

**AS CHOMSKY REMINDS US, CARING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE IS A DANGEROUS IDEA IN AMERICA TODAY AND SIGNALS THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE UNITED STATES FROM A STRUGGLING DEMOCRACY TO A FULL-FLEDGED AUTHORITARIAN STATE.**

This is not an easy task at a time when many academics have removed themselves from engaging larger social issues and are all too willing to accommodate those in power, functioning as either entertainers or stenographers. Too many academics have become either uncritical servants of corporate interests, rendered invisible, if not irrelevant, behind a firewall of professional jargon, or have been reduced to a subaltern class of adjunct and part-time labor, with little time to think critically or address larger social issues. Consequently, they either no longer feel the need to communicate with a broader public, address important social problems, or they are deprived of the conditions that enable them to write, think and function as public and engaged intellectuals. This is particularly troubling in an aspiring democracy where intellectuals above all should take seriously the notion that if democracy is to mean anything, it "requires its citizens to risk something, to test the limits of the acceptable."<sup>(10)</sup> This is particularly egregious when, for many academics, their working conditions no longer support their role as scholars and public intellectuals.

Noam Chomsky not only represents the antithesis of intellectual accommodation, he actually exemplifies a new kind of intellectual, one reminiscent of rigorous theorists such as Antonio Gramsci and Michelle Foucault, on the one hand, and C. Wright Mills, on the other, all of whom refused, as Mills put it, the role of "a sociological book-keeper, " preferring instead to be "mutinous and utopian" rather than "go the way of the literary faddist and the technician of cultural chic." <sup>(11)</sup> Like C. Wright Mills, Chomsky addresses pressing social issues and painstakingly looks at how they are lived through the experiences of people who are often deeply affected, yet disappeared from such narratives. His work on political economy, regimes of authoritarianism, cultural domination, and global youth resistance is in my mind a pioneering work that examines the mechanisms of politics, and collective struggles globally, within a larger matrix of economics, power, history and culture.

Chomsky is not content to focus on the perpetrators of global crime and the new forms of authoritarianism they are spreading in different ways across the globe, he also focuses on those who are now considered disposable, those who have been written out of the discourse of what he considers a tortured democracy, as a force for collective resistance capable of employing new modes of agency and struggle. Whether he is talking about war, education, militarization or the media, there is always a sense of commitment, civic courage and a call for resistance in his work that is breathtaking and always moving. His interventions are always political, and yet

he manages to avoid the easy mantle of dogmatism or a kind of humiliating clownish performance we see among some alleged leftist intellectuals. Like C. Wright Mills, he has revived the sociological imagination, connecting the totality and the historically specific, a broader passion for the promise of democracy, and a complex rendering of the historical narratives of those who are often marginalized and excluded. There is also a refusal to shield the powerful from moral and political critique. Chomsky has become a signpost for an emerging generation of intellectuals who are not only willing to defend the institutions, public spheres and formative cultures that make democracy possible, but also address those anti-democratic forces working diligently to dismantle the conditions that make an aspiring democracy meaningful.

We live at a time when the growing catastrophes that face Americans and the rest of the globe are increasingly matched by the accumulation of power by the rich and financial elite. Their fear of democracy is now strengthened by the financial, political, and corporate elite's intensive efforts to normalize their own power and silence those who hold them accountable. For many, we live in a time of utter despair. But resistance is not only possible, it may be more necessary now than at any other time in America's past, given the current dismantling of civil rights, democratic institutions, the war on women, labor unions, and the poor - all accompanied by the rise of a neoliberal regime that views democracy as an excess, if not dangerous, and an obstacle to implementing its ideological and political goals. What Noam Chomsky has been telling us for over 50 years is that resistance demands a combination of hope, vision, courage, and a willingness to make power accountable, all the while connecting with the desires, aspirations, and dreams of those who suffer under the apparatuses of regimes of violence, misery, fear and terror. He has also reminded us again and again through numerous historical examples that public memory contains the flashpoints for remembering that such struggles are always collective and not merely a matter of individual resistance. There are always gaps in the work we do as intellectuals, and in Chomsky's case, there is more to be said as Archon Fung points out regarding the role that public intellectuals can play in shaping "the democratic character of public policy," work with "popular movements and organizations in their efforts to advance justice and democracy," and while refusing to succumb to reformist practices, "join citizens - and sometimes governments - to construct a world that is more just and democratic." (12)

He may be one of the few public intellectuals left of an older generation who offers a rare glimpse into what it means to widen the scope of the meaning of political and intellectual inquiry - an intellectual who rethinks in a critical fashion the educative nature of politics within the changed and totalizing conditions of a neoliberal global assault on all vestiges of democracy. He not only trades in ideas that defy scholastic disciplines and intellectual boundaries, he also makes clear that it is crucial to hold ideas accountable for the practices they legitimate and produce, while at the same time refusing to limit critical ideas to simply modes of critique. In this instance, ideas not only challenge the normalizing discourses and representations of commonsense and the power inequities they legitimate, but also open up the possibilities inherent in a discourse that moves beyond the given and points to new ways of thinking and acting about freedom, civic courage, social responsibility, and justice from the standpoint of radical democratic ideals.

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1. For a List of Chomsky's books, see [here](#).

2. See, for example, Noam Chomsky, "The Responsibility of **Intellectuals**," New York Review of Books (February 13, 1967). See also an updated version of this essay in

Noam Chomsky, "The Responsibility of Intellectuals, Redux: Using Privilege to **Challenge the State**," The Boston Review (September 1, 2011). Online:

**3.** Terry Eagleton, "The Last Jewish **Intellectual**," New Statesman, March 29, 2004; Edward Said's notion of traveling theory can be found in Edward W. Said, "Traveling Theory," in The Edward Said Reader, edited by Moustafa Bayoumi and Andrew Rubin (New York: Vintage, 2007), pp. 195-217.

**4.** Ibid., Eagleton.

**5.** Stuart Hall and Les Back, "In Conversation: At Home and Not at Home," Cultural Studies, Vol. 23, No. 4, (July 2009), pp. 680-681.

**6.** See, for instance, the list of published **debates** in which he has engaged.

**7.** Over the course of his career, a number of false claims have been attributed to Chomsky, including the absurd notion published in The New York Times' Higher Education Supplement that he was an apologist for the Pol Pot regime, and on another occasion, the damaging charge that he was anti-Semitic, given his defense of freedom of speech, including that of the French historian Robert Faurisson, an alleged Holocaust denier. Chomsky's long-standing critique of totalitarianism in all of its forms seems to have been forgotten in these cases. More recently a well-known left critic, capitalizing on his own need for indulging the performative, challenged Chomsky to a boxing match partly as a result of Chomsky's criticism of him. Granted this may be more ironic than literal, but in the end it reveals the collapse of serious dialogue into the dustbin of the heightened spectacle and a fatuous aesthetics. At issue in this instance is not an attempt at serious dialogue but a form of self-sabotage and a withdrawal from the serious engagement, if not politics itself. Chomsky has never stooped to this level of self-immolation or over-inflated grandiosity.

**8.** Noam Chomsky, "Paths Taken, Tasks Ahead," Profession (2000), p. 38.

**9.** See, for instance, Noam Chomsky, "America Hates Its Poor," Occupy: Reflections on Class War, Rebellion and Solidarity (Westfield, NJ: Zuccotti Park Press; Second Edition, 2013).

**10.** Mark Slouka, "Dehumanized: When Math and Science Rule the School," Harper's Magazine (September 2009), p. 38.

**11.** C. Wright Mills, "Culture and Politics: The Fourth Epoch," The Politics of Truth: Selected Writings of C. Wright Mills, (Oxford University Press, 2008), p. 199.

**12.** Archon Fung, "The Constructive Responsibility of **Intellectuals**," Boston Review, (September 9, 2011).

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Last Updated on Monday, 12 May 2014 13:11

## Election call centre script raises questions about honesty of Conservatives



### Justice News

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Monday, 12 May 2014 06:29

By **Stephen Mahe**

[rhttp://o.canada.com/news/election-call-centre-script-raises-questions-](http://o.canada.com/news/election-call-centre-script-raises-questions-)

[about-honesty-of-conservatives](#)Published:



People enter a polling station in Toronto to vote in a federal election. Photo: Getty Images/Files



### **Stephen Maher**

The lawyer for the Conservative party twice gave Elections Canada incorrect information about telephone calls that directed voters to the wrong polling station in the last days of the 2011 federal election.

In an email May 1, party lawyer Arthur Hamilton told Elections Canada that Conservative call centre workers were not advising voters that Elections Canada had changed the location of polling stations, and that the party had not advised voters to go to a polling station an hour and a half from their home.

But a report released by Elections Canada last month includes a script that shows the party's callers were telling voters that Elections Canada had changed the location of polling stations, and investigators found one voter who was directed to a polling station 740 kilometres away.

The report from Elections Canada found that there was no evidence of a conspiracy to prevent Canadians from voting, but comparing the script included in the report to emails obtained under access-to-information legislation raises questions about whether the Conservatives have been honest about their use of political calls.

Hamilton sent his email to Elections Canada as the agency was fielding complaints from voters who had been given bad information about their polling station by Conservative campaigns.

Elections Canada lawyer Ageliki Apostolakos emailed Hamilton on the evening of April 29.

"In the course of the last half-hour, Elections Canada has heard that two representatives of the Conservative campaign office are communicating with electors in two electoral districts to inform them that their polling station has changed to another location," she wrote.

Hamilton replied 27 hours later, just after midnight on May 1. He wrote that because Elections Canada changed some polling station locations "a number of our candidates have had to confirm the proper location of polling stations to a number of supporters

during their respective get-out-the-vote efforts.”

“The calls being made by our candidates request the voter to confirm his or her polling location. There is no indication by the caller that the location may have changed, or words to that effect. And no voter is being directed to a polling location one and a half hours away from the correct polling location.”

But a script included in Elections Canada’s report shows that workers at Conservative call centres were told to deliver the following line: “Elections Canada has changed some voting locations at the last moment. To be sure could you tell me the address of where you’re voting?”

Elections Canada had asked the Conservatives not to communicate with voters about the location of their polling stations.

The morning after receiving Hamilton’s email, Apostolakos emailed colleagues to say the response from Hamilton “was not very clear. It seems that Conservative candidates are confirming the address of polling stations. They are pretending that Elections Canada or the returning officer have changed the polling stations. Moreover, Hamilton indicates that the Conservatives are doing no more than advise electors to verify their polling station.”

As the day went on, officials became more concerned at “some mischief purportedly done (by) representatives of the Conservative Party,” as one email put it. Another email said the reports were coming from “right across the country except Saskatchewan.”

As the volume of calls increased, on the afternoon of May 1, Elections Canada’s legal counsel Karen McNeil again emailed Hamilton, listing 10 ridings where voters were being misdirected and Conservative party phone numbers were linked to the calls.

“Any inquiries you can make in an effort to determine who is making these calls would be appreciated,” McNeil wrote.

Hamilton responded the next day — election day — resending the email he had earlier sent that incorrectly stated that the party was not telling voters their polling stations had moved.

“I will send you the answer I provided to Mr. Apostolakos, as it is responsive to your inquiry below,” he wrote.

Neither Hamilton nor party spokesman Cory Hann responded to a requests for information about the emails last week.

Hamilton sent the second email at 10:45 a.m. on election day, as Elections Canada officials were struggling to deal with the fallout from a robocall that misdirected opposition supporters in Guelph, Ont. Party worker Michael Sona faces a trial in relation to that call in June. He maintains he is innocent and is being used as a fall guy by the party.

Elections Canada’s two-year, \$650,000 investigation into reports of dirty political calls across the country found that “incorrect poll locations were provided to some electors,” but there was no proof of intent to deceive.

The report says, however, that investigators were sometimes hampered by a lack of co-operation.

“There were a few instances where it took several months or longer for investigators to receive the information they had requested, or for interviews they had asked for to be arranged,” the report says. In one instance, a person whom investigators believed could have provided very relevant information declined to be interviewed.”

The report does not indicate who failed to help investigators in a timely way, and

Elections Canada has declined to identify the person who refused to be interviewed.

But Opposition MPs and other critics have accused the Conservatives of being deceptive and secretive, pointing to a number of examples where the party appeared to delay or stymie investigators.

– In 2011, when Elections Canada first approached Guelph Conservative campaign worker Andrew Prescott to ask about the “Pierre Poutine” robocall, national campaign manager Jenni Byrne emailed Prescott: “Please hold off doing anything until I consult with a lawyer.”

– In 2013, the party denied that it was behind a deceptive Saskatchewan push poll. The party acknowledged that it had contracted RackNine to conduct it only after the Ottawa Citizen and Postmedia News linked the party to the call through voice analysis.

– Several key Conservative witnesses in the Guelph investigation have never agreed to speak to investigators. Campaign manager Ken Morgan now lives in Kuwait.

– In August 2012, an investigator asked Hamilton to set up interviews with party officials about calls outside Guelph. Hamilton took more than 90 days to do so.

– Federal Judge Richard Mosley, who found evidence of a “thinly scattered” voter suppression scheme in the 2011 vote, attacked the party for engaging in legal “trench warfare.” “Despite the obvious public interest in getting to the bottom of the allegations, the Conservative Party of Canada made little effort to assist with the investigation at the outset despite early requests.”

– Both Elections Canada and Hamilton were criticized for the fact that Hamilton sat in on interviews with witnesses in the Elections Canada investigation into the Guelph robocall although he was representing the party, not the witnesses.

Opposition MPs and critics suggest this amounts to a pattern of secretiveness and deception but the Conservatives say all of that amounts to little more than a smear campaign, and point to the conclusion of Elections Canada’s report.

“As we’ve said all along, and as Elections Canada has now determined, the Conservative Party of Canada ran a clean and ethical campaign,” said spokesman Hann. “For the last two years, the opposition parties have made unsubstantiated allegations which have now been proven to be false by Elections Canada.”

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Last Updated on Monday, 12 May 2014 07:49

## The Three Faces of Drone War Speaking Truth From the Robotic Heavens



**Peace News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Sunday, 11 May 2014 15:42

By [Pratap Chatterjee](#)

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/175842>

Enemies, innocent victims, and soldiers have always made up the three faces of war. With war growing more distant, with drones capable of performing on the battlefield while their “pilots” remain thousands of miles away, two of those faces have, however, faded into the background in recent years. Today, we are left with just the reassuring “face” of the terrorist enemy, killed clinically by remote control while we go about our lives, apparently without any “collateral damage” or danger to our soldiers. Now, however, that may slowly be changing, bringing the true face of the drone campaigns Washington has pursued since 9/11 into far greater focus.

Imagine if those drone wars going on in Pakistan and Yemen (as well as the United States) had a human face all the time, so that we could understand what it was like to live constantly, in and out of those distant battle zones, with the specter of death. In addition to images of the “al-Qaeda” operatives who the White House wants us to believe are the sole targets of its drone campaigns, we would regularly see [photos](#) of innocent victims of drone attacks gathered by human rights groups from their relatives and neighbors. And what about the third group -- the military personnel whose lives revolve around killing fields so far away -- whose stories, in these years of Washington’s drone assassination campaigns, we’ve just about never heard?

After all, soldiers no longer set sail on ships to journey to distant battlefields for months at a time. Instead, every day,

thousands of men and women sign onto their computers at desks on military bases in the continental United States and abroad where they spend hours glued to screens watching the daily lives of people often on the other side of the planet. Occasionally, they get an [order from Washington](#) to push a button and vaporize their subjects. It sounds just like -- and the comparison has been made often enough -- a [video game](#), which can be switched off at the end of a shift, after which those pilots return home to families and everyday life.

And if you believed what little we normally see of them -- what, that is, the Air Force has let us see (the CIA part of the drone program being off-limits to news reporting) -- that would indeed seem to be the straightforward story of life for our drone warriors. Take Rene Lopez, who in shots of a recent homecoming welcome at Fort Gordon in Georgia appears to be a doting father. [Photographed](#) for the local papers on his return from a tour in Afghanistan, the young soldier is seen holding and kissing his infant daughter dressed in a bright pink top. He smiles with delight as the wide-eyed child tries on his military hat.

From an [online profile](#) posted to LinkedIn by Lopez last year, we learn that the clean-cut U.S. Army signals intelligence



specialist claims to be an actor in the drone war in addition to being a proud parent. To be specific, he says he has been working in the dark arts of hunting and killing “high value targets” using a National Security Agency (NSA) tool known as Gilgamesh.

That tool is named after a ruthless Sumerian king who ruled over Uruk, an ancient city in what is now Iraq. With the help of the massive trove of NSA documents leaked by Edward Snowden, Glenn Greenwald and Jeremy Scahill recently explained that [Gilgamesh](#) is the code name for a special device mounted on a Predator drone that can track the mobile phones of individuals without their knowledge by pretending to be a cell phone tower.

Lopez’s resumé yields more details on what Gilgamesh is capable of. The profile writer claims that he “supervised a team of four personnel supporting the lead targeting force in Laghman and Nuristan provinces [in Afghanistan]. Assisted top-level commanders with developing concepts, approaches, and strategies to Capture/Kill HVTs [high value targets].”

Last year, on completing his time in the military, Lopez says he took a civilian job operating Gilgamesh for Mission Essential, an intelligence contractor providing technical support for Pentagon drones. For

that company, he says he conducted "pattern of life analysis" and provided support for "targeting and strike operations." Lopez lives in Grovetown, Georgia, home to a joint [Army-NSA code-breaking and language translation operation](#), involving 4,000 personnel that, since 9/11, has taken the lead in analyzing real-time data feeds from Central Asia and the Middle East.

Gilgamesh is just one of [several NSA tools](#) used on drones to track targeted cell phones. Another program, Shenanigans, was designed specifically for use by the Central Intelligence Agency. According to other documents leaked by Snowden, an operation code-named Victorydance used these tools in March 2012 to map every computer, router, and mobile device in Yemen.

What do men like Lopez actually think about the sort of human destruction, not to speak of the destabilization of whole regions, that Gilgamesh and its like help to unleash? In his online job pitch, Lopez indicates straightforward pride in his work: "My efforts, both as a contractor and in the military, yielded success in identifying, locating, and tracking high value targets, and protection of U.S. and coalition forces." It would be easy enough to assume that the kind of analytical work such remote pilots do would result in a sense of job satisfaction and little more. And that, it

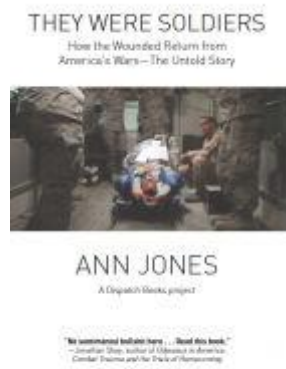
turns out, would be a mistake.

### **Haunted by Death**

In recent months, the first evidence that drones are not only killing thousands in distant lands, but also creating an unexpected kind of blowback among the pilots themselves, provides a curious parallel to the [Epic of Gilgamesh](#), the 5,000-year-old poem about the Sumerian king. In the ancient saga, the gods are said to have sent Enkidu to befriend the cruel king and divert him from the oppression of his subjects. When the pair travel together to slay a monster named Humbaba, Gilgamesh begins to have nightmares about death and war, causing him to question their plan.

Today, like Gilgamesh of old, signals intelligence personnel connected to the drone programs have started reporting themselves haunted by the deaths that they have participated in, and plagued by the knowledge that, in the end, they often had next to no idea who they were actually killing. The publicity about a “kill list” in the White House has left the impression that those who find themselves on the other end of a drone-launched missile have been carefully identified and are known to the drone pilots. “People get hung up that there’s a targeted list of people,” one drone pilot [told](#) the Intercept two months ago. His view, however, was quite different:

"It's really like we're targeting a cell phone. We're not going after people -- we're going after their phones, in the hopes that the person on the other end of that missile is the bad guy."



**Buy the book** Brandon Bryant, a 28-year-old U.S. airman, whose squadron has been credited with 1,626 kills, was among the first to be openly critical of the impact of remote tracking and targeting, of, that is, robot war. Bryant was a "sensor operator," which meant that he operated the cameras on the drone aircraft as part of a three-person team that included a pilot and an intelligence analyst.

In an interview with GQ magazine last October, Bryant **offered** a vivid description of a targeting operation in Afghanistan he took part in when he was just 21. "This figure runs around the corner, the outside, toward the front of the building. And it looked like a little kid to me. Like a little human person," he said. "There's this giant flash, and all of a sudden

there's no person there."

Bryant says he asked the pilot: "Did that look like a child to you?" The message came back from another intelligence analyst: "Per the review, it's a dog."

After six years, Bryant couldn't take it any more. He saw a therapist who diagnosed him with post-traumatic stress disorder. This was a novel, even shocking development for an airman who had hardly ever come close to a battlefield. Bryant was suitably taken aback and, as a result, began speaking out against the system of killing he had been enmeshed in and what it does both to the killers and those killed. "Combat is combat. Killing is killing. This isn't a video game," he wrote in an angry tirade on Facebook. "How many of you have killed a group of people, watched as their bodies are picked up, watched the funeral, then killed them, too?"

### **Killing for the CIA**

Bryant's campaign against drone war without accountability took on new life in late April when Tonje Hessen Schei, a Norwegian filmmaker, released her film [Drone](#). In it, Bryant reveals that his former colleagues in the Air Force had not just been carrying out drone strikes on the battlefields of Afghanistan and Iraq where the military was involved in open warfare. They were also conducting the strikes in the supposed CIA

drone assassination campaigns in Pakistan and Yemen.

This was news. The CIA's "covert" drone wars in those countries were, it turns out, [secretly Air Force operations](#). "The CIA might be the customer, but the Air Force has always flown it," Bryant says in the film. "A CIA label is just an excuse to not have to give up any information. That is all it has ever been."

Schei's film also reveals the name of the U.S. Air Force unit that does the CIA killing -- the [17th Reconnaissance Squadron](#) at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada. "From what I was able to gather, it was pretty much confirmed they were flying missions almost exclusively in Pakistan with the intent to strike," Michael Haas, another drone pilot, told Chris Woods at the Guardian.

Thanks to the film, Bryant made an unusual connection in the world of drone pilots -- to the victims of Washington's drone campaign, previously just so many pixels on a screen to him. Invited to [Belgium](#) and [Norway](#) to speak at the premieres of Schei's film, he met with Shahzad Akbar, a Pakistani lawyer who runs the [Foundation for Fundamental Rights](#) and has been leading a campaign to put a face -- quite literally -- on the death and destruction CIA drone strikes have caused in

his country.

## **Faces of the Victims**

Up in the mountains of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in northern Pakistan, a giant image of an [orphan girl](#) is now laid out next to the mud houses of the locals. She is nameless, but according to her photographer, Noor Behram, she lost her parents in a drone strike in 2010 in the village of Dande Darpa Khel. Her picture, the size of a soccer playing field, is a product of Akbar's planning with the help of JR, a French street artist, and Clive Stafford-Smith, the founder of [Reprivee](#), a British human rights organization. Their intent: to create images of the victims of Washington's drone wars that could be seen from the sky. Smaller images have, in fact, been placed on rooftops in Waziristan. Their target audience: drone pilots like Bryant, Haas, and Lopez who, searching for targets to kill, might just see the face of the child of one of their previous victims. (The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, which keeps a [tally](#) of drone victims in Pakistan, offers a provisional figure of up to 957 civilians, including as many as 202 children, killed between 2004 and the present day.)

For the last five years, Akbar and Smith have worked tirelessly on similar projects. One of their first efforts was

to **reveal** the name of the CIA station chief in Pakistan: Jonathan Banks. In December 2010, they brought a \$500 million lawsuit against him in that country, causing him to flee. The next summer they put together a collection of Noor Behram's photographs of the dead, as well as their relatives and neighbors, that was **exhibited** in London.

Last year, Akbar even made plans to take the relatives of drone victims to testify before the U.S. Congress. Though he himself was **denied entry** to the country, he succeeded. Rafiq-ur-Rehman and his two children, nine-year-old Nabila-ur-Rehman and 13-year-old Zubair-ur-Rehman, did speak at a **special hearing** arranged by Representative Alan Grayson.

Now, with the unexpected support of a small but growing group of former drone pilots, a campaign against "targeted killings" might well take on a new life in the U.S. At least six other drone pilots have already spoken anonymously to Woods, largely confirming what Bryant and Haas have said publicly.

### **The Strain of Long-Distance War**

There is evidence that other drone pilots are also beginning to crack under the pressure of drone war. Two recent studies by the Air Force strongly suggest that Bryant's PTSD diagnosis is no anomaly, that no matter how far you may be from the battlefield, you



never quite leave it.

Published in June 2011, the first [study](#) by Wayne Chappelle, Joseph Ouma, and Amber Salinas of the School of Aerospace Medicine at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio concluded that nearly half of the drone pilots studied had "high operational stress." A number also had "clinical distress" -- that is, anxiety, depression, or stress severe enough to affect them in their personal lives. The study attributed this to long "flying" hours and erratic shifts, but did not compare drone pilots to those in combat aircraft fighting above the battlefield.

A second [study](#) by Jean Otto and Bryant Webber of the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, published in March 2013, compared drone pilots to those performing standard military missions. The level of stress, it found, was almost the same, a surprising conclusion for those who assumed that drone pilots were essentially video gamers.

"Remotely piloted aircraft pilots may stare at the same piece of ground for days," Otto [told](#) the New York Times. "They witness the carnage. Manned aircraft pilots don't do that. They get out of there as soon as possible."

Some believe that drone stress is

significantly related to a major shortage of pilots for such planes. A Government Accountability Office [report](#) released in April tersely notes that "high work demands on RPA [remotely piloted aircraft] pilots limit the time they have available for training and development and negatively affects their work-life balance."

### **Speaking from the Heavens**

There is, however, likely to be far more to it than that. After Bryant came forward, for instance, Heather Linebaugh, a former drone intelligence analyst, broke her silence, too. [Writing](#) in the Guardian in late December, she summed up the largely unpublicized failure of Washington's drones this way: "What the public needs to understand is that the video provided by a drone is not usually clear enough to detect someone carrying a weapon, even on a crystal-clear day with limited cloud and perfect light. The feed is so pixelated, what if it's a shovel, and not a weapon? We always wonder if we killed the right people, if we destroyed an innocent civilian's life all because of a bad image or angle." (And she didn't even point out that, in the areas being attacked in Pakistan and Yemen, carrying a weapon is commonplace and not necessarily a sign that you are a "terrorist.")

Linebaugh explained that, under these

circumstances, a “mistake” had terrible consequences, and not just for those erroneously targeted, but even for the pilots. “How many women and children have you seen incinerated by a Hellfire missile? How many men have you seen crawl across a field, trying to make it to the nearest compound for help while bleeding out from severed legs?” She added, “When you are exposed to it over and over again it becomes like a small video, embedded in your head, forever on repeat, causing psychological pain and suffering that many people will hopefully never experience.”

And don't count on Linebaugh being the last drone analyst to speak out, either. Whether future Rene Lopezes ever actually look down from the computerized “heavens” and see the picture of that little Pakistani orphan girl, we already know that they will see horrors that are likely to prove hard to absorb.

It is this third face of war, along with those of the “enemy” and innocent victims, which provides the crucial evidence that the drone project, Obama's remote control campaign, is a failure; that it is not clinical but bloody and riddled with error; that it creates enemies even as it kills others; that it is, above all, no more a video game for those who fly the planes and loose the missiles than it is for those who

die in distant lands.

Pratap Chatterjee, a [TomDispatch](#) regular, is executive director of [CorpWatch](#) and a board member of Amnesty International USA. He is the author of *Halliburton 's Army and Iraq, Inc.*

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## **Big mammals vs. Big Oil: New pipeline puts humpback whales at risk**



**Earth News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Saturday, 17 May 2014 06:57

**By Michael Patrick O'Neill / Alamy**

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/5/15/big-mammals-v-bigoilnewcanadianpipelineputshumpbackwhalesatrisk.html>



Canada says humpback whales aren't endangered, which allows a proposed oil pipeline to cut across their feeding grounds

May 15, 2014 5:00AM ET

by [Nate Schweber @nateschweber](#)

In a deep fjord in British Columbia called the Douglas Channel, where the Kitimat River pours runs of Chinook salmon into the Pacific Ocean, fishermen see singing humpback whales fling themselves into the air.

These barnacled, 40-ton whales with long, ridged flippers were harpooned to the brink of extinction in the 1900s. Only through intense conservation efforts have they found safety in ancient migration routes. Mothers birth a single calf in tropical seas and fast for months as it nurses, before migrating thousands of miles up to the North Pacific. There, in enclaves like the Douglas Channel — a critical feeding ground — the whales nourish themselves on krill.

"They're amazingly beautiful; they'll knock your socks off," says Tracey John Hittel, a fishing lodge owner in Kitimat, a town on the channel. Hittel takes guests to see the whales in a 30-foot fishing boat. "They'll come so close you can see their eye right against yours," he says.

Now the humpbacks are the flashpoint of an environmental battle. Environmentalists cried foul last month when the Canadian government stripped the whales of protections under its Species at Risk Act (SARA), Canada's equivalent of the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Stephen Harper's administration downgraded the status of humpbacks from "threatened" to "species of special concern." To add to the problem, many fear that a massive pipeline, poised to pump a half-million barrels of crude oil a day into tanker ships in the Douglas Channel, is on the verge of being approved. The Northern Gateway Pipeline, similar to another pipeline roiling politics in the United States, the Keystone XL, would affect the whales' feeding grounds. An announcement on Northern Gateway is expected in June from Prime Minister Harper.

"The Harper government is dismantling environmental protections in order to promote the extraction and transportation of the world's dirtiest oil," says Michael Byers, a political science professor at the University of British Columbia. "The downgrading of humpback whales is part of this."

But the whale decision has made curious allies of Harper, a [booster of pipelines](#) and formerly an accountant for Imperial Oil in Alberta, and Canada's top marine biologists.

**\$8B pipe, 2,000 whales**

Humpback numbers before industrial whaling proliferated in the 19th century are unknown, but in the 20th century alone, whalers killed some 200,000 of them. By 1966, **scientists estimated** there remained fewer than 5,000 animals. The same year, to save them from extinction, the International Whaling Commission banned commercial hunting. Canada joined the ban in 1972.

SARA, Canada's endangered species law, mandates that for any species listed as "endangered" or "threatened," the government must identify "critical habitat." These habitats are breeding or feeding grounds so vital to a species' survival that industrial activity, such as shipping, must be strictly regulated.

Last year, the Canadian government announced four areas of humpback critical habitat — including the mouth of the Douglas Channel, which is a crucial feeding ground for the whales.



Douglas Channel, a proposed terminus for an oil pipeline in the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project, in Kitimat, British Columbia. Darryl Dyck / Canadian Press / AP

This presented a problem for Enbridge Inc., Canada's largest exporter of crude oil, which in 2005 had announced its intentions to build a 730-mile, \$8 billion pipeline to the Pacific Ocean, culminating in the town of Kitimat on the Douglas Channel. The company plans to run 220 oil tankers per year to Kitimat.

"It was a roadblock," says Linda Nowlan, a conservation director in British Columbia for the World Wildlife Fund. "The Enbridge Northern Gateway project was on a collision course with the law."

Meanwhile, thanks to SARA, the humpback population in British Columbia has rebounded. Scientists have estimated that there are more than 2,000 humpbacks there, more than enough for their genetic diversity to protect them from catastrophe. The annual population growth rate is a healthy 4 percent, and scientists now think that there are between 18,000 and 22,000 whales in the Northern Pacific, the highest number in decades.

Despite a 2011 recommendation from the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) that humpbacks be downgraded from "threatened" to "species of special concern" — which meant the whales would lose the special habitat protection afforded by the law — the government didn't act. It was only in April this year, six months after it became apparent that the designation of the Douglas Channel as a critical habitat for the humpback could preclude Enbridge's pipeline plans, that the government acted on COSEWIC's advice.

There is a whole pile of scientists being forced to support a government [whose] pretty

much every other environmental decision we disagree with. It's such an irony.

Jane Watson

former member, COSEWIC

"It happened with lightning speed," says Karen Wristen, executive director of Living Oceans, a British Columbia-based environmental group. "The government moves at a glacial pace usually."

Nowlan agrees. "Multiple years are more the norm for the government to respond," she says.

But Jane Watson, a biology professor at Vancouver Island University and former COSEWIC member, says that though she has often disagreed with Prime Minister Harper, he did right by the humpbacks.

"There is a whole pile of scientists being forced to support a government [whose] pretty much every other environmental decision we disagree with," she says. "It's such an irony."

## Grass-roots opposition

The whale controversy simmered while grassroots opposition to the Northern Gateway Pipeline sparked. In April, the small town of Kitimat, a center for aluminum smelting, held a non-binding vote on the Northern Gateway Pipeline. **It failed** 58 percent to 42 percent.

"It's not like we're doing this on a whim; we're trying to protect the identity and the culture of a people — a spill would be catastrophic to the Gitga'at way of life," says Cameron Hill, 45, a council member for the Hartley Bay First Nations community, at the mouth of the Douglas Channel.

That fear is acute this spring, he says, because it marks the **25th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez spill**, about 700 miles north, in Alaska's Prince William Sound. Parts of that shore are still slick with oil. As Alaska officials seek more oil revenue, **the state petitioned the U.S. government** in February to remove humpbacks from the endangered species list, a move that would make it easier for oil companies to drill exploratory wells in arctic seas.



A protester holds up an orca-shaped sign during a demonstration against the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline, in Vancouver, May 10, 2014. Darryl Dyck / Canadian Press / AP  
Chris Genovali, executive director of the Raincoast Conservation Foundation, based in

British Columbia, says that with Douglas Channel tanker traffic poised to triple, whales could be hurt by noise pollution, or smashed by ships.

A spokesman for Enbridge says the company has no comment. Enbridge has previously said that the pipeline would create more than 500 long-term jobs, and more than 3,000 during construction. According to its website, it would slow its tankers as they crossed the Douglas Channel.

Meanwhile, the government is under pressure from industrialists who feel Canada has been treated unfairly by the United States. Though the largest importer of Canadian oil, for years the U.S. has delayed approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would siphon tar sands oil to the Gulf of Mexico, **amid protests** from environmentalists, ranchers and Native Americans. James Coleman, a professor of business and law at the University of Calgary, says **investor hopes are high** that Enbridge's Northern Gateway Pipeline will outflank Keystone.

"Because of Keystone, there's a strong sense in Canada that the only solution is to have different markets," Coleman says. "But it has raised the stakes for environmentalists too, because the argument from industry is that the oil is going to get to market one way or another, and environmentalists are saying, 'Maybe we can block all of these.'"

## Other endangered species

Canada is home to more than 160 other species listed as "endangered" and "threatened." Most still have no designated critical habitat. Scientists say this is because they are tasked with assessing rare animals, across thousands of miles of harsh terrains, with little money. Despite their disinclination to let the designation of a species be used as a pawn in a fight between environmentalists and developers, many scientists now fear that a bad precedent has been set. With eyes on Northern Gateway, some environmental groups sued the government to identify critical habitat, and this drew disproportionate concern to humpbacks just in the Douglas Channel.

"Some people have this image of this one channel as the key to survival of all life on the planet. Environmental groups are duping the public," says Andrew Trites, director of the Marine Mammal Research Unit at the University of British Columbia and a former member of COSEWIC. "Let's say every whale in the Douglas Channel is run over; you would probably never even notice it in terms of the recovery of whales on this coast."





Douglas Channel is also home to sea otters. Michael Patrick O'Neill / Alamy

But humpbacks are not the only species of special concern there. Douglas Channel is also home to sea otters. And for **a population of killer whales**, listed as "threatened," the mouth of the channel is classified as "potential critical habitat."

The second-largest animal on earth lives there too, the fin whale. Averaging 65 feet long, it has been listed in Canada as "threatened" since 2006, but there has been **no identification of its critical habitat** to date.

While the delay in fin whales' habitat designation has not yet been challenged in court, scientists in the Douglas Channel have documented something extraordinary about the behemoths, usually found in the deepest water, far out past the continental shelf.

"The mouth of the Douglas Channel is one of the few places in the world where fin whales come close to shore," says marine scientist Hussein Alidina, of the World Wildlife Fund in Canada. "Clearly it has to do with feeding."

*Updated: This article had incorrectly identified Hussein Alidina as a whale biologist.*

Last Updated on Saturday, 17 May 2014 07:04

## **The U.S. Military's New Normal in Africa A Secret African Mission and an African Mission that's No Secret**

**Peace News**



*Posted by Joan Russow*

Thursday, 15 May 2014 08:07

By [Nick Turse](#)

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/175844/>

What is Operation New Normal?

It's a question without an answer, a riddle the U.S. military refuses to solve. It's a secret operation in Africa that no one knows anything about. Except that someone does. His name is Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Lee Magee. He lives and breathes Operation New Normal. But he doesn't want to breath paint fumes or talk to me, so you can't know anything about it.

Confused? Stay with me.

Whatever Operation New Normal may be pales in comparison to the real "new normal" for U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM). The lower-cased variant is bold and muscular. It's an expeditionary force on a war footing. To the men involved, it's a story of **growth** and **expansion**, new **battlefields**, "**combat**," and "**war**." It's the **culmination** of years of **construction**, ingratiating, and interventions, the fruits of wide-eyed **expansion** and dismal policy **failures**, the backing of **proxies** to fight America's battles, while increasing U.S. personnel and firepower in and around the continent. It is, to quote an officer with AFRICOM, the blossoming of a "**war-fighting combatant command**." And unlike Operation New Normal, it's finally heading for a media outlet near you.

### **Ever Less New, Ever More Normal**

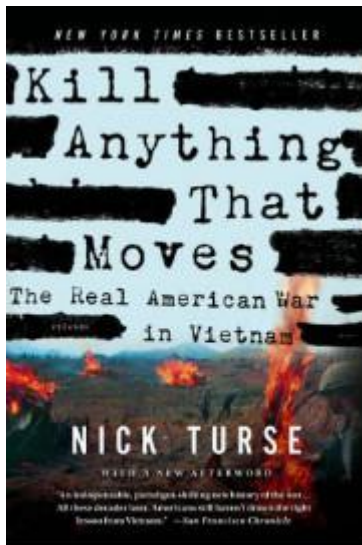
Since 9/11, the U.S. military has been ramping up missions on the African continent, funneling money into projects to woo allies, supporting and training **proxy forces**, conducting humanitarian outreach, carrying out air strikes and commando raids, creating a sophisticated **logistics network** throughout the region, and building a string of camps, "cooperative security locations," and bases-by-other-names.

All the while, AFRICOM **downplayed** the expansion and much of the media, **with** a few **notable exceptions**, played along. With the end of the Iraq War and the drawdown of combat forces in Afghanistan, Washington has, however, visibly "pivoted" to Africa and, in recent weeks, many **news** organizations, **especially** those **devoted** to the **military**, have begun **waking** up to the **new normal** there.

While daily U.S. troop strength continent-wide hovers in

the relatively modest range of 5,000 to 8,000 personnel, an under-the-radar expansion has been constant, with the U.S. military now conducting operations alongside almost every African military in almost every African country and averaging more than a mission a day.

This increased engagement has come at a continuing cost. When the U.S. and other allies intervened in 2011 to aid in the ouster of Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, for instance, it helped set off a chain reaction that led to a security vacuum destabilizing that country as well as neighboring Mali. The latter saw its elected government overthrown by a U.S.-trained officer. The former never recovered and has tottered toward failed-state status ever since. Local militias have been carving out fiefdoms, while killing untold numbers of Libyans — as well, of course, as U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans in a September 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, the “cradle” of the Libyan revolution, whose forces the U.S. had aided with training, materiel, and military might.



**Buy the book**

Quickly politicized by Congressional Republicans and conservative news outlets, “Benghazi” has become a shorthand for many things, including Obama administration cover-ups and misconduct, as well as White House lies and malfeasance. Missing, however, has been thoughtful analysis of the implications of American

power-projection in Africa or the possibility that blowback might result from it.

Far from being chastened by the Benghazi deaths or chalking them up to a failure to imagine the consequences of armed interventions in situations whose local politics they barely grasp, the Pentagon and the Obama administration have used Benghazi as a growth opportunity, a means to take military efforts on the continent to the next level. “Benghazi” has provided AFRICOM with a beefed-up mandate and new clout. It birthed the new normal in Africa.

### **The Spoils of Blowback**

Those 2012 killings “changed AFRICOM forever,” Major General Raymond Fox, commander of the II Marine Expeditionary Force, **told** attendees of a recent Sea-Air-Space conference organized by the **Navy League**, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, and the Merchant Marine. The proof lies in the new “crisis response” forces that have popped up in and around Africa, greatly enhancing the regional reach, capabilities, and firepower of the U.S. military.

Following the debacle in Benghazi, for instance, the U.S. established an Africa-focused force known as Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response (**SP-MAGTF CR**) to give AFRICOM quick-reaction capabilities on the continent. “Temporarily positioned” at Morón Air Base in Spain, this rotating unit of Marines and sailors is officially **billed** as “a balanced, expeditionary force with built-in command, ground, aviation, and logistics elements and organized, trained, and equipped to accomplish a specific mission.”

Similarly, Benghazi provided the justification for the birthing of another rapid reaction unit, the Commander’s In-Extremis Force. Long in the planning stages and **supported** by the head of the Special Operations Command, Admiral William McRaven, the Fort Carson, Colorado-based unit -- part of the 10th Special Forces Group -- was sent to Europe **weeks after** Benghazi. Elements of this specialized **counterterrorism unit** are now “constantly forward deployed,” AFRICOM spokesman Benjamin Benson told TomDispatch, and stand “ready for the commander to use,

if there' s a crisis.”

The East Africa Response Force (EARF), operating from the lone avowed American base in Africa -- Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti -- is another new quick-reaction unit. When asked about EARF, Benson said, “The growing complexity of the security environment demonstrated the need for us to have a [Department of Defense]-positioned response force that could respond to crises in the African region.”

In late December, just days after the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, out of Fort Riley, Kansas, **arrived** in Djibouti to serve as the newly christened EARF, members of the unit were whisked off to South Sudan. Led by EARF' s commander, Lieutenant Colonel Lee Magee, the 45-man platoon was dispatched to that restive nation (midwifed into being by the U.S. only a few years earlier) as it slid toward civil war with armed factions moving close to the U.S. embassy in the capital, Juba. The obvious fear: another Benghazi.

Joined by elements of the Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response and more shadowy **special ops troops**, members of EARF helped secure and reinforce the embassy and **evacuate** Americans. Magee and most of his troops **returned** to Djibouti in February, although a few were still serving in South Sudan as recently as **last month**.

South Sudan, a nation the U.S. **poured** much time and effort into **building**, is lurching toward the brink of genocide, **according** to Secretary of State John Kerry. With a ceasefire already **in shambles** within hours of being signed, the country stands as another stark foreign policy failure on a **continent** now **rife** with them. But just as Benghazi proved a useful excuse for dispatching more forward-deployed firepower toward Africa, the embassy scare in South Sudan acted as a convenient template for future crises in which the U.S. military would be even more involved. “We’ re basically the firemen for AFRICOM. If something arises and they need troops somewhere, we can be there just like that,” Captain John Young, a company commander with the East Africa Response Force, **told** Stars and Stripes in the wake of the Juba mission.

## The New Normal and the Same Old, Same Old

A batch of official Army Africa documents obtained by TomDispatch convinced me that EARF was intimately connected with Operation New Normal. A July 2013 briefing slide, for instance, references “East Africa Response Force/New Normal,” while another concerning operations on that continent mentions “New Normal Reaction Force East.” At the same time, the phrase “new normal” has been increasingly on the lips of the men running America’s African ops.

Jason Hyland, a 30-year State Department veteran who serves as Foreign Policy Advisor to Brigadier General Wayne Grigsby, the commander of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), for instance, **told** an interviewer that the task force “is at the forefront in this region in implementing U.S. policy on the ‘new normal’ to protect our missions when there are uncertain conditions.”

A news release from CJTF-HOA concerning the Juba operation also used the phrase: “While the East Africa Response Force was providing security for the embassy, additional forces were required to continue the evacuation mission. Under the auspices of ‘the new normal,’ which refers to the heightened threat U.S. Embassies face throughout the world, the SP-MAGTF CR arrived from Morón, Spain,” **wrote** Technical Sergeant Jasmine Reif.

Earlier this year in Seapower magazine, the commander of Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response, Colonel Scott Benedict, **described** the “new normal” as a world filled with “a lot of rapidly moving crises,” requiring military interventions and likened it to the Marine Corps deployments in the so-called **Banana Wars** in Central America and the Caribbean in the early twentieth century.

On a visit to Camp Lemonnier, Marine commandant General James Amos echoed the same sentiments, **calling** his troops “America’s insurance policy.” Referencing the Marine task force, he invoked that **phrase** in an even more expansive way. Aside from “winning battles” in Afghanistan, he **said**, the creation of that force was “probably the most significant thing we’ve done in the last year-and-a-half as far as adjusting the Marine Corps for what people are now calling the new normal, which are

these crises that are happening around the world.”

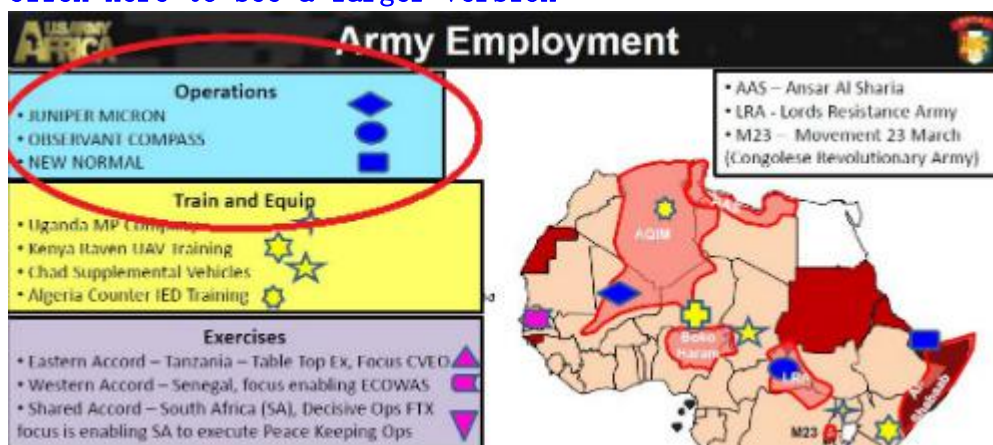
In March, Brigadier General Wayne Grigsby explicitly noted that the phrase meant far more than simple embassy security missions. “Sitting in Djibouti is really the new normal,” the CJTF-HOA commander [said](#). (He was, in fact, sitting in an office in that country.) “It’s not the new normal... as far as providing security for our threatened embassies. It’s really the new normal on how we’re going to operate as a [Department of Defense entity] in supporting the national security strategy of our country.”

### Operation New Normal and the Incredible Disappearing Lee Magee

With so many officials talking about the “new normal” and with documents citing a specific operation sporting the same name, I called up AFRICOM’s media chief Benjamin Benson looking for more information. “I don’t know the name new normal,” he told me. “It isn’t a term we’re using to define one of the operations.”

That seemed awfully curious. An official military document obtained by TomDispatch explicitly noted that U.S. troops would be deployed as part of Operation New Normal in 2014. The term was even used, in still another document, alongside other code-named operations like Juniper Micron and Observant Compass, missions to aid the [French and African interventions](#) in Mali and to [degrade or destroy](#) Joseph Kony’s murderous [Lord’s Resistance Army](#) in central Africa.

[Click here to see a larger version](#)



From a 2013 U.S. Army Africa briefing slide referencing Operation New Normal.

Next, I got in touch with Lieutenant Colonel Glen Roberts

at CJTF-HOA and explained that I wanted to know about Operation New Normal. His response was effusive and unequivocal: I should speak with Lee Magee -- that is [Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Lee Magee](#), a West Point graduate, third-generation Army officer, and commander of the East African Response Force who had deployed to South Sudan as the nation shattered on the rocks of reality. "He lives this concept and has executed it," was how Roberts put it.

Was I available to talk to Magee the next day? Yes, indeed.

On March 27th, the day of the proposed interview, however, a lower-ranking public affairs official got in touch to explain that Lieutenant Colonel Magee could not speak to me and Lieutenant Colonel Roberts was out of the office. I asked to reschedule for the next day. The spokesman said he didn't know what their calendars looked like, but that Roberts was expected back later that day. I left a message, but heard nothing.

The next morning, I called the press office in Djibouti and asked to speak to Magee. He wasn't there. No one was. Everyone had left work early. The reason? "Paint fumes."

That was a new one.

Another follow-up and Roberts finally got back in touch. "Apologies, but I am no longer able to arrange an interview with Magee," he informed me. "Thanks for understanding."

But I didn't understand and told him so. After all, Magee was the man who lived and executed the new normal. I thought we were set for an interview. What happened?

"He has simply declined an interview, as is his privilege," was the best Roberts could do. Magee had been dropped into the hot zone in South Sudan to forestall the next Benghazi, and had previously [spoken](#) with other [media outlets](#) about his work in Africa, but conversing with me about Operation New Normal was apparently beyond the pale. Or maybe it had something to do with those paint fumes.

On March 31st, Roberts told me that he could answer the questions by email -- questions that I had already sent in



on March 17th. But no response came. I followed up again. And again. And again. I sent the questions a second time.

As of publication, almost two months after my initial inquiry, no word yet. That, evidently, is the new normal, too.

### **The Real New Normal**

Quite obviously, the U.S. military isn't eager to talk about Operation New Normal, which -- despite Benjamin Benson's contentions, Lee Magee's silence, and Glen Roberts' disappearance -- is almost certainly the name for a U.S. military mission in East Africa that, U.S. documents suggest, is tied to the Benghazi-birther East African Response Force.

More important than uncovering the nature of Operation New Normal, however, is recognizing the real new normal in Africa for the U.S. military: ever-increasing missions across the continent -- now **averaging** about 1.5 per day -- ever more engagement with local **proxies** in ever more African countries, the construction of ever more new facilities in ever more countries (including plans for a possible new compound in Niger), and a string of bases **devoted** to surveillance activities spreading across the northern tier of Africa. Add to this impressive build-up the three new rapid reaction forces, specialized teams like a **contingent** of AFRICOM personnel and officials from the FBI and the departments of Justice, State, and Defense created to help **rescue** hundreds of Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped by members of the Islamic militant group Boko Haram, and other shadowy quick-response units like the seldom-mentioned **Naval Special Warfare Unit 10**.

“Having resources [on the continent] that are ready for a response is really valuable,” Benson told me when talking about the Djibouti-based EARF. The same holds for the U.S. military's new normal in Africa: more of everything valuable to a military seeking a new mission in the wake of two fading, none-too-successful wars.

The Benghazi killings, unrest in South Sudan, and now the Boko Haram kidnappings have provided the U.S. with ways to bring a long-running “light footprint in Africa” narrative into line with a far heavier reality. Each

crisis has provided the U.S. with further justification for publicizing a steady expansion on that continent that's been underway but under wraps for years. New forces, new battlefields, and a new openness about a new "war," to [quote](#) one of the men waging it. That's the real new normal for the U.S. military in Africa -- and you don't need to talk to Lieutenant Colonel Lee Magee to know it.

Nick Turse is the managing editor of [TomDispatch.com](#) and a fellow at the Nation Institute. A 2014 [Izzy Award](#) winner, his pieces have appeared in the [New York Times](#), the [Los Angeles Times](#), and [the Nation](#), at the [BBC](#) and [regularly](#) at TomDispatch. He is the author most recently of the New York Times bestseller [Kill Anything That Moves: The Real American War in Vietnam](#) (now out in paperback).

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## [Eyewitness to Nuke Explosion Challenges World Powers](#)



### [Peace News](#)

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Wednesday, 14 May 2014 16:23

By [Thalif Deen](#)



Between 1946 and 1958, the United States conducted 67 nuclear weapons tests in the Marshall Islands, triggering health and environmental problems which still plague the nation. Credit: Christopher Michel/cc by 2.0

UNITED NATIONS, May 12 2014 (IPS) - When the Foreign Minister of Marshall Islands Tony de Brum addressed a nuclear review Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meeting at the United Nations last month, he asked whether anyone in the room had witnessed a nuclear explosion.

The question was met, not surprisingly, with resounding silence.

As a nine-year-old boy, the minister vividly remembered seeing the white flash of the Bravo detonation on Bikini atoll, six decades ago. It was 1,000 times more powerful than Hiroshima, he told PrepCom delegates, mostly proponents of nuclear disarmament.

A two-week-long meeting of the PrepCom for the upcoming 2015 review conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) ended in predictable disappointment.

John Burroughs, executive director of the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy and the U.N. Office of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA), told IPS the PrepCom succeeded in adopting an agenda for the 2015 conference.

But "to no one's surprise, it did not accomplish anything else," he added.

### **Washington's "Dismal Record"**

In an open letter to U.S. President Barack Obama, a coalition of more than 100 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and anti-nuclear activists has blasted the United States for its "dismal record" on nuclear disarmament.

"The United States has been notably missing in action at best, and dismissive or

obstructive at worst," says the letter, whose signatories include the Western States Legal Foundation, the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, Peace Action, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, American Friends Service Committee and Peace Action New York.

The letter urges the Obama administration to "shed its negative attitude and participate constructively in deliberations and negotiations regarding a creation of a multilateral process to achieve a nuclear weapons-free world. This will require reversal of the dismal U.S. record."

Unless Washington takes a more positive role in nuclear disarmament, the coalition predicts "this conflict may come to a head at the 2015 Review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)."

The criticisms in the letter include:

- \* Despite a unanimous 2010 agreement to hold a conference on a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in 2012, the U.S. State Department suddenly announced in November 2012 the conference be postponed indefinitely.

- \* In March 2013 and February 2014, Norway and Mexico respectively hosted two conferences on humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons. But Washington boycotted both meetings.

- \* In November 2012, the General Assembly established an open-ended working group to develop proposal for disarmament negotiations and scheduled the first ever high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament. The United States voted against both resolutions, refused to participate in the working group and declared in advance it would disregard any outcomes.

Burroughs, a member of the international legal team for Marshall Islands, said the most dramatic development of the PrepCom was the announcement of the Marshall Islands filing on Apr. 24 of lawsuits against the nine nuclear-armed states: the five permanent members (P5) of the Security Council, namely the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia, along with Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea.

The cases, before the International Court of Justice in The Hague, claim those states have failed to meet obligations of nuclear disarmament and cessation of the nuclear arms race under the NPT and general international law, said Burroughs.

Between 1946 and 1958, the United States conducted 67 nuclear weapons tests in the Marshall Islands triggering health and environmental problems which still plague the nation with a little over 68,000 people.

The NPT, which came into force in 1970, requires a review conference to be held every five years. The last review conference took place in 2010.

The only nuclear powers which have refused to join the treaty are India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea (which joined and later withdrew from the NPT).

South Korea's Foreign Minister Yun Byung-Se, who chaired a meeting of the Security Council on Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), pointed out last week that North Korea "is the only country in the world that has conducted nuclear tests in the 21st

century.

"Notwithstanding the efforts of the international community, North Korea has continued to develop its nuclear weapons over the last two decades, and is now threatening its fourth nuclear test," he added.

If North Korea succeeds in acquiring nuclear weapons, he said, it will seriously undermine the NPT regime and exacerbate tension and instability in Northeast Asia.

Ambassador Enrique Roman-Morey of Peru, who chaired the PrepCom, admitted the meeting was unable to agree on an action plan for NPT.

"But this was due to lack of time, not lack of political will," he said, pointing out the PrepCom does not negotiate.

Asked about the difficulties facing negotiators, he said when nuclear issues are discussed there are problems "from the first letter to the last letter" in the negotiated document.

A "working paper" resulting from the PrepCom will be the basis for future negotiations at the Review Conference.

Under the treaty, all parties to the NPT pledge not to transfer nuclear weapons or assist or encourage any non-nuclear weapon state to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons.

Similarly, each non-nuclear-weapon state undertakes not to receive the transfer of nuclear weapons or manufacture or otherwise acquire them.

Burroughs told IPS the PrepCom, like previous such meetings in the years prior to review conferences, could not reach consensus on recommendations to the 2015 conference.

Many states rejected the effort of the PrepCom chair to craft a compromise document.

The NPT nuclear-weapon states effectively maintained that commitments made by the 2010 Review Conference relating to nuclear arms control and disarmament should be carried forward into the next five-year period, he added.

He said the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other groupings of non-nuclear weapon states held that the 2015 conference should adopt a more far-reaching plan of action that leads to verified, timebound elimination of nuclear weapons in the foreseeable future.

Many non-nuclear weapon states also said the proposed recommendations should have taken much fuller account of the conferences on humanitarian consequences of nuclear explosions, the last two held in Norway and Mexico, as well as the first-ever High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament held in the General Assembly in September 2013.

Burroughs said the debate at the PrepCom set the stage for consideration of a crucial question going into next year's Review Conference: "Should non-nuclear weapon states insist, even if doing so results in no agreed outcome, that the conference set in motion multilateral negotiations on achieving a world free of nuclear weapons?"

## **Related IPS Articles**

- [\*\*Gaps Remain in U.N. WMD Resolution\*\*](#)
- [\*\*U.S.-Dependent Pacific Island Defies Nuke Powers\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Interfaith Leaders Jointly Call to Abolish Nuclear Arms\*\*](#)

A serious effort to that end was made in the 2010 conference but was rejected by the nuclear weapon states.

"Or, should they once again, as in the 1995, 2000, and 2010 conferences, agree to lesser commitments that have gone largely unfulfilled?" he said.

Still, most of those commitments remain valid and relevant whatever the 2015 conference does.

Thomas M. Countryman, U.S. assistant secretary at the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, told PrepCom delegates that in 2015, Washington will "look to build upon the success of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, where the conference approved a comprehensive, 64-item Action Plan, the first of its kind in the NPTs 44-year history."

He said the United States will issue a national report on the steps taken so far to implement key elements of the 2010 Action Plan that uses a common framework agreed by all five nuclear weapon states.

"We will also highlight our contributions to International Atomic Energy Agency programmes harnessing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for efforts like fighting disease, improving food security, and managing water resources," he added.

## **A PRESENTATION AT THE VICTORIA 2014 MARCH AGAINST MONSANTO**



### **PEJ Events**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Saturday, 24 May 2014 16:39

BY JOAN RUSSOW GLOBAL COMPLIANCE RESEARCH PROJECT

**IF NOTHING IS DONE SOON THERE MAY NO LONGER BE ORGANIC FOOD AND CROPS. THE SITUATION IS URGENT. GMOS AND NON-GMOS CANNOT CO-EXIST.**

**THERE MUST BE A GLOBAL BAN ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS AND CROPS AND A CAMPAIGN FOR FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

<http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/the-un-general-assembly-institute-a-global-ban-on-genetically-engineered-food-and-crops>

**(IN CAPITALS TO BE READ A RALLY)**

**WE ARE LIVING IN A WAKE OF INSTITUTIONAL COLLUSION, AMONG GOVERNMENTS/INDUSTRIES / UNIVERSITIES, REGULATORY AGENCIES, JOURNALS; ALL OF WHICH HAVE COLLECTIVELY CONTRIBUTED TO GROSS OR CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE RESULTING IN GLOBAL FOOD INSECURITY AND LACK OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

**GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CROPS (GE/GMOS) SHOULD HAVE BEEN BANNED YEARS AGO.**

**WHILE LABELING ADDRESSES THE RIGHT TO KNOW ISSUE, LABELLING DOES NOT ADDRESS THE EQUITY ISSUE - NOT EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE CAN AFFORD TO BUY ORGANIC FOOD, AND LABELING DOES NOT ADDRESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE- GENETIC DRIFT AND CONTAMINATION.**

**GIVEN THE LONGSTANDING SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF POTENTIAL HARM OF GMOS, IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY TO DEMAND THE INVOKING OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE; WHICH READS: WHERE THERE IS A THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT.**

**A THREAT OF LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY OR A THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH, THE LACK OF FULL SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY OF HARM SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A REASON TO POSTPONE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE THREAT.**

**THE LACK OF FULL SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY OF HARM**

**I REPEAT THIS PART BECAUSE CANADA HAS MISINTERPRETED THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE. IN CANADA THE WORDING IS**

**THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE" RECOGNIZES THAT THE ABSENCE OF FULL SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY" OF SAFETY SHALL NOT BE USED AS A REASON FOR POSTPONING DECISIONS**

**IN CANADA, THIS VERSION HAS RESULTED IN THE QUESTIONABLE APPROVAL OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CROPS AND THE IGNORING OF YEARS OF INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INDICATING**

**HARM.**

**THIS INTERPRETATION IS DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE AND HAS BEEN USED TO JUSTIFY THE AVOIDANCE OF ALL THE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH SUCH AS STUDIES CARRIED OUT OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME THAN THE REQUIREMENT OF 90 DAYS; STUDIES WHICH HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE HARM OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CROPS.**

**THERE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF HARM, BY INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS, TO JUSTIFY DEMANDING A TOTAL GLOBAL BAN.**

**A YEAR AGO TODAY, THE INSTITUTE IN SCIENCE AND SOCIETY WHOSE DIRECTOR IS THE GENETICIST, MAE WAN HO, ISSUED A REPORT ENTITLED 'BAN GMOS NOW!' THIS INSTITUTE HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CROPS SINCE THE LATE. 1980S.**

**IN 2012, GILES-ERIC SÉRALINI, A PROFESSOR OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AT CAEN UNIVERSITY, LED A TOXICOLOGICAL STUDY ON GM MAIZE AND ROUNDUP HERBICIDE INVOLVING 200 RATS OVER A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS; HE FOUND AN ALARMING INCREASE IN EARLY DEATH, LARGE TUMOURS INCLUDING CANCERS, AND DISEASES OF THE LIVER AND KIDNEY. THE STUDY, PUBLISHED IN 2012 BY THE JOURNAL FOOD AND CHEMICAL TOXICOLOGY (FCT) [1], WAS BY NO MEANS THE FIRST, NOR THE ONLY ONE TO SHOW ADVERSE HEALTH IMPACTS FROM GM FEED OR ROUNDUP HERBICIDE IT WAS THE LATEST WARNING – PERHAPS THE MOST DRAMATIC - AND THE MOST IN-DEPTH LONG-TERM TOXICOLOGICAL STUDY EVER DONE. SIGNIFICANTLY, MANY OF THE MOST DAMAGING EFFECTS CAME AFTER 90 DAYS, THE OFFICIALLY MANDATED PERIOD OF FEEDING TRIALS FOR REGULATORY APPROVAL OF GMOS.**

**WHAT FOLLOWED WAS A CONCERTED WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT THE FINDINGS, INCLUDING THE APPOINTMENT OF EX-MONSANTO SCIENTIST RICHARD GOODMAN TO THE NEWLY CREATED POST OF ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY AT THE AFOREMENTIONED JOURNAL.**

**ON 27 NOVEMBER 2013, THE JOURNAL'S EDITOR WALLACE HAYES WROTE TO SÉRALINI'S TEAM REQUESTING THEM TO RETRACT THEIR PAPER**

**SUBSEQUENTLY THERE WAS AN OPEN LETTER CIRCULATED CALLING FOR A BOYCOT OF THIS JOURNAL**

**SO FAR THIS LETTER HAS BEEN SIGNED BY 1355 SCIENTISTS AND 3952 NON-SCIENTISTS FROM 99 COUNTRIES.**

**I AM MENTIONING THIS BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN A HISTORY OF**



**CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS DISCREDITING OR MUZZLING INDEPENDENT SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE BEEN SPEAKING OUT AGAINST GENETICALLY ENGINEERING FOOD AND CROPS.**

**MANY GOVERNMENTS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAVE INSTITUTED A TOTAL BAN OR A PARTIAL BAN OR PROMOTED GE FREE ZONES OR GE-FREE PRODUCTS.**

**BUT THERE ARE OTHER GOVERNMENTS, LIKE THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA, OF THE US, OF BRAZIL AND OF ARGENTINA. THESE MAJOR SUPPORTERS AND PRODUCERS OF GMOS HAVE BEEN SILENT DEMONSTRATING BLATENT CONFLICT OF INTEREST.**

**IN 1999, VANDANA SHIVA ORGANIZED, IN DELHI, THE BIODEVASTATION II CONFERENCE OF SCIENTISTS, ACTIVISTS AND FARMERS. AT THIS CONFERENCE THE FOLLOWING GLOBAL DECLARATION WAS ENDORSED BY ALL BUT ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS;**

**THE BIODEVASTATION II GLOBAL DECLARATION CALLED FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

- (I) A GLOBAL BAN ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS AND CROPS;**
- (II) A GLOBAL BAN ON THE PATENTING OF LIFE FORMS;**
- (III) AN END TO THE EXPLOITATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF FARMERS, PEASANTS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES;**
- (IV) A GLOBAL SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR PROMOTING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND OTHER FORMS OF ECOLOGICAL FARMING, AND FOR INSTITUTING A FAIR AND JUST TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR FARMERS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE BAN**

**ONE MAY ASK SHOULD WE AS CANADIANS JUST STRUGGLE TO PERSUADE THE GOVERNMENT IN CANADA TO JUST LABEL GMOS TO FULFILL OUR RIGHT TO KNOW OR .**

**DO CITIZENS IN CANADA AND IN OTHER GMO PRODUCING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES AND**

**CITIZENS IN THE COUNTRIES WHERE THE MAJOR GMO PRODUCERS ARE REGISTERED**

**DO THESE CITIZENS NOT HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO THE REST OF THE WORLD WHERE THESE PRODUCTS ARE BEING DUMPED TO PUSH FOR A GLOBAL BAN**

**AN ACTIVIST FROM PARAGUAY, WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE REPUBLIC OF SOY, ONCE**

**DESCRIBED WHAT HAPPENED AFTER PRESIDENT GEORGE W BUSH AND PRESIDENT LULA FROM BRAZIL MET WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF**

**PARAGUAY MONSANTO AND CARGILL- SHE POINTED OUT THE DIE HAD BEEN CAST!**

**MONSANTO WOULD PROVIDE THE ROUND UP READY WITH GLYSOPHATE TO DESTROY THE FORESTS FOR CARGILL' S PLANTATION OF SOY**

**THIS IS ONE OF MANY EXAMPLES OF WHY WE NEED TO DO MORE THAN JUST SEEK TO ENSURE ONLY OUR RIGHT TO KNOW.**

**I WOULD PROPOSE THAT ESPECIALLY CITIZENS IN NORTH AMERICA HAVE AN ETHICAL OBLIGATION TO DEMAND MORE AND I PROPOSE**

**A CAMPAIGN FOR GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

**1. TO BUILD ON THE FOLLOWING UNITED NATIONS PRECEDENT.**

**In 2000 The UNITED NATIONS CALLED FOR A MORATORIUM ON "GENETICALLY MODIFIED TO RENDER SEEDS STERILE" (GURT) AFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS "THE TERMINATOR GENE"; THE MORATORIUM WAS RE-AFFIRMED AND THE LANGUAGE STRENGTHENED IN MARCH 2006, AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES MEETING OF THE UNITED \NATIONS CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.**

**TO CALL FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE UN MORATORIUM ON THE TERMINATOR GENE AND**

**AND CALL FOR ALL STATES TO BAN THIS TECHNOLOGY AND PASS NATIONAL LAWS**

**[IT APPEARS THAT MONSANTO RESPECTS THE MORATORIUM BUT HAS NOT RULED OUT USING IT IN THE FUTURE. THEREFORE A BAN WOULD BE NECESSARY].**

**2. TO CALL UPON THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DRAFT A DECLARATION INSTITUTING A GLOBAL BAN ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS AND CROPS;**

**AND A GLOBAL BAN ON THE PATENTING OF LIFE FORMS;**

**SEE PETITION AT <http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/the-un-general-assembly-institute-a-global-ban-on-genetically-engineered-food-and-crops>**

**3. TO CALL FOR THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO INVOKE ARTICLE 22 OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND SET UP AND INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL TO TRY THE PRO-GMO REGULATORY AGENCIES AND THE BIOTECH COMPANIES LISTED BELOW FOR GROSS/ CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE AND FOR CAUSING IRREVERSIBLE GLOBAL FOOD INSECURITY AND CAUSING LOSS OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY.**

**4 TO CALL FOR THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DRAFT AN ANTI-GMO PROTOCOL, INSTITUTING A TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL**

## **DIVERSITY**

**5. TO CALL FOR THE NON-GMO PRODUCING COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE THE GMO PRODUCING COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS, TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE FOR CONTRAVENING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE LEGALLY BINDING CONVENTION ON \ BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**6. TO CALL FOR THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S CODEX ALIMENTARIUS WHICH PERMITTED GMO LABELING IN 2011, TO SUPPORT THE BANNING OF GMOS, SO COUNTRIES WISHING TO BAN GMOS WOULD NOT BE VULNERABLE TO ATTACKS UNDER THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

**7. TO CALL ON THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION (THE FAO) TO SUPPORT THE GLOBAL BAN. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF FAO JOSÉ GRAZIANO DA SILVA HAS SAID SAID "WE DON'T NEED GMOS, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO AREAS OF PRODUCTION AND THE CROPS," AND SAID THAT THAT TO ELIMINATE MALNUTRITION AND FOOD INSECURITY, SMALL PRODUCERS HAVE TO BE AT THE CENTRE OF POLICIES AND BE GIVEN ASSISTANCE AND**

**8. TO CALL UPON COUNTRIES, IN WHICH GMOS CORPORATIONS ARE REGISTERED TO REVOKE THE CHARTERS OF MONSANTO AND ITS GMO COHORTS.**

**INCLUDING THE FOLLOW CORPORATIONS WHOSE HEADS QUARTERS ARE REGISTERED IN VARIOUS CONTRIES.**

**MONSANTO(ST LOUIS, MISSOURI)**

**CALGENE(NEW JERSY USA);**

**, AMERICAN CYANAMID, (NEW JERSEY)**

**AQUABOUNTY (MAYNARD MASS USA);**

**SYMBIO (SAN JOSA USA)**

**PIONEER HIBRED ( IOWA USA)**

**DNAP (OAKLAND USA),**

**ELI LILLY ( INDIANAPOLIS USA)**

**UPJOHN, (CONNETICUT, USA)**

**DOW (MICHIGAN USA)**

**SYNGENTA;(BASEL, SWITZERLAND)**

**NOVARTIS (BASEL, SWITZERLAND)**

**NOVARTIS (BASEL, SWITZERLAND)**

**ZENECA ( LONDON UK)**

**OKANAGAN SPECIALTY FRUITS (SUMMERLAND CANADA)**

**JUST TO NAME A FEW**

**9. TO CALL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF CORPORATIONS WHICH HAVE EXPLOITED THE KNOWLEDGE OF FARMERS, AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.**

**10,TO CALL ON CORPORATIONS TO END THE EXPLOITATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF FARMERS, PEASANTS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES;**

**11. CALL FOR A GLOBAL SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR PROMOTING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND OTHER FORMS OF ECOLOGICAL FARMING, AND FOR INSTITUTING A FAIR AND JUST TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR FARMERS AND COMMUNITIES. AFFECTED BY THE BAN**

**12.TO CALL FOR GLOBAL PROTECTION OF THE SMALL FARMERS AND GUARANTEE GLOBAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY.**

**LA VIA CAMPESINA DEFINED FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AS**

**THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO HEALTHY AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE FOOD PRODUCED THROUGH ECOLOGICALLY SOUND AND SUSTAINABLE METHODS, AND THEIR RIGHT TO DEFINE THEIR OWN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS.**

**FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CALLS FOR A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT IN FOCUS FROM FOOD AS A COMMODITY TO FOOD AS A PUBLIC GOOD. AS SUCH IT CAN ONCE AGAIN ASSUME IT CENTRAL ROLE IN STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES, ECOSYSTEMS AND ECONOMIES**

**THE LANGUAGE OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AS DISTINCT FROM `FOOD SECURITY IN BEING EXPLICIT ABOUT FOOD CITIZENSHIP; FOOD SOVEREIGNTY EMPHASIZES THAT PEOPLE MUST HAVE A SAY IN HOW THEIR FOOD IS PRODUCED AND WHERE IT COMES FROM THE CORE OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IS RECLAIMING PUBLIC DECISION MAKING POWER IN THE FOOD SYSTEM**

**13. TO CALL UPON CANADA TO ABIDE BY THE INTERNATIONAL PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**

**14. TO CALL UPON CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONER TO REPORT ON CANADA'S MISINTERPRETATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE, AND BAN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CRIOS AND TO PROMOTE ORGANIC ECO AGRICULTURE**

**15.TO CALL FOR THE CANADIAN AND BC GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE GE FREE RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES ON SEPTEMBER 19 2013:**

**"THAT UBCM ASK THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT TO LEGISLATE THE PROHIBITION OF IMPORTING, EXPORTING AND GROWING PLANTS AND SEEDS CONTAINING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED DNA, AND OF**

**RAISING GE ANIMALS WITHIN BC, AND TO DECLARE, THROUGH LEGISLATION, THAT BC IS A GE FREE AREA IN RESPECT TO ALL PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES."**

**16 ALSO TO CALL UPON THE BC GOVERNMENT TO NOT PROCEED WITH SITE C DAM WHICH WILL DESTROY ACRES OF GOOD AGRICULTURAL LAND**

**17. TO CALL ON THE BC GOVERNMENT TO RESCIND BILL 23 ON THE AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE AND TO INCREASE INSTEAD NOT DECREASE THE SIZE OF THE ALR. FOOD SECURITY REQUIRES A LAND AND WATER BASE THAT MUST TAKE PRIORITY OVER INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

**LAND THAT MAY BE PERCEIVED NOW, TO BE PRESENTLY UNUSABLE FOR AGRICULTURE, COULD BECOME USABLE IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE EXPERIENCING THE DESTRUCTION OF ECOSYSTEMS AND ARABLE LAND. WE ARE ALSO LIVING IN A STATE OF UNCERTAINTY AND WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH CAUTION INVOKING THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE.**

**IN THE FOOD SECURITY SECTION OF THE RECENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE. THERE WAS A DIRE WARNING ABOUT THE POTENTIAL LOSS OF FOOD SECURITY BECAUSE OF THE RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF THE MAJOR FOSSIL FUEL PRODUCING STATES TO SERIOUSLY REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

**BAN GMOS NOW!**

1.

2.

## NAFTA Body Recommends Full Investigation of Canada's Failure to Protect Wild Salmon From Industrial Fish Farms



**Earth News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Friday, 23 May 2014 09:42

By West Coast News

<http://westcoastnativenews.com/nafta-body-recommends-full-investigation-of-canadas-failure-to-protect-wild-salmon-from-industrial-fish-farms/>

**derrick on May 22nd, 2014 6:32 am**

For Immediate Release, May 21, 2014

A key NAFTA body today **recommended** a formal investigation into Canada's failure to protect wild salmon from disease and parasites from industrial fish farms in British Columbia. The decision by the Secretariat of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, an environmental dispute body established under NAFTA, responds to a 2012 **petition** by Pacific Coast Wild Salmon Society and Kwikwasu'tinuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation in Canada, and the U.S.-based Center for Biological Diversity and Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations.

"NAFTA absolutely should investigate why Canada has failed to enforce the Fisheries Act to keep harmful pollutants, viruses and parasites out of water used by wild salmon, and the damage being done to wild salmon in British Columbia by the aggressive Norwegian salmon farming industry," said biologist Alexandra Morton with the Pacific Coast Wild Salmon Society. "The fate of our wild salmon runs is an environmental, economic, social and trade issue of international concern."

The Secretariat's decision identified "central questions" raised by the petition that should be investigated, including whether Canada is effectively enforcing section 36 of its federal Fisheries Act in relation to salmon aquaculture operations in British Columbia that allow "deleterious substances" in waters frequented by fish. Today's recommendation by the commission is an important step in moving the petition forward under NAFTA's environmental dispute process.

"Wild salmon shouldn't continue to be subjected to viruses, toxic chemicals and parasites from open-water industrial fish operations in their migration routes," said Jeff

Miller with the Center for Biological Diversity. "Canada's own Cohen Commission recommended moving finfish farming off wild salmon migration routes but that still hasn't happened. An investigation by NAFTA would shine a spotlight on Canada's refusal to protect wild salmon habitat as required by its own Fisheries Act."

The petition challenged the Canadian government's violations of its Fisheries Act in permitting more than 100 industrial salmon feedlots in British Columbia to operate along wild salmon migration routes, exposing ecologically, socially and economically valuable salmon runs to epidemics of disease, parasites, toxic chemicals and concentrated waste. The petition documents the proliferation of industrial aquaculture and its impacts on British Columbia ecosystems that support wild salmon. Salmon feedlots are linked to dramatic declines in wild salmon populations worldwide and spread of lethal salmon viruses.

### **Background**

When a country that is signatory to the North American Free Trade Agreement fails to enforce its environmental laws, any party may petition the Commission for Environmental Cooperation for investigation. Canada's Fisheries Act prohibits harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat or addition of "deleterious substances." The petitioners seek a finding that Canada is violating its Fisheries Act with regard to industrial aquaculture. Such a finding could push Canada to protect wild salmon, ideally by relocating fish aquaculture into contained tanks on land.

Following today's decision, the Commission's governing body, composed of high-level environmental authorities from Canada, the United States and Mexico, will consider the issue. The body has 60 days to make a final decision. If the review goes forward, the Commission will initiate a full factual investigation into Canada's lack of enforcement of the Fisheries Act.

Scientific evidence of threats to wild salmon swimming through B.C. waters from fish feedlots has been mounting, as has public concern that feedlots could spread epidemic diseases. This is a threat that jeopardizes the health of every wild salmon run along the Pacific Coast, since U.S. and Canadian stocks mingle in the ocean and estuaries.

Since the petition was filed, Atlantic salmon farms around Vancouver Island suffered a virus outbreak in May 2012 that led to a quarantine and the cull of more than half a million fish. More recently scientists documented a devastating Norwegian virus that attacks the heart of salmon—called the piscine virus—infecting nearly all farmed salmon raised and for sale in British Columbia.

In fall of 2012 the Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the decline of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River issued a **final report** concluding that salmon farms along wild salmon migration routes have the potential for serious and irreversible harm to salmon through introduction of exotic diseases and to aggravate endemic diseases, with a negative impact on Fraser River sockeye. The Cohen Commission recommended a freeze on net-pen salmon farm production along part of the Fraser sockeye migration route until 2020, at which time all farms should be removed unless Canada has hard evidence that the farms are doing no harm. The commission also suggested revising siting criteria to protect all wild salmon migration routes, and that Fisheries and Oceans Canada should no longer promote salmon farming as an industry or farmed salmon as a product.

Yet in January 2014, Canada opened the British Columbia coast to more salmon farms and is considering removing section 36 of the Fisheries Act to accommodate the salmon farmers' needs for more effective salmon de-lousing drugs.

The Kwikwasu'tinuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation is a native tribe whose territory off

northern Vancouver Island is being used by 27 Norwegian-owned salmon feedlots. The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations is the largest trade association of commercial fishers on the west coast, representing family fishing men and women. The University of Denver Environmental Law Clinic helped prepare and submit the petition.

## [Ban Glyphosate Herbicides](#)

### [Now](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 23 May 2014 03:38

By [\*Dr. Mae-Wan Ho\*](#)

Scientists Confirm Potent Hormone Disrupting Effects

*Latest evidence confirms world's top-selling herbicide used with GM crops is toxic and disrupts sex hormones at infinitesimal doses; time for a worldwide ban*


**This report has been submitted to the US Environment Protection Agency  
Please circulate widely with all the hyperlinks included to your elected representatives, wherever you are**

**Glyphosate is the world's top selling herbicide, and Monsanto's formulations Roundup is used with more than 80 percent of all genetically modified (GM) crops grown globally. But evidence of its extreme toxicity**



has been emerging within the past decade. Glyphosate was found to kill human placental cells at concentrations below that recommended for agricultural use and approved by our regulators, while Roundup was lethal at even lower concentrations [1] [Glyphosate Toxic & Roundup Worse](#), *SiS 26*). The herbicide has already been linked with spontaneous abortions, Hodgkin's lymphoma and multiple myeloma in humans; and in laboratory studies glyphosate caused liver damage in rats. Roundup is also highly lethal to amphibians [2] ([Roundup Kills Frogs](#), *SiS 26*). Scientific evidence of glyphosate and Roundup toxicities piling up

[Read more...](#)

[Oregon counties ban cultivation of GMO crops](#) 

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 23 May 2014 03:05

By Reuters

<http://rt.com/usa/160540-oregon-counties-ban-gmo-crops/>

**May 22, 2014**

Reuters/Ints Kalnins

Despite the flood of corporate money poured into two small Oregon counties, local residents voted on Tuesday to ban genetically engineered crops from being planted within their borders.

Although Jackson County itself is home to less than

120,000 registered voters, the measure to ban genetically modified crops (GMOs) made headlines around the nation when it was revealed that large biotech companies like Monsanto were pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into the area in order to affect the vote's outcome.

[Read more...](#)

## Monsanto's Darkest Secret: Roundup's Effect On The Fetus



**Justice News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Monday, 19 May 2014 14:52

Written By:

**Dr. Kelly Brogan, M.D.** and **Sayer Ji, Founder**

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/monsantos-darkest-secret-roundups-effect-fetus>

May 17 2014



"Could you please make sure the eggs aren't runny? I'm pregnant."

At their first prenatal appointment, pregnant women are doled out a list of NO's including deli meats, fish, and unpasteurized cheese. There is a growing awareness of the fact that this list may be dangerously NON EXHAUSTIVE (and largely misguided, especially when it comes to unpasteurized dairy and eggs).

Even a recent, **bold pronouncement by the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynecology**, attempted to sound the alarm about chemical exposures with recommendations for "unproven" but potentially harmful exposures. They describe the importance of considering chemicals in personal care products, over the counter medications and supplements, metals and industrial pollutants in fish, and pesticides.

However, they dilute their message by making statements such as "Realistically, pesticides are so rigorously regulated that human exposure via food residues is usually minimal, even in non-organic products."

Unfortunately, the concept of "dose makes the poison" is no longer operative in a world of multiple, synergistic chemical exposures, the toxicity of which **appears to be contingent** upon each individual's endocrine and immune system.

The limitations of human resilience are revealed in the vulnerability of a growing fetus. A mystically orchestrated process, conception, embryogenesis, and the interplay of an incalculably vast number of variables defies our ability to comprehend how these "instructions" could be folded into two cells, the egg and the sperm.

The study of epigenetics, or the environmental influence on genetic expression, has given us a keyhole look into this vast room of fetal development. We have learned that **availability of nutrients, presence of stress hormones**, and even **beneficial bacteria** all contribute to optimal expression of fetal genes. This expression is relevant not just for the proper growth of fingers and toes, but for the long-term health of the offspring. This concept is called the **fetal origins of adult disease**, and has helped to elucidate the early underpinnings of chronic diseases like **cancer** and **obesity**. To date, toxicologists are ill-equipped to assess for these long-term epigenetic effects, but **animal studies** are revealing transgenerational inheritance of pesticide-induced defects.

## **The Birth Defect-Causing Properties of Roundup (glyphosate) Hidden for Decades**

In 2010, after a dramatic increase in reports of birth defects in Argentina (a four fold increase) since 2002, **a lab study was performed** that found low doses of the active ingredient in Roundup known as glyphosate, the most prevalent herbicide worldwide, causes birth defects in frog and chicken embryos. This study was followed by others demonstrating cardiac anomalies, embryonic death, and multifocal malformations suspected to be related to oxidized vitamin A toxicity caused by glyphosate. A more **recent study** in tropical fish has echoed this dose-related concern with harrowing outcomes:

"survival and hatching percentage decreased as glyphosate concentration increased. Absence of pectoral fin(s) and cornea, permanently bent tail, irregular shaped abdomen, and cell disruption in the fin, head and abdomen are among the common teratogenic effects observed."

These studies represent only the tip of a vast, submerged iceberg of research, which clearly show glyphosate causes birth defects, and that the pesticide industry has known about for a surprisingly long period of time.

Earth Open Source, A group of independent scientists (think not paid to scientifically support corporations) published a compendium of literature that they called **"Roundup and Birth Defects: Is the public being kept in the dark?"** stating, "The pesticide industry and EU regulators knew as long ago as the 1980s-1990s that Roundup, the world's best selling herbicide, causes birth defects – but they failed to inform the public."

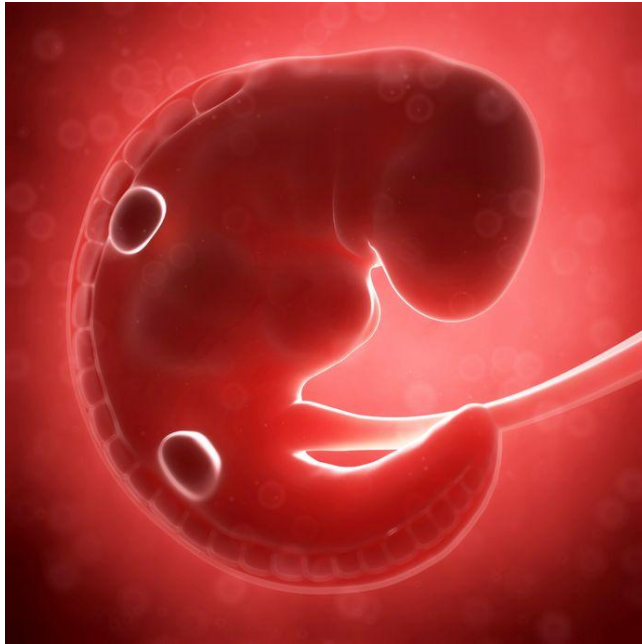
The report was the byproduct of an international collaboration of concerned scientists and researchers, and reveals in shocking clarity how the industry's own studies show Roundup causes birth defects in laboratory animals. One of the damning studies was even commissioned by Monsanto, the manufacturer of the herbicide.

The findings of the report were summarized as follows:

- Industry has known from its own studies since the 1980s that glyphosate causes malformations in experimental animals at high doses
- Industry has known since 1993 that these effects also occur at lower and mid doses
- The German government has known since at least 1998 that glyphosate causes malformations
- The EU Commission's expert scientific review panel knew in 1999 that glyphosate causes malformations
- The EU Commission has known since 2002 that glyphosate causes malformations. This was the year it

signed off on the current approval of glyphosate.

The EU Commission had previously ignored or dismissed many other findings from the independent scientific literature showing that Roundup and glyphosate **cause endocrine disruption, damage to DNA, reproductive** and developmental toxicity, **neurotoxicity**, and **cancer**, as well as birth defects. Many of these effects are found at very low doses, comparable to levels of pesticide residues found in food and the environment, challenging the notion that there is such thing as a "safe threshold" of exposure.



Effects likely to be missed include endocrine disruption, effects on development, **amplifying effects of added ingredients** (adjuvants), effects of combinations of chemicals, and effects on bees. Also likely to be missed are effects found in **independent peer reviewed scientific literature**, as the old directive does not explicitly say that such studies must be included in industry's dossier.

In the realm of persistent and bioaccumulative pesticides and herbicides, testing only the active ingredient or "AP" may leave manufacturers falsely reassured. Toxicant synergy has exploded the simplistic notion of "the dose makes the poison" and a critical paper in Biomed Research International entitled Major Pesticides Are More Toxic to Human Cells Than Their Declared Active Principles aimed to address flawed assumptions around pesticide and herbicide toxicity, finding that Monsanto's Roundup may be up to **10,000 times more toxic than glyphosate alone**.

Similar to the non-placebo-controlled trials on vaccines, adjuvants and preservatives are seen as irrelevant bystanders in the consideration of risk profile. As the top of the food chain, infants are most susceptible to this bioaccumulation, and to passage of Roundup into their growing systems. **Moms Across America and Sustainable Pulse** have demonstrated the first ever quantification of Roundup in breastmilk. They found that in 3/10 samples from around the country, breast milk contained levels 760-1600x higher than is permissible by the European Drinking Water Directive. American urinary samples contained levels 10x higher than that of Europeans, and the 3 highest levels were in women.

Monsanto has told us not to worry, before. The deleterious effects of DDT, Agent Orange, and PCBs were only acknowledged after decades of accumulated evidence of irreversible danger to human lives. This preliminary data calls for a cease and desist of all glyphosate spraying until and if appropriate safety testing can be undertaken that accounts for the signal of presence and persistence in fetal circulation, breast milk, and the environment at large, in the context of evidence of harm. Until organic and biodynamic farming takes more pervasive hold, avoid these unstudied chemicals by focusing on **organic produce**, **pastured animal foods**, and **non-GMO labeled products**. **We must stand up in protest against this nonconsensual experiment affecting all forms of life on the planet.**

Last Updated on Monday, 19 May 2014 14:57

## Rift Widening Between Energy And Insurance Industries Over Climate Change



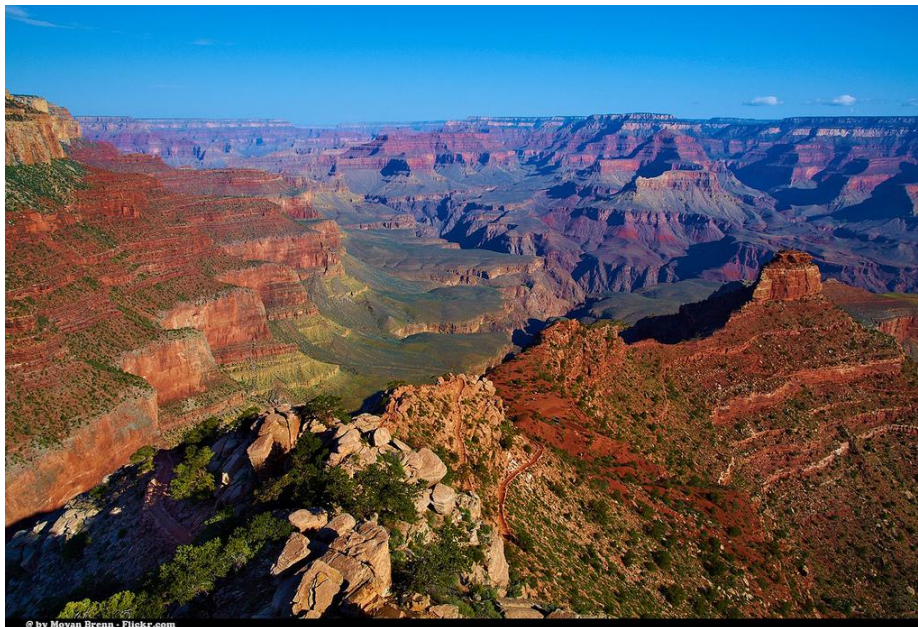
### Earth News

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Monday, 19 May 2014 14:27

**By Ken Silverstein FORBES**

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/kensilverstein/2014/05/18/rift-widening-between-energy-and-insurance-industries-over-climate-change/5/18/2014>



United States (Photo credit: Moyan\_Brenn)

Being a big business, the insurance industry is a strong backer of free enterprise and

its laissez-faire leaders. But a rift could be developing now that some major carriers are staking claims in the climate change cause while many of their congressional backers have remained skeptical of the science.

For insurers, it's not about the political machinations but rather, it's about the potential economic losses. If even part of the predictions hold — the ones released by the **Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change** that ascribe temperature change to humans with 95 percent certainty — then the rate of extreme weather events will only increase and the effects would be more severe. That, in turn, would lead to greater damages and more payouts.

"The heavy losses caused by **weather-related natural catastrophes** in the USA showed that greater loss-prevention efforts are needed," says **Munich Re Munich Re** board member Torsen Jeworrek.

He says that the United States suffered \$400 billion in weather-related damages in 2011 and insured losses of \$119 billion, which were record amounts. In 2012 — and despite Superstorm Sandy — losses were well above the 10-year averages at \$165 billion total, of which insurers paid \$50 billion. In 2013, insurance companies paid out, globally, \$45 billion in claims, says **Zurich-based Swiss Reinsurance Co.**, adding that the United States accounted for \$19 billion of that.

Meantime, **Standard & Poor's Ratings Services** just issued a report saying that the credit ratings of sovereign countries would be affected by global warming. It pointed to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, heavy flooding in Great Britain and the record cold temperatures this past winter in the United States, all of which caused economic damages and disrupted business practices.

But it adds that the developing nations in Africa and Asia are most at risk, namely because they are low-lying regions that are heavily reliant on farming and agriculture. At the same time, they are not in a financial position to handle catastrophic events.

"Climate change is likely to be one of the global mega-trends impacting sovereign creditworthiness, in most cases negatively," says S&P, in its report. It's a view generally supported by **Lloyd's of London**, which just said that climate-associated risks must be considered when underwriting policies.

To be sure, not all climate scientists are convinced that aberrant weather patterns are linked to global warming, even though they argue that rising temperatures are associated with burning fossil fuels. One such expert is Richard Muller, from University of California at Berkeley, who says that hurricanes and tornados have actually decreased with time.

"Global warming is real and it is caused by humans," he says. But, "Climate change is not contributing to more intense tornados and hurricanes."

Meantime, the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development** argues that governments must take the lead role to combat climate change. It notes that unlike the 2008 financial crisis, world leaders have not conceived a "climate bailout option."

With all the clout that the insurance industry has on Capitol Hill, why is it not crusading for action on climate change? In fact, only 23 of the 184 insurance companies that the

investor network **Ceres Ceres** surveyed say that they have a comprehensive strategy to deal with climate change. That's ironic, given that coastal cities around the world are expected to incur \$50 billion in annual losses through 2050, adds the OECD — a tab that would fall, in part, on insurers.

Not all carriers are "passive." This past week, Farmers Insurance Co., a unit of the Zurich Insurance Co., filed suit against the city of Chicago for its alleged failure to prevent flood-related damages that it says are associated with climate change. It maintains that city officials are aware of the potential fallout from climate-related weather and yet they have done nothing to mitigate such events. As a result, it paid out millions in claims a year ago tied to storms in the city.

Other insurers, meanwhile, have broken ties to the Heartland Institute that denies man-made climate change, arguing instead that temperature fluctuations are a cyclical phenomenon. That's one reason why **Allied World Assurance AWH -0.11%** Co., State Farm, Renaissance Re and **XL Group XL Group** are no longer financial supporters of the group.

"Numerous studies assume a rise in summer drought periods in North America in the future and an increasing probability of severe cyclones relatively far north along the US East Coast in the long term. The **rise in sea level caused by climate change** will further increase the risk of storm surge, adds Peter Höpfe, head of Munich Re's Geo Risks Research.

When it comes to a fix, the public sector will lead — but only when pushed by its citizenry or powerful financial concerns. Here, a potential battle is brewing between certain **energy** entities and the insurance industry that would pay many climate-related claims. Just who wins will depend on how severe the weather becomes and the financial toll it leaves behind

## Melting B.C. glaciers cited as a major issue in American state-of-the-union report on climate change



### Earth News

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Sunday, 18 May 2014 21:15

**Dene Moore, Canadian Press** May 18, 2014

PhD student Matt Beedle, left, and professor Brian Menounos measure changes in glacier thickness using GPS

The mountains of British Columbia cradle glaciers that have scored the landscape over millenia, shaping the rugged West Coast since long before it was the West Coast.

But they're in rapid retreat, and an American state-of-the-union report on climate change has singled out the rapid melt in British Columbia and Alaska as a major climate change issue.

Most glaciers in Alaska and British Columbia are shrinking substantially," said the U.S. National Climate Assessment, released last week to much fanfare south of the border.

This trend is expected to continue and has implications for hydropower production, ocean circulation patterns, fisheries, and global sea level rise."

According to the report, glaciers in the region are losing 20 to 30 per cent of what is



melting annually from the Greenland Ice Sheet, which has received far more worldwide attention.

That amounts to about 40 to 70 gigatons per year, or about 10% of the annual discharge of the Mississippi River.

The global decline in glacial and ice-sheet volume is predicted to be one of the largest contributors to global sea-level rise during this century," the report said.

It is some of the fastest glacial loss on Earth. The cause: rising temperatures due to climate change.

We've seen an acceleration of the melt from the glaciers," said Brian Menounos, a geography professor at the University of Northern British Columbia and one of the scientists involved in cross-border, multi-agency research into glacial loss.

There are 200,000 glaciers on Earth, 17,000 of them in British Columbia. Another 800 are in Alberta.

In B.C., researchers are keeping a close eye on the Lloyd George Icefield west of Fort Nelson, the Castle Creek Glacier near McBride, the Klinaklini and Tiedemann glaciers in the Coast Mountains, and glaciers in the Columbia River Basin.

Early results suggest these glaciers are shedding 22 cubic kilometres of ice annually, or about 22 billion cubic metres of water. For comparison, an Olympic swimming pool contains about 2,500 cubic metres of water.

"When we start to look at some of these individual mountain ranges, we're seeing some rates that are truly exceptional," Menounos said.

Similar loss is happening worldwide, and it is accelerating.

"Collectively start putting all of those numbers together, then there is the potential to raise sea level by something on the order of 30 to 40 centimetres from that ice," he said.

The U.S. Geological Service estimates that the glacier namesakes of Glacier National Park in their portion of the Rocky Mountains will disappear by 2030.

Menounos predicts that the smaller glaciers in B.C. — in the Rocky Mountains and the Interior — will be mostly gone by the end of this century.

The effects will be far-reaching, research suggests.

Glacial water is a thermal regulator in mountain headwater streams, Menounos said. Their loss will affect water temperatures, fish and the annual snow pack. That will affect the water supply and agriculture.

There could be greater potential for flooding in wet seasons and drought in dry, a particular problem in B.C., which relies on hydroelectricity to meet its energy needs.

The glacial decline in western Canada and Alaska significantly contributes to sea level rise, said the U.S. report. That's happening around the world and will only get worse, Menounos said.

"Even 40 centimetres of sea level rise will cause annual flooding for 100 million people on the planet," he said.

Glacial loss can be slowed, Menounos said. The biggest issue is human consumption of fossil fuels.

We know what we need to do," he said. "It's not an easy decision, but we have to start, I would argue, thinking about changing our reliance on fossil fuels."

Last Updated on Monday, 19 May 2014 22:04

## GTA's top doctors join forces to encourage cities to plan for built-in exercise



**Earth News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Sunday, 18 May 2014 05:47

**Urban planning should encourage walking, cycling and use of public transit to battle chronic disease, public health doctors say.**

By **Theresa Boyle Health, Toronto Star**

[http://www.thestar.com/life/health\\_wellness/2014/05/14/better\\_and\\_integrated\\_transit\\_will\\_save\\_lives\\_doctors\\_say.html](http://www.thestar.com/life/health_wellness/2014/05/14/better_and_integrated_transit_will_save_lives_doctors_say.html) on Wed May 14 2014



Toronto Star File Photo

A group of medical officers of health are encouraging governments to spend more money on integrated transit to get people out of their cars to save lives.

The top doctors for Toronto, Peel, Hamilton and Simcoe- Muskoka have joined forces to urge all levels of government to change the way communities are planned, to encourage more physical activity.

When it comes to land-use and transportation planning, more consideration must be given to encouraging residents to walk, cycle and use public transit, they told a news conference at Union Station on Wednesday.

"This really is the big public health concern of our time, of our generation. How our communities are shaped, how we move around and the impact it has on the leading causes of death and illness in our society is something that all health organizations are coming to grips with," said Toronto Medical Officer of Health Dr. David McKeown.

Many communities have been built around the car, contributing to sedentary lifestyles,

they noted.

Chronic conditions such as diabetes, obesity and heart disease are directly related to “having engineered physical activity out of our lives,” said Dr. David Mowat, medical officer of health for Peel.

He pointed out that 10 per cent of an adult’s physical energy expenditure is recreational while 90 per cent is utilitarian, that is, “going about our regular business.”

The solution to getting people move more is to get them to incorporate physical activity into their daily routines, he said.

“This is not about telling people to shape up, exercise more and eat well. That approach has been tried for years and it has failed,” Mowat said.

He cited cycling as an example, noting that those who spend a total of three hours weekly biking to work cut their risk of premature death from all causes by 28 per cent.

Even taking public transit can easily add 30 minutes of activity into one’s day because it can include walking to and from the bus stop and subway and taking stairs. The [Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines](#) just happen to call for 30 minutes of activity a day.

The group of doctors made three specific recommendations:

- Invest “many billions of dollars” in public transit.
- Strengthen provincial policies that support transit and active transportation (walking or cycling to get to a destination).
- Make transit and active transportation integral to city planning.

The doctors released a report, [Improving Health by Design](#), that points out that there are almost 57,000 new cases of diabetes and 7,000 new cases of heart disease annually in the Greater Toronto- Hamilton Area and Simcoe-Muskoka.


About a quarter of both conditions are preventable through physical activity, the report notes.

It estimates that more than 300 premature deaths and over 1,000 cases of diabetes could be prevented annually with improvements in the way communities are designed and with better integration of public transportation. (Estimations are based on a health economic assessment tool from the World Health Organization and a diabetes population risk tool from the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences.)

It goes on to say that physical inactivity and obesity cost the GTHA and Simcoe Muskoka \$4 billion annually, including \$1.4 billion in direct medical costs. The remainder is related to lost productivity.

“The environment in which we live is the main influence upon our behaviour . . . and changes in the environment are necessary to improve our health. We need to make the healthy choice the easy choice,” Mowat said.

Last Updated on Sunday, 18 May 2014 05:57

[Koch Brothers the film by Brave New Films](#) 

Posted by Dragonslayer

Thursday, 29 May 2014 15:26

Complements of  
[www.bravenewfilms.org/koch2014](http://www.bravenewfilms.org/koch2014)

Last Updated on Thursday, 29 May 2014 15:41

[Hawaii to Host 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) 

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 29 May 2014 07:07

By [Jon Letman](#)

Hawaii is home to many of the world's rarest plants and animals, recognised globally as a 'biodiversity hotspot.'

The IUCN announced that Hawaii will host the 2016 World Conservation Congress, the first time the global conference will gather in the United States. Credit: Jon

Letman/IPS

HONOLULU, Hawaii, U.S., May 22 2014 (IPS) - The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Council announced Wednesday that the 2016 World Conservation Congress (WCC) will meet in Hawaii – the first time in its 66-year history that the world’s largest conservation conference will be hosted by the United States

No expanded doc available.

## Revolutionary Poster Exhibition



### Justice News

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Tuesday, 27 May 2014 10:16

**The Central America Support Committee(CASC)**with assistance from the **Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria(CACGV)**are putting on a **Revolutionary Poster Exhibition** at 2 locations at the end of May. Please note there are 3 special events and 2 locations associated with the Poster Exhibition. See below for details.

The main exhibition will be held at the **Café Gallery at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre**, 3220 Cedar Hill Rd. beginning May 28<sup>th</sup> and showing until June 11<sup>th</sup>. The other location is the **Bruce Hutchinson Library** at Saanich Commonwealth Place, May 30<sup>th</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup>.

There will also be 3 separate events during the exhibition.

1. The opening of the Café Gallery exhibit will be Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 9pm at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre 3220 Cedar Hill Rd. This will include a short program of speeches and music. Refreshments will be available including CASC’s own coffee, Café Simpatico.
2. Also at the Café Gallery, **An Evening of Music and Solidarity** will be hosted by **Nedjo Rogers** on June 6<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9pm. Refreshments will also be available for this event.
3. Also at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre **Theresa Wolfwood** will present a power point presentation on **The Art of Resistance**, Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 pm.

The purpose of this exhibition is:

- a) to celebrate the history and the struggles of the people of Central America and Latin America as depicted in the various campaigns that the posters

describe.

b) to let the general public know about that history and the current work of CASC.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events.

John Hillian for CASC [www.victoriacasc.org/](http://www.victoriacasc.org/)

## By **Linda Solomon Wood** **Linda Solomon Wood**

<http://www.vancouverobserver.com/news/desmond-tutu-calls-tar-sands-product-negligence-and-greed>

May 31st, 2014

**Tutu said oil sands were an emblem of an era that had to end, and encouraged corporations to cooperate on preserving the environment.**



Photo by Bill Weaver

"The oil sands are emblematic of an era that must end," said South African Archbishop and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Desmond Tutu at a conference in Fort McMurray held to highlight First Nation treaty and the threat of climate change.

Archbishop Tutu had strong words for bitumen extraction from Alberta's oil sands the result of "negligence and greed".

While deeply critical of Canada's rapid oil development, Tutu stressed that he could not tell Canadians what to do, and said ultimately Canada already knew what had to be done to prevent further environmental degradation.

## **Cooperation over conflict**

Despite his strong words, Tutu also emphasized cooperation over conflict, and urged

large corporations to work on environmental preservation.

Following the speech, Tutu went on an aerial tour of the tar sands with Suncor executive vice president Mark Little. Shortly after stepping off the helicopter, he seemed impressed by positive steps Suncor had made. **He told reporters:**

"No one wants to see an end to industry. If you have industry that is responsible, they have to be commended and encouraged. It's not as if we go around saying, 'to hell with them, whatever. Clobber them.'"

He said cooperation is far better and "cheaper" than opposition. Tutu stressed that every person was a member of the same global family, and that it was far better to work together than "be at loggerheads with daggers drawn."

Little then spoke with media and said that "many environmentalists" work at Suncor and care deeply about protecting the land. He repeatedly referred to sustainability efforts such as recycling enormous worn out tires used by mining trucks and other initiatives. He said Suncor has never had a release of oil into the Athabasca River and pointed to natural deposits of tar.

## **TransCanada defends oil**

Tutu was among 11 Nobel Prize Laureates who signed a letter urging U.S. President Barack Obama to reject the Keystone XL pipeline proposed by Canadian pipeline giant TransCanada. The controversial pipeline would 830,000 barrels of bitumen per day from Alberta to refineries in the Gulf Coast.

TransCanada Corp. spokesman Davis Sheremata said in a press release that Archbishop Tutu is entitled to his opinion, but that oil also helps people in their daily lives.

"Oil powered the jet that flew Mr. Tutu to Canada from Africa, produced the fuel for the helicopter tour he had planned of the oil sands, and helped manufacture the microphones and TV cameras for his press conference," the release said.

## **Respecting First Nation treaty rights**

A significant part of the conference, which was co-sponsored by the Athabasca



Chipewyan First Nation and Toronto-based law firm Olthuis Kleeer Townshend LLP, focused on First Nations' treaty rights.

"The greatest sin that a man can do is to destroy Mother Earth," said Francois Paulette, a Dene Suline hereditary chief and member of the Smith's Landing Treaty 8 First Nation. Paulette had helped launch an era of treaty claims, with his historic 1973 Supreme Court victory that ruled in favour of Aboriginal rights over land that was slated for development.

Eriel Deranger, communications director for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, opened the second day of the conference with a talk on building coalitions. "We will not tolerate threat to our rights, lands, water and to us all and all future generations," she said, in a room packed with First Nation attendees and sprinkled with oil company lawyers and journalists.

"It is a fine balance up here. This industry has brought huge economic benefits to all of the First Nations in this region, but we have to think about balance, and ask is this industry sustainable?"

"We have to look at ways to clean up the mess that is already here and look at ways of sustaining the economy and the identity and the culture of First Nations people," Deranger said.

"The process of taking the next steps is to work on your own communities, strengthen your own communities. If our communities aren't strong, it becomes impossible for us to show our strength to the public. We have to teach our young ones what it means to be an Indigenous person.

"Internalized oppression is perpetuating the cycle of oppression. If we don't break that cycle, break the process of colonization and understand our strength as original inhabitants and original governments of this country, we'll never make it. We have to teach our communities.

"We have to break the cycle. Truth and reconciliation is such an important thing. We have to come back to a deep understanding of our rights and the powers we hold as Indigenous people," Deranger said.

Last Updated on Sunday, 01 June 2014 11:45

## [Marching against Monsanto](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 27 May 2014 02:46

[Mae-Wan Ho](#)

[http://www.issis.org.uk/Marching\\_against\\_Monsanto.php](http://www.issis.org.uk/Marching_against_Monsanto.php)  
[http://www.issis.org.uk/Marching\\_against\\_Monsanto.php](http://www.issis.org.uk/Marching_against_Monsanto.php)



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It is wonderful to be here with all of you. I have been marching against Monsanto for close to 20 years now since GM crops were commercialized and I first warned of the dangers of GMOs and Roundup herbicides.

Unfortunately, all my predictions and more have come true. Over the years, farm workers and their families across the world have been seeing sharp rises in birth defects, cancers, allergies, lethal kidney disease and so on. Their livestock die, get diarrhoea, become sterile, cannot conceive, or give birth to dead and deformed animals.

# The secret short list that provoked the rift between Chief Justice and PMO



Justice News

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 27 May 2014 08:04

## The secret short list that provoked the rift between Chief Justice and PMO [Add to ...](#)

By [Sean Fine](#) - Justice Writer

OTTAWA — The Globe and Mail

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/the-secret-short-list-that-caused-a-rift-between-chief-justice-and-pmo/article18823392/?page=3>

Monday, May. 26 2014, 7:34 PM EDT

Early last summer, Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin sat down with five federal politicians at the stately court building on Wellington Street, just down the road from Parliament.

The Supreme Court selection panel – three Conservative MPs, a New Democrat MP and a Liberal MP – had come bearing a list of six candidates to replace Justice Morris Fish of Quebec, who was nearing 75 and about to retire.

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That list, crafted by the Prime Minister's Office and the Justice Department, was so troubling to Chief Justice McLachlin that she phoned Justice Minister Peter MacKay and took initial steps toward contacting the Prime Minister. These attempts to raise potential eligibility issues would later trigger an unprecedented public dispute between the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice, a coda to the ultimately failed appointment of Justice Marc Nadon.

Until now, the list of six candidates has been a closely held secret. But The Globe and Mail has obtained both that list, and the short list ultimately chosen by the selection panel. The names on those lists not only shed light on Justice Nadon's appointment but the larger political machinations behind it – and its fallout. A judge rejected. A court short-handed. A Prime Minister's public accusation of impropriety by a Chief Justice.

The lists also show how the government, though aware of the risks, worked the selection process to find a more conservative judge than it believed was available in Quebec. The province's top judges and lawyers were largely ignored for a job reserved by law for Quebec candidates because of the province's unique civil code. Four of the six judges put forward were from the Federal Court in Ottawa, even though it wasn't clear judges from that court were eligible. Adding salt to Quebec's wound, one of those judges had been publicly rebuked by an appeal court for copying from government briefs.

Choosing a Supreme Court judge is a constitutional prerogative of the Prime Minister. In the Federal Court, Mr. Harper found a source of candidates closer to his political heart – and he courted the danger of a long and messy challenge to his selection. Even now, as the court's vacancy drags into its 10th month, he leaves a star candidate to languish on his short list – a list of only one eligible judge.

To peer behind the curtain of the appointment process, The Globe spoke to more than a dozen leading members of the Canadian and Quebec legal communities and government officials over the past several weeks. All of them talked on condition of anonymity. Neither Chief Justice McLachlin nor anyone associated with the Supreme Court provided information to The Globe for this story.

Although Mr. MacKay has described the process as the most open and inclusive ever for the Supreme Court, The Globe's reporting reveals that the all-party selection panel presented a veneer of neutrality, and behind that veneer the government was free to pursue its political goals.

### **'Let's broaden the scope'**

Staffers in the PMO were optimistic when the process began. Less than a year earlier, with another Quebec spot on the top court to fill, Mr. Harper had chosen Justice Richard Wagner of the Quebec Court of Appeal. He was conservative-minded and had an excellent reputation in the legal world. The appointment was widely applauded.

"Everyone was quite confident that the success of the Richard Wagner appointment would be repeated," a source familiar with the process said.

But the prospects in Quebec for another conservative judge were few, the source said, and the Prime Minister wanted to find someone who would be in sync with his tough take on crime and his view of the restrained role of judges.

"Let's look elsewhere, let's broaden the scope," was the prevailing attitude, the source said.

The Prime Minister knew the legal risks. "The PCO would have said, 'Oh, we have a problem,'" the source said. The Privy Council Office is the nerve centre of the Canadian bureaucracy, and advises the Prime Minister on Supreme Court appointments.

Another source said two candidates from the Federal Court had been on the list in 2012, but neither made the short list. A year later, there were four, making it a certainty that at least one would be on the short list of three. No Federal Court judge had ever been chosen

for one of the Supreme Court's three Quebec seats. The Supreme Court Act governing those appointments does not expressly say they are eligible.

"If I see a list like that," a veteran Quebec litigator said when told of the six names by The Globe, "I conclude the Prime Minister absolutely wants to have someone from the Federal Court."

That was the list the Chief Justice saw. When she phoned the Justice Minister, it would not have been to lobby against the appointment of Marc Nadon, as some Conservative MPs have accused her of doing. There were four names of questionable eligibility on that list, not just one.

The five members of the selection panel received the list in early summer. Then they did their homework. Each of the candidates supplied them with five rulings. There were also legal analyses given to the panel by the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs.

Two judges on the list were heavyweight candidates from the Quebec Court of Appeal. Justice Marie-France Bich had been a law professor for 20 years before spending 10 years on Quebec's top court. She is known for writing powerful judgments with an academic bent. (She was on the previous short list but for personal reasons declared herself temporarily unavailable.) She is difficult to pigeonhole as a liberal or conservative. She is the consensus pick of the Quebec legal community.

The second was Justice Pierre Dalphond, a Mr. Everything in Quebec law, considered commercial-minded but with a black mark against him – he'd spent five years in executive positions in the federal Liberal Party more than 20 years earlier.

Three candidates were from the Federal Court of Appeal.

Justice Nadon had been semi-retired for two years and specialized in maritime law – hardly a pressing need on the Supreme Court, according to court watchers who said a criminal law expert would be more helpful. But he was known to be outspoken in his conservative views. He was the only Canadian judge who found Canada blameless in the Omar Khadr affair involving an al-Qaeda member imprisoned since his teens by the United States. Twelve other judges on three Canadian courts had excoriated the Canadian government.

A second candidate was Justice Johanne Trudel. If she had made any controversial rulings in her seven years on the Federal Court of Appeal, they had escaped notice.

A third was Justice Robert Mainville, who as a lawyer had represented native groups such as the James Bay Cree for 25 years, and had written books on aboriginal law.

A fourth, Michel Shore, was from the Federal Court's trial division. In late 2011, rejecting a man's claim to a religious right to smoke cannabis, he copied 144 of 152 paragraphs in his judgment from the federal government's written argument – without attribution. In a separate case, he copied 62 of 66 paragraphs "almost verbatim" from a federal brief. The Federal Court of Appeal warned Justice Shore that the copying must stop.

Why was Justice Shore on the list for the Supreme Court? Two possible reasons: His track record of deference to government sent a message to the Quebec legal community about the kinds of judges this government favours. Also, according to legal observers, his name was easy to cut.

### **'Jesus – come on'**

Nearly everything about the selection panel is secret, except the names of its members, all of whom sign an oath of confidentiality.

"It is so confidential that they make you return every bit of information you have about the people, about the schedule," said New Democrat MP Françoise Boivin, a member of the panel who spoke in broad terms about the process. "Everything is given through a thumb

drive with password protection that has to be returned.”

They are not all lawyers. The Conservatives are Jacques Gourde, a farmer from Quebec; Shelly Glover, a former Winnipeg police officer who became Heritage Minister during the process; and Robert Goguen, a New Brunswick lawyer. (The three Gs, they have been dubbed by Ms. Boivin, the only Quebec lawyer on the panel.) The fifth member, Liberal Dominic LeBlanc is, like Mr. Goguen, a New Brunswick lawyer. He is also a senior member of his party; the previous time, former Liberal leader Stéphane Dion represented the party.

The selection panel rode a train together to Montreal, where they met with 10 luminaries of Quebec’s legal community at the Loews Vogue Hotel. The rock band Kiss was staying there, too. (Gene Simmons, with his mop of black hair, was hard to miss in the lobby.)

One by one, the wise old heads of the Quebec legal world trooped into the Vogue. Michel Robert, the province’s former chief justice. Gérald R. Tremblay, a former president of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada.

The province’s top judges spoke their piece, too. Chief Justice Nicole Duval Hesler of the Quebec Court of Appeal and Chief Justice François Rolland of the Quebec Superior Court were not pleased, sources said. They are proud of their courts, and were not happy the Federal Court produced more candidates than theirs had. They told the panel they were concerned about the eligibility issue.

Then the panel members deliberated. In 2012, the selection panel had been unanimous. Not this time. In the end, the unranked short list of three they gave the Prime Minister was Justice Nadon, Justice Trudel and Justice Bich.

The Globe showed the list to senior Quebec lawyers who were not involved in the process. They expressed astonishment at learning that four of the initial six were from the Federal Court.

“Jesus – come on,” one said.

“Oh Lord,” another said, then began to laugh. But later this senior lawyer described the exclusion of most of the cream of the province’s legal community as “a blow in our faces, a disavowal of the Quebec bench.”

### **An empty seat**

Even within the PMO, the selection process is kept close to the vest. It is managed by the deputy chief of staff, and discussed only with the chief of staff and the Prime Minister. The Justice Department provides advice and consultation during the appointment process, but the choice rests with the Prime Minister.

Justice Nadon’s conservative attributes were made clear to Mr. Harper. “The memo to the Prime Minister would have said: On the list he is the closest to our policies,” a source said.

On Sept. 30, when Mr. Harper announced Justice Nadon as his pick, he released a legal opinion – from retired Supreme Court justice Ian Binnie – asserting that Federal Court judges were eligible. Soon after, a Toronto lawyer, Rocco Galati, filed a court challenge; Justice Nadon stepped aside temporarily; and the Quebec National Assembly unanimously denounced the appointment. Finally, the Harper government asked the Supreme Court to rule on the eligibility.

In March, the court ruled 6-1 that Federal Court judges cannot sit in any of its three Quebec seats.

For nine months, Canada’s most influential court has been short one judge – a judge from the only province with a constitutionally protected right to have three on the court. Meanwhile, Mr. Harper accused Chief Justice McLachlin of trying to engage him in an inappropriate conversation about a case. The confidentiality of the process allowed Mr. Harper to assert that a hidden act of wrongdoing had occurred, even as that same

confidentiality prevented the Chief Justice from fully explaining her actions.

Today, Mr. Harper is stuck. He can't name Justice Trudel. And he apparently doesn't want Justice Bich.

The Prime Minister has the constitutional prerogative to choose the person he wants for the court. But the question is whether the process offers a pretense of neutrality – a curtain to hide the politics from view. Neither Ms. Boivin nor Mr. LeBlanc can fully debate the value of the process, because of their oaths of confidentiality. But Ms. Boivin did say this: "I am tortured on what to do the next time."

And at the end of it all, Justice Nadon finds himself back on the Federal Court of Appeal, trying to put the ordeal behind him.

"He's one of the nicest men in the world, the nicest, kindest, most honest person you can ever hope to meet," said a senior Quebec lawyer. "Nobody in Quebec would have put his name at the level of the Supreme Court. He's been sacrificed. It's profoundly terrible – a perfectly honest, happy man and this happens to him."

Editor's note: A previous version of this article incorrectly said McGill University law dean Daniel Jutras was consulted by the Supreme Court selection panel. He was not.

[Single page](#)

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## Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund Go After Fossil Fools



### Justice News

*Posted by Dragonslayer*

Saturday, 31 May 2014 21:18

EDMONTON - Environmental groups are taking inspiration from the legal fight against tobacco to fire warning shots at major energy companies over their alleged role in funding climate change denial and blocking climate-friendly legislation.

Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund have sent letters to dozens of Canadian and international energy companies asking them about their guidelines for public communication and lobbying practices on climate change. The groups have also asked if corporate officers are insured against the possible spread of misinformation about the impact of greenhouse gases.

It's the opening salvo in an attempt to hold the industry accountable for what the environmental groups say is its role in slowing efforts to fight global warming.

"We're laying the groundwork for court cases to come," Keith Stewart of Greenpeace Canada said Wednesday. "In many ways, the oil industry is right now where the tobacco industry was back in the 1980s." ...Times Colonist

So if these are going to be law suits, the industry will just consider it the cost of doing

business, well at least until it starts to really hurt.

What happens if the cases become criminal and corporations get shut down or board of directors go to jail. Some have suggested that an appropriate sentence would be to put the fossil fools on an ice flow along with a polar bear.

Problem is we are all on this ice flow called Earth and we need to solve the climate problem in less time than we have.

Last Updated on Saturday, 31 May 2014 21:35

## For the First Time in Years, Members of Congress Push Back Against Obama Administration's Failed Latin America Policy



**Justice News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Tuesday, 03 June 2014 08:24

**By Mark Weisbrot**

This article was published by [The Hill](#) on June 3, 2014 and in Spanish by [Últimas Noticias](#) (Venezuela) on June 1st. If anyone wants to reprint it, please let CEPR know by replying to this message.

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In a remarkable eruption of sanity in Washington, there is finally some pushback from Congress against the far-right and "center" on U.S. policy toward Venezuela and Latin America -- something that has not happened under the McCarthyite pall that has prevailed for years. A [letter](#) from members of Congress to President Obama last Tuesday expressed strong opposition to legislation that will impose economic sanctions against Venezuelan officials. In an election year in which there is nothing for politicians to gain from standing up to the bullies of the recently merged anti-Cuba and anti-Venezuela lobbies, this is significant. But even more striking were some of the points that the letter made about U.S. policy in the region.



The members of Congress noted that the U.S. government typically “takes European or African governments’ opinions into account in those regions,” and put forth the proposition that it should do the same for Latin America. Now this might seem like a no-brainer, but the White House and State Department routinely take decisions and actions on regional issues without any consultation whatsoever with other governments. Secretary of State John Kerry’s initial decision to **not recognize** last year’s presidential election results in Venezuela – which he later reversed under pressure from South America – comes to mind as an example. The U.S. government’s **numerous actions in support** of the 2009 coup government in Honduras – which were vehemently opposed in the region – are another example of unilateral actions that caused much resentment in the hemisphere.

In a move sure to infuriate the right, the letter also called for the Obama administration to accept Venezuela’s ambassador, and to appoint one for Venezuela. The Members of Congress also noted:

The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the Organization of American States (by a 29-3 vote) have all issued statements that are in various ways supportive of the Venezuelan government and that call for the respect of the country’s democratic institutions. A number of presidents and governments, including Michelle Bachelet of Chile, have publicly warned against attempts to forcibly remove the democratically elected government of Venezuela.

Again, this is an attempt to insert the views of the majority of governments in the hemisphere into the public discourse, a rarity in Congress. UNASUR issued **a statement** [PDF] last month that

...rejects the initiative that continues trying to impose unilateral sanctions on Venezuelan government officials, which violates the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other states, and adversely affects this dialogue and is an obstacle to the Venezuelan people in overcoming their difficulties through independence, peace and democracy.

What makes this congressional letter so important is that it is the first recognition by members of Congress – including Democratic leadership such as Jan Schakowsky (Chief Deputy Whip), John Conyers (ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee), and Jim McGovern (co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission) -- that U.S. hostility toward Venezuela is isolating Washington in the hemisphere. Of course anyone who has not been in a coma for the past 12 years should know this. But U.S. foreign policy is all about denial.

This particular initiative, to impose economic sanctions on Venezuelan government officials, comes from the far-right of the political spectrum here: an alliance of neo-conservatives and the anti-Cuba/anti-Venezuela lobby. The Obama administration opposed these sanctions in a **May 8th Senate hearing** on the legislation. The hearing was something of a circus, with only certified haters of Venezuela invited to testify – not surprising because the Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Robert Menendez, is a hard-liner obsessed with regime change in Cuba. (He has also been involved in a couple of influence-peddling scandals in the past year, with one of his major campaign contributors – a Miami doctor for whom the Senator has done favors – **setting a national record** of more than \$20 million received from Medicare in one year.)

The split between the Obama administration and various dinosaurs in Congress

mirrored a split within the opposition in Venezuela. Testifying to the Senate, the top U.S. State Department official for the hemisphere, Roberta Jacobson, **opposed the sanctions** on the grounds that their allies in Venezuela were against them. Senators like Menendez and Marco Rubio, by contrast, were more sympathetic to those in the opposition who boycotted dialogue and sought to overthrow the government.

But this split is largely a tactical one – at least in Washington – and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has gone back and forth between supporting either faction of the opposition. A few weeks ago **he hinted** that he could possibly support the sanctions.

Washington's efforts to destabilize the government of Venezuela over the past 12 years have never been an isolated series of events but part of an overall strategy of "containment" and "rollback" in the region. To this day the foreign policy establishment here has still not accepted that the region's shift toward more independent and left governments **is a permanent change**, like the move away from dictatorships in the last decade of the 20th century. Of course Venezuela is a big target because it sits on the world's largest oil reserves and will therefore always be an important player in the region. But Washington would like to **get rid of** all of the left governments, and these people see this as a realistic intermediate to long-term goal.

For these reasons, last week's congressional letter is a breakthrough in that it recognizes that U.S. Venezuela policy is part of an overall strategy that has increasingly **isolated the U.S.** in the region. The U.S. does not have ambassadorial relations with Bolivia and Ecuador, as well as Venezuela, and its relations with Brazil have been at a low point for decades, far worse than during the Bush years. If these members of Congress provoke a new debate, it is one that the Obama administration – and its allies to the right – will surely lose.

Last Updated on Tuesday, 03 June 2014 08:30

## U.S. Proposes “Revolutionary” Carbon Emissions Rule



**Earth News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Tuesday, 03 June 2014 06:57

By Carey L. Biron

Power plants are the single largest sources of carbon pollution in the United States. Credit: Bigstock

WASHINGTON , Jun 2 2014 (IPS) - U.S. power plants would be required to reduce their carbon-dioxide emissions by almost a third in coming decades, under a landmark proposal that constitutes President Barack Obama's most significant attempt to counter climate change.

While the federal government has long regulated a spectrum of airborne pollutants from power plants, the rule marks the first time that carbon would be added to this list. That's particularly important given carbon-dioxide's outsized role in

fuelling **climate change**, and the fact that the U.S. power sector is responsible for some 40 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions.

Indeed, carbon alone accounts for more than four-fifths of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, according to government estimates.

"In that we've never had carbon pollution standards, this proposal is revolutionary," Nikki Silvestri, executive director of **Green For All**, an advocacy group, told IPS. "If we can really make this rule work, and if it is enforced well, it could have the potential to phase in a clean-energy economy – and that's really what we're going for."

The new proposal, unveiled Monday and known as the Clean Power Plan, would seek to bring down carbon emissions from power plants by 30 percent (below 2005 levels) by 2030. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which proposed the rule, that's equivalent to half of the emissions produced from powering every home in the United States for a year.

The plan does not necessitate action from the U.S. Congress, which has refused to touch any climate-related legislation since early on in Obama's tenure. The administration has already tightened emissions regulations for future power plants as well as automobiles and transport trucks, though Monday's announcement has received by far the most intense anticipation from both environmentalists and industry.

The 645-page proposal is twofold, laying out broad carbon-reduction goals but also leaving it up to each state to figure out how to meet those goals. As such, states would have available a variety of options, including bolstering efficiency, investing in renewable energies, fashioning a tax on carbon, building up so-called carbon-trading schemes, or phasing out older or coal-fired power plants.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, coal made up 39 percent of the U.S. energy mix last year, while hydropower and other renewables accounted for just 13 percent.

"The EPA's proposal to limit carbon pollution from power plants for the first time ever is a giant leap forward in protecting the health of all Americans and future generations," Frances Beinecke, president of the **Natural Resources Defense Council**, a prominent watchdog group, said Monday.

"It sets fair targets for each state and empowers the states with the flexibility to craft the best local solutions, using an array of compliance tools. And if states embrace the huge energy efficiency opportunities, consumers will save on their electric bills and see hundreds of thousands of jobs created across the country."

Still, the new rule would not actually bring U.S. emissions below levels urged by the United Nations.

"The targets aren't ambitious enough for real emissions reduction," Janet Redman, director of the Climate Policy Program at the **Institute for Policy Studies**, a Washington think tank, told IPS. "But they are a piece of the puzzle, and it would be a real win if this rule restricts emissions from coal-fired power plants."

#### Environmental justice

While the global ramifications of Monday's announcement will become clearer in coming months, the Obama administration has thus far sought to highlight the proposed rule's domestic impact, especially in terms of public health.

Achieving the carbon-reduction goal by 2030 would also cut smog-producing pollution by a quarter, the government says. And those benefits would likely be felt in particular by African-American, Hispanic and low-income communities.

"This is about environmental justice, too, because lower income families and communities of colour are hardest hit," Gina McCarthy, the head of the EPA, said Monday in unveiling the rule's details.

## Related IPS Articles

- [U.S. Selling Coal Mining Rights at Undervalued Prices](#)
- [Coal Trains Run into Stiff Resistance in U.S.](#)
- [U.S. Scientists Launch Wake-Up Campaign on Climate Change](#)
- [Climate Change Added to U.S. Government "High Risk" List](#)

"Rising temperatures bring more smog, more asthma, and longer allergy seasons ... The first year that these standards go into effect, we'll avoid up to 100,000 asthma attacks and 2,100 heart attacks – and those numbers go up from there."

McCarthy said that by reducing soot and smog, the administration's plan will create climate and health-related benefits worth some 90 billion dollars in 2030, versus costs of around eight billion dollars a year. "For every dollar we invest in the plan, families will see seven dollars in health benefits," she noted.

During a conference call hosted by public health groups on Monday, Obama noted that African-Americans are four times as likely as others to die of asthma, while Latinos are 30 percent more likely to be hospitalised for related problems. And according to Green For All's Silvestri, some 68 percent of African-Americans live within 30 miles of a coal plant.

"Thus far, people really aren't connecting these health issues to pollution and to climate change – they just know that each of their kids has asthma," she says. "So we really need to connect these dots for people, to focus on these things that are already affecting our communities every day and then explain how climate change is contributing."

Some worry that such an effort could be undercut if the new EPA rule pushes states towards carbon-trading schemes, under which emissions permits can be bought and sold. While such systems do allow policymakers to establish overall caps on emissions, critics say carbon trading can actually help dirty industries resist change.

"While the idea is that such a programme makes it more economical for polluters to clean up their act, those that are the hardest to clean up can simply pay to continue polluting," the Institute for Policy Studies' Redman says.

"That's a major problem for those living next to power plants – people of colour, poor communities and others who are already feeling the effects of this pollution."

Following four months of public comment and what will certainly be extensive legal challenges, the EPA is slated to finalise the new carbon-emissions rule by June 2015. Thereafter, states would have until mid-2016 to finalise their own plans on compliance, though that deadline could be extended by another two years if requested.

Last Updated on Monday, 09 June 2014 22:16

## Why Don't the Unemployed Get Off Their Couches? And Eight Other Critical



# Questions for Americans

Justice News

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 03 June 2014 06:51

By [Peter Van Buren](#)

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/175851/>

Last year **eight** Americans -- the four Waltons of Walmart fame, the two Koch brothers, Bill Gates, and Warren Buffett -- made more money than 3.6 million American minimum-wage workers combined. The median pay for CEOs at America's large corporations rose to **\$10 million** per year, while a typical chief executive now makes about 257 times the average worker's salary, up sharply from 181 times in 2009. Overall, 1% of Americans own more than a third of the country's wealth.

As the United States **slips** from its status as the globe's number one economic power, small numbers of Americans continue to amass staggering amounts of wealth, while simultaneously inequality trends toward historic levels. At what appears to be a critical juncture in our history and the history of inequality in this country, here are nine questions we need to ask about who we are and what will become of us. Let's start with a French economist who has emerged as an important voice on what's happening in America today.

## 1) What does Thomas Piketty have to do with the 99%?

French economist Thomas Piketty's surprise bestseller, **Capital in the Twenty-First Century**, is an unlikely beach read, though it's selling like one. A careful parsing of massive amounts of data distilled into "only" 700 pages, it outlines the economic basis for the 1%-99% divide in the United States. (Conservative critics, of course, **disagree**.)

Just in case you aren't yet rock-bottom certain about the reality of that divide, here are some stats: the top 1% of Americans hold **35%** of the nation's net worth; the bottom 80%, only 11% percent. The United States has such an **unequal distribution** of wealth that, in global rankings, it falls among the planet's kleptocracies, not the developed nations that were once its peers. The mathematical measure of wealth-inequality is called

"Gini," and the higher it is, the more extreme a nation's wealth-inequality. The Gini for the U.S. is 85; for Germany, 77; Canada, 72; and Bangladesh, 64. Nations more unequal than the U.S. include Kazakhstan at 86 and the Ukraine at 90. The African continent tips in at just under 85. Odd company for the self-proclaimed "indispensable nation."

Piketty shows that such inequality is driven by two complementary forces. By owning more of everything (capital), rich people have a mechanism for getting ever richer than the rest of us, because the rate of return on investment is higher than the rate of economic growth. In other words, money made from investments grows faster than money made from wages. Piketty claims the wealth of the wealthiest Americans is rising at 6%-7% a year, more than three times as fast as the economy the rest of us live in.

At the same time, wages for middle and lower income Americans are sinking, driven by factors also largely under the control of the wealthy. These include the application of new technology to eliminate human jobs, the crushing of unions, and a decline in the inflation-adjusted minimum wage that more and more Americans depend on for survival.

The short [version](#): A rising tide lifts all yachts.

## 2) So why don't the unemployed/underemployed simply find better jobs?

Another way of phrasing this question is: Why don't we just blame the poor for their plight? Mention unemployment or underemployment and someone will inevitably invoke the old "pull yourself up by your bootstraps" line. If workers don't like retail or minimum-wage jobs, or if they can't find good paying jobs in their area, why don't they just [move](#)? Quit retail or quit Pittsburgh (Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis) and...

Move to where to do what? Our country lost one-third of all decent factory jobs -- almost six million of them -- between 2000 and 2009, and wherever "there" is supposed to be, piles of people are already in line. In addition, many who lost their jobs don't have the means to move or a friend with a couch to sleep on when they get to Colorado. Some have lived for generations in the places where the jobs have disappeared. As for the jobs that are left, what

do they pay? **One out of four** working Americans earn less than \$10 per hour. At 25%, the U.S. has the highest percentage of low-wage workers in the developed world. (Canada and Great Britain have 20%, Japan under 15%, and France 11%.)

**One in six men**, 10.4 million Americans aged 25 to 64, the prime working years, don't have jobs at all, a portion of the male population that has almost tripled in the past four decades. They are neither all lazy nor all unskilled, and at present they await news of the uncharted places in the U.S. where those 10 million unfilled jobs are hidden.

Moving "there" to find better work isn't an option.

**3) But aren't there small-scale versions of economic "rebirths" occurring all over America?**

**Travel** through some of the old Rust Belt towns of this country and you'll quickly notice that "economic rebirth" seems to mean repurposing buildings that once housed factories and shipping depots as bars and boutiques. Abandoned warehouses are now trendy restaurants; a former radiator factory is an artisanal coffee shop. In other words, in a place where a manufacturing plant once employed hundreds of skilled workers at union wages, a handful of part-timers are now serving tapas at minimum wage plus tips.

In Maryland, an **ice cream plant** that once employed 400 people with benefits and salaries pegged at around \$40,000 a year closed its doors in 2012. Under a "rebirth" program, a smaller ice cream packer reopened the place with only 16 jobs at low wages and without benefits. The new operation had 1,600 applicants for those 16 jobs. The area around the ice cream plant once produced airplanes, pipe organs, and leather car seats. No more. There were roughly 14,000 factory jobs in the area in 2000; today, there are 8,000.

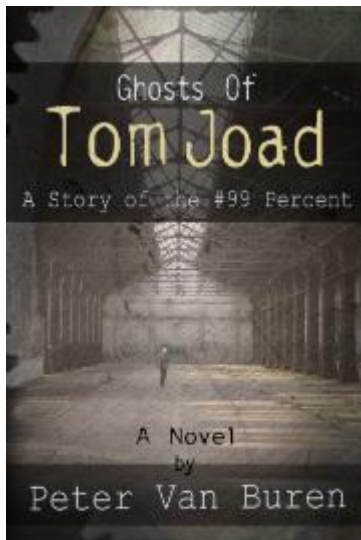
General Electric's **Appliance Park**, in Louisville, Kentucky, employed 23,000 union workers at its peak in 1973. By 2011, the sputtering plant held onto only about 1,800 workers. What was left of the union there agreed to a two-tier wage scale, and today 70% of the jobs are on the lower tier -- at \$13.50 an hour, almost \$8 less than what the starting wage used to be. A full-time worker makes about \$28,000 a year before taxes and deductions.

The **poverty line** for a family of four in Kentucky is \$23,000. Food stamp benefits are available to people who earn up to 130% of the poverty line, so a full-timer in Kentucky with a family still qualifies. Even if a worker moved to Kentucky and lucked out by landing a job at the plant, standing on your tiptoes with your lips just above sea level is not much of a step up.

Low paying jobs are not a rebirth.

#### 4) Can't people just get off their couches and get back to work?

There are **3.8 million** Americans who have been out of work for 27 weeks or more. These are the country's long-term unemployed, as defined by the Department of Labor. Statistically, the longer you are unemployed, the less likely it is that you'll ever find work again. Between 2008 and 2012, only 11% of those unemployed 15 months or more found a full-time job, and research shows that those who do find a job are less likely to retain it. Think of it as a snowball effect: more unemployment creates more unemployable people.



### Buy the book

And how hard is it to land even a minimum-wage job? This year, the Ivy League college admissions acceptance rate was **8.9%**. Last year, when Walmart opened its first store in Washington, D.C., there were more than **23,000** applications for 600 jobs, which resulted in an acceptance rate of 2.6%, making the big box store about twice as selective as Harvard and five times



as choosy as Cornell.

Telling unemployed people to get off their couches (or out of the cars they live in or the shelters where they sleep) and get a job makes as much sense as telling them to go study at Harvard.

**5) Why can't former factory workers retrain into new jobs?**

[Janesville](#), Wisconsin, had the oldest General Motors car factory in America, one that candidate Obama visited in 2007 and insisted would be there for another 100 years. Two days before Christmas that year and just before Obama's inauguration, the plant closed forever, throwing 5,000 people out of work. This devastated the town, because you either worked in the plant or in a business that depended on people working in the plant. The new president and Congress quickly paid for a two-million-dollar Janesville retraining program, using state community colleges the way the government once used trade schools built to teach new immigrants the skills needed by that Janesville factory a century ago.

This time around, however, those who finished their retraining programs simply became trained unemployables rather than untrained ones. It turned out that having a certificate in "heating and ventilation" did not automatically lead to a job in the field. There were already plenty of people out there with such certificates, never mind actual college degrees. And those who did find work in some field saw their take-home pay drop by 36%. This, it seems, is increasingly typical in twenty-first-century America (though retraining programs have been little studied in recent years).

Manufacturing is dead and the future lies in a high-tech, information-based economy, some say. So why can't former factory workers be trained to do that? Maybe some percentage could, but the U.S. graduated **1,606,000** students with bachelor's degrees in 2014, many of whom already have such skills.

Bottom Line: Jobs create the need for training. Training does not create jobs.

**6) Shouldn't we cut public assistance and force people into the job market?**

At some point in any discussion of jobs, someone will drop the nuclear option: cut federal and state benefits and do

away with most public assistance. That'll motivate people to find jobs -- or starve. Unemployment money and food stamps (now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or **SNAP**) encourage people to be lazy. Why should tax dollars be used to give food to people who won't work for it? "If you're able-bodied, you should be willing to work," House Majority Leader Eric Cantor **said** discussing food stamp cuts.

The problem with such statements is **73%** of those enrolled in the country's major public benefits programs are, in fact, from working families -- just in jobs whose paychecks don't cover life's basic necessities. McDonald's workers alone receive **\$1.2 billion** in federal assistance per year.

Why do so many of the employed need food stamps? It's not complicated. Workers in the minimum-wage economy often need them simply to survive. All in all, **47 million** people get SNAP nationwide because without it they would go hungry.

In Ohio, where I did some of the research for my book **Ghosts of Tom Joad**, the state pays out benefits on the first of each month. Pay Day, Food Day, Mother's Day, people call it. SNAP is distributed in the form of an Electronic Bank Transfer card, or **EBT**, which, recipients will tell you, stands for "Eat Better Tonight." EBT-friendly stores open early and stay open late on the first of the month because most people are pretty hungry come the Day.

A single person with nothing to her name in the lower 48 states would qualify for no more than **\$189** a month in SNAP. If she works, her net monthly income is multiplied by .3, and the result is subtracted from the maximum allotment. Less than fifty bucks a week for food isn't exactly luxury fare. Sure, she can skip a meal if she needs to, and she likely does. However, she may have kids; almost **two-thirds** of SNAP children live in single-parent households. **Twenty percent** or more of the child population in 37 states lived in "food insecure households" in 2011, with New Mexico (30.6%) and the District of Columbia (30%) topping the list. And it's **not just** kids. Households with disabled people account for 16% of SNAP benefits, while 9% go to households with senior citizens.

Almost **22%** of American children under age 18 lived in poverty in 2012; for those under age five, it's more than 25%. Almost 1 in 10 live in extreme poverty.

Our system is trending toward asking kids (and the disabled, and the elderly) to go to hell if they're hungry. Many are already there.

### **7) Why are Walmart and other businesses opposed to SNAP cuts?**

Public benefits are now a huge part of the profits of certain major corporations. In a **filing** with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Walmart was oddly blunt about what SNAP cuts could do to its bottom line:

“Our business operations are subject to numerous risks, factors, and uncertainties, domestically and internationally, which are outside our control. These factors include... changes in the amount of payments made under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Plan and other public assistance plans, [and] changes in the eligibility requirements of public assistance plans.”

How much profit do such businesses make from public assistance? Short answer: **big bucks**. In one year, nine Walmart Supercenters in Massachusetts received more than \$33 million in SNAP dollars -- more than four times the SNAP money spent at farmers' markets nationwide. In two years, Walmart received about half of the one billion dollars in SNAP expenditures in Oklahoma. Overall, **18%** of all food benefits money is spent at Walmart.

Pepsi, Coke, and the grocery chain Kroger **lobbied** for food stamps, an indication of how much they rely on the money. The CEO of Kraft **admitted** that the mac n' cheese maker opposed food stamp cuts because users were “a big part of our audience.” **One-sixth** of Kraft's revenues come from food stamp purchases. Yum Brands, the operator of KFC, Taco Bell, and Pizza Hut, tried to convince lawmakers in several states to **allow** its restaurants to accept food stamps. Products eligible for SNAP purchases are supposed to be limited to “healthy foods.” Yet lobbying by the soda industry keeps sugary drinks on the approved list, while companies like Coke and Pepsi pull in **four billion dollars** a year in revenues from SNAP money.

Poverty is big business.

### **8) Should We Raise the Minimum Wage?**

One important reason to raise the minimum wage to a living one is that people who can afford to feed themselves will not need food stamps paid for by taxpayers. Companies who profit off their workers' labor will be forced to pay a fair price for it, and not get by on taxpayer-subsidized low wages. Just as important, people who can afford to feed themselves earn not just money, but self-respect. The connection between working and taking care of yourself and your family has increasingly gone missing in America, creating a society that no longer believes in itself. Rock bottom is a poor foundation for building anything human.

But won't higher wages cause higher prices? The way taxpayers functionally subsidize companies paying low-wages to workers -- essentially ponying up the difference between what McDonald's and its ilk pay and what those workers need to live via SNAP and other benefits -- is a hidden cost squirreled away in plain sight. You're already paying higher prices via higher taxes; you just may not know it.

Even if taxes go down, won't companies pass on their costs? Maybe, but they are unlikely to be significant. For example, if McDonald's doubled the salaries of its employees to a semi-livable \$14.50 an hour, not only would most of them go off public benefits, but so would the company -- and yet a Big Mac would cost just **68 cents** more. In general, only about **20%** of the money you pay for a Big Mac goes to labor costs. At Walmart, increasing wages to \$12 per hour would cost the company only about **one percent** of its annual sales.

Despite labor costs not being the most significant factor in the way low-wage businesses set their prices, one of the more common objections to raising the minimum wage is that companies, facing higher labor costs, will cut back on jobs. Don't believe it.

The Los Angeles Economic Round Table concluded that raising the hourly minimum to \$15 in that city would generate an additional **\$9.2 billion** in annual sales and create more than 50,000 jobs. A **Paychex/IHS survey**, which looks at employment in small businesses, found that the state with the highest percentage of annual job growth

was Washington, which also has the highest statewide minimum wage in the nation. The area with the highest percentage of annual job growth was San Francisco, the city with the highest minimum wage in the nation. Higher wages do not automatically lead to fewer jobs. Many large grocery chains, including Safeway and Kroger, are **unionized** and pay well-above-minimum wage. They compete as equals against their non-union rivals, despite the higher wages.

Will employers leave a state if it raises its minimum wage independent of a nationwide hike? Unlikely. Most minimum-wage employers are service businesses that are tied to where their customers are. People are not likely to drive across state lines for a burger. A **report** on businesses on the Washington-Idaho border at a time when Washington's minimum wage was nearly three bucks higher than Idaho's found that the ones in Washington were flourishing.

While some businesses could indeed decide to close or cut back if the minimum wage rose, the net macro gains would be significant. Even a small hike to \$10.10 an hour would put some **\$24 billion** a year into workers' hands to spend and lift 900,000 Americans above the poverty line. Consumer spending drives **70%** of our economy. More money in the hands of consumers would likely increase the demand for goods and services, creating jobs.

Yes, raise the minimum wage. Double it or more. We can't afford not to.

**9) Okay, after the minimum wage is raised, what else can we do?**

To end such an article, it's traditional to suggest reforms, changes, solutions. It is, in fact, especially American to assume that every problem has a "solution." So my instant suggestion: raise the minimum wage. Tomorrow. In a big way. And maybe appoint Thomas Piketty to the board of directors of Walmart.

But while higher wages are good, they are likely only to soften the blows still to come. What if the hyper-rich like being ever more hyper-rich and, with so many new ways to influence and control our political system and the economy, never plan to give up any of their advantages? What if they don't want to share, not even a little more,

not when it comes to the minimum wage or anything else?

The striking trend lines of social and economic disparity that have developed over the last 50 years are clearly no accident; nor have disemboweled [unions](#), a deindustrialized America, wages heading for the basement (with profits still on the rise), and the widest gap between rich and poor since the slavery era been the work of the invisible hand. It seems far more likely that a remarkably small but powerful crew wanted it that way, knowing that a nation of fast food workers isn't heading for the barricades any time soon. Think of it all as a kind of "[Game of Thrones](#)" played out over many years. A super-wealthy few have succeeded in defeating all of their rivals -- unions, regulators, the media, honest politicians, environmentalists -- and now are free to do as they wish.

What most likely lies ahead is not a series of satisfying American-style solutions to the economic problems of the 99%, but a boiling frog's journey into a form of twenty-first-century feudalism in which a wealthy and powerful few live well off the labors of a vast mass of the working poor. Once upon a time, the original 99% percent, the serfs, worked for whatever their feudal lords allowed them to have. Now, Walmart "associates" do the same. Then, a few artisans lived slightly better, an economic step or two up the feudal ladder. Now, a technocratic class of programmers, teachers, and engineers with shrinking possibilities for upward mobility function similarly amid the declining middle class. Absent a change in America beyond my ability to imagine, that's likely to be my future -- and yours.

Peter Van Buren blew the whistle on State Department waste and mismanagement during Iraqi reconstruction in his first book, [We Meant Well: How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People](#). A [Tom Dispatch regular](#), he writes about current events at his blog, [We Meant Well](#). His new book, [Ghosts of Tom Joad: A Story of the #99Percent](#), is available now.

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# Obama On Reducing Carbon Pollution



## Earth News

*Posted by Dragonslayer*

Monday, 02 June 2014 17:32

It has been long coming but finally here it is...Dragonslayer.

"In this week's address, President Obama discussed new actions by the Environmental Protection Agency to cut dangerous carbon pollution, a plan that builds on the efforts already taken by many states, cities and companies"....white house on youtube

"The Obama administration took aim at the coal industry on Monday by mandating a 30 percent cut in carbon emissions at fossil fuel-burning power plants by 2030" - fox news

Meanwhile in Canada Harper who previously said that Canada should follow the US lead on Climate Change is now claiming that Canada is leading the way while his critics point out the lie....Dragonslayer

Last Updated on Monday, 02 June 2014 17:47

# Desmond Tutu calls tar sands the product of "negligence and greed"



## Earth News

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Sunday, 01 June 2014 11:40

[SDGs 2015; The Future We want is impeded by the Future we do not want](#)



## Justice News

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 31 March 2014 16:02

-Joan Russow Global Compliance research Project

The theme of Rio+20 was "the future we want". In 2015 the United Nations is linking the MDGs and SDGs in Conferences that will continue the theme of "the future we want."

SDG GOALS:

**goal 1: end poverty in all its forms everywhere;**

**goal 2: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.**

**goal 3: ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; goal 4: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all.**

**goal 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;**

**goal 6: ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.**

**goal 7: ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all;**

**goal 8: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.**

**goal 9: build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; goal 10: reduce inequality within and among countries.**

**goal 11: make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;**

**goal 12: ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;**

**goal 13: take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

**goal 14: conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.**

**goal 15: protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.**

**goal 16: promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels and**

**goal 17: strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.**

The question arises can we have the future we want without proscribing the future



we do not want. Is it possible to have sustainability within a world of predominantly unsustainable institutes and practices without concurrently eliminating these practices?

To achieve the future we want we must

- A. Prevent war and conflict
- B Avert Environmental Devastation and Health Problems
- C. Cease Exploitative Trade
- D Stave off Corpforatism and Financial Institutions
- E. Eradicate social injustice and Human Rights violations, and remove the causes of
- F. End **defiance international law**

## **.A PREVENTING WAR AND CONFLICT**

1..Delegitimize war- Given the social, environmental, health, human rights, economic consequences of war, under no conditions or circumstance is war legal or just.

2.End any attempt to undermine the international resolve to prevent the scourge of war; this would include not engaging in intimidation, in cajoling or in offering economic incentives in exchange for support for military interventions.

3.End the reluctance to abide by the 1975 Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of humanity.

4.Reallocate military spending as agreed to under Chapter 33 16e of Agenda 21, UNCED

5.End the misconstruing of Article 51 (self-defence) of the Charter of the United Nations to justify premeditated non-provoked military aggression, or to use various such pretexts for invading other sovereign states.

6.Abandon the guise of the pre-emptive/preventive attack policy that has resulted in aggressive attacks on sovereign states and that has been in violation of the Article 2 of United Nations and international law as being the 'supreme' international crime of a

war of aggression.

7. End the practice of invoking Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations rather than invoking Chapter VI - the peaceful resolutions of disputes - and be prepared to be judged by the International Court of Justice.

8. End the practice of disrespecting of the jurisdiction and decisions of the International Court of Justice.

9. Withdraw immediately from any military involvement and occupation of sovereign states.

10. End the trumping of health, environment, civil and political and human rights for the sake of "security, power and profit.

11. End the use of "human security" which has been extended to "humanitarian intervention", and used along with the "responsibility to protect" or with right to intervene with a view to justifying military intervention in other states.

12. True security is "common security", as defined in documents prepared by Olaf Palme, and which entrench peremptory norms related to the preventing war and conflict, guaranteeing human rights, protecting the environment, and ensuring social justice.

13. End the practice of targeting or assisting in the assassination of leaders of other sovereign states, and of engaging in "regime change".

14. End the practice of mollifying public opposition by couching aggressive acts in euphemistic "operations" such as "Operation Just Cause", "Operation Iraqi Freedom", "Operation Enduring Freedom",

15. End the destabilization of states and regions through the sale of arms, including through the guise of "foreign aid" or through infiltration of NGOs, such as USAID, NED, Freedom House or through fundamentalist Christians in groups such as Operation Rescue.

16. End the production of land mines, as required in the convention against landmine and end the procrastination, by those responsible, to remove land mines from all areas of the world where land mines are known to exist.

17. End the reluctance of nuclear arms states to comply with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by failing to implement Article VI of the Treaty, (Article VI: commits all parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on measures to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve disarmament.).

18 .End the production of all weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear, chemical, and biological, as agreed to in UNCHE in 1972, and in specific conventions. And discontinue the gutting of the Treaty on Cluster bombs

19.Suffocate the production of uranium, end importing and exporting of uranium, prohibit the use of weapons such as those with depleted uranium and cluster and end the continued profit-making from the sale of arms and trade in small arms.

20.Disband NATO for its disregard of the international rule of law, including the objective of the Charter of the United Nations, and the Convention against Torture.

21.Prohibit propaganda for war (ICCPR), including establishing military bases, engaging in war games, producing and selling of armaments, and holding arms exhibunequal treatment of the states itions. End government investment in weapons systems

22.End the that possess nuclear weapons or nuclear weapon capabilities such as the destabilizing impact of the Middle East as a result of the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel.

3.End the disregard for the obligations under the 1967 Outer Space Treaty to ensure that exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind [humanity].

24 Repeal the Patriot Act and Anti-Terrorism Act because they violate civil and political rights, and results in racial profiling.

25 .End the practice of "rendering"- sending "persons of interests" to countries which are known to condone torture.

26.End the refusal to be judged by an international tribunal for any actions that might be deemed to violate international law related to crimes against the peace, to war crimes, or to genocide.

27.End the misuse of UN "peacekeeping" forces to clean up aggressive acts of

destruction and occupation caused by other states.

28 Close and convert, to peaceful purposes, all foreign military bases in sovereign states around the world.

29. End the production, circulation and berthing of nuclear powered or nuclear arms-capable vessels throughout the world.

30. End "War Games" or "Military Exercises" such as Exercise Trident Fury or Northwest Training Range complex.

31. Discontinue the propping up and financing of military dictators and abandon the long standing policy enunciated against Somoza "he's a bastard but he is our bastard".

32. Demilitarize the economy by reallocating resources presently committed to military purposes to provide for the needs of citizens to pass on the peace dividend to the developing countries as undertaken through numerous UN Conference Action Plans and UN General Assembly Resolutions and Declarations.

33. End misplaced spending priorities: on militarism, on adulterated unsafe food, on production of products and substances harmful to the environment and human health, and redirecting budgetary expenses to eradicate poverty.

## **B** **AVERTING ENVIRONMENTAL DEVASTATION AND HEALTH PROBLEMS**

34. End the exploitation of Nature affirmed in 1982 World Charter of Nature; every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to humans, and to accord other organisms such recognition's, humans must be guided by a moral code of action,

35. Eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries; this pattern has contributed to poverty, to the inequitable distribution of resources within countries and between countries, has increased the vulnerability to natural disasters and has threaten the well-being of future generations.

36. Reduce the ecological footprint, as required in Habitat II, that has contributed to a

socially inequitable and environmentally unsound world; end the conversion of nature into a source of raw materials, and the practice of "built-in obsolescence"

37 .End the reluctance to invoke the precautionary principle - in the Rio Declaration, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change- as a general and enforceable principle of law: where there is a threat of irreversible harm the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measure to prevent the threat.

38.End the application of the reverse onus strategy which places the onus not on the proponent of an intervention to prove safety but on the opponent, to demonstrate harm.

39.Prevent Natechs- natural disasters caused by technology or technological disasters caused by natural disasters and not rely on after-the fact attempts to reduce or mitigate disasters.

40.Ban, through the invoking the precautionary principle, the production and distribution of genetically engineered food and crops, the practice of biopiracy of genes of indigenous peoples, the dumping of GE food and adventitious materials [living modified organisms] on developing countries. And remove off the shelves all processed foods containing genetically engineered material.

41.Ban Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which are bioaccumulative and toxic, and are capable of traveling .long distances from their original source.

42 .Prosecute countries for violating the transboundary principle that holds that states shall be held legally responsible for any pollution, in other states, caused by activities under their own jurisdiction.

43.End the practice of causing environmental devastation and then relying on restorative or clean-up technologies to remediate the environmental destruction rather than taking the preventive approach so as to avoid costly and inadequate subsequent measures to "rehabilitate" the site.

44. End the unsustainable forest management, the conversion of forests into agricultural land and the expansion of large-scale agro-industrial monocultures for food, fibre and, increasingly, energy. End the land grab of land in by developed states, in developing states

45. End land degradation, soil erosion, salinization, water logging, and soil pollution, which contribute to loss of soil fertility.

46. End the strategy of substituting proposals of adaption to or offsetting of climate change rather than seriously addressing the issue of preventing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

47..Phase out the use of fossil fuels, especially those from the unconventional sources such as the tar sands, reduce other greenhouse gas producing activities, ban fracking and end the substantial contribution to greenhouse gas emissions caused by methane gas resulting from the dependency on animal protein.

48. Discontinue the promoting of false "solutions" to climate change such as biofuels, large hydro projects, and nuclear energy which are not socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy sources. Abandon the market based proposal of the so-called Green Economy that commodifies nature

49. End the failure of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to investigate and estimate the full impact of greenhouse gas emissions by the military, and to demand that each state release information related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all militarism, from military exercises, war games, weapons testing, military aviation troop transfer, military operations, and waste generation, to reconstruction after acts of violent interventions etc.

50. End the practice of member states relying not on the emerging scientific data, but on the IPCC 2007 report which was based on 2004 and 2005 data. The emerging data now indicates the urgency of keeping the rise in temperature below the dangerous level of 1°C, [which is the point at which global systems on land, water and air will be so affected as to create vicious feedback cycles and destabilise many ecosystems and human societies]; whereas the IPCC 2007 Report had indicated that 2 degrees was the

safe threshold. The emerging scientific data also indicates that there are more serious climate-induced events than anticipated in the 2007 IPCC Report.

51. End the climate injustice of using the atmospheric space of developing countries, and refusing to pay compensation

52. End the misappropriation of agricultural land for the growing of biofuel and contributing to food insecurity, and prohibit the purchase and use of land for biofuels to serve foreign markets and undermine food security.

53. Prohibit the practice, by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in violating the principle that a regulator must not be a promoter, of promoting civil nuclear energy.

54. Phase out the use of civil nuclear energy, and refuse to accept nuclear energy as the solution to climate change and delete Article IV of the NPT which bestows the inalienable right of states to access so-called "peaceful" use of nuclear energy.

55. Prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health. (Principle 14 Rio Declaration, 1992)

56. End the defiance by industrialized states, of principle 7 of the 1992 Rio Declaration which was adopted by all states at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This principle states that:

``States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. (Principle 7, Rio Declaration)

57. End environmentally induced diseases, address the social determinant of health problems- such as poverty, and provide universal access to a publicly-funded not-for-profit health non-two tier health care system.

58 End the lack of commitment to ensure, as agreed in Habitat II, that Corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with international law, including international environmental law

59. End the use of the notion of "prior consent" to persuade the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable countries or communities within developed countries to accept the dumping of products and substances that are potentially harmful to the environment and human health. End the ruse of using extraterritorialism. -what right do we have to impose our higher standards on a developing country with lower standards

60. Prevent Pharmaceutical collusion between university and Pharmaceutical corporations. And end the policy of permitting Universities to sell products of research to corporations

61. End practice of the Pharmaceutical industry in creating new health problems to create market potential for new drugs

62. Prohibit the patenting of genes under the WTO TRIPS provision

63. End the misguided dependency on drugs when doctors fail to offer the possibility that change in life style could effectively address the health problem

64. Oppose the continued production and export of products that have been banned... or withdrawn

65. Prevent import of products banned or not yet approved in country of origin

## **C** **C.CEASING EXPLOITATIVE TRADE**

66. End the undermining, by International Trade agreements, such as GATT, and the subsequent WTO, of measures which would advance and promote socially equitable environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.

67 Dismantle or abrogate trade institutions and agreements, such as WTO and NAFTA, which promulgate globalization, deregulation and privatization; these institutions and agreements undermine the rule of international public trust law, and condone and actively facilitate corporations benefiting and profiting from war and from environmental destruction.

68. End all proposals which will result, through the practice of harmonization of



standards and regulations, in arriving at the lowest common denominator for health and environmental standards.

9. End the requirement of) "testing once" and (ii) "reliance on testing by the private sector". That if the private sector has already tested the substance or product, Environmental agencies would have to justify before congress if they want to test again.

(i) "Testing once" to eliminate redundancy by testing once so that if a product is tested in one of the three countries it does not have to be tested in the other two. This practice would undermine the ability of states to carry out their own tests and ban substances such as the banning by Canada of RBST or Bovine Growth Hormone in milk.

70. Abandon the IMF Structural Adjustment Program which has led to the violation of human rights, has exploited citizens in the developing world, which has resulted in years of privatization, and elimination of essential services throughout the world and has adversely impacted on vulnerable and indigenous peoples around the world.

**D.**  
**STAVING OFF CORPORATISM AND**  
**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

71. End the privatization, including Public Private Partnerships, of public services such as water, sewage and health care, and end the opposition to the affirmation that the access to water is a human right.

72. End corporate funding of education, including the corporate direction of research, and opposing end the opposition to the principle that research must be arms-length and not tied to corporations.

73. Enforce the international commitment made to ensure that corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with international law including international environmental law.  
And oppose corporate "voluntary compliance",

74. End the subsidizing and investing, of public funds, in corporations that have developed weapons of mass destruction and "conventional arms" that have violated human rights that have denied social justice, that have exploited workers, and that have destroyed the environment.

75. Revoke charters of corporations, including transnational corporations, which have engaged in activities that impact on health and environment, including on the right to food, and right to water; end the legal fiction that the corporate form has constitutional rights as a person and prohibit corporate funding of political parties.

76. Phase out sunset industries-ones that are harmful to human health and the environment and institute a fair and just transition for workers and communities affected by the phase out, and end the lucrative profits made on money trading..

77. End the egregious practice of derivatives and other banking schemes, and end the support of non-cooperative and non-community banks

78. End the bail-out of corporations and banks under the guise of their being "too big to fail", and end the reclassifying of function, by financial institutions, such as Goldman Sachs in order to take advantage of the bail -out

79. Prohibit the centralization of banks and the egregious funny money banking systems and abandon the capitalist, exploitative, competitive economic model, and prohibit corporate funding of politicians,

80. End shifting, by corporations, of their addresses offshore to lower their taxes, and end the evading, by corporations, of criminal charges by spinning off their companies.

## **E**

**END SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, AND REMOVE THE CAUSES OF POVERTY**

81 Eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generation... (Preamble, Declaration on the Establishment of a new international economic order, 1974)

82. Cancel Third World debt. And end the reluctance to implement the long-standing international commitment to transfer .7% of the GDP for overseas development aid (ODA)

83 End the practice of send arms as ODA and end the extension of active assistance to developing countries tied, political or military conditions. and cancel third world debt

84. End all discrimination on the following grounds:

- race, tribe, or culture;
- colour, ethnicity, national ethnic or social origin, or language; nationality, place of birth, or nature of residence (refugee or immigrant, migrant worker);
- gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or form of family, [including same-sex marriage]
- disability or age;
- religion or conviction, political or other opinion, or - class, economic position, or other status.

85. End the violation of human rights including labour rights, civil and political rights, social and cultural rights- right to food, right to housing, right to water right to sewage treatment, right to a universally accessible, not-for-profit health care system, right to education and social justice.

86. End the denial of the labour right to strike, of the right to have collective bargaining,

87 End the denial of the requirement of equal pay for work of equal value

85. End the redefinition of Torture and thus the violating of the Convention against Torture through Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

86 End the practice of rendition of citizens and failure to abide by the Geneva Conventions.

87. End cruel and inhumane punishment such as capital punishment, which violates accepted international norms.

89. End the discrimination against immigrants, and refugees and against Migrant Workers and their Families; and to revoke the Secure Fence Act and end the unconscionable wall between the United States and Mexico. Tear down walls and the wall in Israel/

90. Abandon the no-fly list, and no-cross boarder lists.

91. Oppose Strategic Law suits Against Public Participation ("SLAPP) suits" against public participation.

92. End the targeting, intimidating and discriminating against activists on the grounds of political and other opinion (a listed ground in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

93. End religious extremism and proselytizing including the spread of Evangelical Christianity around the world, which has undermined local indigenous cultures, instilled fear through the dangerous belief in the "rapture", "Armageddon" and "left behind", and condemn dispensationalist "end times" scenario which has serious irreversible consequences. And has led to the undermining of other established beliefs and practices

94. End the practice of ending speeches with the invocation of God Bless a country

## **F DEFYING INTERNATIONAL LAW.**

95. End the defiance of the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of civilians, and respect international human rights and humanitarian law.

96. End unilateralism and affirm a commitment to multilateralism and oppose unilateral actions that undermine global common security.

97. End current irreversible practices that will violate the rights of future generation intergenerational equity includes the rights of future generations to their cultural,

natural heritage and to a safe environment.

98. End the US position of refusing to respect the jurisdiction of the international Court of Justice in terms of revenge through military intervention and to instead seek justice through the International Court of Justice.

99. End US reluctance to do the following:

1 to ratify the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties

2 to ratify the international Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its protocol

3. to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity

4 to ratify the Kyoto Protocol

5 to ratify the Convention on the rights of migrant Workers and their families

6. to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child

7. to ratify the International Covenant of Social economic, and Cultural Rights

8. to ratify the Optional Protocols of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

9. to abide by the Convention Against Torture

10. to abide by the Geneva protocols on prohibited weapons

11. and to sign and ratify the Convention for the Banning of Landmines,

11 to sign and ratify all Geneva Protocols, including Protocol V, which requires the removal of remnants of war

12 to invoke the precautionary principle, which appears in the Rio Declaration, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as a general and enforceable principle of law

Last Updated on Thursday, 04 June 2015 14:26

160 readings

## **US fired depleted uranium at civilian areas in 2003 Iraq war, report finds**



**Peace News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Thursday, 19 June 2014 11:01

by Rob Edwards

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/19/us-depleted-uranium-weapons-civilian-areas-iraq>

US jets and tanks fired nearly 10,000 depleted uranium rounds in Iraq during the war in 2003.

US forces fired depleted uranium (DU) weapons at civilian areas and troops in Iraq in breach of official advice meant to prevent unnecessary suffering in conflicts, a report has found.

Coordinates revealing where US jets and tanks fired nearly 10,000 DU rounds in Iraq during the war in 2003 have been obtained by the Dutch peace group Pax. This is the first time that any US DU firing coordinates have been released, despite previous requests by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Iraqi government.

According to PAX's report, which is due to be published this week, the data shows that many of the DU rounds were fired in or near populated areas of Iraq, including As Samawah, Nasiriyah and Basrah. At least 1,500 rounds were also aimed at troops, the group says.

This conflicts with legal advice from the US Air Force in 1975 suggesting that DU weapons should only be used against hard targets like tanks and armoured vehicles, the report says. This advice, designed to comply with international law by minimising deaths and injuries to urban populations and troops, was largely ignored by US forces, it argues.

A six-page memo by Major James Miles and Will Carroll from the international law division of USAF's Office of the Judge Advocate General concluded in March 1975 that DU weapons were legal. But it recommended imposing restrictions on how they were used.

"Use of this munition solely against personnel is prohibited if alternative weapons are available," the memo stated. This was for legal reasons "related to the prohibitions against unnecessary suffering and poison".

The memo also pointed out that DU weapons were "incendiary" and could have indiscriminate impacts in urban areas. "They may cause fires which spread thereby causing potential risks of disproportionate injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects," it said. "Precautions to avoid or minimise such risks shall be taken in the use of this weapon or alternate available weapons should be used."

PAX estimates that there are more than 300 sites in Iraq contaminated by DU, which will cost at least \$30m to clean up. DU is a chemically toxic and radioactive heavy metal attractive to weapons designers because it is extremely hard and can pierce armour.

The author of the PAX report, Wim Zwijnenburg, said the US Air Force knew the harm that could be done by DU weapons and should not have used them in populated areas. "The use of DU against these targets questions the adherence of coalition forces to their own principles and guidelines," he argued. "They should be held accountable for the consequences."

US forces gave the GPS coordinates of DU rounds, along with a list of targets and the numbers fired, to the Dutch Ministry of Defence, which was concerned about areas in which its troops were stationed last year.

The Dutch MoD then released the data to PAX in response to a request under freedom of information law. The release of the information was a "useful first step towards

greater transparency", said PAX, but the firing coordinates for most DU rounds remain unknown.

More than 300,000 DU rounds are estimated to have been fired during the 2003 Iraq war, the vast majority by US forces. A small fraction were from UK tanks, the coordinates for which were provided to the UN Environment Programme. A further 782,414 DU rounds are believed to have been fired during the earlier conflict in 1991, mostly by US forces.

The Democratic congressman, Jim McDermott, is now urging the US Department of Defence to publish all its DU firing coordinates. "These weapons have had terrible health ramifications for Iraqi civilians," he said. "The least the US could do is provide the specific targeting data so the Iraqi government can begin the complex clean-up process."

The US Department of Defence did not respond to a request to comment. One military source was "amazed" that the Dutch government had released sensitive targeting data.

Last Updated on Thursday, 19 June 2014 11:06

## **The Harper Cabinet's Approval Ignores Interveners Issues, defies international norms and is grossly negligent.**



### **Earth News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Wednesday, 18 June 2014 06:20

By Joan Russow PhD

Global Compliance Research Project -A Project of the Ecological Rights Association



File photo of a worker at Enbridge's Michigan oil spill. File photo of a worker at Enbridge's Michigan oil spill.

The Cabinet Decision's mimicked the flawed Decision by the Joint Review Panel. If one reviews the initial submissions to the panel in August 2010, one can clearly see that the issues raised by the submissions were completely ignored. **Proceeding with the pipeline and the tankers would be grossly negligent and in defiance with International obligations. There is sufficient evidence of precedents, such as Enbridge spills, regional earth quakes, potential tsunamis, grounding of a drilling rig and widespread pollution of land and water bodies to invoke the precautionary principle...**

ISSUES IGNORED, INTERNATIONAL NORMS DEFIED, AND GROSS NEGLIGENCE, PERCEIVED

**The August 2010 submissions to the Joint Review Panel in Kitimat, were intended to inform the panel about the issues that should be addressed in the terms of reference.**

**The interveners raised the following issues**

**The need to examine the TOTAL IMPACT OF oil sands, pipelines and tankers, and the importance of addressing the threats to indigenous rights, to livelihood and subsistence, to marine life and resources, to future generations and to cultural and natural heritage. And to address the question; Does Canada really need this project?**

**After reviewing the issues presented, I realized that the current terms of reference of the Review panel have ignored many of these issues even though Canada has existing obligations in international law related to them.**

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#### **1.FOSSIL FUEL TRIAD**

**At the 2010 panel the issue of the increased impact on climate change was raised.**

**Pat Moss from the Friends of Wild Salmon said the inquiry should consider the impact of tar sands expansion and related pipeline infrastructure on climate change**

**Under Article 2 of the legally binding UN Framework Convention on Climate change, states are "to stabilize greenhouse gases below a level of dangerous anthropogenic emissions."**

**The Enbridge pipeline will facilitate Canada's increased non-compliance with Article 2. And Canada has already caused a significant move towards this dangerous level**



## **2.INDIGENOUS RIGHTS**

**At the 2010 PANEL the issue of indigenous rights was raised.**

**Chief John Ridsdale from THE WET'SUWET'ENN (wit so-it en) stated:**

**"the United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, came out of the recognition of the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples"**

**Article 26.1of Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states**

**Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.**

**AND under Article 26.3 is the obligation to**

**give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.**

**While Canada finally adopted the Declaration, the government proceeded to undermine it by claiming that it was only aspirational. The universal adoption , however, of the Declaration has resulted in the provisions becoming international norms- thus obligations of all states. Sadly the spirit and the letter of the Declaration have now been violated by Bill C-45, in which the government has altered a section of the Indian Act to allow First Nations to give up their rights to reserve lands, without a majority vote of the community .**

## **3 LIVELIHOOD SUBSISTENCE**

**At the August 2010 Panel, the issue of the threat to livelihood, and subsistence was raised**

**Gerald Amos from the Haisla First Nation stated: "the Enbridge project -- has a huge possibility of wiping out our livelihood."**

**The right to livelihood was recognized as a human right in Article 25 of the seminal 1948 Universal Declaration of human Rights**

**Under Article 1 of the legally binding International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Is the following obligation:**

**"In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence".**

**The livelihood and subsistence of First Nations within and around the tarsands have been deprived of their livelihood and subsistence:**

**Melina Laboucan Massimo, a Lubicon Cree decried: "before the tar sands, my community used to live sustainably off the land; our community was self-sufficient...before my family was able to drink from the waters..."**

**Undoubtedly, BC First Nations will also be deprived of their livelihood and subsistence, if the Enbridge pipeline proceeds**

#### **4. HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER**

**At the 2010 Panel the issue of threat to source of water was raised:**

**Kelly Marsh from Kitimat stated" I hope that the financial interest doesn't trump the environmental interest. Water is life. Without water we don't live. Are we just going to put at risk another thousand rivers and streams?"**

**In 2010, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly agreed to a resolution declaring the human right to "safe and clean drinking water and sanitation"**

**If the Enbridge pipeline proceeds, the right to water cannot be guaranteed**

#### **5 HEALTH**

**At the 2010 Panel, the issue of threat to health was raised:**

**Kyle Clifton from Gitga'at First Nation exclaimed; "No-one can guarantee us that there will be no spills. If the Panel recommends the project then in effect you are forcing us to live in fear, which will have effects on both our health and our economy."**

**Under article 12 of the legally binding International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights is the obligation "to recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. and the obligation to take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right."**

## **6 SEA RESOURCES**

**At the 2010 Panel, issue of threat to sea resources was raised:**

**Kyle Clifton from the Gitga'at First Nation stated: "Our future will be ensured through the protection of these precious sea resources because without them we have nothing."**

**In Article 8j of the legally binding Convention on Biological Diversity is the following obligation"**

**To respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity**

## **7. FISH INCLUDINGIMIGRATORY SPECIES**

**At the 2010 panel, the issue of the threat, to fish habitat, and marine life was raised**

**Chief John Ridsdale from The Wet'suwet'en (WIT'SO-IT'EN) First Nations stated: "We have watched our land being stripped bare. We have seen the destruction of fishing sites and spawning grounds and the extinction of salmon stocks."**

**Under Article 194 5. of the legally binding UN Law of the Sea is the obligation to prevent, reduce and **control pollution****

**of the marine environment and to take measures necessary to protect and preserve fragile ecosystems as well as the habitat of ... forms of marine life.**

**And under Article 66 1&2, of the Convention is the following obligation:**

**1. States in whose rivers anadromous stock (such as salmon and surgeon) originate shall have the primary interest in and responsibility for such stocks and shall ensure their conservation**

**In the omnibus bill 38 the Harper government weakened section 35 of**

**the Fisheries Act; Undoubtedly, the weakening of section 35 was in contravention of the Law of the Sea and its agreements..**

Under Article 8k of the Convention on Biological Diversity is the following obligation;

**8(k) to Develop or maintain necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations:**

**The white sturgeon is listed as an endangered species under the IUCN red list of threatened species.**

**The pipeline is planned to cross the Stewart and Nechako rivers, and impact on the Nechako White Sturgeon species**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2013/01/07/pol-two-bands-duty-to-consult-court-challenge.html?cmp=rss>

**Under Article 65, of Law of the Sea, is the obligation**

To cooperate with a view to the conservation of marine mammals and in the case of cetaceans shall in particular work through the appropriate international organizations for their conservation,

An international study headed by Christine Erbe, director of the Centre for Marine Science and Technology at Curtin University in Perth, Australia, predicts total underwater shipping noise could increase 10-fold in B.C.'s northern fiords if Northern Gateway proceeds. And that

"With the cumulative effect, the levels would be way above anything these animals would ever have experienced naturally," Erbe, a former research scientist with Canada's federal Fisheries department, and that

. "There is a worry they will go away and not come back to these fiords. This is critical habitat, important to them"

## **8. FUTURE GENERATIONS HERITAGE**

**At The 2010 Panel the issue of the threats to future generations was raised**

Chief Councillor Delores Pollard **from Haisla First Nation affirmed:**

**"We depend on the land for everything, but the most important thing that we depend on the land for is to maintain our connection to our children and future generations ... "**

**Under the article 4 of 1972 legally binding UN Convention on**

**the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage, there is the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, preservation and transmission to future generations of cultural and natural heritage**

**Under Article 12, of the Convention on biological Diversity**

**there is an obligation to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity for the benefit of present and future generations,**

**In the framework Convention on Climate change, there is determination to protect the climate system for present and future generations,**

## **9 THREATS AND THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**

**At the 2010 Panel the issue of living under constant threats was raised**

**Chief Councillor Delores Pollard from Haisla First Nation stated: "The scale of activity contemplated even with no accidents or malfunctions will drastically alter habitats, fish and wildlife in our territory for years beyond the time when the oil sands have been mined out. "**

**CHIEF HARVEY HUMCHITT from the Heiltsuk stated: expressed concern about "increased tanker traffic in the rugged Central Coast of B.C."**

**Canada is bound by the precautionary principle which reads**

**Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent the threat." (Rio Declaration, UNCED1992).**

**This principle is also contained in**

**In the Convention on Biological Biodiversity, the precautionary principle read;**

**where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat**

**in the UN Framework Convention on climate change**

**and in 1995 agreement "relating to the Conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks ...is the obligation to invoke the precautionary principle.**

**B.FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS HAVE MISCONSTRUED THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**

**In April 2013, I filed a petition with the Commissioner on the Environment and raised the issue of Canada's failure to abide by the precautionary principle . I referred to 14 issues, two of which were related to the tarsands and pipelines**

**QUESTION 1. There is sufficient scientific evidence that the continued exploitation of the tar sands will cause Canada to fail its obligations under the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Under Article 2. Of the Convention**

**Under Article 2 of the legally binding UN Framework Convention on Climate change, states are "to stabilize greenhouse gases below a level of dangerous anthropogenic emissions."**

**The Department of Natural Resources responded that the Government takes the issue of climate change seriously, and under the 2009 Copenhagen Accords, Canada has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) EMISSIONS BY 17 % FROM 2005 LEVELS BY 2020.**

**At Copenhagen, Canada agreed to far less than the EU that agreed to 20% below 1990 levels by 2020 and would have been prepared to go as far as 30% if other states had been willing.**

**QUESTION 2. There is sufficient evidence that accidents on pipelines have occurred and that pipelines are proposed through sensitive environmental areas in British Columbia and through First Nations' land; Why will the precautionary principle not be invoked to prevent pipelines and tanker from Enbridge and Kinder Morgan Proposals.**

**In the response from the Department of Natural Resources gave their definition of the precautionary approach as the following:**

**"The Framework outlines guiding principles for precautionary measures and their application in science-based decision making in areas of federal regulatory activity for the protection of health, safety and the environment, as well as the conservation of natural resources. It also addresses the issue of terminology and definition directly in the introduction which states:**

**The application of "precaution", "the precautionary principle" or "the precautionary approach" recognizes that the absence of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing decisions where there is a risk of serious or irreversible harm.**

**I interpret this in the following way the application of "precaution", "the precautionary principle" or "the precautionary approach" recognizes that the absence of full scientific certainty [that it is safe] shall not be used as a reason for postponing decisions where there is a risk of serious or irreversible harm.**

**[ If the emphasis is on science that demonstrates that it is safe; it is easy to ignore evidence that it is unsafe.]**

**On the Other hand the international version of the precautionary principle essentially affirms that where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, climate change, or irreversible harm the of full scientific certainty [that it is unsafe] should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat**

**There is sufficient evidence that there could be serious irreversible damage, loss of significant biological diversity, adverse effects of climate change, and harm to marine life to justify invoking the precautionary principle and end the fossil fuel triad.**

## **0 CONCLUSION**

**If the Enbridge pipeline is permitted to proceed, Canada will demonstrate yet again its defiance of international law.**

**I raise these issues of international law because from my experience at international UN conferences, the Harper government has caused Canada to be perceived as an international pariah because of its obsession with profiting from the tarsands at any cost, while being willing to disregard its duty to guarantee fundamental indigenous and ecological rights and to discharge obligations under international law**

**If the panel, respects the issues raised, by the interveners at the August 2010 review panel, and wishes to abide by international obligations and norms, the panel must reject, unconditionally, the Enbridge pipeline.**

**Proceeding with the pipeline and the tankers would be grossly negligent. There is sufficient evidence of precedents, such as Enbridge spills, regional earth quakes, potential tsunamis, grounding of a drilling rig and widespread pollution of land and water bodies.**

**that a prudent or reasonable person would not permit the Enbridge pipeline and tanker traffic . :**

**Everyone is criminally negligent who (a) in doing anything, or (b) in omitting to do anything that it is his duty to do, shows wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons” (where ‘duty’ means a duty imposed by law). (Section 216, Canadian Criminal Code)**

**At the August 20 10 Panel Walter Thorn from Kitimat Valley Naturalists Club: asked the Question: Does Canada really need this project? The answer from the Panel and from Harper must be a categorical No!**

Last Updated on Wednesday, 18 June 2014 06:51

**If The Harper government approves the northern Gateway project, they will have defied international law and may be guilty of**





# gross negligence

Earth News

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 17 June 2014 07:43

**By Joan Russow Global compliance Research Project**



**Given the potential threats to the environment and to the land of first nations, under no condition should the Northern Gateway Project Proceed**

**UPDATE: HARPER APPROVED NORTHERN GATEWAY**

**In my presentation to the Enbridge Panel, I cited the importance of the precautionary**

**principle:** link [http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view;=article&id;=8792:global-compliance-presentation-to-the-northern-gateway-review-panel-&catid;=75:cjustice-news&Itemid;=218](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view;=article&id;=8792:global-compliance-presentation-to-the-northern-gateway-review-panel-&catid;=75:cjustice-news&Itemid;=218)

## **A.THREATS AND THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**

*Canada is bound by the precautionary principle which reads*

**Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for**

**postponing measures to prevent the threat." (Rio Declaration, UNCED1992).**

**This principle is also contained in the Convention on Biological Biodiversity, the precautionary principle reads;**

**where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat:**

**in the 1992 UN Framework Convention on climate change the precautionary principle reads:**

**The Parties should take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing such measures,**

**and in 1995 Agreement "relating to the Conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks ...is the obligation to invoke the precautionary principle.**

**There is sufficient evidence that there could be serious irreversible damage, loss of significant biological diversity, adverse effects of climate change, and harm to marine life to justify invoking the precautionary principle and end the fossil fuel triad.**

## **B.FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS HAVE MISCONSTRUED THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**

**In April 2013, I filed a petition with the Commissioner on the Environment and raised the issue of Canada's failure to abide by the precautionary principle . I referred to 14 issues, two of which were**

**related to the tarsands and pipelines**

**QUESTION 1. There is sufficient scientific evidence that the continued exploitation of the tar sands will cause Canada to fail its obligations under the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Under Article 2. Of the Convention**

**Under Article 2 of the legally binding UN Framework Convention on Climate change, states are “to stabilize greenhouse gases below a level of dangerous anthropogenic emissions.”**

**The Department of Natural Resources responded that the Government takes the issue of climate change seriously, and under the 2009 Copenhagen Accords, Canada has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) EMISSIONS BY 17 % FROM 2005 LEVELS BY 2020.**

**At Copenhagen, Canada agreed to far less than the EU that agreed to 20% below 1990 levels by 2020 and would have been prepared to go as far as 30% if other states had been willing.**

**QUESTION 2. There is sufficient evidence that accidents on pipelines have occurred and that pipelines are proposed through sensitive environmental areas in British Columbia and through First Nations’ land; Why will the precautionary principle not be invoked to prevent pipelines and tanker from Enbridge and Kinder Morgan Proposals.**

**In the response from the Department of Natural Resources gave their definition of the precautionary approach as the following:**

**"The Framework outlines guiding principles for precautionary measures and their application in science-based decision making in areas of federal regulatory activity for the protection of health, safety and the environment, as well as the conservation of natural resources. It also addresses the issue of terminology and definition directly in the introduction which states:**

**The application of “precaution”, “the precautionary principle” or “the precautionary approach” recognizes that the absence of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing decisions where there is a risk of serious or irreversible harm.**

**I interpret this in the following way the application of “precaution”, “the precautionary principle” or “the precautionary approach” recognizes that the absence of full scientific certainty [that it is safe] shall not be used as a reason for postponing decisions where there is a risk of serious or irreversible harm.**

**[ If the emphasis is on science that demonstrates that it is safe; it is easy to ignore evidence that it is unsafe.]**

**On the Other hand the international version of the precautionary principle essentially affirms that where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, climate change, or irreversible harm the of full scientific certainty [that it is unsafe] should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat**

### **C. APPROVAL WOULD REFLECT DISREGARD FOR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

**If the Enbridge pipeline is permitted to proceed, The Harper government will demonstrate yet again its defiance of international law.**

**I raise these issues of international law because from my experience at international UN conferences, the Harper government has caused Canada to be perceived as an international pariah because of its obsession with profiting from the tarsands at any cost, while being willing to disregard its duty to guarantee fundamental indigenous and ecological rights and to discharge obligations under international law**

**If the panel, had respected the issues raised, by the interveners at the August 2010 review panel, and had wished to abide by international obligations and norms, the panel would have rejected,**

**unconditionally, the Enbridge pipeline.**

**Also the BC government is bound by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity and by the precautionary principle in both Conventions because, in 1992, the BC Cabinet endorsed both conventions ( document obtained through Freedom of Information). The BC government could also be deemed to disregard international obligations.**

#### **D. APPROVAL OF THE PIPELINE COULD BE GROSSLY OR EVEN CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT**

**Proceeding with the pipeline and the tankers could be grossly negligent. There is sufficient evidence of precedents, such as Enbridge spills, regional earth quakes, potential tsunamis, of a drilling rig and widespread pollution of land and water bodies and long term risk of harm to humans and their right to subsistence and survival that a prudent or reasonable person would not permit the Enbridge pipeline and tanker traffic . :**

**Everyone is criminally negligent who (a) in doing anything, or (b) in omitting to do anything that it is his duty to do, shows wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons” (where ‘duty’ means a duty imposed by law). (Section 216, Canadian Criminal Code)**

## **UNESCO to consider Palestinian village’s fate**



**Justice News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Friday, 20 June 2014 17:47

by Maureen Clare Murphy on Wed, 06/18/2014



The planned route of Israel's wall would irreversibly destroy the landscape of Battir.

Today, 20 June, the Palestinian village Battir, located in the occupied West Bank, was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The designation affords it new protection from Israel's bulldozers which threaten to destroy the village's unique agricultural landscape.

The UN body **stated today**:

The World Heritage Committee today began the examination of 36 sites nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List. The first property discussed was Palestine: Land of olives and vines, Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, submitted by Palestine as an emergency nomination.

The Committee approved the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List. It also inscribed the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger after finding that the landscape had become vulnerable under the impact of socio-cultural and geo-political transformations that could bring irreversible damage to its authenticity and integrity, citing the start of construction of a separation wall that may isolate farmers from fields they have cultivated for centuries.

## **Original post follows:**

The **Palestinian Authority** and dozens of distinguished professionals in the fields of law, archaeology and Arab studies are appealing to the UN cultural organization **UNESCO** to urgently list the Palestinian village of **Battir** in the occupied West Bank as a World Heritage Site.

The intervention comes as the UN body's World Heritage Committee convenes for its annual session in Doha over the next week. The Palestinian Authority's emergency nomination of Battir will be reviewed under the committee's special procedure applied to sites under serious threat.

The village of Battir's extensive centuries-old, hand-built stone terraces and irrigation systems dating back to pre-Roman times would be **irreversibly destroyed** if Israel's planned

construction of its **annexation wall** on village land moves forward. The wall would also cut off village residents from one-third of their farmland.

The defense ministry's proposed wall route in Battir is currently being challenged in Israel's highest court. Critics of the defense ministry plans include the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, which has in **other cases** played a role in the theft of Palestinian land.

The route of Israel's wall in the occupied West Bank was declared illegal by the **International Court of Justice** in 2004. When completed, the wall will effectively annex 46 percent of the West Bank to Israel. Palestinian civil society groups have **declared July a month of action** against the wall to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Court of Justice ruling.

Last year the World Monument Fund, an international organization dedicated to preserving cultural heritage sites around the world, **placed Battir on its 2014 Watch List**.

In a communication to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, more than fifty esteemed professionals including individuals representing the University of Virginia School of Law International Human Rights Law Clinic and the Boston University School of Law Human Rights Clinic state:

"International UNESCO World Heritage recognition may be the only mechanism able to persuade Israel not to interfere with the people and their land. Not only does the village of Battir and its cultural landscape independently feature ancient human-made relics, the living history of its people deserves heightened protective status and recognition."

The full communication with signatories can be **read** on the Jadaliyya website.

## “Heavy price”

In an **op-ed published last year** by The Electronic Intifada, Hasan Abu Nimah describes the unique beauty of Battir, his birthplace:

The village is built on two high mountain slopes that face each other at an angle. The lower part of both slopes is made up of beautifully terraced orchards that village people used over the centuries for planting all kinds of vegetables where irrigation from the village spring was possible, or summer fruit trees that did not need irrigation.

Out of a large assortment of vegetables the "Battiri eggplant" has been distinguished worldwide for its taste and quality, and throughout Palestine and Jordan its name is known. In 2011, Battir won the 2011 Melina Mercouri Prize from UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, for its "cultural landscape."

He also recounts how the bustling economic life of the village, located on the historic Palestine railway connecting Jerusalem to the coast and further to Egypt, was disrupted with the ethnic cleansing of Palestine that began in 1947, and during which the railway stopped operating and the station was destroyed.

Abu Nimah, like other village residents, temporarily fled the constant fire until a 1949 truce was declared. However, he recounts, "As the armistice lines were delineated there was a trick, for which Battir is paying the heavy price 65 years later."

Abu Nimah adds:

At the time, and because most of the Palestine railway from Jerusalem to the coast was under Israel's control, except for the Battir sector, a proviso was included in the Jordan-Israel armistice agreement allowing Israel to extend the armistice line 200 yards east, within unoccupied village land, to run parallel to the railway line, on the grounds that that was necessary to provide security protection for the railway which Israel intended to use.

The village inhabitants were assured that they would not be separated from their farming land and houses including the school which fell behind the barbed wire on the Israeli side. That overlapping worked well — with some tragic incidents — until 1967 when the entire West Bank was occupied. The barbed wire, which was built across the village in 1949, did not last long and

soon disappeared. The Israelis never restored it.

Apparently it did not disappear as an established practical fact, and the Israelis are now using it as grounds for building the separation wall. If the wall plan continues, it will destroy the village as many world reports warn. It will destroy the physical as well as the human character of a community that lived in peace and harmony for centuries.

## UNESCO, Palestine and Israeli colonialism

While it may halt Israel's bulldozers in Battir, not even World Heritage Site status with UNESCO fully protects Palestinians and their culture, as **residents of Akka's** old city have learned.

The iconic walled old city of Akka, located on the coast of present-day Israel, was declared a World Heritage Site by the UN agency in 2001. But residents currently face eviction orders served by state-owned housing management companies in what Palestinians say is a bid to push them out of their property to make way for Jewish residents — a phenomenon underway in remaining Palestinian population centers in present-day Israel.

This week's consideration of the Palestinian Authority's emergency appeal is not the first time UNESCO has been a forum for diplomatic struggle over Palestine.

The United States government **cut off funding to UNESCO** after the agency admitted the Palestine Liberation Organization as a member state in 2011, and has since **lost its voting rights** at the body. The US was previously the biggest financial contributor to UNESCO, providing 22 percent of the agency's annual budget. Israel, which suspended dues at the same time as the US, **also lost its voting rights last year**.

Ironically, **cables released by Wikileaks show** that in 2010, Israel attempted to overcome its diplomatic isolation by asking the US for assistance in placing an Israeli candidate for an assistant director-general position at UNESCO.

These efforts did not bear fruit, and when UNESCO voted to admit Palestine to the body, a move which Israel vehemently opposed, there were 107 votes in favor, 52 abstentions and only 14 dissenting votes.

## “Museum of Tolerance” controversy

More recently, the New York City-based **Center for Constitutional Rights** and the Campaign to Preserve Mamilla Jerusalem Cemetery **called on** the State of Palestine's representative to UNESCO earlier this month to take urgent action “to oppose UNESCO's relationship with the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) and to urge UNESCO to preserve what remains of Mamilla Cemetery in Jerusalem.”

The intervention concerns a Paris exhibition which UNESCO co-organized and is currently co-hosting with the **Simon Wiesenthal Center**, despite the center's desecration of an ancient and venerated Muslim cemetery in Jerusalem. The Paris exhibition, originally slated to open in January, was postponed after protest by Arab member states at UNESCO.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center is building a controversial “Museum of Tolerance” on the cemetery, which has “already resulted in the secretive removal of thousands of human remains during excavations and infrastructure work,” the Center for Constitutional Rights states.

The status that the Simon Wiesenthal Center enjoys at UNESCO “blatantly contradict[s] the humanistic values that UNESCO stands for,” the Center for Constitutional Rights states, adding that the UN agency's involvement in the exhibition “contributes to the perception that UNESCO is validating the SWC's uprooting of Mamilla Cemetery in the Holy City of Jerusalem, an action which seeks to erase the long and deep history of Muslims and Palestinians in the same land.”



# BREAKING: We're taking the Unfair Elections Act to court



## Justice News

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 20 June 2014 15:45

Reply-To: [pwoolridge@canadians.org](mailto:pwoolridge@canadians.org)



Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote..."

Nine simple words in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms lay the foundation of Canada's democracy. And this constitutional right we're all guaranteed must be upheld with laws and institutions that vigorously protect it.

That's why on the very day the Unfair Elections Act became law, the Council of Canadians and Canadian Federation of Students announced we're filing a Charter challenge to strike down key sections in court.

At this very moment we're preparing potent evidence that the Harper Conservatives' electoral reforms undermine the Charter and our right to vote on several key grounds:

The elimination of vouching and the Voter Information Card as proof of residency make it more difficult for people to vote, specifically students, the elderly and Indigenous people – who tend to not vote conservative.

The Chief Electoral Officer is handcuffed from performing duties critical to the integrity of our democracy, including engaging the Canadian public in the democratic process and alerting us of fraudulent activity that threatens a free vote.

Canadians remain vulnerable to more of the same voter suppression and fraud that was proven to have been perpetrated in the robocall scandal. In that case, the Federal Court Judge pointed to the Conservative Party of Canada as the most likely source of the data used to make the widespread fraudulent calls. The Act actually makes it harder for voters to exercise their right to overturn an election result that was

fraudulently obtained.

And it's critical that we launch this legal action immediately. If we don't, these anti-democratic rules will be in effect for the 2015 federal election and the Harper Conservatives will have the deck stacked in their favour for re-election.

That's where you come in.

Constitutional challenges aren't cheap. But if we can raise \$50,000 in public donations in the next 72 hours, we'll be able to kick start the legal proceedings as early as next week.

As a Council of Canadians supporter, you've directly helped us sustain effective people-powered action to protect Canada's democracy and demand truly fair elections.

Together we've made huge progress, and I know you agree we can't stop now.

If we all chip in right now we can get the legal wheels moving. Can I count on your support? Every dollar helps and is urgently needed.

You can also help by forwarding this email on to your friends and family who share your belief that Canada needs truly fair elections.

However you decide to help, please do so now./

The Unfair Elections Act is a huge step backwards for Canadian democracy. It cannot go unchallenged.

With hope and resolve,

Maude Barlow  
National Chairperson

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**Prefer to donate by mail? Send your cheque payable to "The Council of Canadians":**

**The Council of Canadians  
700-170 Laurier Avenue W  
Ottawa, ON**

Last Updated on Tuesday, 17 June 2014 20:04

**[Evo Morales' message of global solidarity](#)**

**[Earth News](#)**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Tuesday, 24 June 2014 19:45



*Address at the opening of the Group of 77 Special Summit*

**Introduction by Richard Fidler** (Translator)

The Summit of the Group of 77 plus China, marking the alliance's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, closed in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, on June 15 with the adoption of a **Declaration** containing 242 articles, entitled "For a New World Order for Living Well." see below

The Summit set a record for high-level participation, with the presence of 13 presidents, 4 prime ministers, 5 vice-presidents and 8 foreign ministers among the delegates of the 104 countries in attendance out of the 133 of the global South that now make up the Group of 77 plus China (also known as G77+China). The Plurinational State of Bolivia is chairing the alliance this year, and its president Evo Morales hosted the Summit.

The choice of Santa Cruz as the venue had particular significance in Bolivia. In 2008, this eastern lowland city, with a population of predominantly European origin, was in violent rebellion against the Morales government and Bolivia's new constitution, which for the first time in the country's history had recognized the 34 distinct languages and the national rights of Bolivia's indigenous peoples who make up a majority of the population. Sharing the platform with Morales at the Summit's opening ceremony this month were leaders of that separatist uprising — a striking manifestation of the degree to which the Bolivian government, led by Morales' Movement Toward Socialism, has since then established its hegemony throughout the country.

There are two different but complementary dimensions to the adopted Declaration, **writes Katu Arkonada**, a Bolivian of Basque origin, in *Rebelión*. The first, focused on reform of institutions, sets out sustainable development objectives to replace the United Nations' Millenium Goals. It points to the need for an approach integrating economic, social and environmental strategies that promote sovereign control of natural resources in harmony with nature and "Mother Earth." The document's proposals for confronting the challenge of climate change are particularly notable — not least because they would, if implemented, mark a significant departure from current international practices, including by many G77 member states.

The second dimension of the Declaration is addressed to the construction of "that other possible world, a world of sovereignty for the global South, free of all forms of colonialism and imperialism." It calls for a radical reconfiguration of international political and financial institutions to correspond to the geopolitical realities of an emerging multipolar world "based on the principles of respect for sovereignty, independence, equality, unconditionality, non-interference in the internal affairs of states and mutual benefit."

The Group of 77 plus China is a very heterogeneous group of countries and governments. While many were once colonized and all are to varying degrees subject to domination by imperialism as a system still hegemonized by the United States, they have mixed records (to say the least) when it comes to confronting imperialism. The group even includes now some emerging imperialist states such as China (and soon Russia if it accepts the Summit invitation to join). A few, such as Brazil, have been characterized by some analysts as "sub-imperialist," although that concept is the subject of varied interpretations.**[1]** Bolivia itself has not hesitated to participate with other G77 members in the military occupation of Haiti following the 2004 overthrow of the progressive government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide by France, the USA and Canada.**[2]**

However, the radical anti-imperialist and ecological content of the Declaration, as well as many speeches at the Santa Cruz Summit, reflected the input of Evo Morales and his government, who have played a leadership role in drawing international attention to the mortal danger to the global environment posed by capitalism and the imperialist plunder of renewable and non-renewable natural resources. Morales set the tone in his remarkable opening speech to the

Summit, published below — a clarion call to the peoples and governments of the world for a coordinated anti-capitalist response to the combined threats of economic, social and environmental catastrophe now looming as never before.

The Summit was preceded by a mass meeting of Bolivian social movements with the presidents of some Latin American countries, among them Raúl Castro (Cuba), Nicolás Maduro (Venezuela), Rafael Correa (Ecuador) and Salvador Sánchez Cerén (the new president of El Salvador), as well as personalities such as Guatemalan indigenous leader Rigoberta Menchu and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Evo Morales told the huge crowd that if the imperialist aggression against the Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela were to continue, Venezuela and Latin America could become a “second Vietnam for the United States.”

I have edited slightly the official and hastily issued English translation of Morales’ Summit address to correspond more closely to the original Spanish transcription. The Spanish phrase *Vivir Bien* (Living Well), which recurs throughout Morales’ address, refers to the Andean concept of living in harmony with the community and nature, ensuring the sufficient means to live well without always seeking more and thereby depleting the resources of the planet.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **For a Global Brotherhood Among the Peoples**

**Evo Morales Ayma**

*President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and pro-tempore President of the Group of 77 plus China*

Fifty years ago, great leaders raised the flags of the anticolonial struggle and decided to join with their peoples in a march along the path of sovereignty and independence.

The world superpowers and transnationals were competing for control of territories and natural resources in order to continue expanding at the cost of impoverishing the peoples of the South.

In that context, on June 15, 1964, at the conclusion of an UNCTAD[3] meeting, 77 countries from the South (we are now 133 plus China) met to enhance their trade bargaining capacities, by acting in a bloc to advance their collective interests while respecting their individual sovereign decisions.

During the past 50 years, these countries went beyond their statements and promoted resolutions at the United Nations and joint action in favor of development underpinned by South-South cooperation, a new world economic order, a responsible approach to climate change, and economic relations based on preferential treatment.

In this journey the struggle for decolonization as well as for the peoples’ self-determination and sovereignty over their natural resources must be highlighted.

Notwithstanding these efforts and struggles for equality and justice for the world’s peoples, the hierarchies and inequalities in the world have increased.

Today, 10 countries in the world control 40% of the world’s total wealth and 15 transnational corporations control 50% of global output.

Today, as 100 years ago, acting in the name of the free market and democracy, a handful of imperial powers invades countries, blocks trade, imposes prices on the rest of the world, chokes national economies, plots against progressive governments and resorts to espionage against the inhabitants of this planet.

A tiny elite of countries and transnational corporations controls, in an authoritarian fashion, the destinies of the world, its economies and its natural resources.

The economic and social inequality between regions, between countries, between social classes and between individuals has grown outrageously.

About 0.1% of the world's population owns 20% of humanity's assets. In 1920, a business manager in the United States made 20 times the wage of a worker, but today he is paid 331 times that wage.

This unfair concentration of wealth and predatory destruction of nature are also generating a structural crisis that is becoming unsustainable over time.

It is indeed a structural crisis. It impacts every component of capitalist development. In other words, it is a mutually reinforcing crisis affecting international finance, energy, climate, water, food, institutions and values. It is a crisis inherent to capitalist civilization.

The financial crisis was prompted by the greedy pursuit of profits from financial capital that led to profound international financial speculation, a practice that favored certain groups, transnational corporations or power centers that amassed great wealth.

The financial bubbles that generate speculative gains eventually burst, and in the process they plunged into poverty the workers who had received cheap credit, the middle-class savings-account holders who had trusted their deposits to greedy speculators. The latter overnight went bankrupt or took their capital to other countries, thus leading entire nations into bankruptcy.

We are also faced with an energy crisis that is driven by excessive consumption in developed countries, pollution from energy sources and the energy hoarding practices of the transnational corporations.

Parallel with this, we witness a global reduction in reserves and high costs of oil and gas development, while productive capacity drops due to the gradual depletion of fossil fuels and global climate change.

The climate crisis is caused by the anarchy of capitalist production, with consumption levels and unharnessed industrialization that have resulted in excessive emissions of polluting gases that in turn have led to global warming and natural disasters affecting the entire world.

For more than 15,000 years prior to the era of capitalist industrialization, greenhouse gases did not amount to more than 250 parts per million molecules in the atmosphere.

Since the 19th century, and in particular in the 20th and 21st centuries, thanks to the actions of predatory capitalism, this count has risen to 400 ppm, and global warming has become an irreversible process along with weather disasters the primary impacts of which are felt in the poorest and most vulnerable countries of the South, and in particular the island nations, as a result of the thawing of the glaciers.

In turn, global warming is generating a water supply crisis that is compounded by privatization, depletion of sources and commercialization of fresh water. As a consequence, the number of people without access to potable water is growing apace.

The water shortage in many parts of the planet is leading to armed conflicts and wars that further aggravate the lack of availability of this non-renewable resource.

The world population is growing while food production is dropping, and these trends are leading to a food crisis.

Add to these issues the reduction of food-producing lands, the imbalances between urban and rural areas, the monopoly exercised by transnational corporations over the marketing of seeds and agricultural inputs, and the speculation in food prices.

The imperial model of concentration and speculation has also caused an institutional crisis that

is characterized by an unequal and unjust distribution of power in the world in particular within the UN system, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization.

As a result of all these developments, peoples' social rights are endangered. The promise of equality and justice for the whole world becomes more and more remote and nature itself is threatened with extinction.

We have reached a limit, and global action is urgently needed to save society, humanity and Mother Earth.

Bolivia has started to take steps to address these issues. Up to 2005, Bolivia applied a neoliberal policy that resulted in concentration of wealth, social inequality and poverty, increasing marginalization, discrimination and social exclusion.

In Bolivia, the historic struggles waged by social movements, in particular the indigenous peasant movement, have allowed us to initiate a Democratic and Cultural Revolution, through the ballot box and without the use of violence. This revolution is rooting out exclusion, exploitation, hunger and hatred, and it is rebuilding the path of balance, complementarity, and consensus with its own identity, *Vivir Bien*.

Beginning in 2006, the Bolivian government introduced a new economic and social policy, enshrined in a new community-based socioeconomic and productive model, the pillars of which are nationalization of natural resources, recovery of the economic surplus for the benefit of all Bolivians, redistribution of the wealth, and active participation of the State in the economy.

In 2006, the Bolivian government and people made their most significant political, economic and social decision: nationalization of the country's hydrocarbons, the central axis of our revolution. The state thereby participates in and controls the ownership of our hydrocarbons and processes our natural gas.

Contrary to the neoliberal prescription that economic growth ought to be based on external market demand ("export or die"), our new model has relied on a combination of exports with a domestic market growth that is primarily driven by income-redistribution policies, successive increases in the national minimum wage, annual salary increases in excess of the inflation rate, cross subsidies and conditional cash transfers to the neediest.

As a consequence, the Bolivian GDP has increased from \$9.0 billion to over \$30.0 billion over the past eight years.

Our nationalized hydrocarbons, economic growth and cost austerity policy have helped the country generate budget surpluses for eight years in a row, in sharp contrast with the recurrent budget deficits experienced by Bolivia for more than 66 years.

When we took over the country's administration, the ratio between the wealthiest and poorest Bolivians was 128 fold. This ratio has been cut down to 46 fold. Bolivia now is one of the top six countries in our region with the best income distribution.

It has been shown that the peoples have options and that we can overcome the fate imposed by colonialism and neoliberalism.

These achievements produced in such a short span are attributable to the social and political awareness of the Bolivian people.

We have recovered our nation for all of us. Ours was a nation that had been alienated by the neoliberal model, a nation that lived under the old and evil system of political parties, a nation that was ruled from abroad, as if we were a colony.

We are no longer an unviable country as we were described by the international financial institutions. We are no longer an ungovernable country as the US empire would have us believe.

Today, the Bolivian people have recovered their dignity and pride, and we believe in our strength, our destiny and ourselves.

I want to tell the entire world in the most humble terms that the only wise architects who can change their future are the peoples themselves.

Therefore, we intend to build another world, and several tasks have been designed to establish the society of *Vivir Bien*.

**First: We must move from sustainable development to comprehensive development [*desarrollo integral*] so that we can live well and in harmony and balance with Mother Earth.**

We need to construct a vision that is different from the western capitalist development model. We must move from the sustainable development paradigm to the *Bien Vivir* comprehensive development approach that seeks not only a balance among human beings, but also a balance and harmony with our Mother Earth.

**Read more: [lifeonleft.blogspot.com](http://lifeonleft.blogspot.com)**

Last Updated on Tuesday, 24 June 2014 20:10

## Republication of Professor Séralini's study: Time to be responsible



**Earth News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Tuesday, 24 June 2014 07:08

### **BY ISIS Institute of Science in Society**

Monday 23 June 2014

Paris, 24 June 2014

**The 2012 study on the chronic toxicity of Roundup herbicide and the genetically modified Roundup-tolerant maize NK603 by Professor Gilles-Eric Séralini and colleagues has been republished by the Springer group, with open access to its raw data. Now there will be a few embarrassing questions for the authorities.**

After two years of controversy and pressure that led to the retraction of the study in November 2013, which was first published in 2012 by the Food and Chemical Toxicology (Elsevier group) journal, **the research team of Professor Séralini has announced that they have republished the study in the Journal "Environmental Sciences Europe", published by the Springer Group.**

By republishing their study with some new data which are available online, the team of Professor Séralini confirms that the world's best-selling pesticide, Roundup, causes severe liver and kidney deficiencies and hormonal disturbances, such as breast tumours, at low environmentally relevant levels. Similar effects were observed from the chronic consumption of Roundup-tolerant GM maize. This is due to residues of Roundup and to the specific genetic modification of this maize. The formulations of Roundup, as well as Roundup-tolerant GMOs,

should therefore be considered endocrine (hormone) disruptors and should be re-evaluated for safety by the health authorities.

**Winfried Schröder, editor of the journal Environmental Sciences Europe of the Springer Group, stated:** "We want to enable a rational discussion about the study of Séralini et al. (Food Chem Toxicol 2012, 50:4221–4231) by republishing it. This methodological competition is the energy necessary for any scientific progress. The sole purpose is to enable some scientific transparency and on this basis, a discussion that does not try to hide, but focuses on these needed methodological controversies."

The research team of Prof Séralini made **the choice of an open access publication in a peer-reviewed journal, which arranged the third peer-reviewed assessment of the study.** The researchers have published online the raw data of the study with free access for the entire scientific community – something that the industry has always refused to do, claiming commercial confidentiality or intellectual property restrictions. But is there any real secret to keep ? How could the results of a health study violate an industrial secret ? Is industry hiding the actual toxicity of compounds that accumulate in our bodies and our environment ?

Dr Joël Spiroux de Vendômois, medical doctor and President of CRIIGEN says, "Pesticides such as Roundup and agricultural GMOs cannot be ignored in the explanation of the epidemic of environmental pathologies". In addition, he emphasizes "the deficiency of the regulatory assessment of pesticides and GMOs, which endangers public health."

CRIIGEN is asking for free access to toxicological studies which have authorised the placing on the market of different formulations of Roundup, the free access to raw data on the toxicological urine and blood analyses for all products, and urges the legal authorities to undertake further public research, with a commitment to placing its findings in the public domain, regarding the possible toxicological and endocrine disrupting effects of GMOs and Roundup, as other pesticides, using long-term exposure periods to ensure a real protection of the public health.

**Contact:** presse[at]criigen.info Tel: +332 31 56 56 84

**Help CRIIGEN**

## Les documents associés

**Republication Press Kit\_CRIIGEN.pdf**

Last Updated on Saturday, 28 June 2014 10:29

## Pesticides greater threat than previously admitted



**Earth News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Monday, 23 June 2014 19:08

**From:** "Sierra Club Canada"

**Date:** **June 23, 2014 3:56:05 PM PDT**

**Pesticides greater threat than previously admitted**

**Reply-To:** [sierraclub.ca](mailto:sierraclub.ca)



# Pesticides greater threat than previously admitted

## SIERRA CLUB SAYS BAN BEE-KILLING NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES NOW!

MEDIA RELEASE

June 24, 2014

OTTAWA -- The findings of the Worldwide Integrated Assessment (WIA) undertaken by the *Task Force on Systemic Pesticides* make it absolutely clear neonicotinoid pesticides must be banned by the Health Canada. **The Study** reviewed some 800 scientific papers and concluded that the impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides go far beyond honey bees: butterflies, birds and amphibians are all threatened.

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"The experiment must end now!" said John Bennett, National Program Director, Sierra Club Canada Foundation. "There is overwhelming evidence to justify banning neonicotinoid pesticides," he continued.

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has inexplicably refused to take action **after concluding** last September that the use of neonicotinoid pesticides is "unsustainable because they kill bees". After a three month comment period the Agency decided last December to continue consulting for at least two more years before making a decision.

However, in February of this year the PMRA greatly expanded the approved uses of the neonicotinoid pesticides despite its own cautions and mounting evidence of the damage being done.

"Canada needs a strong regulatory regime that bases its decisions on science, not on needs of the pesticide industry," said Mr. Bennett.

On June 19th Sierra Club Canada Foundation **requested** the federal Ethics Commissioner launch an investigation of Conservative MP and Cabinet Minister accepting a job with CropLife the pesticide industry's lobbying organization.

The European Union banned the use of neonicotinoid pesticides a year ago in response to mounting scientific evidence. Last week President Obama announced a review of pesticides among other measures to protect bees and other pollinators.

- 30 -

John Bennett, National Program Director

Sierra Club Canada Foundation

1510-1 Nicholas Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7

Tel: **613-291-6888**

**[jb@sierraclub.ca](mailto:jb@sierraclub.ca)**

**[John on Twitter](#) / [Bennett Blog](#)**

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**CLICK HERE** for more information on our **#SaveTheBees** campaign

Last Updated on Saturday, 28 June 2014 10:27

## Rio+20; Canada –the DELETER of key principles, and commitments



Earth News

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 28 June 2014 12:27

BY Joan Russow Global Compliance Research Project

JUNE 17, 2012



After doing an analysis of a document that preceded the June 13-15 \Prep Com for Rio+20, I found that Canada either alone, with members of JUSCANS\* was prominent in deleting key provisions. Enclosed is an outline of the sections proposed for deletion by Canada

HIGHLIGHTED IN RED ARE THE SECTIONS DELETED BY CANADA

2.bis We acknowledge the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels through integrated approaches, incorporating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions [, **in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. -G77; US, Canada, Japan, EU delete.**]

41. Alt1 **We acknowledge the importance of corporate sustainability reporting and encourage companies, where appropriate, especially**

**publicly listed and large companies, to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle. We recognize the need for global best practices on sustainability reporting, and in this regard, we encourage industry, interested governments, as well as relevant stakeholders, [to launch a process - US, Canada delete] with the support of the UN system, to**

**41. Alt1 We acknowledge the importance of corporate sustainability reporting and encourage companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle. We recognize the need for global best practices on sustainability reporting, and in this regard, we encourage industry, interested governments, as well as relevant stakeholders,[to launch a process - US, Canada delete]with the support of the UN system, to develop [a] model for best practice and facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, building upon the experiences of already existing national and international reporting frameworks, such as the Global Reporting Initiative, and examine options for capacity building measures for developing countries. - US, Japan, Canada revert; G77 delete]**

## **Biodiversity**

Biodiversity 1. We reaffirm the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in **[maintaining ecosystem services which are critical foundations for –US, EU, Mexico, New Zealand; G77 delete]** sustainable development and human well-being. We recognize the severity of global biodiversity loss and degradation of **[ecosystem services / ecosystems]** and emphasize that these undermine global development, affecting food security and nutrition, provision of and **[the right and –Holy See; US, Canada, EU delete]** access to water, health of the rural poor and of people worldwide, including present and future generations. **[This highlights the importance of managing biodiversity at landscape and seascape scales, enhancing habitat connectivity and building ecosystem resilience. –Australia, Mexico, Norway, EU; G77 reserve]** We recognize that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, **[and their wider application –G77, US; New Zealand reserve]** can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods. We further recognize that indigenous peoples and local communities are often most directly dependent on biodiversity and **[ecosystems / ecosystem services]** and thus are often most immediately affected by their loss and degradation.

14. We **[also reaffirm that all the Principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development / reaffirm the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and all its principles - G77; US delete][in particular the Principle of CBDR and equity –G77; US, Japan delete]**, will continue to guide the international community in the achievement of sustainable development and the future we want **[and will serve as the basis for cooperation, coherence and implementation of agreed commitments,**

**including in this outcome –US, Japan, Canada delete;G77 retain].**

16. We recognize the importance of the three Rio Conventions to advancing sustainable development and in this regard we urge all parties to fully implement their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, **[on the basis of equity and –Canada, New Zealand; US delete; Japan reserves] [in accordance with [the principle of / their –Canada, New Zealand; US delete; Japan reserves] common but differentiated responsibilities[and respective capabilities –Canada, New Zealand; US delete; Japan reserves],-US, Japan, EU delete; G77, RoK, Norway retain]** the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification **[in accordance with their respective principles - New Zealand]**, to take effective and concrete actions and measures at all levels, and to enhance international cooperation.

19. We acknowledge that since 1992 there have been areas of insufficient progress and setbacks in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, aggravated by multiple financial, economic, food and energy crises, which have threatened the ability of all countries, in particular developing countries, to achieve sustainable development **[and in this regard it is critical that we observe the principle of non-regression. –G77; US, EU, Canada, Japan, Switzerland delete]**

**[24 bis We acknowledge that climate change is a cross-cutting and persistent crisis and express our concern that the scale and gravity of the negative impacts of climate change [affect all countries –EU; G77 delete] and undermine the ability of [particularly the most vulnerable –EU; G77 delete] developing countries to achieve sustainable development and the MDGs and for some threaten the territorial integrity and their existence and viability as countries. [Therefore we underscore that combating climate change requires urgent and ambitious action and the widest possible cooperation among all countries —; US, Canada, Japan delete]**

**24 ter We express deep concern on the imposition of laws and other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries, which undermine international law and the rules of the WTO and also severely threaten freedom of trade and investment, and in this regard urge States to refrain from enacting and implementing such measures that hamper the full achievement of sustainable development, as well as trade in developing countries - G77, Belarus; US, Canada delete; EU, Australia reserve]**

**[24. quat We reaffirm the need to take further effective measures to remove obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated. People under foreign occupation must be protected in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law. –G77; Canada, US, Japan delete; EU reserve]**

**[24. quint We also reaffirm that in accordance with the Declaration on the Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United**

**Nations, this shall not be construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in compliance with the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and thus possessed of a Government representing the whole people belonging to the territory without distinction of any kind. –G77; US, Canada, Azerbaijan, Japan delete; EU reserve]**

[33. We recognize that the planet Earth and its ecosystem[s –US] are our home and that Mother Earth is a common expression in a number of countries and regions **[and that some countries recognize its rights in the context of the promotion of sustainable development]**. We are convinced that in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environment needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature. - Canada, US, Holy See delete;EU, Japan revert]

**[41. Alt1 We acknowledge the importance of corporate sustainability reporting and encourage companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle. We recognize the need for global best practices on sustainability reporting, and in this regard, we encourage industry, interested governments, as well as relevant stakeholders, [to launch a process - US, Canada delete]with the support of the UN system, to develop [a] model for best practice and facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, building upon the experiences of already existing national and international reporting frameworks, such as the Global Reporting Initiative, and examine options for capacity building measures for developing countries. - US, Japan, Canada revert; G77 delete]**

**[We recognize that immediate measures to reform and strengthen international environmental governance are required in order to adequately respond to the immediate and emerging challenges of the implementation of sustainable development. - Mexico]**

89. We [call /invite – US] on the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the UN development system to consider appropriate measures for integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions across the UN System’s operational activities. We also emphasize that [increasing the financial contributions to / **effective management of resources within - US]** the United Nations development system **[in particular core resources, because of their untied nature –G77, Mexico; US delete]** is [key / **an important means – US]** to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard we recognize the mutually reinforcing links among increased effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the United Nations development system, achieving concrete results in assisting developing countries in eradicating poverty and achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development. [In this context, we note the importance of the quadrennial

comprehensive policy review (QCPR).-G77, Canada, US delete; Russian Federation retain] – EU, Mexico, US support Chair's text

Energy 4. **[We recognize the importance of improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy. -EU]** We also recognize the importance of cleaner and energy-efficient technologies in addressing climate change [and in achieving the objective of limiting the **[increase in –EU]** global average temperature **[increase/ below 2 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels –EU, Norway; US delete]** **[taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and [historical responsibilities / and respective capabilities –Canada] -G77; US delete]** - Russian Federation delete]. We also recognize the need for energy efficiency measures in urban planning, buildings, and transportation, and in the production of goods and services and in the design of products. We also recognize the importance of promoting incentives in favour of, and removing disincentives to, energy efficiency and the diversification of the energy mix, including promoting **[technology –US delete]** research and development in **[all countries, including –EU, Belarus]** developing countries.

[Trade 9. We commit to take action, [where appropriate, - Australia, New Zealand delete] to **[phase out / get substantial reductions of –Canada, Japan, Norway]** subsidies [that are market distorting [and / or –New Zealand] / that could – Canada, Japan] inhibit / **gradually eliminate environmentally harmful subsidies that are incompatible with –EU; G77 delete]** sustainable development, [taking into account the [specific conditions and – Australia delete] different levels of development of individual countries – EU delete]. We affirm the need for accompanying targeted measures to protect the poor and vulnerable groups. **[We call on the WTO and UNCTAD to continue to monitor the situation within their respective mandates and in cooperation with UNEP and other relevant international organizations to assess progress in this endeavour. – EU; Canada reserve]** –US, G77 delete; Australia, Japan, Norway reserve; New Zealand retain; Switzerland, Mexico retain original language]

Health 8. We **[remain committed to the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for further implementation of the Programme of Action and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and – Holy See delete]** intend to pay special attention to gender equality and women's empowerment [, and sexual and reproductive health – **Holy See delete]**. **[US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland retain original formulation]** (G77 streamline with para 9)

Health 9. We commit to reduce maternal and child mortality, and to improve the health of women, adolescents and children. We reaffirm our commitment to gender equality and to protect the human rights of women, men **[and adolescents – Holy See delete]** to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, **[including sexual and**

**reproductive health – Holy See delete**], free from coercion, discrimination and violence. We will work actively to ensure that health systems provide the necessary information and health **[care – Holy See]** services addressing the **[sexual and reproductive – Holy See delete]** needs of women **[giving particular attention to maternal and emergency obstetric care – Holy See]** **[and their reproductive [rights/ health -G77]**, including ensuring universal access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern methods of family planning, as this is essential for women’s health and human rights and advancing gender equality – **Holy See delete**]. **[US, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, New Zealand retain original formulation]** (G77 streamline with para 8)

Jobs 10. We acknowledge the important nexus between international migration and development and in this regard we call upon States to promote and protect the human rights **[and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status - G77 to revert]**, especially those of women and children, taking into account their economic and social circumstances. We further recognize the importance of renewing the political will to act cooperatively and constructively in addressing international migration and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue. **[US, delete paragraph; Mexico, Holy See: retain; G77, Canada: reserve]**

Transport 2. We support the development of sustainable transport systems, including energy efficient multi-modal transport systems, notably public mass transportation systems, clean fuels and vehicles, as well as improved transportation systems in rural areas. We recognize the need to promote an integrated approach to policy-making at the national, regional and local levels for transport services and systems to promote sustainable development. We also recognize that the special development needs of landlocked and transit developing countries need to be taken into account while establishing **[sustainable transport systems for transit – EU, Australia; G77 to confirm]** **[and international support for developing countries to achieve sustainable transport – G77; EU, US, Canada delete]**.

\*\*\*Transport 2. We support the development of sustainable transport systems, including energy efficient multi-modal transport systems, notably public mass transportation systems, clean fuels and vehicles, as well as improved transportation systems in rural areas. We recognize the need to promote an integrated approach to policy-making at the national, regional and local levels for transport services and systems to promote sustainable development. We also recognize that the special development needs of landlocked and transit developing countries need to be taken into account while establishing **[sustainable transport systems for transit – EU, Australia; G77 to confirm]****[and international support for developing countries to achieve sustainable transport – G77; EU, US, Canada delete]**.

Health 8. We **[remain committed to the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the**

US, Canada, EU reserve on the following sub sections and paragraphs

**LLDCs – as of 2 June (1:00 pm)**

Stand alone section if retained – not to be considered under “regions”

**LLDC1.** We encourage the international community to speed up further the implementation of the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the Declaration on the midterm review, in a better-coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communications and energy infrastructure, so as to support these countries' sustainable development. – G77; US, EU reserve]

**Africa– as of 2 June (1:00 pm)**

Stand alone section if retained – not to be considered under “regions”

**Africa1.** While we acknowledge that some progress has been made towards the fulfillment of international commitments related to Africa's development needs, we emphasize that sustainable development still remains elusive in the continent. - G77; EU, US reserve]

**Africa2.** We express our deep concerns that previously agreed commitments related to Africa's development needs have not been fulfilled. We commit to addressing the special development needs of Africa through accelerated provision of financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building in order to achieve sustainable development. To this end, we call for the mobilization of financial resources through public and private means, including support towards the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which is a framework for sustainable development on the continent to be shared by all Africa's people, as well as other established regional and sub-regional efforts, including through:

- a) Providing financing, technical cooperation and institutional cooperation and human and institutional capacity - building at the regional, subregional and national levels, consistent with national priorities and policies
- b) Promoting technology development, transfer and diffusion to Africa and further develop technology and knowledge available in African centres of excellence;
- c) Supporting African countries in developing effective science and technology institutions and research activities capable of developing and adapting to world class technologies;
- d) Supporting the development of national programmes and strategies to promote education within the context of nationally owned and led strategies for poverty reduction and strengthening research institutions in education in order to increase the capacity to fully support the achievement of internationally



agreed development goals related to education, including MDGs;

e) Enhancing the industrial productivity, diversity and competitiveness of African countries through a combination of financial and technological support for the development of key infrastructure, access to technology, networking of research centres, adding value to export products, skills development and enhancing market access in support of sustainable development. - G77; US, EU reserve]

**Africa3.**We call further on the international community to enhance support and fulfill commitments to advance action in areas critical to Africa's sustainable development, including: improving agricultural productivity and food security; promoting research and development and the use of biotechnology for sustainable development; combating desertification and land degradation; achieving sound management of coastal, marine and lacustrine ecosystems; enhancing sustainable use of natural resources, including freshwater, forests and biodiversity; promoting sustainable consumption and production and sustainable industrial development; ensuring the sound management of chemicals and waste; promoting sustainable tourism; ensuring access to secure and sustainable energy; achieving sustainable exploitation of mineral resources; enhancing access to safe drinking water and sanitation; promoting sustainable urban development; strengthening disaster risk preparedness and reduction; achieving inclusive and equitable growth; and furthering progress made in health and education. –G77; US, EU reserve]

### **Climate change [agreed ad ref]**

Climate 1. We reiterate that countries should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind [, **consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities –G77; EU requests clarification; US, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland delete**]. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and we express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally. We are deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, [especially LDCs, SIDS and Africa, -G77, Mexico, US delete; EU, ROK, Canada retain] **[that –US]** are **[especially –US]** vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, and are already experiencing increased impacts including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification[, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty, **[to achieve sustainable development and to –EU]** advance gender equality [, **noting the disproportionate impact on women –EU; Iceland, Norway delete**] and achieve sustainable development. / **which may present additional challenges to achieving sustainable development – US]**

Climate 2. **[Consistent with the provisions of the UNFCCC, -G77; EU, US delete]** We underscore that [combating / **addressing –Russian Federation**] climate change requires urgent action and the widest possible cooperation of all countries[, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities – US, Japan, New Zealand delete]. In this regard, we express our commitment to an effective and appropriate international response. [We stress that a significant gap in mitigation **[and adaptation –G77, ROK]** efforts remains to be [closed in order

to hold / **minimized with a view to holding –US**] the increase in global mean temperature below 2 degrees [**or 1.5 degrees – G77**] Celsius above pre-industrial levels. – Russian Federation, Japan delete] **[We acknowledge that there is a gap between the aggregate level of reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases to be achieved through global mitigation efforts and the reduction needed as part of the global effort to achieve the range indicated in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. –Japan]** [We welcome the outcomes of / **We agree to build on the progress achieved at –G77; Canada, New Zealand retain**] [COP-17/CMP 7 – Mexico delete] achieved at Durban, and will intensify our efforts towards the timely implementation of all the decisions adopted at those meetings.

Climate 3. We recognize the importance of mobilizing [predictable –US delete] funding from a variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including innovative sources of finance [**consistent with the provisions of the UNFCCC –G77**], to support [nationally appropriate –Norway delete] mitigation actions and adaptation measures, technology transfer [**on mutually agreed terms –Canada**] and capacity-building in developing countries. In this regard, we welcome the [designation and –Mexico delete] launching of the Green Climate Fund [at COP-17/CMP-7 as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. [We also – Mexico delete] ], **call for its prompt operationalization and – Mexico, Norway, Switzerland]** encourage [developed countries / **Parties – Norway; G77 retain**] [**and other countries in a position to do so –Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland**] to make financial contributions for the expeditious operationalization of the Green Climate Fund [**in accordance with para 9 decision 3 of COP 17 – Japan**]. –US, Canada delete]

[Climate 4. We highlight the need to better understand and address cross-cutting issues and interlinkages, including those among water, energy, food, health, [ecosystems / **biodiversity –Switzerland**] and climate change. [In this regard, we welcome initiatives and partnerships aimed at achieving synergies and minimizing conflicts among policy objectives, including through the utilization of science-based climate monitoring and information. -US delete] – G77 delete para; EU, ROK, Norway move to beginning of Section V. A. after chapeau]

**[Climate 4 bis. We recognize that short-lived climate pollutants are responsible for a significant fraction of current climate forcing, as well as serious public health problems and damage to crops. We applaud the efforts being made by the Climate Clean Air Coalition to reduce short-lived climate pollutants, and urge countries and the private sector to take immediate actions to reduce emissions of these substances. –US, Canada, Norway; G77, Switzerland delete]**

**Chemicals and waste [agreed ad ref]**

Note: EU suggests that it would be easier to understand this text if the paragraph order was change to 1, 6, 3, 8, 2, 4, 10, 11, New 5, 9. Para. 7 and 12 have been merged with 6 and 9 respectively.

Consistency required in referring to “throughout their life- cycle”.

Chemicals 1. We recognize that sound management of chemicals is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. We further recognize that growing global production and use of chemicals and prevalence in the environment calls for increased international cooperation. We reaffirm our aim to achieve by 2020 sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as set out in the JPOI. We also reaffirm our commitment to an approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels that responds in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner to new and emerging issues and challenges, and encourage further progress across countries and regions in order to fill the gaps in implementation of commitments. **[agreed ad ref]**

Chemicals 2. We call for the effective implementation and strengthening of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) towards a robust, coherent, effective and efficient [system/ framework/ regime] for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle including to respond to emerging challenges. **[An integrated approach to sustainable and adequate long-term funding is a key element [to assist countries, in particular developing countries with the implementation of - Switzerland delete] [for the – Switzerland] sound management of chemicals and waste. – G77; US, EU, Canada delete]**

## **Biodiversity**

Biodiversity 1. We reaffirm the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in **[maintaining ecosystem services which are critical foundations for –US, EU, Mexico, New Zealand; G77 delete]** sustainable development and human well-being. We recognize the severity of global biodiversity loss and degradation of [ecosystem services / **ecosystems**] and emphasize that these undermine global development, affecting food security and nutrition, provision of and **[the right and –Holy See; US, Canada, EU delete]** access to water, health of the rural poor and of people worldwide, including present and future generations. **[This highlights the importance of managing biodiversity at landscape and seascape scales, enhancing habitat connectivity and building ecosystem resilience. –Australia, Mexico, Norway, EU; G77 reserve]** We recognize that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, **[and their wider application –G77, US; New Zealand reserve]** can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods. We further recognize that indigenous peoples and local communities are often most directly dependent on biodiversity and [ecosystems / **ecosystem services**] and thus are often most immediately affected by their loss and degradation.

Biodiversity 2. We reiterate our commitment to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and call for urgent actions that effectively reduce the rate of, halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity. In this context, we affirm the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 [, and its / **and commit to urgent action to ensure the achievement by 2020 of the –EU, Switzerland; Japan, US, Norway, Canada, G77 retain**] Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

Biodiversity 3. We note the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, and we invite parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to ratify or accede to the Protocol, so as to ensure its entry into force at the earliest possible opportunity. We acknowledge the role of access and benefit-sharing [related to/ **arising out of any form of utilization of –G77; US, EU, Canada delete**]genetic resources in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability.

[Biodiversity 3.bis. We stress the importance of developing the [necessary legislative, administrative or policy –G77 delete] measures **[and arrangements –G77]**, as appropriate, to implement the rights of countries of origin of genetic resources or countries providing genetic resources, as defined in the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly developing countries, to participate in the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as well as any subsequent application and commercial utilization of products derived from such resources through the fair and equitable sharing of benefits **[and appropriate transfer of technology – G77]. –Canada, Japan, EU, Australia, New Zealand, US delete**] (moved from Biodiversity 7)

Biodiversity 4. We [welcome -EU / **note the adoption of –US**] the Strategy for Resource Mobilization in support of the achievement of the Convention on Biological Diversity's three objectives, including the commitment to substantially increasingresources from all sources in support of biodiversity[, in particular for developing countries –New Zealand, EU, Japan, US delete; G77 retain] **[in accordance with the process consolidated and agreed in Nagoya –EU, New Zealand, US].**

#### **D. Trade [agreed ad ref]**

- G77 streamline section into 1 or 2 paras: refer to flexibilities provided for in WTO rules; resisting protectionist measures; high-level support to the conclusion of the Doha trade development agenda; special and differential treatment; focus on capacity building; recognize that trade is an engine for sustained economic growth and development.

Trade 3. We [urge the members of the WTO to / **resolve to – EU, Canada, Norway**] redouble [their / **our –EU, Canada, Norway**] efforts to achieve an ambitious, balanced, and development-oriented conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda taking into account the central importance of the development dimension in every aspect of the Doha Development Agenda work programme and its commitment to making the development dimension a meaningful reality. We further call for the full implementation of the 2005 WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.

[Trade 6. We recognize the need to mobilize adequate and predictable funding for Aid for Trade, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries. We also recognize the [need for / **importance of supporting –EU**] additional measures to support the supply and export capacities of developing countries, in particular the LDCs. –Canada reserve]

[Trade 8. We acknowledge the need to [continue / **increase our efforts in the – EU, Canada, Australia**]

[Technology 7. We agree to explore the possibility to establish a global fund for voluntary contributions by States, civil society and the private sector, to facilitate [**voluntary -US, Japan**] transfer of environmentally sound technologies [**on mutually agreed terms and conditions -US, Japan**] [**and knowledge sharing -US**]. EU, Canada, Switzerland delete; Australia reserve]

[Technology 4. We note that consideration must be given to the role of patent protection and intellectual property rights along with an examination of their impact on the access to and transfer of environmentally sound technology, in particular to developing countries, as well as to further exploring efficiently the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technology in its relation to proprietary rights with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area. – US, EU, Japan, Canada, Australia, Switzerland delete]

[Technology 5. [[We request the competent fora in the UN system to identify options for an appropriate mechanism to facilitate clean technology dissemination to developing countries, consistent with existing patent protection systems and invite the Secretary-General to report to UNGA67 on the options./ **We resolve to establish an international mechanism under the General Assembly in order to promote implement, and monitor concrete actions, supported by stable, adequate and predictable financial contributions and focused on bridging the technological gap between the developed and developing countries and facilitating transfer of technology in sustainable development and strengthening national capacities, scientific understanding and technological evaluation in the**

**developing countries –G77]** In this regard, we / **We Switzerland]**note that the UNFCCC technology mechanism, as agreed in Cancun and Durban, and in particular the ongoing implementation of the new global Climate Technology Center and Network, is a highly relevant model for [facilitating -Switzerland / **replicating –G77]** the development and [**voluntary -EU]** transfer of sustainable technologies to address the technological needs of developing countries. –US, Japan, Canada delete]

[Technology 7. We agree to explore the possibility to establish a global fund for voluntary contributions by States, civil society and the private sector, to facilitate [**voluntary -US, Japan]** transfer of environmentally sound technologies [**on mutually agreed terms and conditions -US, Japan]** [**and knowledge sharing -US]**. EU, Canada, Switzerland delete; Australia reserve]

[Technology 4. We note that consideration must be given to the role of patent protection and intellectual property rights along with an examination of their impact on the access to and transfer of environmentally sound technology, in particular to developing countries, as well as to further exploring efficiently the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technology in its relation to proprietary rights with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area. – US, EU, Japan, Canada, Australia, Switzerland delete]

Technology 2. We underline the need for enabling environments for the development, adaptation, and [**voluntary -US, Japan, Canada]** [dissemination / **transfer of –G77]** of [sustainable / **environmentally sound Australia]** technologies [**on mutually agreed terms and conditions - US, Japan, Canada]**.In this context, we [underscore / **note –G77]** the role of foreign direct investment and international trade in the transfer of [**some -US, Canada; EU G77 delete]** environmentally sound technologies.We [support strengthening / **engage in our countries as well as through – Switzerland]** international cooperation to promote [investment in science, innovation, and technology for sustainable development /**such enabling environments –Switzerland]**.

**Finance 1 ter. We recognize that for significant international financing to give strong support to the various commitments made in the outcomes of Rio+20, the developed countries agreed to provide new and additional resources exceeding US 30 billion per year from 2013-17 to the developing countries in their efforts toward promotion of sustainable development. –G77; Canada delete]**

[Finance 1 quat. I

[Finance 3 alt. The fulfilment of all ODA commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA to developing countries by 2015 and to reach the level of at least 0.5 per cent of GNP for ODA by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP for ODA to least developed countries. To reach their agreed timetables, donor countries should take

all necessary and appropriate measures to raise the rate of aid disbursements to meet their existing commitments. We urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make additional concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA to developing countries, including the specific target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP for ODA to least developed countries in line with the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, in accordance with their commitments. To build on progress achieved in ensuring that ODA is used effectively, we stress the importance of democratic governance, improved transparency and accountability, and managing for results. We strongly encourage all donors to establish, as soon as possible, rolling indicative timetables that illustrate how they aim to reach their goals, in accordance with their respective budget allocation process. We stress the importance of mobilizing greater domestic support in developed countries towards the fulfilment of their commitments, including through raising public awareness, and by providing data on aid effectiveness and demonstrating tangible results. –G77; Canada delete (Doha 43)]

Technology 2. We underline the need for enabling environments for the development, adaptation, and [voluntary -US, Japan, Canada] [dissemination / transfer of –G77] of [sustainable / environmentally sound Australia] technologies [on mutually agreed terms and conditions - US, Japan, Canada]. In this context, we [underscore / note –G77] the role of foreign direct investment and international trade in the transfer of [some -US, Canada; EU G77 delete] environmentally sound technologies. We [support strengthening / engage in our countries as well as through – Switzerland] international cooperation to promote [investment in science, innovation, and technology for sustainable development /such enabling environments –Switzerland].

Technology 3. We recognize the importance of strengthened national, scientific and technological capacities [including in developing countries – Australia] [. / for sustainable development, which can help – EU] [Developing countries [should be enabled- EU delete] to develop their own [new / innovative solutions for sustainable development, including developed - EU] and environmentally sound technologies [[and scientific research- US] with the support of the international community -EU delete]. – Australia delete] To this end, we support building science and technology capacity [with both women and men as contributors and beneficiaries –Iceland], including through collaboration among research institutions, universities, the private sector, governments, non-governmental organizations, and scientists [of developing and developed countries -Australia delete].

[Technology 4. We note that consideration must be given to the role of patent protection and intellectual property rights along with an examination of their impact on the access to and transfer of environmentally sound technology, in particular to developing countries, as well as to further exploring efficiently the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technology in its relation to proprietary rights with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area. – US, EU, Japan, Canada, Australia, Switzerland delete]

[Technology 5. [[We request the competent fora in the UN system to identify options for an appropriate mechanism to facilitate clean technology dissemination to developing countries, consistent with existing patent protection systems and invite the Secretary-General to report to UNGA67 on the options./ **We resolve to establish an international mechanism under the General Assembly in order to promote implement, and monitor concrete actions, supported by stable, adequate and predictable financial contributions and focused on bridging the technological gap between the developed and developing countries and facilitating transfer of technology in sustainable development and strengthening national capacities, scientific understanding and technological evaluation in the developing countries –G77]** In this regard, we / **We Switzerland]**note that the UNFCCC technology mechanism, as agreed in Cancun and Durban, and in particular the ongoing implementation of the new global Climate Technology Center and Network, is a highly relevant model for [facilitating -Switzerland / **replicating –G77]** the development and [**voluntary -EU]** transfer of sustainable technologies to address the technological needs of developing countries. –US, Japan, Canada delete]

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Technology 7. We agree to explore the possibility to establish a global fund for voluntary contributions by States, civil society and the private sector, to facilitate



[voluntary -US, Japan] transfer of environmentally sound technologies [on mutually agreed terms and conditions -US, Japan] [and knowledge sharing -US]. EU, Canada, Switzerland delete; Australiareserve]

NOTE: QUESTIONABLE NEGOTIATING PROCESS GIVING MORE VOICE TO JUSCANS

the negotiating process at the un is bizarre. there is one group; Japan us Canada Australia and New Zealand (affectionately called JUSCANZ or sometimes ``umbrella`# group

The second group is the EU which comprises all the European Countries except Norway and

The Third group is the G77 which represents over 130 developing countries plus China and speak with one voice

In the negotiations, the us

US Canada and Australia, Japan even though they are in one group will speak with separate voices ; the G77 has a rotating chair and speaks with one voice as does the EU.

Last Updated on Sunday, 06 July 2014 20:26

## Tsilhqot'in First Nation granted B.C. title claim in Supreme Court ruling



**Justice News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Thursday, 26 June 2014 18:22

**CBC News** Posted: Jun 26, 2014 9:59 AM ET Last Updated: Jun 26, 2014 8:19 PM

ET



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip describes a June 26 Supreme Court decision on aboriginal land title as the beginning of a new era for First Nations' relations with government and industry.

YOLANDE COLE

The Supreme Court of Canada has granted declaration of aboriginal title to more than 1,700 square kilometres of land in British Columbia to the Tsilhqot'in First Nation, the first time the court has made such a ruling regarding aboriginal land.

- [First Nations 'ecstatic' over landmark ruling](#)
- [B.C. reacts to historic land claim ruling](#)

The unanimous 8-0 decision released Thursday resolves many important legal questions, such as how to determine aboriginal title and whether provincial laws apply to those lands. It will apply wherever there are outstanding land claims.

The decision, written by Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, also has implications for future economic or resource development on First Nations lands.

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**'It only took 150 years, but we look forward to a much brighter future. This without question will establish a solid platform for genuine reconciliation to take place in British Columbia.'** — Grand Chief Stewart Phillip,

president of Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs

The case focused on the Tsilhqot'in First Nation's claim to aboriginal title over 440,000 hectares of land to the south and west of Williams Lake in the B.C. Interior.

A B.C. Court of Appeal ruling in 2012 gave the Tsilhqot'in sweeping rights to hunt, trap and trade in its traditional territory. But the Court of Appeal agreed with the federal and provincial governments that the Tsilhqot'in must identify specific sites where its people once lived, rather than assert a claim over a broad area.

The Tsilhqot'in, a collection of six aboriginal bands that include about 3,000 people, argued the court's decision failed to recognize the way its people had lived for centuries.

The court heard the Tsilhqot'in people were "semi-nomadic," with few permanent encampments, even though they saw the area as their own and protected it from outsiders.

## Establishes meaning of title

In its decision, Canada's top court agreed that a semi-nomadic tribe can claim land title even if it uses it only some of the time, and set out a three-point test to determine land titles, considering:

- Occupation.
- Continuity of habitation on the land.
- Exclusivity in area.



The Supreme Court of Canada has recognized the Tsilhqot'in First Nation's aboriginal title over a wide area to the south and west of B.C.'s Williams Lake, which it considers its traditional territory. (CBC)

The court also established what title means, including the right to the benefits associated with the land and the right to use it, enjoy it and profit from it.

However, the court declared that title is not absolute, meaning economic development can still proceed on land where title is established as long as one of two conditions is met:

- Economic development on land where title is established has the consent of the First Nation.
- Failing that, the government must make the case that development is pressing and

substantial, and meet its fiduciary duty to the aboriginal group.

In other words, the decision places a greater burden on governments to justify economic development on aboriginal land.

The court also makes it clear that provincial law still applies to land over which aboriginal title has been declared, subject to constitutional limits.

## 'Absolutely electrifying'

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, was with Chief Roger William, who brought the case, and other Tsilhqot'in chiefs when they learned of the top court's decision, and said the mood in the room was "absolutely electrifying."

"We all heard the decision at the same moment, and the room just erupted in cheers and tears. Everybody is absolutely jubilant. It's very emotional," Phillip told CBC News.

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs smiles during a news conference in Vancouver, after the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Tsilhqot'in First Nation, granting it land title to 438,000 hectares of land. (Darryl Dyck/Canadian Press)

"It only took 150 years, but we look forward to a much brighter future. This, without question, will establish a solid platform for genuine reconciliation to take place in British Columbia.

"I didn't think it would be so definitive," Phillip added. "I was actually prepared for something much less. It's not very often that I'm without words, and I'm quite overwhelmed at the moment."

## Future pipelines?

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt said in a statement Thursday that the government will review the "complex and significant issues" in the decision.

"Our government believes that the best way to resolve outstanding aboriginal rights and title claims is through negotiated settlements that balance the interests of all Canadians," Valcourt said in the statement, adding that the government has concluded four treaties in B.C. since 2006, with others under negotiation.

NDP critic Jean Crowder welcomed the ruling and said the governments at both levels have for too long taken the chance that aboriginal title would never be recognized in going ahead with development.

"Now, all levels of government will need to stop and consider whether or not they've met the duty to consult or justified an infringement. Governments will have to meet this obligation so development can continue, with First Nations determining how to use the land, not third-parties, to the benefit of many Canadians," Crowder said in a statement.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau said in a post on Twitter, "We remain committed to partnering with aboriginal communities, based on inherent & treaty rights, to build a better future for all Canadians."

B.C. Attorney General and Justice Minister Suzanne Anton said today's decision "provides additional certainty around processes and tests that are applied to the relationship between the province and aboriginal peoples."

What today's ruling will mean for future pipelines is unclear, but one expert said it's likely this decision will be used by First Nations fighting the Enbridge pipeline in court.

"The pipeline is going through many, many First Nations who have already declared that they do not want the Enbridge pipeline going through their territories, and this decision strengthens their rights to preserve their traditional territories," said Antonia Mills, a First Nations studies professor at the University of Northern B.C.

**[Mobile users, read the ruling here](#)**

Last Updated on Sunday, 06 July 2014 20:30

128 readings

**Santa Cruz Declaration For a New World Order for  
Living Well**



Justice News

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Tuesday, 24 June 2014 20:35

**For a New World Order for Living Well**

**Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia, 14 and 15  
June 2014**



**Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group  
of 77**

242. We reaffirm our rejection to the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on the Sudan, which have a negative impact on the development and prosperity of the people of the Sudan, and in this regard call for an immediate lifting of those sanctions.

Last Updated on Sunday, 06 July 2014 20:34

**Declaration**

## **Part I: Overall context**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the member States of the Group of 77 and China, have gathered in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia, for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Group.

2. We commemorate the formation of the Group of 77 on 15 June 1964 and recall the ideals and principles contained in the historic Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries, signed at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), held in Geneva.

3. We recall that the first ever statement of the Group of 77 pledged to promote equality in the international economic and social order and promote the interests of the developing world, declared their unity under a common interest and defined the Group as “an instrument for enlarging the area of cooperative endeavour in the international field and for securing mutually beneficent relationships with the rest of the world”.

4. We also recall the first Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, held in Algiers from 10 to 25 October 1964, at which the Group adopted the Charter of Algiers, which established the principles of unity, complementarity, cooperation and solidarity of the developing countries and their determination to strive for economic and social development, individually or collectively.

5. We highlight that the Group of 77 has provided the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective social and economic interests and enhanced their joint negotiating capacity within the United Nations system, and note with satisfaction that the Group has established a permanent secretariat at United Nations Headquarters in New York and chapters in Geneva, Nairobi, Paris, Rome, Vienna and the Group of 24 in Washington, D.C., and that its membership now stands at 133 member States.

6. We also recall the successful holding of the first South Summit of the Group of 77 and China in Havana in April 2000 and the second South Summit in Doha in June 2005, at which the status of the Group of 77 and China was elevated to the level of Heads of State and Government and at which important declarations and plans of action were adopted that have guided our Group and constitute the fundamental basis for the construction of a new world order and an agenda owned by the countries of the South for the establishment of a more just, democratic and equal system that benefits our peoples.

7. We pledge to continue the tradition of our countries on building national development and uniting at the international level, towards the establishment of a just international order in the world economy that supports developing countries achieve our objectives of sustained economic growth, full employment, social equity, provision of basic goods and services to our people, protection of the environment and living in harmony with nature.

8. We are proud of the legacy and great achievements of the Group of 77 and China in defending and promoting the interest of the developing countries over the past 50 years, which have contributed gradually to greater strength and influence on economic, social and environmental issues. We pledge to build on this foundation and continue making progress towards a world order that is just, equitable, stable and peaceful. Major landmarks in this regard have been the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order in 1974, the Declaration on the Right to Development in 1986 and several other historic declarations that recognize and address the needs and interests of developing countries and constitute an utmost priority.

9. We believe in the peaceful settlement of conflicts through dialogue.

10. We also note that, despite five decades of achievements, there are still serious shortfalls in fulfilling our Group's objectives, and that our countries individually and collectively now face ongoing



and emerging challenges, including the slowdown of the global economy and its effects on our countries and the lack of adequate systemic action and accountability to address the causes and effects of the global financial and economic crises, thus creating the risk of continuing with the pattern of crisis cycles.

11. We also note the gaps in many of our countries in meeting the needs of employment, food, water, health care, education, housing, physical infrastructure and energy of our people, as well as the looming environmental crisis, including the negative impacts of climate change in developing countries, the increasing shortage of drinking water and the loss of biodiversity.

12. We stress that imbalances in the global economy and the inequitable structures and outcomes in the trading, financial, monetary and technological systems led to the establishment of our Group. Nevertheless, these imbalances still prevail today in some ways with even more adverse effects on developing countries. Therefore, we pledge to continue and intensify our efforts to strive for a fair, just and equitable international order oriented towards the fulfilment of the development needs of developing countries.

13. We emphasize that the rationale for the establishment of our Group 50 years ago remains actual and valid, and indeed more valid, than at that time. We therefore rededicate ourselves and our countries to strengthening and expanding the unwavering efforts of the Group of 77 and China in all fields towards greater achievement and for the betterment of the lives of our people.

14. We affirm that the twenty-first century is the time for the countries and the peoples from the South to develop their economies and societies in order to fulfil human needs sustainably, in harmony with nature and respect for Mother Earth and its ecosystems. We agree to build on our traditional values and practices of solidarity and collaboration for mutual benefit and on the strength of our people, to achieve progress in our countries and in South-South cooperation.

15. We emphasize that our major priorities are promoting

sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.

16. We reaffirm that the main strength of the Group of 77 has been and will be its unity and solidarity, its vision of fair, just and equitable multilateral relations, the commitment of its member States to the well-being and prosperity of the peoples of the South as well as our commitment to mutually beneficial cooperation.

17. We emphasize that each country has the sovereign right to decide its own development priorities and strategies and consider that there is no “one size fits all” approach. We stress the need for international rules to allow policy space and policy flexibility for developing countries, as they are directly related to the development strategies of national Governments. We further emphasize the need for policy space to enable our countries to formulate development strategies expressing national interests and differing needs which are not always taken into account by international economic policymaking in the process of integration with the global economy.

18. We are concerned about the current state of the global economy and the state of global economic governance and the need for strong recovery. We believe that the world is confronted with the worst financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression, and we are alarmed by the adverse effects this crisis is having especially on developing countries. We believe the crisis has highlighted long-standing systemic fragilities and imbalances in the global economy, and further exposed the inadequacy and undemocratic nature of global economic governance. New attempts must now be made to establish proper global economic governance, with the full voice, representation and participation of developing countries in discussions and decision-making.

19. We recognize the high importance of sustaining social protection and fostering job creation even in times of economic crisis, and take note with satisfaction of the encouraging examples of policies that allow countries to reduce poverty, increase social inclusion and create new and better jobs in recent years.

20. We view with concern the increased concentration and the asymmetric distribution of wealth and income in the world, which have created wide inequality between developed and developing countries. This level of inequality is unjustifiable and cannot be tolerated in a world where poverty is still prevalent, resources are being depleted and environmental degradation is increasing. We call for global actions to reduce inequalities at all levels. We also pledge to address inequality in our own countries.

21. We note with concern the influence of large corporations, mainly from developed countries, on the global economy, and its negative effects on the social, economic and environmental development of some developing countries, particularly regarding the barriers this may pose for the entry of new enterprises in the global market. In this regard, we call for concrete measures from the international community to address these negative effects and to promote international competition and increased market access for developing countries, including policies that foster the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, the removal of trade barriers that inhibit value addition in origin countries, such as tariff peaks and tariff escalation, as well as capacity-building on competition law, tax policy regulations and social corporate responsibility.

22. We emphasize that transnational corporations have a responsibility to respect all human rights and should refrain from causing environmental disasters and affecting the well-being of peoples.

23. We recognize the progress achieved in sustainable development at the regional, national, subnational and local levels and we reaffirm the importance of supporting developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty by empowering the poor and people in vulnerable situations, promoting developing

sustainable agriculture as well as full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by effective social policies, including social protection floors.

24. We fully respect the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly as they relate to equality among States, respect for the independence of States, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and stress that those principles and purposes inspire our full commitment to multilateralism and the search for a more just and equitable international economic system that offers opportunities to raise the standard of living of our peoples.

25. We are deeply aware that decades after political independence, some developing countries are still in the grip of economic dependence on the structures and vagaries of the global economy and on the developed countries and their economic entities. Such dependence, especially by poor and vulnerable countries, limits the extent of our real political independence as well. Therefore, we pledge to unite our efforts to continue striving for economic independence and to gather under the umbrella of the Group of 77 and China as well as other organizations of the South to make progress on this.

26. We recall the decisions taken at the second South Summit in Doha (2005) to work to ensure that programmes and policies designed in the context of globalization fully respect the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly as they relate to equality among States, respect for the independence of States, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and to stress that those principles and purposes inspire our full commitment to multilateralism and the search for a more just and equitable international economic system that offers opportunities to raise the standard of living of our peoples.

27. We also recall the decision taken at the Group of 77 and China Summit in Doha (2005) to work towards the realization of the

right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affects their social and economic development, and to call on the international community to take all necessary measures to bring an end to the continuation of foreign occupation, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

28. We reaffirm that indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State. In this regard, we emphasize the need to respect and safeguard indigenous cultural identities, knowledge and traditions in our countries.

## **Part II: Development in the national context**

### **Approaches for sustainable development**

29. We stress the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.

30. We reaffirm that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions, which is our overarching goal (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development). In some countries there is an approach of “living well” as holistic development aimed at achieving the material, cultural and spiritual needs of societies in a context of harmony with nature.

31. We acknowledge that the Earth and its ecosystems are our home and we are convinced that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth. We also recognize that “Mother Earth” is a

common expression for planet Earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit.

32. We welcome the celebration held in 2011 of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which is a major landmark document that establishes the right of developing countries to act to achieve development and the right of people to participate in and benefit from development.

33. In this context, we reaffirm that development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process that aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom as recognized in the Declaration on the Right to Development.

34. We further reaffirm the proclamation in the Declaration on the Right to Development that the right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized as recognized in the Declaration.

### **Improving the practice of democracy**

35. We consider that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. We reaffirm that while all democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region, and further reaffirm the necessity of due respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and the right to self-determination, and the rejection of any attempt to break down constitutional and democratic order legitimately established by the peoples.

36. We call for an end to the use of media in any way that might disseminate distorted information against States members of the Group of 77 in complete disregard of the principle of international law.

37. We express our deep indignation and rejection with regard to the facts related to the surprise withdrawal of overflight and landing permits for the presidential aircraft on which President Evo Morales Ayma of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and his party were travelling on 2 July 2013. These facts constitute unfriendly and unjustifiable acts that have also put at serious risk the safety of President Morales. We make public our greater solidarity and demand clarification of facts.

#### **National sovereignty and benefits over natural resources**

38. We affirm that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

39. We also reaffirm that the right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over the natural wealth and resources must be exercised in the interest of their national development and of the well-being of the people of the State concerned.

40. While emphasizing the sovereignty of our countries and peoples over their natural wealth, we are also aware of our duty to conserve and sustainably manage and use these resources and ensure the conditions for nature and ecosystems to have the capacity to regenerate, for the benefit of present and future generations. We also recognize that the sustainable use of natural resources is an effective way to achieve economic growth while reducing poverty and environmental degradation.

41. We take note of and respect the decisions of some countries that decided to nationalize or to reclaim control of their natural resources in order to obtain greater benefits for their people, especially the poor, and to invest in the economic diversification, industrialization and social programmes.

42. We urge that technical and capacity-building assistance be provided to developing countries at the international, regional and national levels to support them in obtaining the maximum benefits from the extraction and use of those resources in line with sustainable development, taking into account the full exercise of the sovereign right of our countries over their natural resources.

### **Eradication of poverty**

43. We recognize that poverty is an affront to human dignity and stress that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, and we attach the highest priority to poverty eradication in the United Nations post-2015 development agenda to be supported by effective and adequate means of implementation and strengthened global partnership for development, and which entails, among other objectives, the promotion of employment and decent work for all, the improvement of access to social services, the eradication of illiteracy and diseases as well as integrated, coordinated and coherent national and regional strategies.

44. We express our deep concern for the constraints on the fight against poverty arising from the crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, the continuing food insecurity, the volatility of capital flows and the extreme volatility of commodity prices, energy accessibility and the challenges posed by climate change to developing countries.

45. We further stress that, in order to enable Governments of developing countries to effectively eradicate poverty, developing countries must ensure national ownership of their own development agenda, which entails preserving their own policy space backed by a strong political commitment to reduce poverty in line with their national priorities and circumstances. As such,



Governments of developing countries must formulate their own development strategies to assist the poor through policies and actions, including on, but not limited to, strong, sustained and inclusive economic growth, the generation of employment as a priority, in particular for the young population, the improvement of the provision of universal and affordable access to basic services, the provision of a well-designed social protection system, the empowerment of individuals to seize economic opportunities, and measures to ensure the protection of the environment.

46. We recall the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and we recognize the need to continue promoting ratification of or accession to the Convention and its full implementation. We also recognize that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

47. We take note with appreciation of the ancestral and traditional values of some of our peoples such as the Andean principles of *Ama Suwa* (“do not be a thief”), *Ama Llulla* (“do not be a liar”) and *Ama Qhilla* (“do not be lazy”), which in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms contribute to efforts to prevent and tackle corruption.

### **Reducing inequality**

48. We emphasize that the problem of inequality is even more acute today than ever because of the prevalence of extreme wealth while poverty and hunger continue to exist and this is aggravated, inter alia, by unsustainable patterns of consumption and production mainly in developed countries. We affirm that any benefit from economic growth has to be equitably shared and must benefit the people in vulnerable situations in our communities, and we therefore call once again for concerted actions to reduce inequalities at all levels.

49. We are gravely concerned at the inadequacy of measures to

narrow the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and within countries, which has contributed to, inter alia, deepening poverty and has adversely affected the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular in developing countries.

50. We also note with concern that high levels of inequality within and among countries continue to have a negative impact on all aspects of human development and are especially harmful to people in vulnerable situations who are affected by intersecting inequalities. We therefore urge countries, including through the support of international cooperation, to scale up efforts to provide equal access to opportunities and outcomes to all levels of society in accordance with national policies.

51. We understand that sustainable development involves a change in the order of priorities from the generation of material wealth to the satisfaction of human needs in harmony with nature. The excessive orientation towards profit neither respects Mother Earth nor takes into account human needs. The continuation of this unequal system will lead to further inequality.

### **Sustained and inclusive economic growth**

52. We affirm that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is necessary to eradicate poverty, provide jobs and raise the living standards of our people and generate public revenues to finance social policies. We note that historical evidence has shown that no country has ever achieved constant improvements in living standards and human development without sustaining a steady pace of economic growth. We therefore urge the international community and the United Nations to assist developing countries in attaining high and adequate economic growth over a sustained period.

53. We also realize that high economic growth, although necessary, is not sufficient in itself. We realize that economic growth must be sustained and inclusive by generating jobs and lifting the incomes of peoples in vulnerable situations, especially the poor and the most in need. Economic growth should also be

environmentally and socially sound and, to achieve this, developing countries require, among other sources, financial and technological support from developed countries according to national plans.

### **Creation of employment**

54. We express the view that the capacity to generate full employment and decent work is fundamentally linked to reviving and enhancing productive development strategies, through adequate finance, investment and trade policies. In this regard, we reaffirm the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to give strong support to developing countries in their efforts to promote sustainable development. We also stress the need to maintain coherence between macroeconomic and job creation policies in order to ensure inclusive and resilient global economic growth.

55. We are deeply concerned about the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, and affirm our commitment to reducing unemployment through employment-intensive macroeconomic and development policies. We affirm the need to launch an intergovernmental process, within the United Nations, to include the issue of youth employment and youth concerns in the current process of the post-2015 development agenda. We also affirm the importance of ensuring decent livelihoods for farmers in our countries.

56. We affirm the need to launch an intergovernmental process within the United Nations to develop a global strategy on improving employment skills and generating youth employment.

### **Providing basic services for our people**

57. We are concerned that there remains a substantial and increasing gap between the world's rich and poor, which is due not only to an unequal distribution of income, but also to unequal access to basic resources and services, which hinders the creation

of economic opportunities for all.

58. We recognize that the State has an essential role to play to ensure that basic services are accessible to all and to address the unequal and discriminatory distribution of and access to them.

59. We also reaffirm our resolve to act to implement the right of our people to access basic services.

60. We reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, to be progressively implemented and realized for our populations with full respect for national sovereignty.

61. We call upon donor countries and international organizations to advance in the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer, through international assistance to and cooperation with developing countries, in order to scale up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

### **Access to public health and medicines**

62. We recognize that universal health coverage means that everyone has access, without discrimination, to a set of basic medical services of promotion, prevention, cure and rehabilitation that meet the needs and are determined nationally, as well as to essential quality, safe, affordable and effective medicines while ensuring that the use of these services does not entail serious economic difficulties for users, especially people in vulnerable situations.

63. We also recognize that many developing countries do not have the financial or human resources or the infrastructure to implement the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Therefore, we call upon developed countries and relevant international organizations to provide the adequate financial resources and technology to developing countries that will complement their

efforts to have policies and measures that provide universal health coverage and basic health services for all.

64. We note with great concern that non-communicable diseases have become an epidemic of significant proportions, undermining the sustainable development of member States. In that sense, we acknowledge the effectiveness of tobacco control measures for the improvement of health. We reaffirm the right of member States to protect public health and, in particular, to ensure universal access to medicines and medical diagnostic technologies, if necessary, including through the full use of the flexibilities in the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and Public Health.

65. We recall paragraph 142 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in which Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the TRIPS Agreement, the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO) of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration and, when formal acceptance procedures are completed, the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement, which provide flexibilities for the protection of public health, and in particular to promote access to medicines for all and encourage the provision of assistance to developing countries in this regard. We affirm the importance of taking advantage of the use of TRIPS flexibilities in order to promote the people's health and access to medicines. We call upon developed countries to fully respect the right of developing countries to make full use of TRIPS flexibilities and to refrain from taking actions, including trade measures, to prevent or dissuade developing countries from exercising this right.

66. We are concerned about the increasing problem of antimicrobial resistance to existing drugs, including those against tuberculosis and malaria. As a result, increasing numbers of patients, especially in developing countries, face the prospect of dying from preventable and/or treatable diseases. We urge the international health authorities and organizations, especially the

World Health Organization (WHO), to take urgent action and to work together upon request with developing countries that do not have adequate resources to address this problem.

### **Agricultural development and food security**

67. We recall that food security and nutrition are essential elements for achieving sustainable development and express concern that developing countries are vulnerable to, among others, the adverse impacts of climate change, further threatening food security.

68. We reaffirm that hunger is a violation of human dignity and call for urgent measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels to eliminate it. We also reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food in accordance with their right to adequate food and the fundamental right to be free from hunger, in order to develop and maintain their full physical and mental capacities. We also acknowledge that food security and nutrition are essential to sustainable development and have become a pressing global challenge and, in this regard, we further reaffirm our commitment to enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food for present and future generations in line with the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, adopted on 16 November 2009, including for children under the age of 2, and through, as appropriate, national, regional and global food security and nutrition strategies.

69. We denounce that subsidies and other market distortions driven by developed countries have seriously affected the agricultural sector of developing countries, limiting the ability of this key sector to significantly contribute to the eradication of poverty and to sustained, inclusive economic growth and equitable, sustainable development, food security and rural development. We call for the immediate elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures taken by developed countries that are not in compliance with WTO rules. We urge developed countries to show flexibility and political will to adequately address these fundamental concerns of developing countries in the Doha Round of trade negotiations.

70. We reiterate our commitment to conclude multilateral disciplines on fisheries subsidies which give effect to the WTO Doha Development Agenda and the Hong Kong ministerial mandates to strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation, taking into account the importance of the sector to development priorities, poverty reduction, and livelihood and food security concerns.

71. We emphasize the need to strengthen the capacity of our countries, especially through international cooperation, to safeguard and enhance our people's nutrition through the promotion of their productive cultural and environmental practices.

72. We also emphasize the urgent need to increase efforts at the national, regional and international levels to address food security and agriculture development as an integral part of the international development agenda. We demand sustained funding and increased targeted investment to enhance world food production and call for new and additional financial resources from all sources to achieve sustainable agriculture development and food security.

73. We further emphasize the need to strengthen the agricultural sector as part of the post-2015 agenda with its means of implementation, to achieve food security, stressing the importance of including the knowledge, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples, rural communities and small- and medium-scale farmers in national, regional and international strategies aimed at achieving food security.

74. We welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution [68/177](#) on the right to food and resolution [68/233](#) on agricultural development, food security and nutrition. We also welcome the Second International Conference on Nutrition,

organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO, to be held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014, which aims to approve the nutrition policy framework for the coming decades and to determine priorities for international cooperation in the field of nutrition in the short and medium term.

75. We welcome the decision of the Director General of FAO to appoint for the second year Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Nadine Heredia Alarcón, First Lady of Peru, as Special Ambassadors of Quinoa, recognizing their leadership and commitment in the fight against hunger and malnutrition and that the Bolivian and Peruvian Governments showed the world the benefits and quality of that Andean food source.

76. We reaffirm that quinoa's biodiversity and nutritional value make it central to providing food security and nutrition and to eradicating poverty, as well as to promoting the traditional knowledge of the Andean indigenous peoples, contributing to the achievement of food security, nutrition and poverty eradication and raising awareness of their contribution to social, economic and environmental development, and sharing good practices on implementation.

77. We call for the creation of conditions for the development of economic opportunities for the benefit of small-scale and family farmers, peasant and indigenous peoples and communities, and the creation of options for connecting them with consumers, as part of the national strategies for the realization of the right to food.

78. We recognize the positive role of small-scale and family farmers, including women, cooperatives, indigenous peoples and local communities in developing countries, and their knowledge and practices, in the conservation and sustainable use of seeds, agrobiodiversity and biodiversity associated with food production of present and future generations.

79. We stress the need to address the root causes of excessive food price volatility, including its structural causes, at all levels, and the



need to manage the risks linked to excessively volatile prices in agricultural commodities and their consequences for global food security and nutrition, as well as for small-scale farmers and poor urban dwellers.

80. We call for the prioritization of development in the WTO Doha Round of negotiations in accordance with the Doha Development Agenda, including food security. We call for the promotion of the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and rural development in developing countries. In this context, we urge WTO members to adopt a permanent solution to the issue of public stock holding and food security for developing countries, as agreed by the WTO Ministerial Decision adopted in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013, as soon as possible.

### **Sustainable family farming**

81. We declare that family farms and small farms are an important basis for sustainable food production aimed at achieving food security (General Assembly resolution [66/222](#)). In this framework, support should be given to the economic activities of sustainable family farming, taking into account the traditional knowledge of such farmers, in order to improve their situation and development, in particular promoting their access to financial services, productive resources and agricultural inputs such as land, seeds, appropriate technology, transport and information.

82. We will promote comprehensive and complementary national and regional actions for production, access and consumption based on integral, multisectoral and participatory planning, reassessing and strengthening sustainable family farming, small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.

### **Industrialization and infrastructure**

83. We affirm that industrial development and value addition, together with science, technology and innovation, are, among others, essential elements for developing countries to attain higher development levels in a sustained way, as the industrialization

process can generate higher productivity, more jobs and skills and positive spillover effects on the economy. Therefore, we urge developed countries to assist developing countries in boosting industrialization in their development strategies and policies and in promoting inclusive sustainable industrial development, in accordance with their national interests.

84. We note that many developing countries are still overly dependent on commodities and that they should explore industrial diversification strategies by, inter alia, enhancing value-adding productive capacities.

85. We call on relevant international organizations and request international cooperation mechanisms to provide adequate assistance to developing countries, including through technology transfer, to develop their capacities to design and implement industrialization strategies and policies, in accordance with their national priorities.

86. We call for the international trading system to respect and reinforce the policy space of developing countries for the promotion and growth of our industrial development and for the design and implementation of our industrial strategies. In this regard, we call for the revision of all rules within the world trading system that affect the policy space of developing countries.

87. We affirm that the development of reliable and affordable infrastructure, regional connectivity, and its appropriate interlinkage through science, technology and innovation, including transport, roads, energy and telecommunications, as well as the promotion of market access for exports coming from developing countries, are essential elements in improving the quality of life of our people and in the sustainable development of our countries.

88. In this regard, we urge developed countries and international organizations, in accordance with internationally agreed commitments, to provide adequate financial assistance to support the transfer of reliable and affordable technologies and to promote capacity-building, taking into account national priorities.

89. We urge developed countries to provide technical assistance, technology transfer and financial resources to enable our countries to industrialize and develop our infrastructure in ways that are environmentally sustainable.

90. We emphasize in this regard the importance of technical assistance for industrial development in member States with the aim of adopting cleaner, resource-based and energy-efficient sustainable consumption and production patterns, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies.

91. We welcome the initiative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, as Chair of the Group of 77 and China, to organize the Meeting of Ministers of Industrialization and counterparts on the issue of governance of natural resources and industrialization, in coordination with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, to take place in Tarija in August 2014.

92. We welcome the Lima Declaration: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, which was adopted at the fifteenth session of the General Conference of UNIDO, held in Lima in December 2013, as an important step in our common endeavours to achieve sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

### **Inclusion of women in development**

93. We recall the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, reaffirm the vital role of women and the need for full and equal opportunities for their participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development, and decide to accelerate the implementation of our respective commitments in this regard as contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as in Agenda 21, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the United

Nations Millennium Declaration and the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

94. We also recognize that the potential of women to engage in, contribute to and benefit from sustainable development as leaders, participants and agents of change has not been fully realized. We support prioritizing measures to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of our societies. We resolve to unlock the potential of women as drivers of sustainable development through many measures and commit to creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of women and girls everywhere, particularly in rural areas and local communities and among indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities.

95. We are committed to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women in political and economic decision-making and resource allocation, to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, and to ensure access to education, finance, information and communications technologies, markets, legal assistance and other basic services, including health-care services, including safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern methods of family planning.

96. We recall our respective commitments under General Assembly resolution [61/143](#) and other relevant resolutions on this matter, recognize that violence against women seriously violates all human rights of women, and therefore agree to take action to eliminate all forms of violence, including femicide and discrimination against women and girls, by means of a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, adequately supported and facilitated by strong institutional mechanisms and financing, through national action plans, including those supported by international cooperation and, where appropriate, national development plans, including poverty eradication strategies and programme-based and sector-wide approaches.

97. We reaffirm the commitment to work together towards a post-2015 development agenda with a gender perspective.

98. We urge the need to tackle critical remaining challenges for women and girls through a transformative and comprehensive approach and call for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to be reflected as a stand-alone sustainable development goal and to be integrated through targets with inclusive policies to overcome poverty and foster social and economic development in our countries.

### **Indigenous peoples**

99. We urge efforts towards the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, natural resources, identity and culture, in accordance with national legislation. We reaffirm our respective commitments to implement our legal obligations, including, as appropriate, Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization, as well as to promote the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

100. We reaffirm the value and the diversity of the cultures and the forms of social organization of indigenous peoples and their holistic traditional scientific knowledge, innovations and practices, which play a significant role in strengthening the livelihoods of the local populations, ensuring food security and addressing climate change.

101. We stress the importance of indigenous peoples in the achievement of sustainable development in developing countries and their critical role in the social, economic and political processes of our countries, while strengthening the local views and values referred to as the holistic views of Mother Earth.

102. We reaffirm the importance of the role of collective action and the efforts of indigenous and local communities in conserving biodiversity, considering their critical role in the stewardship and sustainable management of natural renewable resources.

103. We consider that mitigation of and adaptation to climate

change are contingent upon different sociocultural contexts, taking particular account of indigenous peoples and local communities and their traditional knowledge systems and practices, including their holistic view of community and environment, as a major means of adapting to climate change.

104. We call for strengthening the interscientific dialogue between traditional and indigenous knowledge systems with modern sciences in the context of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and of the conceptual framework of “Living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth”, approved by the Platform.

105. We welcome the convening of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in New York on 22 and 23 September 2014, with the purpose of sharing insights and best practices on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The action-oriented outcome document of this Conference should contribute to the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples and the pursuit of the objectives of the Declaration, and promote the achievement of all internationally agreed development goals.

106. We take note of the Special Declaration on the Coca Leaf of the Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and Caribbean States within the framework of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana on 29 January 2014, which acknowledges the importance of preserving the cultural and traditional practices of indigenous peoples in the context of respecting all their human and fundamental rights, in conformity with the relevant international instruments. In this context, the Heads of State and Government recognize coca leaf chewing (*akuliku*, or *chacchado*) as an ancestral cultural manifestation of the people of the Andean region that must be respected by the international community and express interest in knowing the results of scientific research conducted by renowned institutes and universities of the international community on the properties of the coca leaf.

### **Part III: South-South cooperation**

107. We reaffirm the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, therefore recognize the importance and different history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and reaffirm our view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

108. We reaffirm the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation, especially in the current international economic environment, and reiterate our support for South-South cooperation as a strategy to sustain the development efforts of developing countries and as a means of enhancing their participation in the global economy. We reiterate the position of the Group that South-South cooperation is a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation and reaffirm that South-South cooperation is a collective endeavour of developing countries based on the principle of solidarity and premises, conditions and objectives that are specific to the historic and political context of developing countries and to their needs and expectations, and that as such, South-South cooperation deserves its own separate and independent promotion, as reaffirmed in the Nairobi outcome document. In this context, we stress that South-South cooperation and its agenda must be driven by the countries of the South. As such, South-South cooperation, which is critical for developing countries, requires long-term vision and a global institutional arrangement, as envisioned by the Second South Summit.

109. We welcome the convening of the High-level Panel of Eminent Personalities of the South in Natadola, Fiji, from 7 to 9

May 2013, in accordance with the relevant mandate of the second South Summit. We also welcome the Panel's conclusions and recommendations on the future landscape of South-South cooperation as an important contribution to the further development of the Development Platform for the South. We reiterate the framework and principles of South-South cooperation first endorsed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their 32nd annual meeting, held in New York on 26 September 2008, which the Panel also used as a basis for their discussions.

110. We welcome the conclusion of the third round of the Global System of Trade Preferences, which is a tool to promote and strengthen South-South trade integration, and call upon more developing countries to participate in the Global System.

111. We also note and welcome the increase in regional cooperation initiatives that concretely manifest South-South cooperation and integration in various areas, such as finance, banking, trade, health care and food production. We hope that these initiatives will benefit not only the participants of the regional programmes but also other developing countries. We call for further initiatives in the future, as well as concrete ways in which developing countries can share experiences and good practices so as to spread these South-South initiatives.

112. We encourage our countries to exchange experiences and best practices with regard to the equal access by all to basic services.

113. We stress that the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation of the General Assembly is the central multilateral policymaking body in the United Nations system to review and assess global and system-wide progress and support for South-South development cooperation, including triangular cooperation, and to provide overall guidance on future directions.

114. We also stress that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, is not a substitute for, but is rather a complement to, North-South



cooperation and its agenda has to be set by countries of the South. We support the integration of South-South and triangular cooperation in the policies and strategic framework of funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as its strengthening through the system-wide provision of additional resources, including through financial and human resources to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and recognize that the Office, currently hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), constitutes a separate entity with a distinct legal nature, entrusted with the coordination on a global and United Nations system-wide basis for promoting and facilitating initiatives related to South-South cooperation for development.

115. In this regard, we request the establishment of a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism for the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, with a view to encouraging joint support for South-South and triangular initiatives, as well as sharing information on development activities and results achieved by various funds, agencies and organizations in support of South-South and triangular cooperation.

116. We also call upon the United Nations development system to promote transfer of technologies from developed countries for the benefit of developing countries to address issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development, and in this context encourage, when possible, technology cooperation among the countries of the South.

117. We acknowledge the role played by the South Centre in supporting the Group of 77. We call upon the members of the Group to further support the Centre and call upon the Centre to expand its activities for the benefit of developing countries. We encourage organizations of developing countries, including the South Centre, to come up with ideas and suggest action plans to further operationalize South-South cooperation.

#### **Part IV: Global challenges**

## **Global partnership for development**

118. We stress the need for a new and stronger commitment by developed countries to international cooperation aimed at supporting the fulfilment of the development aspirations of developing countries. As part of the Millennium Development Goals, a commitment was made to a global partnership for development, which was the international cooperation dimension of the Millennium Development Goals framework. However, we note with concern the significant shortfall in the partnership under the Goals, which contributed to the lack of achievement of many goals and targets. We therefore call for the urgent implementation of all commitments under the global partnership for development so as to overcome the gaps identified in the reports of the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force.

119. We also call upon leaders of the developed countries to agree and commit to a new phase of international cooperation through a strengthened and scaled-up global partnership for development, which should be the centrepiece and anchor for both the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. Such an enhanced global partnership should include the issues of providing financial resources to developing countries, official development assistance, debt relief and debt restructuring, trade, technology transfer and greater participation of developing countries in global economic governance.

## **Official development assistance**

120. We reaffirm that official development assistance remains the main source of international financing for many developing countries and that it is essential as a catalyst for development, facilitating the achievement of national development objectives, including the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, in accordance with paragraph 246 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (“The future we want”).

121. We stress that developed countries must meet and scale up

their existing official development assistance commitments and targets made, inter alia, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus, the 2005 World Summit outcome, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and in relevant forums. An enhanced predictable and sustainable flow of official development assistance is essential to meet the regular development challenges as well as the new and emerging challenges in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries. We recall the unfulfilled commitment made by developed countries at the meeting held in Gleneagles, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

122. We urge the developed countries to fulfil their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance for developing countries as well as to achieve the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries and to increase the target to 1 per cent of gross national income by 2030. We express our deep concern that official development assistance commitments remain unfulfilled.

123. The global financial and economic crisis cannot be an excuse to avoid fulfilling existing aid commitments by developed countries and to make further commitments. An effective response to the economic crisis requires timely implementation of existing aid commitments and an urgent and unavoidable need for donors to fulfil them. We therefore call upon developed countries collectively to fulfil their official development assistance commitments and to raise overall levels further, keeping in mind that the developing countries will require new, additional and sustainable financial resources to a significant extent and amount in order to implement a wide range of development activities.

124. We stress the need for ensuring new and additional financial support to developing countries as a key means of implementation for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the forthcoming sustainable development goals. Financial assistance should be made available without conditionalities, since development strategies should be country-led and take into account the specific conditions, needs and priorities of developing countries. It should be based on the principle of common but

differentiated responsibilities, with North-South cooperation at its core and South-South and triangular cooperation as a useful complement.

125. We stress that official development assistance is a key source for financing the development of developing countries that should be used in accordance with their national developmental priorities without conditionalities, and express our deep concern about the attempt made by donor countries, outside United Nations forums, to redefine official development assistance by including other sources of financing that are not linked or related to the development of developing countries, with the objective of disguising the drop in official development assistance flows not based on their agreed commitments, which are still pending fulfilment.

### **External debt**

126. We are concerned that, with the global economic crisis, the economies of increasing numbers of developing countries are being affected and that some countries are becoming more vulnerable to new external debt problems or even crises. Addressing the external debt problems of developing countries is thus an important part of international cooperation and the enhanced global partnership for development.

127. We are of the view that debt crises tend to be costly and disruptive and are usually followed by large cuts in public spending and a decline in economic growth and employment. These crises affect developing countries more deeply and those that are heavily indebted are unable to return to the path of growth without international assistance. We recognize the importance of debt relief, including debt cancellation, debt restructuring, debt moratorium and debt audit procedures. Debt restructuring processes should have as their core element a determination of real payment capacity so that they may not adversely affect economic growth and the fulfilment of the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, we reiterate the urgent need for the international community to

examine options for an effective, equitable, durable, independent and development-oriented international debt resolution mechanism, and call upon all countries to promote and contribute to the discussions within the United Nations and other appropriate forums with that objective.

128. We also recall that sovereign debt management has been a crucial issue for developing countries in past decades and recent years. Recently, a new concern has emerged relating to the activities of vulture funds. Recent examples of the actions of vulture funds in international courts have revealed their highly speculative nature. Such funds pose a risk to all future debt-restructuring processes, both for developing and developed countries. We therefore stress the importance of not allowing vulture funds to paralyse the debt-restructuring efforts of developing countries, and that these funds should not supersede a State's right to protect its people under international law.

129. We express serious concern about the substantial increase in the financial stability risks of many developed economies and, in particular, their high structural fragilities in financing sovereign debt created as a result of transferring private risk to the public sector. In this regard, we call for urgent and coherent solutions to reduce sovereign risk in developed economies in order to prevent contagion and to mitigate its impact on the international financial system and on developing countries.

130. We stress the need to ensure that the economic and monetary policies implemented by developed countries do not affect global aggregate demand and liquidity, owing to the objective of finding surplus in their balance of payments, with negative results in the reduction of global revenues in developing countries.

### **Reforming the global financial architecture**

131. We affirm the need for reform of the international financial architecture so that we have a financial and monetary system that reflects the realities of the twenty-first century, including a properly regulated international financial sector that reduces and discourages speculative investment, in order for capital markets to

be mobilized to achieve sustainable development and play a constructive role in the global development agenda.

132. We also note the continuation of fundamental problems in the global financial and monetary system, including lack of regulation to ensure financial stability, the problems of the reserve currencies, the volatility in currency exchange rates, the speculative and large cross-border flows of capital and the insufficiency or unavailability of liquidity for developing countries in need of financial resources that face foreign exchange shortfalls or require resources to generate sustainable growth and development. We call for a programme of reforms, with full voice, representation and participation of developing countries, to address these problems.

133. We note with concern that financial deregulation and financial liberalization have given rise to the massive expansion of speculative financial flows and derivatives trading. The financial and economic crisis of 2008 has illustrated that international finance has created an economy of its own, which has become increasingly disconnected from the real economy of production, direct investment, job creation and wage growth. The adverse effects of financialization include volatile capital flows, excessive commodity and food price fluctuations, rapid shifts in exchange rates and boom-bust cycles of financial crisis and economic recession.

134. We urge that the reform process of the governance structure of the Bretton Woods institutions be finalized as soon as possible and be much more ambitious, and that an accelerated plan be established for further reforms in representation, participation and parity of voting power for developing countries in the decision-making process within the Bretton Woods institutions and in all discussions on international monetary reform and in the operation of the new arrangements for special drawing rights in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on the basis of criteria that truly reflect its mandate in the field of development and with the participation of all stakeholders in an equitable, transparent, consultative and inclusive process. In this regard, we call on the General Assembly to launch a process to reform the international financial and monetary system.

135. We support exploration of the establishment of a United Nations intergovernmental mechanism under the General Assembly, as an entity responsible for monitoring the performance of the global economic and financial system in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. It is important that this mechanism monitor the impact of certain international financial flows and policies that are systemically important to prevent the spread of economic and financial crisis among countries.

### **Reforming the credit rating system**

136. We stress that international efforts to reregulate the financial sector should include the credit rating agencies. Governments should limit their regulatory reliance on credit rating agencies and reform legal regimes to hold them liable for negligent behaviour in order to suppress conflicts of interest and ensure integrity, accountability and transparency.

137. We also stress the need for a more transparent international credit rating system that takes fully into account the needs, concerns and peculiarities of developing countries, especially heavily indebted developing countries. In this regard, we express concern about the extent of soundness of the methodology used by the major credit rating agencies. We emphasize that greater transparency and competition among rating agencies is necessary to avoid oligopolistic tendencies and their negative effects. We reiterate that an inadequate assessment of the solvency of debtors has the potential to cause or exacerbate crises, rendering the financial system more vulnerable. It is necessary to continue the discussions at the United Nations and other venues on the role of credit rating agencies, with a view to proposing concrete policies aimed at reducing dependency on them by enhancing their supervision and increasing transparency and competition through the establishment of independent assessment mechanisms.

### **Global economic governance**

138. We affirm that the current world financial and economic crisis and its consequences for development have exposed the

gaps and failures in global economic governance, including within the international financial institutions, and the urgent need for a global, universal and integrated response by the international community. We note with deep concern that seven years after the outbreak of the global crisis, there has been little progress made to strengthen the systemic, regulatory and structural aspects of the global financial system. Moreover, the lack of participation by developing countries in general in global economic issues and governance persists; this is a matter of grave concern because the workings of the global system affect all countries, and this democratic deficit has even more serious consequences for developing countries when the global economy is slowing down or in recession.

139. We strongly call on the international community to redress the democratic deficit in global economic governance and provide developing countries their rightful place and participation in the governance and decision-making of all the institutions and forums where discussions and decisions are taken on global economic and financial issues.

140. We affirm that efforts to reform the international financial architecture should therefore be seriously strengthened, should be internationally coordinated and should lead to the full participation of developing countries in international financial and economic decision-making and norm-setting. We call for comprehensive reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, including enhancement of the voting powers of developing countries in a time-bound manner, in order to enable greater equity between developed and developing countries and to eliminate all types of conditionalities tied to aid.

141. We call for the urgent completion of the 2010 IMF quota formula reform in order to ensure that the quotas and governance of IMF better reflect the relative weight of emerging and developing countries in the global economy. However, the redistribution of voting rights to reflect reality alone will not resolve the structural problems of financial instability and the lack of liquidity for developing countries in need to generate the necessary sustainable growth and development. Also the reform should encompass liquidity creation, including improvement in the



special drawing rights for developing countries. IMF must provide more comprehensive and flexible financial responses to the needs of developing countries, without imposing procyclical conditionalities and respecting their need for adequate policy space. Furthermore, leading personnel of the Bretton Woods institutions must be designated on the basis of their individual merits, through an open and fair process of selection. As long as IMF does not reflect the new realities in the global economy and its Director General keeps being designated through a process that lacks any transparency, its legitimacy will remain questionable.

142. We stress the need to hold a follow-up international conference on financing for development in 2015 to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration with a view to contributing to the post-2015 development agenda process.

143. While respecting the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the intergovernmental nature of the Organization, we recognize the important role of the United Nations in providing an intergovernmental forum, including through international conferences and summits for universal dialogue and consensus on global challenges with the due participation of relevant stakeholders.

144. We reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

### **Strengthening and reorienting the United Nations**

145. We reaffirm our commitment to increase the participation of developing countries in the decision-making bodies of multilateral institutions in order to render them more consistent with the current geopolitical reality.

146. We stress the importance of the central role of the United

Nations in global economic governance, which aims at enhancing the global partnership for development with a view to creating a supportive and enabling global environment for the attainment of sustainable development and to ensuring financial and economic stability. In this context, the General Assembly and a strengthened Economic and Social Council could both act to mitigate the impact of the international financial and economic crisis and to ensure the right of developing countries to policy space for sustainable development.

147. We stress that strengthening of the United Nations and its role in international cooperation for development is essential to respond to current and future challenges and opportunities emanating from the process of globalization. We recognize that the United Nations needs to improve its capabilities and capacities to fully implement its mandates and to ensure the effective delivery of its programmes in the social and economic development fields. In this regard, we urge the Secretary-General to further strengthen the development pillar of the whole Organization, including its Development Account.

148. We urge developed countries to show real political will, so that in the process of reform of the United Nations, including the strengthening and revitalization of the General Assembly as an emblem of global sovereignty, it can improve its capabilities and capacities to fully implement its mandates and ensure the effective delivery of its programme in the social, environmental and economic development fields.

149. We stress that strengthening of the United Nations and its role in international cooperation for development is essential to respond to current and future challenges and opportunities emanating from the process of globalization. Within this context, we express our concern over the growing imbalance between assessed and voluntary contributions in the proposed programme budgets of the Organization. We also stress that the level of resources to be approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations must be commensurate with all mandated programmes and activities in order to ensure their full and effective implementation.

150. We reaffirm that any United Nations Secretariat and management reform efforts, including on the budget process, must not seek to change the intergovernmental, multilateral and international nature of the Organization, but must strengthen the ability of Member States to perform their oversight and monitoring role, and that prior consideration and approval by Member States is essential in all cases where the measures to be implemented fall under the prerogatives of the General Assembly, and in this regard we recall resolution [66/257](#). We also reiterate the need to increase the representation of developing countries and the representation of women from developing countries, in particular at the senior levels, and to improve geographic distribution in the Secretariat and transparency in the recruitment process.

151. We call for continued efforts to reform the United Nations, including the revitalization of the General Assembly and a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, which correspond to the collective interests of developing countries.

152. We express concern over budget cuts that have a negative impact on the implementation of mandates approved by the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, particularly in the development pillar, and the growing imbalance between assessed and voluntary contributions.

153. We call for greater transparency, accountability and oversight by Member States with respect to voluntary and extrabudgetary resources. It is important that resources from voluntary and extrabudgetary contributions be used to support all priorities agreed to by Member States and that they be used strictly in accordance with the intergovernmentally agreed financial regulations and rules of the Organization.

154. We underscore the central role of the United Nations in global economic governance, as a truly universal and inclusive multilateral forum with unquestioned legitimacy, convening power and normative frameworks. We emphasize the important role that the General Assembly should play in the appointment of

the Secretary-General of the United Nations upon the recommendation of the Security Council in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter. In this regard, we stress that the process of selection of the Secretary-General should be inclusive of all Member States, as well as more transparent. Furthermore, we believe that regional rotation, as well as respect for equitable geographical representation, should be taken into account during selection and appointment processes.

155. We also recognize the importance of increasing the number of nationals from developing countries at the senior level in the Secretariat, in particular in the Senior Management Group.

### **Technology transfer, science and innovation for development**

156. We believe that science, knowledge and technology integration and innovation should be instruments for promoting peace and people's sustainable development, well-being and happiness and that they should thus be oriented towards the promotion of the empowerment of the poor, the eradication of poverty and hunger, and the promotion of solidarity and complementarity among and within peoples so that they may live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

157. We express our concern that science, technology and innovation can be abused as instruments to limit and undermine countries' sovereignty, sustainable development and poverty eradication.

158. We call for an end to the use of information and communication technologies, including social networks, in contravention of international law and in detriment to any State, in particular members of the Group of 77 or their citizens.

159. We reaffirm that technology plays a key role in addressing development challenges across a wide scope of issues, including in food and agriculture, water and sanitation, climate change, energy, industry, chemicals and waste management. Technology transfer, technology integration and the development and

promotion of endogenous technologies are important for developing countries to engender economic growth in an environmentally sustainable manner. We call on developed countries to implement their commitments to transfer technology to developing countries and provide access to technology on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, to enable the developing countries to shift to a more sustainable development path.

160. It is imperative that developed countries recommit themselves to the objective of technology transfer as one of the major components, along with finance, capacity-building and trade, of provision of the means of implementation towards sustainable development for developing countries, and to take actions to bridge the technological gap. We call for the early establishment by the United Nations system of a technology facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies.

161. We call for regulations and policies on intellectual property to be placed within a development framework, whereby intellectual property rights are oriented towards the promotion of balanced social, economic and environmental development. In this regard, we support the measures taken by developing countries to promote the implementation of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Development Agenda recommendations of 2007. We reiterate our call, made in paragraph 8 (vii) of the 2005 Doha Plan of Action adopted at the second South Summit of the Group of 77, for WIPO to continue to include in its future plans and activities, including legal advice, a development dimension that includes promoting development and access to knowledge for all, pro-development norm-setting, harmonization with the Convention on Biological Diversity rules, establishing development-friendly principles, and the transfer and dissemination of technology.

162. We also reiterate that the TRIPS Agreement of WTO contains flexibilities, and that it is the right of developing States members of WTO to make use of such flexibilities, as confirmed in the 2001 Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public

Health of WTO, and we support the use of these flexibilities in our countries, with the aim of promoting health, education and economic and social development. We note with great interest and appreciation that some developing countries have successfully made use of some TRIPS flexibilities to promote the use of generic medicines, which are lower in cost and thus greatly increase access to medicines at affordable prices. We reject attempts by any developed country or business interest to pressure developing countries not to exercise their right to make use of TRIPS Agreement flexibilities for social and development purposes and express our solidarity with those developing countries that have come under such pressure.

163. We stress the need to protect the knowledge of developing countries, indigenous peoples and local communities with regard to genetic resources, biodiversity and traditional knowledge, and especially from continuing attempts by persons or companies to patent such resources and knowledge without the approval of the countries, indigenous peoples and communities concerned.

164. We call for intensified efforts by our negotiators and policymakers to establish legal mechanisms, internationally or nationally, to prevent biopiracy by requiring disclosure of the country of origin and proof of benefit-sharing arrangements by applicants for such patents. We also call for strong provisions and effective mechanisms for technology transfer, including appropriate treatment of intellectual property, in the international climate change regime in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

## **Trade**

165. We believe that trade in the context of appropriate policies and rules can be an important tool for economic development. Because of the continuing global financial and economic crisis, there has been a decline in trade growth, which has had a severe impact on many developing countries as the result of the fall in export revenues, trade barriers and trade-distorting subsidies in developed countries, and restricted access to trade finance and reduced investment in production diversification and in the

promotion of exports and remains a matter of concern. It is essential to establish and uphold a universal, fair, rules-based, open, pro-development, non-discriminatory, inclusive and equitable multilateral trading system that contributes to growth, sustainable development and employment, particularly for developing countries.

166. We call for a timely and successful conclusion to the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which must fully respect its development mandate and place the needs and priorities of developing countries at its centre. Following the WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali in 2013, we call for an inclusive and transparent negotiating process and the prioritizing of the interests and issues of developing countries in the post-Bali programme. We view with concern that some developed countries members of WTO are more interested in gaining market access to developing countries, while they are themselves not willing to take adequate measures to eliminate or reduce protectionism in their agriculture sector or to provide more market access to developing countries.

167. We reiterate that developed countries should provide effective, sustainably financed trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building tailored to the specific needs and constraints of developing countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework of WTO, in order to address the supply-side and trade-related infrastructure and productive capacity constraints of least developed countries. Likewise, it is crucial for developing countries to have access to financial and technical assistance for capacity-building in order to implement effectively the new WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. In this context, special focus must be given, among other elements, to those projects and programmes oriented towards developing and strengthening corridors for reducing costs in international transit.

168. We emphasize the importance of facilitating accession to WTO. The accession process should be accelerated without political impediment and in an expeditious and transparent manner for developing countries, in full compliance with WTO rules. This would contribute to the rapid and full integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system.

169. We believe that trade rules, in WTO or in bilateral and regional trade agreements, should enable developing countries to have sufficient policy space so that they can make use of policy instruments and measures that are required for their economic and social development. We reiterate our call for the effective strengthening of the special and differential treatment and less than full reciprocity principles and provisions in WTO so as to broaden the policy space of developing countries and enable them to benefit more from the multilateral trading system. We also call for bilateral trade and investment agreements involving developed and developing countries to have sufficient special and differential treatment for developing countries to enable them to retain adequate policy space for social and economic development.

### **Migration**

170. We consider that the nexus between migration and development must be addressed comprehensively, mindful of the economic, social and environmental dimensions and include a cultural and human perspective. We recognize the need to address this issue through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive, balanced, coordinated and coherent approach, recognizing the role and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants and their families, especially those of women and children, regardless of their migration status.

171. We note that despite progress in discussion and dialogue and cooperation at the international level, migration remains inadequately reflected in development frameworks, development agendas and sectoral policies at both the national and global levels. Therefore, we are exploring the possibility of a legally binding convention on migration and development to improve the governance of international migration and to protect and promote the human rights of migrants and their contribution to development, regardless of their migratory status.

172. We acknowledge the important role that migrants play as



partners in the development of origin, transit and destination countries, and the need to enhance the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrant workers and their families. We also stress the need to continue to consider the recognition of the qualifications and competencies of migrants and their access to low-cost financial services for remittances.

## **Climate change**

173. We affirm that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. In this regard, we stress that the international response to climate change must fully respect the principles, provisions and ultimate objective of the Convention, in particular the principles of equity and of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

174. We reiterate that fulfilling the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will require strengthening the multilateral, rules-based regime under the Convention and therefore further reaffirm the importance of continuing the negotiations on climate change under the Convention in accordance with its principles and provisions and of adopting, in 2015, a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties.

175. We recall that climate change is one of the most serious global challenges of our times. We underscore the fact that developing countries continue to suffer the most from the adverse impacts of climate change, the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and the impact of response measures, even though they are the least responsible for climate change. Accordingly, we call for developed countries to take the lead in responding to climate change. Climate change threatens not only the development prospects of developing countries and their achievement of sustainable development but also the very existence and survival of countries and societies.

176. We recognize that low-lying and other small island countries, developing countries with low-lying coastal, arid and semi-arid areas or areas liable to floods, drought and desertification, and developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

177. We reaffirm the importance of implementing the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts adopted at the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013 (decision 2/CP.19). We also recognize the urgency of taking concrete steps during this year, ahead of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Lima, for the immediate operationalization of the mechanism.

178. We stress that the developed countries, given their historical responsibility, need to take the lead in addressing this challenge in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, particularly the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and equity, and provide financial and technological support to developing countries in a transparent, adequate and predictable manner under a modality of monitoring, reporting and verification.

179. We reiterate that the extent to which developing countries will effectively implement their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will depend on the effective implementation by developed countries of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology and will take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries.

180. We stress the need to urgently close the ambition gap, and express concern about the lack of fulfilment of commitments by developed countries. In addressing this gap, the focus must not be limited to mitigation only but also address gaps relating to finance, technology and support for capacity-building, balanced with a

focus on adaptation to climate change. We emphasize that developed countries must take robust and ambitious mitigation commitments, with ambitious quantitative targets for limiting and reducing emissions, as required by science and mandated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

181. We reiterate the urgency of expediting the process of operationalizing the Green Climate Fund and for its early capitalization, and call upon developed countries to meet the goal of mobilizing \$100 billion each year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries.

182. We affirm our support for the success of the meeting to be held in Venezuela ahead of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Lima, and reaffirm the need to achieve progress in negotiations towards an ambitious, balanced, fair and effective agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in accordance with its principles and provisions, to be agreed in 2015 and to enter into force in 2020 and that actually contributes to the stabilization of the climate system.

### **Biological diversity**

183. We reaffirm the recognition contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development about the severity of global biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems, and emphasize that these undermine global development, affecting food security and nutrition, the provision of and access to water, and the health of the rural poor and of people worldwide, including present and future generations. This highlights the importance of the conservation of biodiversity, enhancing habitat connectivity and building ecosystem resilience.

184. We recognize the importance of the role of the collective actions of the indigenous people and local communities for the protection, use and conservation of biodiversity. We also reaffirm that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important

contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods. We further recognize that indigenous peoples and local communities are often most directly dependent on biodiversity and ecosystems and thus are often most immediately affected by their loss and degradation.

185. We welcome the important outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, especially the commitment to doubling biodiversity-related international financial flows to developing countries by 2015 and at least maintaining this level until 2020 to contribute to the achievement of the Convention's three objectives. We also call upon the parties to the Convention to review progress made in this context at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties towards adopting a final target for resource mobilization.

186. We welcome the realization of the joint briefing held on 30 October 2013 by the United Nations Environment Programme, WIPO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNDP, UNCTAD, the secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, including actions taken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge. We note that similar interactions should be encouraged, recognizing the respective mandates of the organizations involved, and call upon all Member States, in particular developed countries, to speed up the process for the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

187. We note with deep concern the unprecedented increase in poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and their products in all regions, in particular of elephant tusks and rhinoceros horns. We stress that this trend is detrimental to ecological balance, promotes crime within and across borders and must be halted with a sense of

urgency to avoid reversing decades of conservation gains. We therefore strongly condemn poaching and crimes related to illicit trafficking in wildlife, and agree to enhance international cooperation in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and other relevant agreements to curb such practices, address the demand and supply of wildlife and its products and increase the capacity of communities affected by such trafficking to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

## **Forests**

188. We highlight the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests to people and the contributions of sustainable forest management to the objective of sustainable development. We support cross-sectoral and cross-institutional policies promoting sustainable forest management (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development), and recognize the importance of the holistic, integral and alternative approaches for the sustainable management of forests developed under the climate change negotiations.

189. We note the outcome of the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 8 to 19 April 2013, and underscore the importance of the four global objectives on forests for the international community as a whole and in particular for developing countries. The fourth global objective is especially relevant for developing countries since it identifies the need to reverse the reduction in official development assistance and to mobilize new and additional financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management. In fulfilling the fourth global objective, it is essential to respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries. In this regard, we urge developed countries to exercise strong political will and flexibility to contribute to the achievement of sustainable forest management.

190. We call for the establishment of a new global forest fund in line with the principles of sustainable development. We consider

that this is necessary in order to channel the funds needed by developing countries to sustainably manage their forests.

### **Desertification, land degradation and drought**

191. We reaffirm that desertification, land degradation and drought represent serious concerns for developing countries. International action is, therefore, urgently required to address these challenges. We emphasize the great importance of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, particularly in Africa, stressing that desertification, land degradation and drought undermine the three dimensions of sustainable development. We reiterate that addressing desertification, land degradation and drought enables countries to deal with several global policy challenges, such as food security, adaptation to climate change and forced migration. In this context, we note the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held from 16 to 27 September 2013 in Windhoek.

192. We reiterate the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information and forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels. In this regard, we invite States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information and forecasting and early warning systems.

### **Oceans and seas**

193. We stress the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and the creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change. We therefore commit to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and

future generations, and to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development.

### **Internet governance, including the right to privacy**

194. We view with dismay that some countries have recently been undertaking extensive, arbitrary and unlawful surveillance and/or interception of communications, including extraterritorial surveillance and/or interception of communications as well as the collection of personal data, including on a mass scale, on people and institutions in other countries, including on political leaders, senior officials and various government departments and agencies, as well as citizens. We call for the ending of such activities, which violate the human right to privacy of individuals and have a negative impact on the relations between countries. In this regard, we all call for intergovernmental entities to discuss and review the use of information and communications technologies to ensure that they fully comply with international law, including human rights law, in accordance with the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

195. We welcome the NETmundial Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance held in São Paulo, Brazil, on 23 and 24 April 2014, and take note of its outcome document.

196. We emphasize the important opportunities provided by information and communications technologies, including social media and related infrastructure, as a vehicle to promote better understanding among nations and the achievement of internationally agreed upon development objectives.

197. We recognize at the same time that the illegal use of information and communications technologies has a negative impact on nations and their citizens. In this regard, we express our strong rejection of the use of information and communications technologies in violation of international law, including the right to privacy, and of any action of this nature directed against any Member State, in particular a State member of the Group of 77.

198. We further underscore the importance of ensuring that the use of such technologies should be fully compatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular the principles of sovereignty, the non-interference in internal matters and the internationally recognized rules of civil coexistence among States.

199. In this regard, we take note with concern of the information published in international media about the objectives of the so-called “ZunZuneo” network, which would constitute an illicit use of new information and communications technologies.

200. We therefore reiterate our commitment to intensifying international efforts directed at safeguarding cyberspace and promoting its exclusive use for the achievement of peaceful purposes and as a vehicle to contribute to both economic and social development, and highlight that international cooperation, in full respect of human rights, is the only viable option for fostering the positive effects of information and communications technologies, preventing their potential negative effects, promoting their peaceful and legitimate use and guaranteeing that both scientific and technological progress is directed at preserving peace and promoting the welfare and development of our societies.

### **Millennium Development Goals**

201. We express our commitment to strengthening efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and to taking a leading role in shaping the international development agenda during the post-2015 period. We call upon the international community to redouble all efforts for the accelerated achievement of the Goals by 2015 through concrete measures.

202. We note the progress achieved so far in reaching the Millennium Development Goals but are concerned about the unevenness and gaps in achievement and about the vast socioeconomic and environmental challenges that remain in developing countries. We reiterate that the Goals remain critical



for meeting the basic needs of people in developing countries, many of which are not on track to achieving them by 2015.

203. We underscore the central role of the global partnership for development and the importance of Millennium Development Goal No. 8 in achieving all the Goals and that without substantial international support and systemic changes, several of the Goals will not be achieved in many developing countries by 2015. We call upon the international community to intensify its efforts to provide enhanced means of implementation to developing countries through a renewed global partnership based on the collective quest to eradicate poverty and deprivation.

### **Sustainable development and sustainable development goals**

204. We recall and reaffirm the statement made by world leaders in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

205. We reiterate that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. We also reaffirm the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.

206. We stress that sustainable development goals should address and be focused on the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental)

and be guided by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, respecting all the Rio Principles and taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities.

207. We reaffirm that the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is the basis for the work of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals. We underscore the importance for the sustainable development goals to build upon and complement the Millennium Development Goals in making progress towards the overarching objective of achieving poverty eradication.

208. We stress that progress in realizing the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda will depend on progress in creating a pro-development, international, enabling environment and delivering the relevant means of implementation, particularly in the areas of finance, trade, technology and capacity-building, to developing countries.

209. We reaffirm that the guiding principles of the sustainable development goals must be based on all principles set out at the major United Nations summits and conferences in the social, environmental and economic fields, bearing in mind those set out in, among others, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and those arising from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012), the International Conference on Financing for Development (2002) and the World Summit for Social Development (1995), and be consistent with international law. The process and outcome of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals should fully respect all the Rio Principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The sustainable development goals should contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all the major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields.

210. We reaffirm the recognition that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, and note that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development. We are convinced that in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environment needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature. We call for a holistic, integrated approach to sustainable development, which may include, among others, the recognition by some countries of the principles mentioned above, to guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystems.

211. We welcome the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, held on 22 April 2013, to commemorate International Mother Earth Day. At the event, different economic approaches were discussed in the context of sustainable development, to promote a more ethical basis for the relationship between humanity and Earth, as was the need to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, bearing in mind the importance of exploring the adoption and implementation of policies to build national developmental strategies that promote a better distribution of benefits, going beyond the mere production of raw commodities, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [67/214](#).

212. We stress that the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals must be the result of an inclusive intergovernmental process. Thus, we reaffirm our commitment to actively engaging in such negotiations.

213. We underscore the need to define adequate means of implementation for each and every sustainable development goal, as well as the need for a dedicated sustainable development goal on the strengthened global partnership for sustainable development containing broader commitments on the means of implementation and international cooperation for sustainable

development.

### **Post-2015 development agenda**

214. We reaffirm the centrality of a just, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental negotiation process in the establishment of the post-2015 development agenda, as decided at the special event towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2013. We stress that this intergovernmental negotiation process will need to focus on its modalities and substantive aspects to arrive at a negotiated and agreed outcome document, taking fully into account the outcomes of the various follow-up processes mandated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as of the major summits and conferences related to the social, economic and environmental fields.

215. Recalling the statement made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, we emphasize that poverty eradication must remain the central and overarching objective of the post-2015 development agenda. We strongly support the view that the post-2015 development agenda should reinforce the commitment of the international community to eradicate poverty by 2030.

216. We underline the need for a coherent approach to the post-2015 development agenda, which should reinforce the commitment of the international community to poverty eradication and the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner with the contributions of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, the financing for development process, the Intergovernmental Committee on Experts for Sustainable Development Financing, the process to develop options for a United Nations technology facilitation mechanism and other relevant processes.

217. We reaffirm that the post-2015 development agenda must fully adhere to the Rio Principles, in particular the principle of

common but differentiated responsibilities.

218. We underscore the importance of strengthening the global partnership for development, to be based on quantified and time-bound targets, consistent with Millennium Development Goal No. 8 and in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in the post-2015 development agenda. North-South cooperation remains the core of this partnership and South-South and triangular cooperation are a useful complement to North-South cooperation. Strengthened commitment from developed countries is therefore required to enhance international cooperation and scale up support for developing countries. We emphasize the need for developed countries to urgently fulfil the official development assistance commitments they have made, individually and collectively, including the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance by 2015 and the target of allocating between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance for least developed countries.

219. We emphasize that the post-2015 development agenda must meaningfully address issues of reform of the institutions of global economic governance in order to strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in decision-making in these institutions. We also note that the global economic, financial and trading systems remain imbalanced, to the disadvantage of developing countries, and in this regard we stress the importance of identifying, in the post-2015 development agenda, the weaknesses and imbalances of these global systems and of proposing actions for improvements with the aim of supporting the development agenda and the programmes of developing countries.

220. We affirm the need for a sound implementation mechanism for the post-2015 agenda to ensure development resources for the attainment of goals. In this regard, we call for the intensification of development financing, for the establishment and improvement of mechanisms of technology transfer and for the enhancement of efforts to build the capacities of developing countries.

221. We call for a responsible accountability approach to be adopted on the question of partnerships involving the United Nations, particularly as regards participation of the private sector, civil society and philanthropic entities. In this regard, we reaffirm the need to enhance transparency, coherence and sustainability, as well as accountability to Member States, in United Nations partnerships, and stress the need to ensure that procedures exist for the consideration and approval of any such initiatives by Member States in the General Assembly, in order to preserve the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations.

222. We emphasize that the post-2015 development agenda should be an agenda for development, and in this context it is important to advance economic, social and environmental development in a comprehensive, balanced and coordinated manner. This agenda should be broader than that of the Millennium Development Goals and aim to include areas, issues and groups of populations that are key to achieving sustainable development.

223. We also stress the importance for the post-2015 development agenda, if it is to be global in nature and universally applicable to all, to fully respect the development policy space of developing countries to make use of policy tools and measures that are required to implement their policies for poverty eradication and other developmental plans and programmes. We also stress that the post-2015 development agenda should promote rapid, sustained and inclusive economic growth in developing countries as a key requirement for eradicating poverty and hunger and reducing inequalities within and among countries.

#### **Part V: Particular needs of developing countries in special situations**

224. We recall the special needs of Africa, the only continent currently not on track to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. We recognize that, while economic growth is returning, there is a need to sustain the recovery, which is fragile and uneven, to face the ongoing adverse impacts of multiple crises on development

and the serious challenges these impacts pose to the fight against poverty and hunger, which could further undermine the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Goals in Africa.

225. We express profound concern about the fact that the commitment to doubling aid to Africa by 2010, as articulated at the summit of the Group of Eight held in Gleneagles, United Kingdom, was not entirely reached, and in this regard we stress the need to make rapid progress in order to fulfil that and other donors' commitments to increase aid through a variety of means, including the provision of new additional resources, the transfer of technology and the building of capacity of African countries, and to support their sustainable development. We call for continued support for Africa's development initiatives, including Agenda 2063 (a continental strategic vision and priority framework for socioeconomic development), the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. On the other hand, we welcome the support that some developing countries have extended to Africa through South-South and triangular cooperation programmes.

226. We express concern for the situation in the least developed countries, which continues to deteriorate as a consequence of ongoing multiple and mutually exacerbating global crises. The global financial and economic crisis currently under way is clearly undermining development in the least developed countries. The modest development gains that these countries have made over the years are being reversed, pushing a larger number of their people into extreme poverty. Many least developed countries continue to lag in meeting most of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. We emphasize the need for the full and effective implementation of the commitments made in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. We further underline the critical need to realize expeditiously a renewed and strengthened global partnership for the least developed countries in order to overcome their structural challenges, eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable half the number of least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation from the category by 2020.

227. We recall that the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States have been acknowledged by the international community at various United Nations meetings, including those held in Rio de Janeiro (1992), Barbados (1994), Johannesburg (2002) and Mauritius (2005), and note with concern that insufficient steps have been taken at the international level to address the vulnerabilities and effectively support the sustainable development efforts of such States. We recall that climate change and sea level rise pose the greatest threat to the survival and viability of small island developing States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development goals, and call on the international community to commit itself to urgently increasing international cooperation to support those efforts, particularly through increased financial resources, capacity-building, transfer of technology and know-how, and increased participation of small island developing States in international economic decision-making. We welcome the decision to convene the third International Conference for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in 2014, in Apia, and call for enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States in implementing the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. We commit to work towards a strong outcome for the Apia conference that supports small island developing States in their sustainable development needs and aspirations.

228. We recognize the special needs of and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries caused by these States' lack of territorial access to the sea, which is aggravated by their remoteness from world markets, and also express concern about the fact that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain very vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges the international community faces, including the financial and economic crisis and climate change. We stress the need for the international community to enhance development assistance to landlocked developing countries to help them overcome their vulnerabilities, build resilience and set themselves on a path of sustainable social and economic development. We reaffirm the need to urgently



address the special development needs of and challenges faced by landlocked and transit developing countries through their genuine partnership with sufficient support and cooperation from the international community for the effective implementation of priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action and its successor programme. We welcome the decision of the General Assembly to hold a comprehensive ten-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014, and call upon the international community to critically consider the special needs of and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries, and to help develop priorities for a new, more comprehensive, common action-oriented framework of landlocked developing countries for the next decade.

229. We recognize that middle-income countries still face significant development challenges, and underline that, despite the recent progress achieved and the efforts made by middle-income countries, 75 per cent of the world's poor population lives in those countries. The achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the achievement of full employment and the creation of jobs for youth, the diversification of their economies, and the development of technologies continue to be huge challenges for middle-income countries. We underline the increasing solidarity and role played by middle-income countries in the area of South-South cooperation in support of the development efforts of other developing countries. We also note the outcomes of the High-Level Conference of Middle-Income Countries organized by Costa Rica and UNIDO in June 2013.

230. We stress the need for the United Nations development system to ensure that it addresses the diverse and specific development needs of middle-income countries in a coordinated manner through, inter alia, an accurate assessment of the national priorities and needs of these countries, taking into account the use of variables that go beyond per capita income criteria and recognizing the multidimensional nature of development and poverty, and through adequate, systemic and better-focused support in accordance with national plans.

231. We reiterate our call for the immediate and full withdrawal of

Israel, the occupying Power, from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 and from the remaining Lebanese occupied land. We reaffirm our support for a Middle East peace process aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions **242 (1967)**, **338 (1973)**, **425 (1978)** and **1850 (2008)**, and the principle of land for peace. In this context, we also reaffirm our support for the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States in March 2002.

232. We stress the need for the early realization by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination and to the independence of their State of Palestine to allow for their stability, prosperity and development towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, to which all peoples are entitled. We express support for the efforts of the Palestinian people to achieve independence and welcome in this regard the submission by the State of Palestine of its application, on 23 September 2011, for full membership in the United Nations, and notes the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution **67/19** of 29 November 2012, by which it accorded to Palestine non-member observer State status in the United Nations. We continue to support the admission process of the State of Palestine to become a full member of the United Nations as soon as possible. We recall that 2014 was declared the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

233. We condemn the ongoing Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the illegal actions by the occupying Power that continue to cause civilian casualties, socioeconomic and humanitarian hardship and destruction to Palestinian properties, infrastructure and agricultural lands, and to undermine the contiguity, unity and integrity of the Territory.

234. We express deep concern about the further decline of the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people, particularly in the besieged Gaza Strip, as a result of the illegal Israeli practices, including construction of settlements and the

Wall and the imposition of a blockade and hundreds of checkpoints. We call upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cease immediately all illegal measures impairing the Palestinian economy and development, including, in particular, the inhumane and illegal blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including commercial trade throughout, into and out of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and to make reparation for all damages caused to Palestinian properties, institutions and infrastructure. We reiterate our call upon the international community to continue providing much needed developmental and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people during this critical period, particularly for reconstruction and economic recovery in the Gaza Strip.

235. We reaffirm the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources, and demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan.

236. We reaffirm the need for the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Malvinas Islands, which seriously damages the economic capacities of Argentina, and the need for both parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands are going through the process recommended by the General Assembly.

237. We reaffirm the need to find a peaceful solution to the sovereignty issues facing developing countries, including the dispute over the Chagos archipelago, including Diego Garcia, which was unlawfully excised by the United Kingdom from the territory of Mauritius, prior to independence, in violation of international law and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965. Failure

to resolve these decolonization and sovereignty issues would seriously damage and undermine the development and economic capacities and prospects of developing countries. In this regard, we note with great concern that despite the strong opposition of Mauritius, the United Kingdom purported to establish a “marine protected area” around the Chagos archipelago, which contravenes international law and further impedes the exercise by Mauritius of its sovereign rights over the archipelago and the right of return of Mauritius citizens who were forcibly removed from the archipelago by the United Kingdom.

238. We take note of the Havana Declaration adopted at the Second Summit of the Community of the Latin American and Caribbean States, held on 28 and 29 January 2014.

239. We reaffirm our firm rejection of the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries, and reiterate the urgent need to eliminate them immediately. We emphasize that such actions not only undermine the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, but also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. We therefore call on the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries.

240. We express our rejection of unilateral lists and certifications by some developed countries affecting developing countries, in particular those referring to terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and others of a similar nature.

241. We reiterate our call, made at the second South Summit, organized by the Group of 77 and China and held in Doha in 2005, for the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as to the principle of neighborliness, causes huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba. We urge strict

compliance to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on this matter. We also take note that in the Havana Declaration, the Heads of State and Government of the Community of the Latin American and Caribbean States reaffirmed their strongest rejection of the implementation of unilateral coercive measures and once again reiterated their solidarity with Cuba, while reaffirming their call upon the Government of the United States to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on that sisterly nation for more than five decades. They rejected the inclusion of Cuba in the list of States sponsors of terrorism published by the State Department of the United States, and requested that an end be put to that unilateral practice.



895 readings

86 readings

## [Rio+20; Canada - the DELETER of key principles, and commitments](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 28 June 2014 12:27

BY Joan Russow Global Compliance Research Project

jUNE 17, 2012



After doing an analysis of a document that preceded the June 13-15 \Prep Com for Rio+20, I found that Canada either alone, with members of JUSCANS\* was prominent in deleting key provisions. Enclosed is an outline of the sections proposed for deletion by Canada

HIGHLIGHTED IN RED ARE THE SECTIONS DELETED BY CANADA

2.bis We acknowledge the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels through integrated approaches, incorporating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions [, **in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. -G77; US, Canada, Japan, EU delete.**]



**41. Alt1 We acknowledge the importance of corporate sustainability reporting and encourage companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle. We recognize the need for *global best practices on sustainability reporting, and in this regard, we encourage industry, interested governments, as well as relevant stakeholders, [to launch a process - US, Canada delete] with the support of the UN system, to***

**41. Alt1 We acknowledge the importance of corporate sustainability reporting and encourage companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle. We recognize the need for global best practices on sustainability reporting, and in this regard, we encourage industry, interested governments, as well as relevant stakeholders, [to launch a process - US, Canada delete] with the support of the UN system, to develop [a] model for best practice and facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, building upon the experiences of already existing national and international reporting frameworks, such as the Global Reporting Initiative, and examine options for capacity building measures for developing countries. - US, Japan, Canada revert; G77 delete]**

## **Biodiversity**

Biodiversity 1. We reaffirm the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in **[maintaining ecosystem services which are critical foundations for –US, EU, Mexico, New Zealand; G77 delete]** sustainable development and human well-being. We recognize the severity of global biodiversity loss and degradation of [ecosystem services / **ecosystems**] and emphasize that these undermine global development, affecting food security and nutrition, provision of and **[the right and –Holy See; US, Canada, EU delete]** access to water, health of the rural poor and of people worldwide, including present and future generations. **[This**

**highlights the importance of managing biodiversity at landscape and seascape scales, enhancing habitat connectivity and building ecosystem resilience. –Australia, Mexico, Norway, EU; G77 reserve]** We recognize that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, **[and their wider application –G77, US; New Zealand reserve]** can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods. We further recognize that indigenous peoples and local communities are often most directly dependent on biodiversity and **[ecosystems / ecosystem services]** and thus are often most immediately affected by their loss and degradation.

14. We **[also reaffirm that all the Principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development / reaffirm the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and all its principles - G77; US delete]****[in particular the Principle of CBDR and equity –G77; US, Japan delete]**, will continue to guide the international community in the achievement of sustainable development and the future we want **[and will serve as the basis for cooperation, coherence and implementation of agreed commitments, including in this outcome –US, Japan, Canada delete; G77 retain]**.

16. We recognize the importance of the three Rio Conventions to advancing sustainable development and in this regard we urge all parties to fully implement their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, **[on the basis of equity and –Canada, New Zealand; US delete; Japan reserves]** **[in accordance with [the principle of / their –Canada, New Zealand; US delete; Japan reserves]** common but differentiated responsibilities **[and respective capabilities – Canada, New Zealand; US delete; Japan reserves]**, **-US, Japan, EU delete; G77, RoK, Norway retain]** the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification **[in accordance with their respective principles - New Zealand]**, to take effective and concrete actions and measures at all levels, and to enhance international cooperation.

19. We acknowledge that since 1992 there have been areas of insufficient progress and setbacks in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, aggravated by multiple financial, economic, food and energy crises, which have threatened the ability of all countries, in particular developing countries, to achieve sustainable development **[and in this regard it is critical that we observe the principle of non-regression. –G77; US, EU,**

**Canada, Japan, Switzerland delete]**

**[24 bis We acknowledge that climate change is a cross-cutting and persistent crisis and express our concern that the scale and gravity of the negative impacts of climate change [affect all countries –EU; G77 delete] and undermine the ability of [particularly the most vulnerable –EU; G77 delete] developing countries to achieve sustainable development and the MDGs and for some threaten the territorial integrity and their existence and viability as countries. [Therefore we underscore that combating climate change requires urgent and ambitious action and the widest possible cooperation among all countries —; US, Canada, Japan delete]**

**24 ter We express deep concern on the imposition of laws and other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries, which undermine international law and the rules of the WTO and also severely threaten freedom of trade and investment, and in this regard urge States to refrain from enacting and implementing such measures that hamper the full achievement of sustainable development, as well as trade in developing countries - G77, Belarus; US, Canada delete; EU, Australia reserve]**

**[24. quat We reaffirm the need to take further effective measures to remove obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated. People under foreign occupation must be protected in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law. –G77; Canada, US, Japan delete; EU reserve]**

**[24. quint We also reaffirm that in accordance with the Declaration on the Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, this shall not be construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in compliance with**

**the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and thus possessed of a Government representing the whole people belonging to the territory without distinction of any kind. –G77; US, Canada, Azerbaijan, Japan delete; EU reserve]**

[33. We recognize that the planet Earth and its ecosystem[s –US] are our home and that Mother Earth is a common expression in a number of countries and regions **[and that some countries recognize its rights in the context of the promotion of sustainable development]**. We are convinced that in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environment needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature. - Canada, US, Holy See delete;EU, Japan revert]

**[41. Alt1 We acknowledge the importance of corporate sustainability reporting and encourage companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle. We recognize the need for global best practices on sustainability reporting, and in this regard, we encourage industry, interested governments, as well as relevant stakeholders, [to launch a process - US, Canada delete]with the support of the UN system, to develop [a] model for best practice and facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, building upon the experiences of already existing national and international reporting frameworks, such as the Global Reporting Initiative, and examine options for capacity building measures for developing countries. - US, Japan, Canada revert; G77 delete]**

**[We recognize that immediate measures to reform and strengthen international environmental governance are required in order to adequately respond to the immediate and emerging challenges of the implementation of sustainable development. - Mexico]**

89. We [call /invite – US] on the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the UN development system to consider appropriate measures for integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions across the UN System's operational activities. We also emphasize that [increasing the financial contributions to / **effective management of resources**

**within - US]** the United Nations development system **[in particular core resources, because of their untied nature –G77, Mexico; US delete]** is **[key / an important means – US]** to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard we recognize the mutually reinforcing links among increased effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the United Nations development system, achieving concrete results in assisting developing countries in eradicating poverty and achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development. **[In this context, we note the importance of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR).-G77, Canada, US delete; Russian Federation retain] – EU, Mexico, US support Chair’s text**

Energy 4. **[We recognize the importance of improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy. -EU]** We also recognize the importance of cleaner and energy-efficient technologies in addressing climate change **[and in achieving the objective of limiting the[increase in –EU] global average temperature[increase/ below 2 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels –EU, Norway; US delete] [taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and [historical responsibilities / and respective capabilities – Canada] -G77; US delete] - Russian Federation delete].** We also recognize the need for energy efficiency measures in urban planning, buildings, and transportation, and in the production of goods and services and in the design of products. We also recognize the importance of promoting incentives in favour of, and removing disincentives to, energy efficiency and the diversification of the energy mix, including promoting **[technology –US delete]** research and development in **[all countries, including –EU, Belarus]** developing countries.

[Trade 9. We commit to take action, [where appropriate, - Australia, New Zealand delete] to **[phase out / get substantial reductions of –Canada, Japan, Norway]** subsidies [that are market distorting [and / or –New Zealand] / **that could – Canada, Japan]** inhibit / **gradually eliminate environmentally harmful subsidies that are incompatible with –EU; G77 delete]** sustainable development, [taking into account the [specific conditions and – Australia delete] different levels of development of individual countries –EU delete]. We affirm the need for accompanying targeted measures to protect the poor and vulnerable groups. **[We call on the WTO and UNCTAD to continue to monitor the situation within their respective mandates and in cooperation with UNEP and other**

**relevant international organizations to assess progress in this endeavour. – EU; Canada reserve] –US, G77 delete; Australia, Japan, Norway reserve; New Zealand retain; Switzerland, Mexico retain original language]**

Health 8. We [remain committed to the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for further implementation of the Programme of Action and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and – **Holy See delete]** intend to pay special attention to gender equality and women's empowerment [, and sexual and reproductive health – **Holy See delete]**. [US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland retain original formulation] (*G77 streamline with para 9*)

Health 9. We commit to reduce maternal and child mortality, and to improve the health of women, adolescents and children. We reaffirm our commitment to gender equality and to protect the human rights of women, men [and adolescents – **Holy See delete]** to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, [**including sexual and reproductive health – Holy See delete]**, free from coercion, discrimination and violence. We will work actively to ensure that health systems provide the necessary information and health [**care – Holy See]** services addressing the [sexual and reproductive – **Holy See delete]** needs of women [**giving particular attention to maternal and emergency obstetric care – Holy See]** [and their reproductive [rights/ **health -G77]**, including ensuring universal access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern methods of family planning, as this is essential for women's health and human rights and advancing gender equality – **Holy See delete]**. [US, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, New Zealand retain original formulation] (*G77 streamline with para 8*)

Jobs 10. We acknowledge the important nexus between international migration and development and in this regard we call upon States to promote and protect the human rights [and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status - G77 to revert], especially those of women and children, taking into account their economic and social circumstances. We further recognize the importance of renewing the political will to act cooperatively and constructively in addressing international migration and to address international migration through

international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue. **[US, delete paragraph; Mexico, Holy See: retain; G77, Canada: reserve]**

Transport 2. We support the development of sustainable transport systems, including energy efficient multi-modal transport systems, notably public mass transportation systems, clean fuels and vehicles, as well as improved transportation systems in rural areas. We recognize the need to promote an integrated approach to policy-making at the national, regional and local levels for transport services and systems to promote sustainable development. We also recognize that the special development needs of landlocked and transit developing countries need to be taken into account while establishing **[sustainable transport systems for transit – EU, Australia; G77 to confirm] [and international support for developing countries to achieve sustainable transport – G77; EU, US, Canada delete]**.

\*\*\*Transport 2. We support the development of sustainable transport systems, including energy efficient multi-modal transport systems, notably public mass transportation systems, clean fuels and vehicles, as well as improved transportation systems in rural areas. We recognize the need to promote an integrated approach to policy-making at the national, regional and local levels for transport services and systems to promote sustainable development. We also recognize that the special development needs of landlocked and transit developing countries need to be taken into account while establishing **[sustainable transport systems for transit – EU, Australia; G77 to confirm][and international support for developing countries to achieve sustainable transport – G77; EU, US, Canada delete]**.

Health 8. We [remain committed to the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the

*US, Canada, EU reserve on the following sub sections and paragraphs*

## **LLDCs – as of 2 June (1:00 pm)**

*Stand alone section if retained – not to be considered under “regions”*

**LLDC1.** We encourage the international community to speed up further the implementation of the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the Declaration on the midterm review, in a better-coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communications and energy infrastructure, so as to support these countries' sustainable development. – G77; US, EU reserve]

## **Africa– as of 2 June (1:00 pm)**

*Stand alone section if retained – not to be considered under “regions”*

**Africa1.** While we acknowledge that some progress has been made towards the fulfillment of international commitments related to Africa's development needs, we emphasize that sustainable development still remains elusive in the continent. - G77; EU, US reserve]

**Africa2.** We express our deep concerns that previously agreed commitments related to Africa's development needs have not been fulfilled. We commit to addressing the special development needs of Africa through accelerated provision of financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building in order to achieve sustainable development. To this end, we call for the mobilization of financial resources through public and private means, including support towards the implementation of the New Partnership for



Africa's Development (NEPAD), which is a framework for sustainable development on the continent to be shared by all Africa's people, as well as other established regional and sub-regional efforts, including through:

- a) Providing financing, technical cooperation and institutional cooperation and human and institutional capacity - building at the regional, subregional and national levels, consistent with national priorities and policies
- b) Promoting technology development, transfer and diffusion to Africa and further develop technology and knowledge available in African centres of excellence;
- c) Supporting African countries in developing effective science and technology institutions and research activities capable of developing and adapting to world class technologies;
- d) Supporting the development of national programmes and strategies to promote education within the context of nationally owned and led strategies for poverty reduction and strengthening research institutions in education in order to increase the capacity to fully support the achievement of internationally agreed development goals related to education, including MDGs;
- e) Enhancing the industrial productivity, diversity and competitiveness of African countries through a combination of financial and technological support for the development of key infrastructure, access to technology, networking of research centres, adding value to export products, skills development and enhancing market access in support of sustainable development. - G77; US, EU reserve]

**Africa3.** We call further on the international community to enhance support and fulfill commitments to advance action in areas critical to Africa's sustainable development, including: improving agricultural productivity and food security; promoting research and development and the use of biotechnology for sustainable development; combating desertification and land degradation; achieving sound management of coastal, marine and lacustrine ecosystems; enhancing sustainable use of natural resources, including freshwater, forests and biodiversity; promoting sustainable consumption and production and sustainable industrial development; ensuring the sound management of chemicals and waste; promoting sustainable tourism; ensuring access to secure

and sustainable energy; achieving sustainable exploitation of mineral resources; enhancing access to safe drinking water and sanitation; promoting sustainable urban development; strengthening disaster risk preparedness and reduction; achieving inclusive and equitable growth; and furthering progress made in health and education. –G77; US, EU reserve]

## **Climate change [agreed ad ref]**

Climate 1. We reiterate that countries should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind [, **consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities –G77; EU requests clarification; US, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland delete**]. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and we express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally. We are deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, [especially LDCs, SIDS and Africa, -G77, Mexico, US delete; EU, ROK, Canada retain] **[that –US] are [especially –US] vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, and are already experiencing increased impacts including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification[, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty, [to achieve sustainable development and to –EU] advance gender equality [, noting the disproportionate impact on women –EU; Iceland, Norway delete] and achieve sustainable development. / which may present additional challenges to achieving sustainable development – US]**

Climate 2. **[Consistent with the provisions of the UNFCCC, - G77; EU, US delete]** We underscore that [combating / **addressing –Russian Federation**] climate change requires urgent action and the widest possible cooperation of all countries[, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities – US, Japan, New Zealand delete]. In this regard, we express our commitment to an effective and appropriate international response. [We stress that a significant gap in mitigation **[and adaptation –G77, ROK]** efforts remains to be [closed in order to hold / **minimized with a view to holding –US]** the increase in global mean temperature below 2 degrees **[or 1.5 degrees – G77]** Celsius above pre-industrial levels. – Russian Federation, Japan delete] **[We acknowledge that there is a gap**

**between the aggregate level of reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases to be achieved through global mitigation efforts and the reduction needed as part of the global effort to achieve the range indicated in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. –Japan]**  
[We welcome the outcomes of / **We agree to build on the progress achieved at** -G77; Canada, New Zealand retain] [COP-17/CMP 7 – Mexico delete] achieved at Durban, and will intensify our efforts towards the timely implementation of all the decisions adopted at those meetings.

Climate 3. We recognize the importance of mobilizing [predictable – US delete] funding from a variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including innovative sources of finance [**consistent with the provisions of the UNFCCC –G77**], to support [nationally appropriate –Norway delete] mitigation actions and adaptation measures, technology transfer [**on mutually agreed terms –Canada**] and capacity-building in developing countries. In this regard, we welcome the [designation and –Mexico delete] launching of the Green Climate Fund [at COP-17/CMP-7 as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. [We also – Mexico delete] [, **call for its prompt operationalization and – Mexico, Norway, Switzerland**] encourage [developed countries / Parties –Norway; G77 retain] [**and other countries in a position to do so –Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland**] to make financial contributions for the expeditious operationalization of the Green Climate Fund [**in accordance with para 9 decision 3 of COP 17 – Japan**]. –US, Canada delete]

[Climate 4. We highlight the need to better understand and address cross-cutting issues and interlinkages, including those among water, energy, food, health, [ecosystems / **biodiversity – Switzerland**] and climate change. [In this regard, we welcome initiatives and partnerships aimed at achieving synergies and minimizing conflicts among policy objectives, including through the utilization of science-based climate monitoring and information. -US delete] –G77 delete para; *EU, ROK, Norway move to beginning of Section V. A. after chapeau*]

**[Climate 4 bis. We recognize that short-lived climate pollutants are responsible for a significant fraction of current climate forcing, as well as serious public health problems and damage**

**to crops. We applaud the efforts being made by the Climate Clean Air Coalition to reduce short-lived climate pollutants, and urge countries and the private sector to take immediate actions to reduce emissions of these substances. –US, Canada, Norway; G77, Switzerland delete]**

**Chemicals and waste [agreed ad ref]**

*Note: EU suggests that it would be easier to understand this text if the paragraph order was change to 1, 6, 3, 8, 2, 4, 10, 11, New 5, 9. Para. 7 and 12 have been merged with 6 and 9 respectively.*

*Consistency required in referring to “throughout their life- cycle”.*

Chemicals 1. We recognize that sound management of chemicals is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. We further recognize that growing global production and use of chemicals and prevalence in the environment calls for increased international cooperation. We reaffirm our aim to achieve by 2020 sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, as set out in the JPOI. We also reaffirm our commitment to an approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels that responds in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner to new and emerging issues and challenges, and encourage further progress across countries and regions in order to fill the gaps in implementation of commitments. **[agreed ad ref]**

Chemicals 2. We call for the effective implementation and strengthening of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) towards a robust, coherent, effective and efficient [system/ framework/ regime] for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle including to respond to emerging challenges. **[An integrated approach to sustainable and adequate long-term funding is a key element [to assist countries, in particular developing countries with the implementation of - Switzerland delete] [for the – Switzerland] sound management of chemicals and waste. – G77; US, EU, Canada delete]**

## Biodiversity

Biodiversity 1. We reaffirm the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in **[maintaining ecosystem services which are critical foundations for –US, EU, Mexico, New Zealand; G77 delete]** sustainable development and human well-being. We recognize the severity of global biodiversity loss and degradation of [ecosystem services / **ecosystems**] and emphasize that these undermine global development, affecting food security and nutrition, provision of and **[the right and –Holy See; US, Canada, EU delete]** access to water, health of the rural poor and of people worldwide, including present and future generations. **[This highlights the importance of managing biodiversity at landscape and seascape scales, enhancing habitat connectivity and building ecosystem resilience. –Australia, Mexico, Norway, EU; G77 reserve]** We recognize that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, **[and their wider application –G77, US; New Zealand reserve]** can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods. We further recognize that indigenous peoples and local communities are often most directly dependent on biodiversity and [ecosystems / **ecosystem services**] and thus are often most immediately affected by their loss and degradation.

Biodiversity 2. We reiterate our commitment to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and call for urgent actions that effectively reduce the rate of, halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity. In this context, we affirm the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 [, and its / **and commit to urgent action to ensure the achievement by 2020 of the –EU, Switzerland; Japan, US, Norway, Canada, G77 retain]** Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

Biodiversity 3. We note the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, and we invite parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to ratify or accede to the Protocol, so as to ensure its entry into force at the earliest possible opportunity. We acknowledge the role of access and benefit-sharing [related to/ **arising out of any form of utilization of –G77; US, EU, Canada delete**] genetic resources in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability.

[Biodiversity 3.bis. We stress the importance of developing the [necessary legislative, administrative or policy –G77 delete] measures **[and arrangements –G77]**, as appropriate, to implement the rights of countries of origin of genetic resources or countries providing genetic resources, as defined in the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly developing countries, to participate in the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as well as any subsequent application and commercial utilization of products derived from such resources through the fair and equitable sharing of benefits **[and appropriate transfer of technology –G77]. –Canada, Japan, EU, Australia, New Zealand, US delete]** (moved from Biodiversity 7)

Biodiversity 4. We [welcome -EU / **note the adoption of –US**] the Strategy for Resource Mobilization in support of the achievement of the Convention on Biological Diversity's three objectives, including the commitment to substantially increasing resources from all sources in support of biodiversity[, in particular for developing countries –New Zealand, EU, Japan, US delete; G77 retain] **[in accordance with the process consolidated and agreed in Nagoya –EU, New Zealand, US].**

#### **D. Trade [agreed ad ref]**

*- G77 streamline section into 1 or 2 paras: refer to flexibilities provided for in WTO rules; resisting protectionist measures; high-level support to the conclusion of the Doha trade development agenda; special and differential treatment; focus on capacity building; recognize that trade is an engine for sustained economic*

*growth and development.*

Trade 3. We [urge the members of the WTO to / **resolve to – EU, Canada, Norway**] redouble [their / **our –EU, Canada, Norway**] efforts to achieve an ambitious, balanced, and development-oriented conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda taking into account the central importance of the development dimension in every aspect of the Doha Development Agenda work programme and its commitment to making the development dimension a meaningful reality. We further call for the full implementation of the 2005 WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.

[Trade 6. We recognize the need to mobilize adequate and predictable funding for Aid for Trade, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries. We also recognize the [need for / **importance of supporting –EU**] additional measures to support the supply and export capacities of developing countries, in particular the LDCs. –Canada reserve]

[Trade 8. We acknowledge the need to [continue / **increase our efforts in the – EU, Canada, Australia**]

[Technology 7. We agree to explore the possibility to establish a global fund for voluntary contributions by States, civil society and the private sector, to facilitate [**voluntary -US, Japan**] transfer of environmentally sound technologies [**on mutually agreed terms and conditions -US, Japan**] [**and knowledge sharing -US**]. EU, Canada, Switzerland delete; Australia reserve]

[Technology 4. We note that consideration must be given to the role of patent protection and intellectual property rights along with an examination of their impact on the access to and transfer of environmentally sound technology, in particular to developing countries, as well as to further exploring efficiently the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technology in its relation to proprietary rights with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area. – US, EU, Japan, Canada, Australia, Switzerland delete]

[Technology 5. [[We request the competent fora in the UN system to identify options for an appropriate mechanism to facilitate clean technology dissemination to developing countries, consistent with existing patent protection systems and invite the Secretary-General to report to UNGA67 on the options./ **We resolve to establish an international mechanism under the General Assembly in order to promote implement, and monitor concrete actions, supported by stable, adequate and predictable financial contributions and focused on bridging the technological gap between the developed and developing countries and facilitating transfer of technology in sustainable development and strengthening national capacities, scientific understanding and technological evaluation in the developing countries –G77**] In this regard, we / **We Switzerland**]note that the UNFCCC technology mechanism, as agreed in Cancun and Durban, and in particular the ongoing implementation of the new global Climate Technology Center and Network, is a highly relevant model for [facilitating -Switzerland / **replicating –G77**] the development and [**voluntary -EU**] transfer of sustainable technologies to address the technological needs of developing countries. –US, Japan, Canada delete]

[Technology 7. We agree to explore the possibility to establish a global fund for voluntary contributions by States, civil society and the private sector, to facilitate [**voluntary -US**, Japan] transfer of environmentally sound technologies [**on mutually agreed terms and conditions -US**, Japan] [**and knowledge sharing -US**]. EU, Canada, Switzerland delete; Australia reserve]

[Technology 4. We note that consideration must be given to the



role of patent protection and intellectual property rights along with an examination of their impact on the access to and transfer of environmentally sound technology, in particular to developing countries, as well as to further exploring efficiently the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technology in its relation to proprietary rights with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area. – US, EU, Japan, Canada, Australia, Switzerland delete]

Technology 2. We underline the need for enabling environments for the development, adaptation, and [voluntary -US, Japan, Canada] [dissemination / transfer of –G77] of [sustainable / environmentally sound Australia] technologies [on mutually agreed terms and conditions -US, Japan, Canada]. In this context, we [underscore / note –G77] the role of foreign direct investment and international trade in the transfer of [some -US, Canada; EU G77 delete] environmentally sound technologies. We [support strengthening / engage in our countries as well as through – Switzerland] international cooperation to promote [investment in science, innovation, and technology for sustainable development / such enabling environments –Switzerland].

**Finance 1 ter. We recognize that for significant international financing to give strong support to the various commitments made in the outcomes of Rio+20, the developed countries agreed to provide new and additional resources exceeding US 30 billion per year from 2013-17 to the developing countries in their efforts toward promotion of sustainable development. – G77; Canada delete]**

[Finance 1 quat. I

**[Finance 3 alt. The fulfilment of all ODA commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA to developing countries by 2015 and to reach the level of at least 0.5 per cent of GNP for ODA by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP for ODA to least developed countries. To reach their agreed timetables, donor countries should take all necessary and appropriate measures to raise**

**the rate of aid disbursements to meet their existing commitments. We urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make additional concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA to developing countries, including the specific target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP for ODA to least developed countries in line with the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, in accordance with their commitments. To build on progress achieved in ensuring that ODA is used effectively, we stress the importance of democratic governance, improved transparency and accountability, and managing for results. We strongly encourage all donors to establish, as soon as possible, rolling indicative timetables that illustrate how they aim to reach their goals, in accordance with their respective budget allocation process. We stress the importance of mobilizing greater domestic support in developed countries towards the fulfilment of their commitments, including through raising public awareness, and by providing data on aid effectiveness and demonstrating tangible results. –G77; Canada delete (Doha 43)]**

Technology 2. We underline the need for enabling environments for the development, adaptation, and **[voluntary -US, Japan, Canada]** **[dissemination / transfer of –G77]** of **[sustainable / environmentally sound Australia]** technologies **[on mutually agreed terms and conditions -US, Japan, Canada]**. In this context, we **[underscore / note –G77]** the role of foreign direct investment and international trade in the transfer of **[some -US, Canada; EU G77 delete]** environmentally sound technologies. We **[support strengthening / engage in our countries as well as through – Switzerland]** international cooperation to promote **[investment in science, innovation, and technology for sustainable development / such enabling environments –Switzerland]**.

Technology 3. We recognize the importance of strengthened national, scientific and technological capacities **[including in developing countries – Australia]** **[. / for sustainable development, which can help – EU]** **[Developing countries [should be enabled- EU delete] to develop their own [new / innovative solutions for sustainable development, including developed -EU] and environmentally sound technologies [[and scientific research- US] with the support of the international community -EU delete]. – Australia delete]** To this end, we support building science and technology capacity **[with both women and men as contributors and beneficiaries –Iceland]**, including through collaboration among research institutions, universities, the

private sector, governments, non-governmental organizations, and scientists [of developing and developed countries -Australia delete].

[Technology 4. We note that consideration must be given to the role of patent protection and intellectual property rights along with an examination of their impact on the access to and transfer of environmentally sound technology, in particular to developing countries, as well as to further exploring efficiently the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technology in its relation to proprietary rights with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area. – US, EU, Japan, Canada, Australia, Switzerland delete]

[Technology 5. [[We request the competent fora in the UN system to identify options for an appropriate mechanism to facilitate clean technology dissemination to developing countries, consistent with existing patent protection systems and invite the Secretary-General to report to UNGA67 on the options./ **We resolve to establish an international mechanism under the General Assembly in order to promote implement, and monitor concrete actions, supported by stable, adequate and predictable financial contributions and focused on bridging the technological gap between the developed and developing countries and facilitating transfer of technology in sustainable development and strengthening national capacities, scientific understanding and technological evaluation in the developing countries –G77**] In this regard, we / **We Switzerland**]note that the UNFCCC technology mechanism, as agreed in Cancun and Durban, and in particular the ongoing implementation of the new global Climate Technology Center and Network, is a highly relevant model for [facilitating -Switzerland / **replicating –G77**] the development and [**voluntary -EU**] transfer of sustainable technologies to address the technological needs of developing countries. –US, Japan, Canada delete]

Technology 2. We underline the need for enabling environments for the development, adaptation, and [**voluntary -US, Japan, Canada**] [dissemination / **transfer of –G77**]

[Technology 4. We note that consideration must be given to the role of patent protection and intellectual property rights along with an examination of their impact on the access to and transfer of

environmentally sound technology, in particular to developing countries, as well as to further exploring efficiently the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technology in its relation to proprietary rights with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area. – US, EU, Japan, Canada, Australia, Switzerland delete]

[Technology 5. [[We request the competent fora in the UN system to identify options for an appropriate mechanism to facilitate clean technology dissemination to developing countries, consistent with existing patent protection systems and invite the Secretary-General to report to UNGA67 on the options./ **We resolve to establish an international mechanism under the General Assembly in order to promote implement, and monitor concrete actions, supported by stable, adequate and predictable financial contributions and focused on bridging the technological gap between the developed and developing countries and facilitating transfer of technology in sustainable development and strengthening national capacities, scientific understanding and technological evaluation in the developing countries –G77**] In this regard, we / **We Switzerland**] note that the UNFCCC technology mechanism, as agreed in Cancun and Durban, and in particular the ongoing implementation of the new global Climate Technology Center and Network, is a highly relevant model for [facilitating -Switzerland / **replicating –G77**] the development and [**voluntary -EU**] transfer of sustainable technologies to address the technological needs of developing countries. –US, Japan, Canada delete]

Technology 7. We agree to explore the possibility to establish a global fund for voluntary contributions by States, civil society and the private sector, to facilitate [**voluntary -US, Japan**] transfer of environmentally sound technologies [**on mutually agreed terms and conditions -US, Japan**] [**and knowledge sharing -US**]. EU, Canada, Switzerland delete; Australiareserve]

NOTE: QUESTIONABLE NEGOTIATING PROCESS GIVING MORE VOICE TO JUSCANS

the negotiating process at the un is bizarre. there is one group;

Japan us Canada Australia and New Zealand (affectionately called JUSCANZ or sometimes ``umbrella`# group

The second group is the EU which comprises all the European Countries except Norway and

The Third group is the G77 which represents over 130 developing countries plus China and speak with one voice

In the negotiations, the us

US Canada and Australia, Japan even though they are in one group will speak with separate voices ; the G77 has a rotating chair and speaks with one voice as does the EU.

Last Updated on Sunday, 06 July 2014 20:26

[New Data Sends Wake-Up Call on Caribbean Reefs](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 10 July 2014 05:41

New Data Sends Wake-Up Call on Caribbean Reefs By [Desmond Brown](#)

Protection from overfishing and excessive coastal pollution could help reefs recover and make them more resilient to future climate change impacts. Credit: Jim Maragos/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, Jul 9 2014 (IPS)- Marine environmentalist Eli Fuller, who for the past two decades has been exploring the coastline of Antigua and Barbuda, warns that while there has been “dramatic changes” to coral reefs since he was a little boy, “it’s getting worse and worse.”

So he is not surprised by the largely pessimistic findings of a three-year study by 90 international experts in a report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

“Those reefs are the frontline barriers against storm waves.” -- marine biologist John Mussington

But there was a spot of surprisingly good news. According to the authors, restoring parrotfish populations and improving other management strategies, such as protection from overfishing and excessive coastal pollution, can help reefs recover and even make them more resilient to future climate change impacts.

“We have seen definitely the last two summers, and here we are in summer again, we are seeing ever so slightly raised sea levels, but in conjunction with that we are seeing eroded coral barriers, especially on the north coast and east coast of Barbuda and quite a few areas in Antigua,” Fuller told IPS.

“Between Prickly Pear and Long Island, those reefs out there – they almost used to get to the surface. Now I am seeing sailboats sail over areas where they would have run aground and had to be salvaged before.

“We are seeing more surge come ashore and more erosion. You are having areas that were never affected by erosion getting eroded terribly. I look at the north coast of Barbuda and I can’t believe some of the erosion they are facing, and when you go offshore to those reefs only the bases of the big, huge coral structures are there. All the tops have died and eroded away so we are seeing more water coming to our shoreline,” he added.

Fuller is worried about the future of tourism in a region where it is the number one industry and foreign exchange earner for most countries.

Last Updated on Saturday, 12 July 2014 13:04

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## [Scandal of Glyphosate Re-assessment in Europe](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 09 July 2014 11:01

By The Institute of Science in Society Science Society Sustainability

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Press Release

*EU rapporteur state Germany recommends re-approval with daily intake increased by 67 %; its re-assessment was carried out by Monsanto and a consortium of chemical companies in Europe based almost entirely on studies from industry; it should be rejected outright* **Dr Nancy Swanson** and [Dr Mae Wan Ho](#)

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Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 08 July 2014 07:45

**Global Conflicts Are Increasingly Fueled by the Desire for Oil and Natural Gas -- and the Funds They Generate**

By [Michael T. Klare](#)

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/175865/>

Iraq, Syria, Nigeria, South Sudan, Ukraine, the East and South China Seas: wherever you look, the world is aflame with new or intensifying conflicts. At first glance, these upheavals appear to be independent events, driven by their own unique and idiosyncratic circumstances. But look more closely and they share several key characteristics -- notably, a witch's brew of ethnic, religious, and national antagonisms that have been stirred to the boiling point by a fixation on energy.

In each of these conflicts, the fighting is driven in large part by the eruption of long-standing historic antagonisms among neighboring (often intermingled) tribes, sects, and peoples. In Iraq and Syria, it is a clash among Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds, Turkmen, and others; in Nigeria, among Muslims, Christians, and assorted tribal groupings; in South Sudan, between the Dinka and Nuer; in Ukraine, between Ukrainian loyalists and Russian-speakers aligned with Moscow; in the East and South China Sea, among the Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Filipinos, and others. It would be easy to attribute all this to age-old hatreds, as suggested by many analysts; but while such hostilities do help drive these conflicts, they are fueled by a most modern impulse as well: the desire to control valuable oil and natural gas assets. Make no mistake about it, these are twenty-first-century energy wars.

It should surprise no one that energy plays such a significant role in these conflicts. Oil and gas are, after all, the world's most important and valuable commodities and constitute a major source of income for the governments and corporations that control their production and distribution. Indeed, the governments of [Iraq](#), [Nigeria](#), [Russia](#), [South Sudan](#), and [Syria](#) derive the great bulk of their revenues from oil sales, while the major energy firms (many state-owned) exercise immense power in these and the other countries involved. Whoever controls these states, or the oil- and gas-producing areas within them, also controls the collection and allocation of crucial revenues. Despite the patina of historical enmities, many of these



conflicts, then, are really struggles for control over the principal source of national income.

Moreover, we live in an [energy-centric world](#) where control over oil and gas resources (and their means of delivery) translates into geopolitical clout for some and economic vulnerability for others. Because so many countries are dependent on energy imports, nations with surpluses to export -- including Iraq, Nigeria, Russia, and South Sudan -- often exercise disproportionate influence on the world stage. What happens in these countries sometimes matters as much to the rest of us as to the people living in them, and so the risk of external involvement in their conflicts -- whether in the form of direct intervention, arms transfers, the sending in of military advisers, or economic assistance -- is greater than almost anywhere else.

The struggle over energy resources has been a conspicuous factor in many recent conflicts, including the Iran-Iraq War of 1980-1988, the Gulf War of 1990-1991, and the Sudanese Civil War of 1983-2005. On first glance, the fossil-fuel factor in the most recent outbreaks of tension and fighting may seem less evident. But look more closely and you'll see that each of these conflicts is, at heart, an energy war.

### **Iraq, Syria, and ISIS**

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria ([ISIS](#)), the Sunni extremist group that controls large chunks of western Syria and northern Iraq, is a well-armed militia intent on creating an Islamic caliphate in the areas it controls. In some respects, it is a fanatical, sectarian religious organization, seeking to reproduce the pure, uncorrupted piety of the early Islamic era. At the same time, it is engaged in a conventional [nation-building project](#), seeking to create a fully functioning state with all its attributes.

As the United States learned to its dismay in Iraq and Afghanistan, nation-building is expensive: institutions must be created and financed, armies recruited and paid, weapons and fuel procured, and infrastructure maintained. Without oil (or some other lucrative source

of income), ISIS could never hope to accomplish its ambitious goals. However, as it now occupies key oil-producing areas of Syria and oil-refining facilities in Iraq, it is in a unique position to do so. Oil, then, is absolutely essential to the organization's grand strategy.

Syria was never a major oil producer, but its prewar production of some [400,000 barrels](#) per day did provide the regime of Bashar al-Assad with a major source of income. Now, most of the country's oil fields are under the control of rebel groups, including ISIS, the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front, and local Kurdish militias. Although production from the fields has dropped significantly, enough is being extracted and sold through various clandestine channels to [provide the rebels](#) with income and operating funds. "Syria is an oil country and has resources, but in the past they were all stolen by the regime," [said](#) Abu Nizar, an anti-government activist. "Now they are being stolen by those who are profiting from the revolution."

At first, many rebel groups were [involved](#) in these extractive activities, but since January, when it assumed control of [Raqqa](#), the capital of the province of that name, ISIS has been the dominant player in the oil fields. In addition, it has seized fields in neighboring Deir al-Zour Province along the Iraq border. Indeed, many of the U.S.-supplied weapons it acquired from the fleeing Iraqi army after its recent drive into Mosul and other northern Iraqi cities have been [moved into](#) Deir al-Zour to help in the organization's campaign to take full control of the region. In Iraq, ISIS is fighting to gain control over Iraq's largest refinery at [Baiji](#) in the central part of the country.

It appears that ISIS [sells oil](#) from the fields it controls to shadowy middlemen who in turn arrange for its transport -- mostly by tanker trucks -- to buyers in Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. These sales are [said to provide](#) the organization with the funds needed to pay its troops and acquire its vast stockpiles of arms and ammunition. Many observers also claim that ISIS is

selling oil to the Assad regime in return for immunity from government air strikes of the sort being launched against other rebel groups. “Many locals in Raqqa accuse ISIS of collaborating with the Syrian regime,” a Kurdish journalist, Sirwan Kajjo, [reported](#) in early June. “Locals say that while other rebel groups in Raqqa have been under attack by regime air strikes on a regular basis, ISIS headquarters have not once been attacked.”

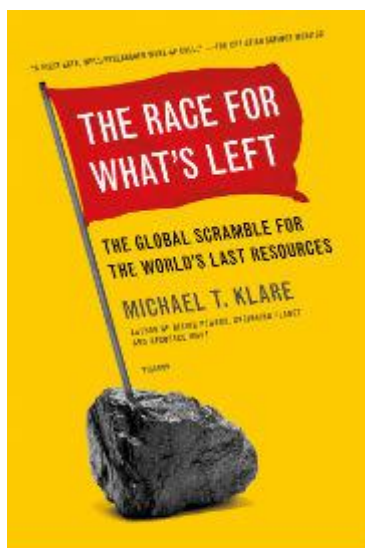
However the present fighting in northern Iraq plays out, it is obvious that there, too, oil is a central factor. ISIS seeks both to deny petroleum supplies and oil revenue to the Baghdad government and to bolster its own coffers, enhancing its capacity for nation-building and further military advances. At the same time, the Kurds and various Sunni tribes -- some allied with ISIS -- want control over oil fields located in the areas under their control and a [greater share](#) of the nation’s oil wealth.

### **Ukraine, the Crimea, and Russia**

The present crisis in Ukraine [began](#) in November 2013 when President [Viktor Yanukovich](#) repudiated an agreement for closer economic and political ties with the European Union (EU), opting instead for closer ties with Russia. That act touched off fierce [anti-government protests](#) in Kiev and eventually led to Yanukovich’s flight from the capital. With Moscow’s principal ally pushed from the scene and pro-EU forces in control of the capital, Russian President Vladimir Putin moved to seize control of the Crimea and foment a separatist drive in eastern Ukraine. For both sides, the resulting struggle has been about political legitimacy and national identity -- but as in other recent conflicts, it has also been about energy.

Ukraine is not itself a significant energy producer. It is, however, a [major transit route](#) for the delivery of Russian natural gas to Europe. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Europe [obtained](#) 30% of its gas from Russia in 2013 -- most of it from the state-controlled gas giant [Gazprom](#) -- and approximately half of this was transported by pipelines crossing

Ukraine. As a result, that country plays a critical role in the [complex energy relationship](#) between Europe and Russia, one that has proved incredibly lucrative for the shadowy elites and oligarchs who control the flow of gas, while at the same time provoking intense controversy. [Disputes](#) over the price Ukraine pays for its own imports of Russian gas twice provoked a cutoff in deliveries by Gazprom, leading to diminished supplies in Europe as well.



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Given this background, it is not surprising that a key objective of the “[association agreement](#)” between the EU and Ukraine that was repudiated by Yanukovych (and has now been signed by the new Ukrainian government) calls for the extension of EU energy rules to Ukraine’s energy system -- essentially eliminating the cozy deals between Ukrainian elites and Gazprom. By entering into the agreement, EU officials [claim](#), Ukraine will begin “a process of approximating its energy legislation to the EU norms and standards, thus facilitating internal market reforms.”

Russian leaders have many reasons to despise the association agreement. For one thing, it will move Ukraine, a country on its border, into a closer political and economic embrace with the West. Of special concern, however, are the provisions about energy, given Russia’s economic reliance on gas sales to Europe -- not to

mention the threat they pose to the personal fortunes of well-connected Russian elites. In late 2013 Yanukovych came [under immense pressure](#) from Vladimir Putin to turn his back on the EU and agree instead to an economic union with Russia and Belarus, an arrangement that would have protected the privileged status of elites in both countries. However, by moving in this direction, Yanukovych put a bright spotlight on the [crony politics](#) that had long plagued Ukraine's energy system, thereby triggering protests in Kiev's Independence Square (the [Maidan](#)) -- that led to his downfall.

Once the protests began, a cascade of events led to the current standoff, with the Crimea in Russian hands, large parts of the east under the control of pro-Russian separatists, and the rump western areas moving ever closer to the EU. In this ongoing struggle, identity politics has come to play a prominent role, with leaders on all sides appealing to national and ethnic loyalties. Energy, nevertheless, remains a major factor in the equation. Gazprom has repeatedly [raised the price](#) it charges Ukraine for its imports of natural gas, and on June 16th [cut off](#) its supply entirely, claiming non-payment for past deliveries. A day later, an explosion [damaged](#) one of the main pipelines carrying Russian gas to Ukraine -- an event still being investigated. Negotiations over the gas price remain a major issue in the ongoing negotiations between Ukraine's newly elected president, Petro Poroshenko, and Vladimir Putin.

Energy also played a key role in Russia's determination to take the Crimea by military means. By annexing that region, Russia virtually [doubled](#) the offshore territory it controls in the Black Sea, which is thought to house billions of barrels of oil and vast reserves of natural gas. Prior to the crisis, several Western oil firms, including ExxonMobil, were [negotiating](#) with Ukraine for access to those reserves. Now, they will be negotiating with Moscow. "It's a big deal," [said](#) Carol Saivetz, a Eurasian expert at MIT. "It deprives Ukraine of the possibility of developing these resources and gives them to Russia."

## Nigeria and South Sudan

The conflicts in South Sudan and Nigeria are distinctive in many respects, yet both share a key common factor: widespread anger and distrust towards government officials who have become wealthy, corrupt, and autocratic thanks to access to abundant oil revenues.

In Nigeria, the insurgent group [Boko Haram](#) is fighting to overthrow the existing political system and establish a puritanical, Muslim-ruled state. Although most Nigerians decry the group's violent methods (including the kidnapping of hundreds of teenage girls from a state-run school), it has [drawn strength](#) from disgust in the poverty-stricken northern part of the country with the [corruption-riddled](#) central government in distant Abuja, the capital.

Nigeria is the largest oil producer in Africa, [pumping out](#) some 2.5 million barrels per day. With oil selling at around \$100 per barrel, this represents a potentially staggering source of wealth for the nation, even after the private companies involved in the day-to-day extractive operations take their share. Were these revenues -- estimated in the tens of billions of dollars per year -- used to spur development and improve the lot of the population, Nigeria could be a great beacon of hope for Africa. Instead, much of the money [disappears](#) into the pockets (and foreign bank accounts) of Nigeria's well-connected elites.

In February, the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Lamido Sanusi, told a parliamentary investigating committee that the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) had failed to transfer some \$20 billion in proceeds from oil sales to the national treasury, as required by law. It had all evidently been diverted to private accounts. "A substantial amount of money has gone," he [told](#) the *New York Times*. "I wasn't just talking about numbers. I showed it was a scam."

For many Nigerians -- a majority of whom subsist on less than \$2 per day -- the corruption in Abuja, when combined with the [wanton brutality](#) of the government's security

forces, is a source of abiding anger and resentment, generating recruits for insurgent groups like Boko Haram and winning them begrudging admiration. “They know well the frustration that would drive someone to take up arms against the state,” [said](#) *National Geographic* reporter James Verini of people he interviewed in battle-scarred areas of northern Nigeria. At this stage, the government has displayed [zero capacity](#) to overcome the insurgency, while its ineptitude and heavy-handed military tactics have only further alienated ordinary Nigerians.

The conflict in South Sudan has different roots, but shares a common link to energy. Indeed, the very formation of [South Sudan](#) is a product of oil politics. A [civil war](#) in Sudan that lasted from 1955 to 1972 only ended when the Muslim-dominated government in the north agreed to grant more autonomy to the peoples of the southern part of the country, largely practitioners of traditional African religions or Christianity. However, when oil was discovered in the south, the rulers of northern Sudan repudiated many of their earlier promises and sought to gain control over the oil fields, sparking a [second civil war](#), which lasted from 1983 to 2005. An estimated two million people lost their lives in this round of fighting. In the end, the south was [granted](#) full autonomy and the right to vote on secession. Following a January 2011 referendum in which [98.8%](#) of southerners voted to secede, the country became independent on that July 9th.

The new state had barely been established, however, when conflict with the north over its oil resumed. While South Sudan has a plethora of oil, the only pipeline allowing the country to export its energy stretches across North Sudan to the Red Sea. This ensured that the south would be dependent on the north for the major source of government revenues. Furious at the loss of the fields, the northerners [charged](#) excessively high rates for transporting the oil, precipitating a cutoff in oil deliveries by the south and sporadic violence along the two countries’ still-disputed border. Finally, in August 2012, the two sides [agreed](#) to a formula for sharing the wealth and the flow of oil resumed. Fighting

has, however, continued in certain border areas controlled by the north but populated by groups linked to the south.

With the flow of oil income assured, the leader of South Sudan, President [Salva Kiir](#), sought to consolidate his control over the country and all those oil revenues. Claiming an imminent coup attempt by his rivals, led by Vice President [Riek Machar](#), he [disbanded](#) his multiethnic government on July 24, 2013, and began arresting allies of Machar. The resulting power struggle quickly turned into an [ethnic civil war](#), with the kin of President Kiir, a Dinka, battling members of the Nuer group, of which Machar is a member. Despite several attempts to negotiate a cease-fire, [fighting](#) has been under way since December, with thousands of people killed and hundreds of thousands forced to flee their homes.

As in Syria and Iraq, much of the fighting in South Sudan has centered around the vital oil fields, with both sides determined to control them and collect the revenues they generate. As of March, while still under government control, the Paloch field in Upper Nile State was [producing](#) some 150,000 barrels a day, worth about \$15 million to the government and participating oil companies. The rebel forces, led by former Vice President Machar, are trying to seize those fields to deny this revenue to the government. “The presence of forces loyal to Salva Kiir in Paloch, to buy more arms to kill our people... is not acceptable to us,” Machar [said](#) in April. “We want to take control of the oil field. It’s our oil.” As of now, the field remains in government hands, with rebel forces reportedly making gains in the vicinity.

### **The South China Sea**

In both the [East China](#) and [South China](#) seas, China and its neighbors claim assorted atolls and islands that sit astride vast undersea oil and gas reserves. The waters of both have been the site of recurring naval clashes over the past few years, with the South China Sea recently grabbing the spotlight.



An energy-rich offshoot of the western Pacific, that sea, long a focus of [contention](#), is rimmed by China, Vietnam, the island of Borneo, and the Philippine Islands. Tensions peaked in May when the Chinese [deployed](#) their largest deepwater drilling rig, the HD-981, in waters claimed by Vietnam. Once in the drilling area, about 120 nautical miles off the coast of Vietnam, the Chinese surrounded the HD-981 with a large flotilla of navy and coast guard ships. When Vietnamese coast guard vessels attempted to penetrate this defensive ring in an effort to drive off the rig, they were [rammed](#) by Chinese ships and pummeled by water cannon. No lives have yet been lost in these encounters, but [anti-Chinese rioting](#) in Vietnam in response to the sea-borne encroachment left several dead and the clashes at sea are expected to continue for several months until the Chinese move the rig to another (possibly equally contested) location.

The riots and clashes sparked by the deployment of HD-981 have been driven in large part by [nationalism](#) and resentment over past humiliations. The Chinese, insisting that various tiny islands in the South China Sea were once ruled by their country, still seek to overcome the territorial losses and humiliations they suffered at the hands the Western powers and Imperial Japan. The Vietnamese, long accustomed to Chinese invasions, seek to protect what they view as their sovereign territory. For common citizens in both countries, demonstrating resolve in the dispute is a matter of national pride.

But to view the Chinese drive in the South China Sea as a simple matter of nationalistic impulses would be a mistake. The owner of HD-981, the China National Offshore Oil Company ([CNOOC](#)), has conducted extensive seismic testing in the disputed area and evidently believes there is a large reservoir of energy there. “The South China Sea is estimated to have 23 billion tons to 30 billion tons of oil and 16 trillion cubic meters of natural gas, accounting for one-third of China’s total oil and gas resources,” the Chinese news agency *Xinhua* [noted](#). Moreover, China [announced](#) in June that it was deploying a second drilling rig to the

contested waters of the South China Sea, this time at the mouth of the Gulf of Tonkin.

As the world's biggest consumer of energy, [China](#) is desperate to acquire fresh fossil fuel supplies wherever it can. Although its leaders are prepared to make [increasingly large](#) purchases of African, Russian, and Middle Eastern oil and gas to satisfy the nation's growing energy requirements, they not surprisingly prefer to develop and exploit domestic supplies. For them, the South China Sea is not a "foreign" source of energy but a Chinese one, and they appear determined to use whatever means necessary to secure it. Because [other countries](#), including Vietnam and the Philippines, also seek to exploit these oil and gas reserves, further clashes, at increasing levels of violence, seem almost inevitable.

### **No End to Fighting**

As these conflicts and others like them suggest, fighting for control over key energy assets or the distribution of oil revenues is a [critical factor](#) in most contemporary warfare. While ethnic and religious divisions may provide the political and ideological fuel for these battles, it is the potential for mammoth oil profits that keeps the struggles alive. Without the promise of such resources, many of these conflicts would eventually die out for lack of funds to buy arms and pay troops. So long as the oil keeps flowing, however, the belligerents have both the means and incentive to keep fighting.

In a fossil-fuel world, control over oil and gas reserves is an essential component of national power. "Oil fuels more than automobiles and airplanes," Robert Ebel of the Center for Strategic and International Studies [told](#) a State Department audience in 2002. "Oil fuels military power, national treasuries, and international politics." Far more than an ordinary trade commodity, "it is a determinant of well being, of national security, and international power for those who possess this vital resource, and the converse for those who do not."

If anything, that's even truer today, and as energy wars expand, the truth of this will only become more

evident. Someday, perhaps, the development of renewable sources of energy may invalidate this dictum. But in our present world, if you see a conflict developing, look for the energy. It' ll be there somewhere on this fossil-fueled planet of ours.

*Michael T. Klare, a [TomDispatch regular](#), is a professor of peace and world security studies at Hampshire College and the author, most recently, of [The Race for What' s Left](#). A documentary movie version of his book Blood and Oil is available from [the Media Education Foundation](#).*

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## [India Plans World' s Largest Floating Solar Power Project \(50 MW\)](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 07 July 2014 09:16

**July 2nd, 2014 by [Mridul Chadha](#)**

<http://cleantechnica.com/2014/07/02/india-plans-worlds-largest-floating-solar-power-project-50-mw/>

After [canal-top solar power projects](#), India is planning to install the world's largest floating solar power project.

India's leading hydro power generator National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) is planning to set up a 50 MW [solar photovoltaic project](#) over the water bodies in the southern state of Kerala. Renewable Energy College will provide assistance to the company for implementing the project.

Last Updated on Monday, 07 July 2014 09:26

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## Problems Inspire Ingenious Solutions in Peruvian Amazon Town



Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 06 July 2014 10:40

By [Milagros Salazar](#)



**A Jepelacio resident carries a blue jerrycan with 20 litres of “Jepe water” along one of the dusty but clean streets of this town in the Peruvian Amazon, a healthful routine many families carry out daily. Credit: Milagros Salazar/IPS**

**JEPELACIO, Peru, Jul 2 2014 (IPS)** - He may look like a rapper, but 33-year-old José Antonio Bardález is the mayor of Jepelacio, in the Peruvian Amazon. His ingenious innovations in the municipality include transforming waste management into a source of income and making spring water a source of drinking water.

“I’m a civil engineer, but people think I’m an environmental engineer,” the mayor told IPS, driving his pickup truck and stopping frequently to greet and joke with local people in the district, located in the department of San Martín, in the country’s northern Amazon region.

Last Updated on Sunday, 06 July 2014 17:30

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958 readings

## The Fourth of July- Independence Day; Has Anything Really Changed?



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 03 July 2014 20:30

By Joan Russow, - Global Compliance Research Project -



Throughout his 2008 campaign, Barack Obama declared that he would "chart a new course for America", and in his victory speech he said: "This victory alone is not the change we seek. It is only the chance for us to make this change. And this cannot happen if we go back to the way things were." And to all those watching tonight from beyond our shores, our destiny is shared. But has he moved the United States of America away from its years of militarism, competitiveness and fundamentalism? Enclosed is a list of 100 ways that the United States of America, on July 4, 2014, has not yet, or may not have on moved away from "going back to the way things were.

Perhaps the system is so entrenched that even a possibly well meaning president is obliged to continue with the way things were. Also there are so many constraints that are impossible even for an American president to overcome, from a Supreme Court with Conservative judges who rule in favour of the Citizen' s United, and in favour of Shelby County v. Holder, overturning the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act; through State rights which drafts legislation on abortion and same sex marriage - to the powerful NRA which opposes all gun reform.

Has the United States achieved the following objectives?

1. To reduce the US military budget by reallocating military expenses and transferring the savings into global social justice as undertaken through numerous UN Conference Action Plans and UN General Assembly Resolutions. (Not YET)

2. To abandon the preemptive/preventive attack policy that has resulted in aggressive attacks on sovereign states and that has been in violation of the UN Charter Article 2 and international law as being the 'supreme' international crime of a war of aggression. (NOT REALLY, BECAUSE HE DID NOT COME OUT AGAINST THE ISRAELI ATTACK AGAINST GAZA AND LIBYA)
3. To withdraw immediately from any military involvement and occupation of sovereign states including Iraq and Afghanistan. (YES, BEGINNING TO WITHDRAW FROM IRAQ, AND SOMEWHAT FROM AFGHANISTAN)
4. To end the practice of mollifying public opposition by couching aggressive acts in euphemistic "operations" such as "Operation Just Cause", "Operation Iraqi Freedom", "Operation Enduring Freedom", etc. (PERHAPS, BECAUSE HE APPEARS TO BE CALLING THE OPERATION "COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATION", AND "OPERATION KHANJAR", WHICH IS LESS MOLLIFYING, BECAUSE IN ENGLISH IT MEANS "CURVED DAGGER"; THUS IT IS DEFINITELY MORE WAR-LIKE THAN "OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM")
5. To undertake to sign and ratify all Geneva Protocols, including Protocol V, which requires the removal of remnants of war. (NO)
6. To no longer perceive justice in terms of revenge through military intervention and to instead seek justice through the International Court of Justice. (NO)
7. To no longer misconstrue Art. 51 (self-defence) of the Charter of the United Nations to justify premeditated non-provoked military aggression, or to use various such pretexts for invading other sovereign states. (The US HAS USED INSTEAD "THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT DOCTRINE)
8. To not engage in and to oppose any attempt to undermine the international resolve to prevent the scourge of war; this would include not engaging in intimidation or in offering economic incentives in exchange for support for military interventions. (NOT KNOW)
9. To be willing to be judged, OR TO HAVE FORMER PRESIDENTS JUDGED by an international tribunal for any actions that might be deemed to violate international law, to be crimes against the peace, to be war crimes, or to involve genocide. (NOT YET - BECAUSE NOT WILLING TO JUDGE GEORGE BUSH FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE PEACE, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. BUT DOES APPEAR TO BE WILLING TO TRY UNDERLINGS FOR

VIOLATING THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE).

10. To not misuse UN "peacekeeping" forces to clean up aggressive acts of destruction and occupation of other states. (PROBABLY NOT CHANGED)

11. To close and convert to peaceful purposes all US foreign military bases in sovereign states around the world. (NO)

12. To undertake to respect the mandatory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, and to abide by its decisions. (NO)

13. To end the circulation and berthing of nuclear powered or nuclear arms-capable vessels throughout the world. (NO)

14. To no longer engage in "War Games" or "Military Exercises" such as Exercise Trident Fury. (NO, HE HAS EVEN INCREASED WAR GAMES THROUGH THE NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX)

15. To discontinue propping up and financing military dictators. Perhaps after what has happened in Libya. The US will abandon the long standing policy enunciated against Somoza "he' s a bastard but he is our bastard" (YES HE HAS OPPOSED MUBARAK AND BASHAR AL - ASSAD BUT HAS REFRAINED FROM OPPOSING THOSE IN BAHRAIN AND SAUDI ARABIA)

16. To abandon the practice of targeting or assisting in the assassination of leaders of other sovereign states, and of engaging in "regime change" or covert destabilization of democratically elected leaders of or any leader of a sovereign state; to end the interference in the democratic process through US government-funded Non-Governmental Organizations. (THERE WAS MISSION DRIFT LIBYA, REGIME CHANGE AND ASSASSINATION AND RECENTLY THE US WAS INVOLVED IN THE DESTABILIZATION OF VENEZUELA)

17, to invoke Chapter VI - the peaceful resolutions of disputes - and be prepared to be judged by the International Court of Justice. (NO)

18. To abide by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and immediately implement Article VI of the Treaty, (Article VI: commits all parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on measures to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve disarmament.) NOT YET

19. To end the production of all weapons of mass destruction such as

nuclear (US HAS UNDERTAKEN TO ABIDE BY THE NPT), chemical (REUCTION BUT NOT RATIFIED THE CONVENTION), and biological, as agreed to in UNCHE in 1972, and in specific conventions. (PERHAPS, IF HE TRANSLATES HIS RHETORIC INTO ACTION)

20. To be equally critical of all states, including Israel, which possess nuclear weapons, and to recognize the destabilizing impact of the Middle East as a result of the possession of nuclear weapons. To support the Declaration of a nuclear Arms Free Middle East. (NO, AT THE 2013 HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON ELEMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS THE US DID NOT SUPPORT A NUCLEAR ARMS FREE MIDDLE EAST) (US did express concern about what was described as singling out Israel in the Declaration for a nuclear free middle east AS WELL DID NOT URGE ISRAEL TO RATIFY THE NPT TREATY.)

21. To reaffirm the obligations under the 1967 Outer Space Treaty to ensure that exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind [humanity].

#### Article IV

States Parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner.

The moon and other celestial bodies shall be used by all States Parties to the Treaty exclusively for peaceful purposes. The establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications, the testing of any type of weapons and the conduct of military manoeuvres on celestial bodies shall be forbidden. The use of military personnel for scientific research or for any other peaceful purposes shall not be prohibited. The use of any equipment or facility necessary for peaceful exploration of the moon and other celestial bodies shall also not be prohibited. NO)

22. To discontinue the research, development and installation of Ballistic Missile Defence technology. (NOT YET)

23. To make a full commitment to disarmament and to oppose the continued profit-making from the sale of arms. (NO)

24. To implement obligations to reduce the trade in small arms. (NOT



YET)

25. To collaborate with the ILO to fund a fair and just transition program for workers currently working in the arms trade. (NOT YET)
26. To end the destabilization of states and regions through the sale of arms, including through the guise of "foreign aid". (NO)
27. To end the production of land mines and to sign and ratify the Convention for the Banning of Landmines, and affirm a commitment of funds and continuous effort to remove land mines from all areas of the world where land mines are known to exist. (NO)
28. To suffocate the production of uranium, and end importing uranium from other states. (NO)
29. To phase out the use of civil nuclear energy, and refuse to accept nuclear energy as the solution to climate change (NO); and to support the deletion of Article IV of the NPT which bestows the inalienable right of states to access so-called "peaceful" use of nuclear energy. (NO)
30. To prohibit the use of weapons such as depleted uranium, cluster bombs and DRONES that would be prohibited under the Geneva Protocol II. (NO)
31. To oppose NATO'S 'neither confirm nor deny first strike policy<sup>1</sup>, and support the disbanding of NATO and NORAD. (NO)
32. To abide by the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of civilians, and respect international human rights and humanitarian law. (NO)
33. To abide by the Convention against Torture through Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and end the practice of rendition of citizens and to abide by the Geneva Conventions. (HAS NOT YET CLOSED PRISON IN GUANTANAMO)
  
59. To urge the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to investigate and estimate the full impact of greenhouse gas emissions by the military, and demand that each state release information

related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all weapon systems, military exercises, from war games, weapons testing, military aviation, environmental warfare, troop transfer, military operations, waste generation, reconstruction after acts of violent interventions etc. (NO)

60. To counter the deniers of the issue of climate change by citing the precautionary principle contained in the legally binding Framework Convention on Climate Change, which reads that where there is a threat of climate change, the lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason to postpone measures to prevent the threat [a paraphrase]. (MAY HAVE AND HAS CLEARLY RECOGNIZED THE ANTHROPOGENIC CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE)

61. To oppose any suggestion that civil nuclear energy is the solution to climate change. (Civil nuclear energy violates the principle that a solution should never be equally bad or worse than the problem it is intended to solve). (NO)

62. To end the misappropriation of agricultural land for the growing of biofuel. (NO, AND HAS SUPPORTED IT AT THE CSD 17 AND CONTINUES TO SUPPORT IT)

63. To oppose the practice by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of promoting civil nuclear energy as a solution to climate change [in violation of the principle that a regulator should not a promoter be]. (NO)

64. To support a Forest Protocol to be linked to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. (NOT YET)

65. To repeal the Patriot Act because it violates civil and political rights, and results in racial profiling and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights... (NO) To address the issue of the disproportionate incarceration of indigenous and coloured prisoners (NOT YET)

66. To end the obsession with the war on terror. (LESS EMPHASIS, POSSIBLE DISCUSSION WITH THOSE DEEMED TO BE TERRORISTS)

67. To end the practice of sending suspects with dual citizenship to one of the countries that permits torture (probably not)

68 To stand-your-ground law states that a person may justifiably use force in in self defence when there is reasonable belief of an unlawful threat, without an a obligation to retreat first

69. To release Leonard Peltier, Bradley and to end the pursuit of Snowden, and Assange (NO) To release the Cuba 5. (NOT ALL OF THEM)

70. To clearly distinguish legitimate dissent from criminal acts of subversion. (NOT YET)

71. To not support Israeli blockade and Israeli treatment of the Gaza Flotilla (NO)

72. To abandon the no-fly` list, and the FBI list of activists. (NOT YET)

73. To tear down the wall between Mexico and the United States

74. To oppose "SLAPP suits" against public participation. (NOT YET)

75. To no longer target, intimidate and discriminate against activists on the grounds of political and other opinion (a listed ground in the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights). (NO) To no longer discriminate against LGBT RIGHTS. WHILE SINCE 2003 SEXUAL ACTS BETWEEN PERSONS OF THE SAME SEX HAVE BEEN LEGAL NATIONALLY IN THE US, SAME SEX MARRIAGE IS ONLY PERMITTED IN AROUND 13 STATES. UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, THERE ARE LISTED GROUNDS FOR WHICH THERE SHALL NOT BE DISCRIMINATION. THIS LIST ENDS WITH THE TERM "OTHER STATUS" WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE FULL GUARANTEE OF LGBT RIGHTS SUCH AS SAME SEX MARRIAGE (NOT YET)

76. To abandon the surveillance of citizens in the United States and elsewhere (NO) Former Belgian PM Guy Verhofstadt condemns "American data collection mania" and to end FBI entrapment

77. To end the discrimination against immigrants, and refugees. (NOT YET)

78. To sign and ratify the Convention for the Protection of Migrant Workers and their Families; and the Convention on Refugees; and to revoke the Secure Fence Act and end the unconscionable wall between

the United States and Mexico and the patrolling by drones. (NOT YET)

79. To offer amnesty to all those who have been war resisters. (NOT YET)

80. To fully abide by the ILO Convention related to indigenous rights on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples . (NOT YET)

81. To no longer engage in practices that destroy the lands of indigenous people or that are deemed to be inappropriate as agreed to in Agenda 21 (UNCED). (NOT YET)

82, to adopt and abide by the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and ensure the compliance with Article 19- which requires fair and informed consent . (NOT YET)

83. To respect women's reproductive rights, and abide by commitments made under the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Beijing Platform, and to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, and its Protocols. (NOT YET). The US still appears to oppose the enshrining of the right to abortion in international agreements. While all states allow abortion up to five weeks; over 20 weeks is continually being challenged.

84. To ratify the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, under which Article 53 has the provision that a treaty is null and void if the treaty violates international peremptory norms. (NOT YET) To ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the international covenant of social economic and cultural rights (NOT YET)

85. To sign and ratify all the ILO Conventions, including the provisions related to the right to strike, and the right to equal pay for work of equal value. (NOT YET)

86. To support the institution of an International Court of Compliance linked to the International Court of Justice; The Court of Compliance will hear evidence from citizens of state non-compliance. (NOT YET)

87. To support the establishment of an International Court of Compliance where citizens can take evidence of state and corporate

non-compliance, and where, in the absence of compliance, charters and licences of corporation can be revoked. (NOT YET)

88. To discharge obligations incurred through conventions, treaties, and covenants; and act on commitments made through conference action plans related to common security - peace, environment, human rights and social justice. (NOT YET)

89. To sign, ratify, and enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance with, or respect for Common Security International Conventions, Covenants and Treaties. (NOT YET)

90. To affirm a commitment to multilateralism and oppose unilateral actions that undermines global common security. (YES, HE HAS BEGUN)

91. To affirm that true security is not "collective security" or "human security" which has been extended to "humanitarian intervention", and used along with the "responsibility to protect" with a view to justifying military intervention in other states. True security is "common security", not as defined in the SPP, but in documents prepared by Olaf Palme, and which entrench peremptory norms related to the following actions. (NOT YET)

To promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, civil and political rights, social and cultural rights- right to food, right to housing, right to a universally accessible, not-for-profit health care system, right to education and social justice; to this end, to ratify the International Covenant on Social Economic and Cultural Rights. ; (NO)

\* to enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and ensure the right to development [as per Convention];

\* to achieve a state of peace, social justice and disarmament; through reallocation of military expenses, and eradication of poverty;

\* to create a global structure that respects the rule of law ; and

\* to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, respect the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, reduce the ecological footprint and move away from the current model of over-consumptive development and toward forms of economic cooperation.

92. To revoke the citizens United Decision and lead to reform the constitution (NOT YET)

93. To no longer be the 'Best Democracy that Money can buy (Greg Palast) (NOT YET); [Particularly after the decision of the Citizen' s united Decisions in 2010 which resulted in the Age of the superpac”

94. To oppose religious extremism and proselytizing including the spread of Evangelical Christianity around the world, which has undermined local indigenous cultures, instilled fear through the dangerous belief in the "rapture", "Armageddon" and "left behind", and to condemn dispensationalist "end times" scenario which has serious irreversible consequences, and has led to the undermining of other established beliefs and practices. (NOT YET)

96. To end the interference in the democratic process through US government-funded Non-Governmental Organizations, SUCH AS USAID, FREEDOM HOUSE , NED ETC (NOT YET)

97. To reverse the practice of the United States undermining years of international obligations incurred through treaties, conventions and covenants. (NOT YET)

98. To reverse the practice of the United States of undermining international commitments made through UN Conference Action plans. (NOT YET)

99. To reverse the practice of the United States of undermining international expectations created through UNGA declarations and resolutions. NOT YET

100. To refuse to end all speeches with God bless America. (NOT YET)

Etc.

Send correct assessments or to add to list, Tweet @joanRussow OR E-MAIL [DrjRussow@gmail.com](mailto:DrjRussow@gmail.com)

[Flame Retardants Are](#)



## Everywhere

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 03 July 2014 19:26

[http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/07/01/flame-retardants-are-everywhere/?\\_php=true&\\_type=blogs&\\_php=true&\\_type=blogs|\\_tw-share&\\_r=1&](http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/07/01/flame-retardants-are-everywhere/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_php=true&_type=blogs|_tw-share&_r=1&)

Flame retardants have been found in Antarctic penguins and other unexpected animals and places. Credit L.A. Kelly Whybrow/Royal Navy Crown, via EPA

Just over 10 years ago, Dr. Arnold Schecter, a public health researcher in Texas, started [finding traces of chemical flame retardants in the breast milk of American women](#). It appeared that the compounds were carried into the milk from fat in the mothers' bodies.

Last Updated on Sunday, 06 July 2014 17:32

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1955 readings

## Cost outweigh benefit for third dam, Site critic says



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 03 July 2014 08:20

By [Energeticcity.ca](#):

<http://energeticcity.ca/article/news/2014/07/02/cost-outweigh-benefit-for-third-dam-site-c-critic-says>

Another Site C Dam critic writing in the Troy Media/Marketplace says if the B.C. government decides to proceed with construction of the third dam on the Peace River the lasting legacy will be one of wealth destruction.

Dan Potts is a retired Forest Industry Executive with degrees in Chemical Engineering and Business, and more than 30 years experience managing capital and energy intensive facilities.

He argues the huge cost of \$7.9 billion to build the dam will rob the province of valuable resources, which could be used to deliver other needed government services, and at the same time, burden the provincial economy with debt and high electric power rates that will sap its competitiveness.

Potts notes B.C. Hydro has filed information that the cost of electric power from Site C will be in the area of \$100

per megawatt hour, but that current market prices are in the area of \$30 per megawatt hour.

He therefore argues, if Site C was currently operational, the market value of the power produced would be \$350,000,000 per year less than the cost, and in order for electric power from Site-C to be competitive, natural gas prices will have to increase by a factor of 3.5 times.

Potts also notes these numbers are based on the project being built for its estimated cost of \$7.9 billion, but he suggests there's a significant risk of substantial cost over-runs, and additional costs associated with First Nations accommodation.

He concludes the province should recognize the costs, risks, and market realities associated with the project and postpone it until there's a reasonable business case indicating its construction will actually be a benefit **to**

**British Columbia.**

Last Updated on Thursday, 03 July 2014 08:26

711 readings

## [Whose Security? How Washington Protects Itself and the Corporate Sector](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 01 July 2014 16:32

By [Noam Chomsky](#)

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/175863/>The question of how foreign policy is determined is a crucial one in world affairs. In these comments, I can only provide a few hints as to how I think the subject can be productively explored, keeping to the United States for several reasons.

First, the U.S. is unmatched in its global significance and impact. Second, it is an unusually open society, possibly uniquely so, which means we know more about it. Finally, it is plainly the most important case for Americans, who are able to influence policy choices in the U.S. -- and indeed for others, insofar as their actions can influence such choices. The general principles, however, extend to the other major powers, and well beyond.

There is a "received standard version," common to academic scholarship, government pronouncements, and public discourse. It holds that the prime commitment of governments is to ensure security,



and that the primary concern of the U.S. and its allies since 1945 was the Russian threat.

There are a number of ways to evaluate the doctrine. One obvious question to ask is: What happened when the Russian threat disappeared in 1989? Answer: everything continued much as before.

The U.S. immediately invaded Panama, killing probably thousands of people and installing a client regime. This was routine practice in U.S.-dominated domains -- but in this case not quite as routine. For first time, a major foreign policy act was not justified by an alleged Russian threat.

Instead, a series of fraudulent pretexts for the invasion were concocted that collapse instantly on examination. The media chimed in enthusiastically, lauding the magnificent achievement of defeating Panama, unconcerned that the pretexts were ludicrous, that the act itself was a radical violation of international law, and that it was bitterly condemned elsewhere, most harshly in Latin America. Also ignored was the U.S. veto of a unanimous Security Council resolution condemning crimes by U.S. troops during the invasion, with Britain alone abstaining.

All routine. And all forgotten (which is also routine).

### **From El Salvador to the Russian Border**

The administration of George H.W. Bush issued a new national security policy and defense budget in reaction to the collapse of the global enemy. It was pretty much the same as before, although with new pretexts. It was, it turned out, necessary to maintain a military establishment almost as great as the rest of the world combined and far more advanced in technological sophistication -- but not for defense against the now-nonexistent Soviet Union. Rather, the excuse now was the growing “technological sophistication” of Third World powers. Disciplined intellectuals understood that it would have been improper to collapse in ridicule, so they maintained a proper silence.

The U.S., the new programs insisted, must maintain its “defense industrial base.” The phrase is a euphemism, referring to high-tech industry generally, which relies heavily on extensive state intervention for research and development, often under Pentagon cover, in what economists continue to call the U.S. “free-market economy.”

One of the most interesting provisions of the new plans had to do with

the Middle East. There, it was declared, Washington must maintain intervention forces targeting a crucial region where the major problems “could not have been laid at the Kremlin’s door.” Contrary to 50 years of deceit, it was quietly conceded that the main concern was not the Russians, but rather what is called “radical nationalism,” meaning independent nationalism not under U.S. control.

All of this has evident bearing on the standard version, but it passed unnoticed -- or perhaps, *therefore* it passed unnoticed.

Other important events took place immediately after the fall of the Berlin Wall, ending the Cold War. One was in El Salvador, the leading recipient of U.S. military aid -- apart from Israel-Egypt, a separate category -- and with one of the worst human rights records anywhere. That is a familiar and very close correlation.

The Salvadoran high command ordered the Atlacatl Brigade to invade the Jesuit University and murder six leading Latin American intellectuals, all Jesuit priests, including the rector, Fr. Ignacio Ellacuría, and any witnesses, meaning their housekeeper and her daughter. The Brigade had just returned from advanced counterinsurgency training at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and had already left a bloody trail of thousands of the usual victims in the course of the U.S.-run state terror campaign in El Salvador, one part of a broader terror and torture campaign throughout the region. All routine. Ignored and virtually forgotten in the United States and by its allies, again routine. But it tells us a lot about the factors that drive policy, if we care to look at the real world.

Another important event took place in Europe. Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to allow the unification of Germany and its membership in NATO, a hostile military alliance. In the light of recent history, this was a most astonishing concession. There was a *quid pro quo*. President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker agreed that NATO would not expand “one inch to the East,” meaning into East Germany. Instantly, they expanded NATO to East Germany.

Gorbachev was naturally outraged, but when he complained, he was instructed by Washington that this had only been a verbal promise, a gentleman’s agreement, hence without force. If he was naïve enough to accept the word of American leaders, it was his problem.

All of this, too, was routine, as was the silent acceptance and approval of the expansion of NATO in the U.S. and the West generally. President Bill Clinton then expanded NATO further, right

up to Russia's borders. Today, the world faces a serious crisis that is in no small measure a result of these policies.

### **The Appeal of Plundering the Poor**

Another source of evidence is the declassified historical record. It contains revealing accounts of the actual motives of state policy. The story is rich and complex, but a few persistent themes play a dominant role. One was articulated clearly at a western hemispheric conference called by the U.S. in Mexico in February 1945 where Washington imposed "An Economic Charter of the Americas" designed to eliminate economic nationalism "in all its forms." There was one unspoken condition. Economic nationalism would be fine for the U.S. whose economy relies heavily on massive state intervention.

The elimination of economic nationalism for others stood in sharp conflict with the Latin American stand of that moment, which State Department officials described as "the philosophy of the New Nationalism [that] embraces policies designed to bring about a broader distribution of wealth and to raise the standard of living of the masses." As U.S. policy analysts added, "Latin Americans are convinced that the first beneficiaries of the development of a country's resources should be the people of that country."

That, of course, will not do. Washington understands that the "first beneficiaries" should be U.S. investors, while Latin America fulfills its service function. It should not, as both the Truman and Eisenhower administrations would make clear, undergo "excessive industrial development" that might infringe on U.S. interests. Thus Brazil could produce low-quality steel that U.S. corporations did not want to bother with, but it would be "excessive," were it to compete with U.S. firms.

Similar concerns resonate throughout the post-World War II period. The global system that was to be dominated by the U.S. was threatened by what internal documents call "radical and nationalistic regimes" that respond to popular pressures for independent development. That was the concern that motivated the overthrow of the parliamentary governments of Iran and Guatemala in 1953 and 1954, as well as numerous others. In the case of Iran, a major concern was the potential impact of Iranian independence on Egypt, then in turmoil over British colonial practice. In Guatemala, apart from the crime of the new democracy in empowering the peasant majority and infringing on possessions of the United Fruit Company -- already offensive enough -- Washington's concern was labor unrest and popular mobilization in neighboring U.S.-backed dictatorships.

In both cases the consequences reach to the present. Literally not a day has passed since 1953 when the U.S. has not been torturing the people of Iran. Guatemala remains one of the world's worst horror chambers. To this day, Mayans are fleeing from the effects of near-genocidal government military campaigns in the highlands backed by President Ronald Reagan and his top officials. As the country director of Oxfam, a Guatemalan doctor, reported recently,

“There is a dramatic deterioration of the political, social, and economic context. Attacks against Human Rights defenders have increased 300% during the last year. There is a clear evidence of a very well organized strategy by the private sector and Army. Both have captured the government in order to keep the status quo and to impose the extraction economic model, pushing away dramatically indigenous peoples from their own land, due to the mining industry, African Palm and sugar cane plantations. In addition the social movement defending their land and rights has been criminalized, many leaders are in jail, and many others have been killed.”

Nothing is known about this in the United States and the very obvious cause of it remains suppressed.

In the 1950s, President Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles explained quite clearly the dilemma that the U.S. faced. They complained that the Communists had an unfair advantage. They were able to “appeal directly to the masses” and “get control of mass movements, something we have no capacity to duplicate. The poor people are the ones they appeal to and they have always wanted to plunder the rich.”

That causes problems. The U.S. somehow finds it difficult to appeal to the poor with its doctrine that the rich should plunder the poor.

### **The Cuban Example**

A clear illustration of the general pattern was Cuba, when it finally gained independence in 1959. Within months, military attacks on the island began. Shortly after, the Eisenhower administration made a secret decision to overthrow the government. John F. Kennedy then became president. He intended to devote more attention to Latin America and so, on taking office, he created a study group to develop policies headed by the historian Arthur Schlesinger, who summarized its conclusions for the incoming president.

As Schlesinger explained, threatening in an independent Cuba was “the Castro idea of taking matters into one's own hands.” It was an idea

that unfortunately appealed to the mass of the population in Latin America where “the distribution of land and other forms of national wealth greatly favors the propertied classes, and the poor and underprivileged, stimulated by the example of the Cuban revolution, are now demanding opportunities for a decent living.” Again, Washington’s usual dilemma.

As the CIA explained, “The extensive influence of 'Castroism' is not a function of Cuban power... Castro’s shadow looms large because social and economic conditions throughout Latin America invite opposition to ruling authority and encourage agitation for radical change,” for which his Cuba provides a model. Kennedy feared that Russian aid might make Cuba a “showcase” for development, giving the Soviets the upper hand throughout Latin America.

The State Department Policy Planning Council warned that “the primary danger we face in Castro is... in the impact the very existence of his regime has upon the leftist movement in many Latin American countries... The simple fact is that Castro represents a successful defiance of the U.S., a negation of our whole hemispheric policy of almost a century and a half” -- that is, since the Monroe Doctrine of 1823, when the U.S. declared its intention of dominating the hemisphere.

The immediate goal at the time was to conquer Cuba, but that could not be achieved because of the power of the British enemy. Still, that grand strategist John Quincy Adams, the intellectual father of the Monroe Doctrine and Manifest Destiny, informed his colleagues that over time Cuba would fall into our hands by “the laws of political gravitation,” as an apple falls from the tree. In brief, U.S. power would increase and Britain’s would decline.

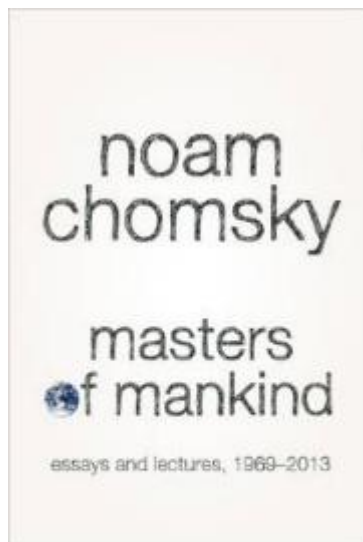
In 1898, Adams’s prognosis was realized. The U.S. invaded Cuba in the guise of liberating it. In fact, it prevented the island’s liberation from Spain and turned it into a “virtual colony” to quote historians Ernest May and Philip Zelikow. Cuba remained so until January 1959, when it gained independence. Since that time it has been subjected to major U.S. terrorist wars, primarily during the Kennedy years, and economic strangulation. Not because of the Russians.

The pretense all along was that we were defending ourselves from the Russian threat -- an absurd explanation that generally went unchallenged. A simple test of the thesis is what happened when any conceivable Russian threat disappeared. U.S. policy toward Cuba became even harsher, spearheaded by liberal Democrats, including Bill

Clinton, who outflanked Bush from the right in the 1992 election. On the face of it, these events should have considerable bearing on the validity of the doctrinal framework for discussion of foreign policy and the factors that drive it. Once again, however, the impact was slight.

### **The Virus of Nationalism**

To borrow Henry Kissinger's terminology, independent nationalism is a "virus" that might "spread contagion." Kissinger was referring to Salvador Allende's Chile. The virus was the idea that there might be a parliamentary path towards some kind of socialist democracy. The way to deal with such a threat is to destroy the virus and to inoculate those who might be infected, typically by imposing murderous national security states. That was achieved in the case of Chile, but it is important to recognize that the thinking holds worldwide.



### **Buy the book**

It was, for example, the reasoning behind the decision to oppose Vietnamese nationalism in the early 1950s and support France's effort to reconquer its former colony. It was feared that independent Vietnamese nationalism might be a virus that would spread contagion to the surrounding regions, including resource-rich Indonesia. That might even have led Japan -- called the "superdomino" by Asia scholar John Dower -- to become the industrial and commercial center of an independent new order of the kind imperial Japan had so recently fought to establish. That, in turn, would have meant that the U.S. had lost the Pacific war, not an option to be considered in 1950. The remedy was clear -- and largely achieved. Vietnam was virtually destroyed and ringed by military dictatorships that kept the "virus" from spreading contagion.

In retrospect, Kennedy-Johnson National Security Adviser McGeorge Bundy reflected that Washington should have ended the Vietnam War in 1965, when the Suharto dictatorship was installed in Indonesia, with enormous massacres that the CIA compared to the crimes of Hitler, Stalin, and Mao. These were, however, greeted with unconstrained euphoria in the U.S. and the West generally because the “staggering bloodbath,” as the press cheerfully described it, ended any threat of contagion and opened Indonesia’s rich resources to western exploitation. After that, the war to destroy Vietnam was superfluous, as Bundy recognized in retrospect.

The same was true in Latin America in the same years: one virus after another was viciously attacked and either destroyed or weakened to the point of bare survival. From the early 1960s, a plague of repression was imposed on the continent that had no precedent in the violent history of the hemisphere, extending to Central America in the 1980s under Ronald Reagan, a matter that there should be no need to review.

Much the same was true in the Middle East. The unique U.S. relations with Israel were established in their current form in 1967, when Israel delivered a smashing blow to Egypt, the center of secular Arab nationalism. By doing so, it protected U.S. ally Saudi Arabia, then engaged in military conflict with Egypt in Yemen. Saudi Arabia, of course, is the most extreme radical fundamentalist Islamic state, and also a missionary state, expending huge sums to establish its Wahhabi-Salafi doctrines beyond its borders. It is worth remembering that the U.S., like England before it, has tended to support radical fundamentalist Islam in opposition to secular nationalism, which has usually been perceived as posing more of a threat of independence and contagion.

### **The Value of Secrecy**

There is much more to say, but the historical record demonstrates very clearly that the standard doctrine has little merit. Security in the normal sense is not a prominent factor in policy formation.

To repeat, *in the normal sense*. But in evaluating the standard doctrine we have to ask what is actually meant by “security”: security for whom?

One answer is: security for state power. There are many illustrations. Take a current one. In May, the U.S. agreed to support a U.N. Security Council resolution calling on the International Criminal Court to investigate war crimes in Syria, but with a proviso: there could be no inquiry into possible war crimes by Israel. Or by

Washington, though it was really unnecessary to add that last condition. The U.S. is uniquely self-immunized from the international legal system. In fact, there is even congressional legislation authorizing the president to use armed force to “rescue” any American brought to the Hague for trial -- the “Netherlands Invasion Act,” as it is sometimes called in Europe. That once again illustrates the importance of protecting the security of state power.

But protecting it from whom? There is, in fact, a strong case to be made that a prime concern of government is the security of state power from the population. As those who have spent time rummaging through archives should be aware, government secrecy is rarely motivated by a genuine fear for security, but it definitely does serve to keep the population in the dark. And for good reasons, which were lucidly explained by the prominent liberal scholar and government adviser Samuel Huntington, the professor of the science of government at Harvard University. In his words: “The architects of power in the United States must create a force that can be felt but not seen. Power remains strong when it remains in the dark; exposed to the sunlight it begins to evaporate.”

He wrote that in 1981, when the Cold War was again heating up, and he explained further that “you may have to sell [intervention or other military action] in such a way as to create the misimpression that it is the Soviet Union that you are fighting. That is what the United States has been doing ever since the Truman Doctrine.”

These simple truths are rarely acknowledged, but they provide insight into state power and policy, with reverberations to the present moment.

State power has to be protected from its domestic enemy; in sharp contrast, the population is not secure from state power. A striking current illustration is the radical attack on the Constitution by the Obama administration’s massive surveillance program. It is, of course, justified by “national security.” That is routine for virtually all actions of all states and so carries little information.

When the NSA’s surveillance program was exposed by Edward Snowden’s revelations, high officials claimed that it had prevented 54 terrorist acts. On inquiry, that was whittled down to a dozen. A high-level government panel then discovered that there was actually only one case: someone had sent \$8,500 to Somalia. That was the total yield of the huge assault on the Constitution and, of course, on others throughout the world.

Britain’s attitude is interesting. In 2007, the British government called



on Washington's colossal spy agency "to analyze and retain any British citizens' mobile phone and fax numbers, emails, and IP addresses swept up by its dragnet," the *Guardian* reported. That is a useful indication of the relative significance, in government eyes, of the privacy of its own citizens and of Washington's demands.

Another concern is security for private power. One current illustration is the huge trade agreements now being negotiated, the Trans-Pacific and Trans-Atlantic pacts. These are being negotiated in secret -- but not completely in secret. They are not secret from the hundreds of corporate lawyers who are drawing up the detailed provisions. It is not hard to guess what the results will be, and the few leaks about them suggest that the expectations are accurate. Like NAFTA and other such pacts, these are not free trade agreements. In fact, they are not even trade agreements, but primarily investor rights agreements.

Again, secrecy is critically important to protect the primary domestic constituency of the governments involved, the corporate sector.

### **The Final Century of Human Civilization?**

There are other examples too numerous to mention, facts that are well-established and would be taught in elementary schools in free societies.

There is, in other words, ample evidence that securing state power from the domestic population and securing concentrated private power are driving forces in policy formation. Of course, it is not quite that simple. There are interesting cases, some quite current, where these commitments conflict, but consider this a good first approximation and radically opposed to the received standard doctrine.

Let us turn to another question: What about the security of the population? It is easy to demonstrate that this is a marginal concern of policy planners. Take two prominent current examples, global warming and nuclear weapons. As any literate person is doubtless aware, these are dire threats to the security of the population. Turning to state policy, we find that it is committed to accelerating each of those threats -- in the interests of the primary concerns, protection of state power and of the concentrated private power that largely determines state policy.

Consider global warming. There is now much exuberance in the United States about "100 years of energy independence" as we become "the Saudi Arabia of the next century" -- perhaps the final century of human civilization if current policies persist.

That illustrates very clearly the nature of the concern for security, certainly not for the population. It also illustrates the moral calculus of contemporary Anglo-American state capitalism: the fate of our grandchildren counts as nothing when compared with the imperative of higher profits tomorrow.

These conclusions are fortified by a closer look at the propaganda system. There is a huge public relations campaign in the U.S., organized quite openly by Big Energy and the business world, to try to convince the public that global warming is either unreal or not a result of human activity. And it has had some impact. The U.S. ranks lower than other countries in public concern about global warming and the results are stratified: among Republicans, the party more fully dedicated to the interests of wealth and corporate power, it ranks far lower than the global norm.

The current issue of the premier journal of media criticism, the *Columbia Journalism Review*, has an interesting article on this subject, attributing this outcome to the media doctrine of “fair and balanced.” In other words, if a journal publishes an opinion piece reflecting the conclusions of 97% of scientists, it must also run a counter-piece expressing the viewpoint of the energy corporations.

That indeed is what happens, but there certainly is no “fair and balanced” doctrine. Thus, if a journal runs an opinion piece denouncing Russian President Vladimir Putin for the criminal act of taking over the Crimea, it surely does not have to run a piece pointing out that, while the act is indeed criminal, Russia has a far stronger case today than the U.S. did more than a century ago in taking over southeastern Cuba, including the country’s major port -- and rejecting the Cuban demand since independence to have it returned. And the same is true of many other cases. The actual media doctrine is “fair and balanced” when the concerns of concentrated private power are involved, but surely not elsewhere.

On the issue of nuclear weapons, the record is similarly interesting -- and frightening. It reveals very clearly that, from the earliest days, the security of the population was a non-issue, and remains so. There is no time here to run through the shocking record, but there is little doubt that it strongly supports the lament of General Lee Butler, the last commander of the Strategic Air Command, which was armed with nuclear weapons. In his words, we have so far survived the nuclear age “by some combination of skill, luck, and divine intervention, and I suspect the latter in greatest proportion.” And we can hardly count on continued divine intervention as policymakers play roulette with the

fate of the species in pursuit of the driving factors in policy formation.

As we are all surely aware, we now face the most ominous decisions in human history. There are many problems that must be addressed, but two are overwhelming in their significance: environmental destruction and nuclear war. For the first time in history, we face the possibility of destroying the prospects for decent existence -- and not in the distant future. For this reason alone, it is imperative to sweep away the ideological clouds and face honestly and realistically the question of how policy decisions are made, and what we can do to alter them before it is too late.

*Noam Chomsky is Institute Professor emeritus in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Among his recent books are Hegemony or Survival, [Failed States](#), [Power Systems](#), Occupy, and Hopes and Prospects. His latest book, [Masters of Mankind](#), will be published soon by Haymarket Books, which is also reissuing twelve of his classic books in new editions over the coming year. His website is [www.chomsky.info](http://www.chomsky.info).*

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## [CANADA DAY 2014; THE HARPER GOVERNMENT' S DISMANTLING OF CANADA](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 29 June 2014 14:37



**CANADA DAY 2014; THE HARPER GOVERNMENT'S DISMANTLING OF CANADA**

**BY JOAN RUSSOW GLOBAL COMPLIANCE RESEARCH PROJECT JULY 1, 2014**

**SINCE 2006, THE HARPER GOVERNMENT HAS CAUSED CANADA TO BE PERCEIVED AS**

**AN INTERNATIONAL PARIAH. ON JULY 1, 2014 WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY**

**TO DENOUNCE THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR YEARS OF TRANSGRESSIONS:**

**HERE IS A BEGINNING LIST.**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT ENBRIDGE PIPELINE FOR APPROVING**

**THE ENBRIDGE PIPELINE. THE HARPER GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED  
THE FLAWED DECISION OF THE ENBRIDGE PANEL WHICH IGNORED  
NOT ONLY THE DEEP CONCERNS, SUBMITTED TO THE PANEL,  
BY THE CITIZENS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BUT ALSO  
INTERNATIONAL NORMS WHICH WOULD BE VIOLATED**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9797:the-cabinet-decisions-mimiked-the-flawed-decision-by-the-joint-review-panel-if-one-reviews-the-initial-submissions-to-the-panel-in-august-2010-one-can-clearly-see-that-the-issues-raised-by-the-submissions-were-completely-ignored-&catid=87:c-earth-news&Itemid=212](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9797:the-cabinet-decisions-mimiked-the-flawed-decision-by-the-joint-review-panel-if-one-reviews-the-initial-submissions-to-the-panel-in-august-2010-one-can-clearly-see-that-the-issues-raised-by-the-submissions-were-completely-ignored-&catid=87:c-earth-news&Itemid=212)

*ESCLATING THE DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PASSING THE SO-CALLED “FAIR ELECTIONS” ACT WHICH PROVIDE NEW FUNDING LOOPHOLES, UNDERMINES THE ROLE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, PLACES THE ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER THE ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE WITHOUT HAVING POWER TO COMPEL WITNESSES, AND ABOVE ALL SUPPRESSES THE VOTE BY REMOVING PROCEDURES THAT FACILITATE THE VOTE.**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9801:-breaking-were-taking-the-unfair-elections-act-to-court&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9801:-breaking-were-taking-the-unfair-elections-act-to-court&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR SPENDING 1.2 BILLION ON THE “SPY PALACE” FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT CANADA (CSEC)**

1. [Inside Canada's top-secret billion-dollar spy palace - Politics ...](#)

[www.cbc.ca/.../inside-canada-s-top-secret-billion-dollar-spy-palace-1.19](http://www.cbc.ca/.../inside-canada-s-top-secret-billion-dollar-spy-palace-1.19)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING CSEC TO  
ESTABLISH COVERT SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS WORLDWIDE AS  
PART OF NSA GLOBAL SPYING APPARATUS**

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/canadian-spy-agency-establishes-covert-surveillance-operations-worldwide-as-part-of-nsa-global-spying-apparatus/5361566>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR EMBARKING UPON INCREASED  
INTRUSIVE SURVEILLANCE OF CANADIAN CITIZEN AND FOR  
SHARING "INTELLIGENCE WITH OTHER STATES**

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/monitor/massive-secret-surveillance-canada>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR BRINGING FORWARD WHAT  
LAWRENCE MARTIN CALLS THE "LOYALTY ACT"**

**” A CONSERVATIVE MP HAS BROUGHT FORWARD, WITH THE BLESSING OF THE PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE, A BILL THAT WOULD REQUIRE PARLIAMENTARY WATCHDOGS AND ALL THEIR EMPLOYEES [TO DISCLOSE PREVIOUS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES](#).**

**THE PERIOD OF DISCLOSURE WOULD COVER THE DECADE PREVIOUS TO THEIR APPOINTMENTS. THE LEGISLATION WOULD BE RETROACTIVE — MEANING ALL CURRENT EMPLOYEES WOULD EFFECTIVELY HAVE TO SUBMIT TO POLITICAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.”**

**LAWRENCE MARTIN [HTTP://WWW.IPOLITICS.CA/2014/01/15/NON-CONSERVATIVES-NEED-NOT-APPLY/](http://www.ipolitics.ca/2014/01/15/non-conservatives-need-not-apply/)**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASINGLY ABUSING ITS CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS AND CAUSING CANADA TO BECOME AN AUTOCRACY WITH FEW CHECKS AND BALANCES**

<http://www.pej.org/html/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=8440>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR USING FRAUDULENT MEANS FOR ACCEDING TO POWER: FROM THEIR 2006 IN-AND OUT FUNDING SCHEME TO THEIR USE, IN 2011, OF ROBO CALLS**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7946:a-mockery-of-justice-conservatives-should-be-prosecuted-not-rewarded-for-their-violation-of-the-elections-act&catid=75:justice-news&Itemid=218](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7946:a-mockery-of-justice-conservatives-should-be-prosecuted-not-rewarded-for-their-violation-of-the-elections-act&catid=75:justice-news&Itemid=218)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR DISSOLVING PARLIAMENT TO**

**EVADE THE INVESTIGATION INTO ITS IN-AND-OUT SCHEME, FOR**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7946:a-mockery-of-justice-conservatives-should-be-prosecuted-not-rewarded-for-their-violation-of-the-elections-act&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7946:a-mockery-of-justice-conservatives-should-be-prosecuted-not-rewarded-for-their-violation-of-the-elections-act&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PROROGUING PARLIAMENT TO AVOID AN INVESTIGATION INTO CANADIAN COMPLICITY IN TORTURING AFGHANI REFUGEES, AND FOR PROROGUING PARLIAMENT TO PREVENT THE OPPOSITION FROM FORMING A COALITION**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7955&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7955&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR USING OMNIBUS BILLS**

**WHICH HAVE PREVENTED IN DEPTH, MEANINGFUL DEBATE ON KEY ISSUES**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR SHOWING CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT AND FOR PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=8095&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8095&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MUZZLING FEDERAL SCIENTISTS, BY PREVENTING THE PRESENTING OF THEIR RESULTS WHICH WERE**



**PAID FOR BY TAXPAYERS**

[http://sciencewriters.ca/initiatives/muzzling\\_canadian\\_federal\\_scientists/](http://sciencewriters.ca/initiatives/muzzling_canadian_federal_scientists/)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**FOR DESTROYING FILES OF RAW DATA IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
AND CLOSING KEY GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES**

<http://www.canadapastmatters.ca/public-libraries/federal-library-cuts-and-closures.aspx>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MARGINALIZING THE OFFICE OF  
THE NATIONAL SCIENCE ADVISOR, AND CUTTING OF FUNDING FOR  
SCIENCE**

[www.canada.com/story.html?id=68567994-1f34-4338-b878..](http://www.canada.com/story.html?id=68567994-1f34-4338-b878..)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR, CUTTING OFF FUNDING FOR  
SCIENCE AND CLOSING LABS WHOSE RESULTS THREATEN  
CORPORATE INTERESTS**

**SEE January 10 2013 VIDEO ON FIFTH ESTATE**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/research-cutbacks-by-government-alarm-scientists-1.2490081>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR SCRAPPING THE MANDATORY  
LONG-FORM CENSUS DESPITE BEING TOLD BY STATISTICS CANADA  
OFFICIALS THAT IMPORTANT DATA WOULD LIKELY BE LOST OR  
IMPAIRED AS A RESULT. GOOD DATA IS ESSENTIAL FOR**

**DEVELOPING GOOD POLICY**

[www.cbc.ca/news/politics/tories-scrap-mandatory-long-census-1.888048](http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/tories-scrap-mandatory-long-census-1.888048)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR IMPEDING ACCESS TO INFORMATION, FOR DENYING AND DELAYING REQUESTS. FOR SUPPRESSING RESEARCH, AND FOR INTIMIDATING LIBRARIANS AND ARCHIVISTS**

<http://news.nationalpost.com/tag/suzanne-legault/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR REFRAMING CANADA AND CANADIAN HISTORY. AT THE 2013 CONGRESS, HISTORIANS AND POLITICAL SCIENTISTS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT HOW THE HARPER GOVERNMENT WAS REFRAMING CANADA AS A MILITARISTIC NATION.**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/05/03/harper-conservatives-canadian-history\\_n\\_3208625.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/05/03/harper-conservatives-canadian-history_n_3208625.html)

**ALSO QUESTIONS WERE RAISED ABOUT HOW THE CITIZENSHIP TEST WAS BEING REFRAMED AS WELL**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CUTTING FUNDING, FOR UNDERMINING AND FOR INTIMIDATING THE CBC**

**THE CBC REFUSED TO AUTHORIZE AND PLAY THIS AD**

[The Man Behind the Desk](#)

<http://vimeo.com/69748338>

*FOSTERING MILITARISM*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASING INTEGRATION WITH THE UNITED STATES**

**CANADA, UNDER HARPER GOVERNMENTS, HAS INCREASINGLY CLOSE MILITARY INTEGRATION WITH US POLICY, AND ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT, CUTELY CALLED "SHIPRIDER PROGRAM" THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO INCREASE BORDER SECURITY BY ALLOWING THE RCMP AND THE U.S. COAST GUARD TO TEAM UP AND RIDE IN EACH OTHERS VESSELS DURING BORDER PATROLS. THE HARPER GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO AN ENHANCED ROLE FOR NORAD. HARPER IS TO GO ANYWHERE, ANY PLACE AND AT ANY TIME AT THE BEHEST OF THE US POLICY OF PREVENTIVE/PRE-EMPTIVE AGGRESSION.**

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ibet-eipf/shiprider-eng.htm>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR USING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT DOCTRINE TO JUSTIFY THE INVASION OF LIBYA AND SUPPORTED THE MISSION CREEP**

<http://theyee.ca/Opinion/2013/11/25/Libyan-Hell-After-Civil-War/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR TRIPPLING THE MILITARY BUDGET; IT HAS INCREASED THREEFOLD SINCE 2000; THE CURRENT BUDGET IS 30 BILLION, NOT INCLUDING THE FAR REACHING EXPENSES OF CANADA FIRST PLAN**

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/about/canada-first-defence-strategy>.

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR ENGAGING IN MILITARY EXERCISES SUCH AS NATO’S EXERCISE TRIDENT FURY, AND NORTHCOM’S EXERCISE- AND FOR NOT OPPOSING THE INCREASED NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX**

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[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9129:exercise-trident-fury-2013-rogue-states-engaged-in-propaganda-for-war&catid=104:i-peace-news&Itemid=204](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9129:exercise-trident-fury-2013-rogue-states-engaged-in-propaganda-for-war&catid=104:i-peace-news&Itemid=204)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING THE INFAMOUS CHILEAN TORTURE SHIP, THE ESMERALDA TO BERTH IN THE GREATER VICTORIA HARBOUR AND IN THE VANCOUVER HARBOUR.**

<http://www.straight.com/news/bc-residents-oppose-visit-chilean-navy-ship-la-esmeralda-vancouver>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT SIGNING THE ARMS TRADE TREATY [EVEN THE US HAS SIGNED IT ALONG WITH 117 OTHER STATES; NINE STATES HAVE RATIFIED IT.]**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/harper-refuses-to-sign-landmark-arms-trade-treaty/article14539869/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR IGNORING THE BUDGET OFFICER ASSESSMENT OF THE COST OF THE F-35 JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER (JSF) AND FOR FAILING TO BE TRANSPARENT WITH THE OPPOSITION**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/budget-watchdog-accuses-tories-of-low-balling-f-35-cost/article4104618/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FUNDING, UNDER THE WESTERN DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAM, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, A PROGRAM TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND PRODUCE DRONES WITH SYSTEMS THAT ARE CONFIGURABLE WITH MILITARY USES (DOCUMENT RECEIVED THROUGH ACCESS TO INFORMATION)**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR REVERSING, IN 2007, CANADA'S LONGSTANDING SUPPORT FOR A NUCLEAR ARMS FREE MIDDLE EAST. AND FOR REFUSING YET AGAIN, AT THE 2013 HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, TO SUPPORT NUCLEAR ARMS FREE MIDDLE EAST. (FROM CANADIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS AT THE NPT CONFERENCES AND FROM HIGH LEVEL MEETING AT UN IN NEW YORK)**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR DISMISSING THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON AS A BEING "A MEASURED' RESPONSE." IN ADDITION, CANADA WAS ONE A FEW COUNTRIES THAT DID NOT CONDEMN THE DEADLY ISRAELI ATTACK IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, ON THE HUMANITARIAN FLOTILLA.**

<http://www.socialist.ca/node/1442>

<http://rabble.ca/news/2010/06/israel-can-do-no-wrong-harpers-policy>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR SUPPORTING THE MURDEROUS ATTACK BY ISRAEL ON GAZA IN GAZA IN 2008-9, AN ATTACK WHICH KILLED OVER 1400 PALESTINIANS, MOSTLY CIVILIANS, AND WHICH WAS DENOUNCED IN THE GOLDSTONE REPORT TO THE UN AS VIOLATIONS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL LAW**

<http://www.crescent-online.net/2014/05/jewish-group-accuses-harper-government-of-hypocrisy-in-treatment-of-irfan-canada-ijv-canada-4444-articles.html>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO CONDEMN THE ILLEGAL BLOCKADE, OF GAZA BY ISRAEL, WHICH IS A VIOLATION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AGAINST COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT.**

<http://rabble.ca/news/2010/06/israel-can-do-no-wrong-harpers-policy>

*DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MISCONSTRUING THE  
INTERNATIONAL PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**

**THE INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY  
PRINCIPLE IS THE FOLLOWING;**

**WHERE THERE IS A THREAT OF IRREVERSIBLE HARM OR A THREAT  
OF LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY OR A THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH, THE  
LACK OF FULL SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY OF HARM SHOULD NOT BE  
USED AS A REASON TO POSTPONE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE  
THREAT.**

**IN CANADA THE WORDING IS**

**“THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE” RECOGNIZES THAT THE  
ABSENCE OF FULL SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY” OF SAFETY SHALL  
NOT BE USED AS A REASON FOR POSTPONING DECISIONS**

**IN CANADA, THIS VERSION HAS RESULTED IN THE QUESTIONABLE  
APPROVAL OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CROPS AND  
THE IGNORING OF YEARS OF INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INDICATING  
HARM. (FROM PETITION SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSIONER OF  
THE ENVIRONMENT, AUGUST 2013)**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9536:enbridge-pipeline-the-panel-ignored-the-precautionary-principle-and-the-government-has-misconstrued-the-principle&catid=89:bc-earth-news&Itemid=213](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9536:enbridge-pipeline-the-panel-ignored-the-precautionary-principle-and-the-government-has-misconstrued-the-principle&catid=89:bc-earth-news&Itemid=213)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT BANNING THE  
NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO HARM  
BEES, AND BIRDS**

[http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/toxins/Neonic\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/toxins/Neonic_FINAL.pdf)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT BANNING MOTORIZED  
SEAWEED HARVESTING AND INSTITUTING A MORATORIUM ON NON-  
MORTORIZED HARVESTING**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9500:-open-letter-mechanizedindustrialized-seaweed-harvesting-must-be-banned&catid=89:bc-earth-news&Itemid=213](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9500:-open-letter-mechanizedindustrialized-seaweed-harvesting-must-be-banned&catid=89:bc-earth-news&Itemid=213)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR USING THE OMNIBUS BILL 45 AND  
CHANGING THE NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION ACT**

**THIS CHANGE REMOVES THOUSANDS OF LAKES AND STREAMS  
FROM FEDERAL PROTECTION UNDER THAT LAW.**

<http://www.ecojustice.ca/publications/files/envirolaw-watch/navigable-waters-protection-act-briefing/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR UNDERMINING THE CANADIAN  
ECONOMY BY CAUSING CANADA TO BECOME A FOSSIL FUEL STATE**

<http://commonsensecanadian.ca/petro-state-economy-costs-canada-far-jobs-creates/>

**WE DENOUNCE**



**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR TOLERATING CLIMATE CHANGE DENIERS, FOR FUNDING THE “FRIENDS OF SCIENCE” AND FOR SACRIFICING HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN CANADA FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE TAR SANDS PIPELINES AND TANKERS.**

[http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Friends\\_of\\_Science](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Friends_of_Science)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT'S NATURAL RESOURCE MINISTER**

**WHO SAID THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WANTED TO SPEND UP TO \$16.5 MILLION ON ADVERTISING IN THE UPCOMING YEAR, "THIS IS A CRITICAL MOMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THEREFORE WE HAVE ALLOCATED A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR ADVERTISING,' OLIVER TOLD A SPECIAL COMMITTEE STUDYING SPENDING ESTIMATES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS"**

<http://tarsandssolutions.org/in-the-media/stephen-harpers-government-withholds-details-of-16-million-pr-campaign-for>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR COVERING UP, UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION, A SERIOUS SPILL IN THE TAR SANDS WHICH OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE 2011 ELECTION**

<http://www.victoriacouncilofcanadians.ca/climate-justice/huge-oil-spill-in-alberta-cover-up-by-regulators>

/

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CALLING THOSE WHO SEEK TO**

**PREVENT THE SENDING OF FOSSIL FUELS ACROSS BC AS "EXTREMISTS".**

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20120301/northern-gateway-pipeline-canada-harper-tar-oil-sands-foresthics-first-nations-charities-nonprofits-keystone-xl>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MAKING, IN 2009 AT COP15, A LOW COMMITMENT FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (17 PER CENT FROM 2005 LEVELS BY 2020; WHEREAS THE EU HAD AGREED TO 20% FROM THE 1990 LEVEL).**

**AND THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT ESTABLISHING A CREDIBLE PLAN FOR REACHING EVEN THIS MODEST COP 15 COMMITMENT BY 2020**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/emissions-will-soar-after-2020-without-oil-sands-regulation-federal-report-says/article16250220/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**HARPER GOVERNMENT, FOR FAILING TO INSTITUTE A CANADA-WIDE BAN ON FRACKING TO PREVENT THE NAFTA SUIT AGAINST QUEBEC'S BAN ON FRACKING**

<http://www.canadians.org/media/lone-pine-resources-files-outrageous-nafta-lawsuit-against-fracking-ban>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR UNDERMINING THE RESOLVE IN THE RIO+20 CONFERENCE TO ELIMINATE SUBSIDIES FOR FOSSIL FUELS**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9814:rio20-canada-the-deleter-of-key-principles-and-commitments&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9814:rio20-canada-the-deleter-of-key-principles-and-commitments&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CONSISTENTLY RECEIVING THE FOSSIL AWARD OR THE COLLOSAL FOSSIL AWARDS AT THE CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7527&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7527&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENTS WITHDRAWING FROM THE KYOTO PROOCOL**

<http://o.canada.com/news/its-official-harper-government-withdraws-from-kyoto-climate-agreement>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/canada-quietly-pulls-out-of-un-anti-droughts-convention-1.1388320>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR TURNING LAKES INTO MINE DUMP SITES**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/lakes-across-canada-face-being-turned-into-mine-dump-sites-1.733972>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PASSING C-38**

**WHICH CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING;**

- (i) CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTALASSESSMENT ACT DITCHED.**
- (ii) (CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY SERIOUSLY WEAKENED.**
- (iii) CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT UNDERCUT.**
- (iv) KYOTO PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION ACT KILLED.**
- (v) (FISHERIES ACT SERIOUSLY WEAKENED.**
- (vi) NAVIGABLEWATERS PROTECTION ACT HAMPERED.**
- (vii) ENERGY BOARD ACT NEUTERED.**
- (viii) SPECIES AT RISK ACT HAMSTRUNG.**
- (ix) PARKS CANADA AGENCY ACT TRIMMED, STAFF CUT.**
- (x) CANADIAN OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS ACT MADE MORE INDUSTRY FRIENDLY.**
- (xi) COASTING TRADE ACT MADE MORE OFFSHORE DRILLING FRIENDLY.**
- (xii) (NUCLEAR SAFETY CONTROL ACT UNDERMINED.**
- (xiii) CANADA SEEDS ACT INSPECTIONS PRIVATIZED.**

- (xiv) **AGRICULTURE AFFECTED.**
- (xv) **NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY KILLED.**
- (xvi) **MORE ATTACKS ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS FUNDED. (vii) WATER PROGRAMS CUT.**
- (xvii) **WASTEWATER SURVEY CUT. )**
- (xviii) **MONITORING EFFLUENT CUT.**

Outline above from The Tye <http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2012/05/10/Bill-C38/>

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT, FOR OBSTRUCTING THE BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL, INDIGENOUS GROUPS ALLEGE CANADIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM ON THE BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL**

<http://www.ip-watch.org/2010/10/21/indigenous-groups-allege-canadian-obstructionism-to-biodiversity-abs-protocol/>

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASING PRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CROPS**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9807:republication-of-professor-seralinis-study-time-to-be-responsible&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9807:republication-of-professor-seralinis-study-time-to-be-responsible&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO INVOKE THE INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE AND INSTITUTE A BAN ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND**

## **CROPS**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9773:presentation-at-the-victoria-2014-march-against-monsanto&catid=80:i-pej-events&Itemid=228](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9773:presentation-at-the-victoria-2014-march-against-monsanto&catid=80:i-pej-events&Itemid=228)

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO INVOKE THE INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE TO PREVENT THE IMPACT OF GE ON THE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES.**

<http://www.startribune.com/local/143017765.html>

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVING THE PRODUCTION OF TRANSGENIC SALMON EGGS IN PEI**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9548:transgenic-salmon-is-fraught-with-uncertainties-and-irreversible-harmful-consequences&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9548:transgenic-salmon-is-fraught-with-uncertainties-and-irreversible-harmful-consequences&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE “DOWNLISTING” OF PACIFIC HUMPBACK WHALES FROM “THREATENED” TO “SPECIAL CONCERN”**

<http://news.wildlife.org/featured/controversy-over-canadas-decision-to-downlist-humpback-whales/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**HARPER FOR CONSIDERING DIFFERENT DELIVERY SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH CARE WHICH COULD RESULT IN INCREASE PRIVATIZATION AND END TO MEDICARE**

**IN THE 2011 LEADERS DEBATE HARPER SAID; “GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THIS COUNTRY HAVE EXPERIMENTED WITH ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY....WE’RE NOT GOING TO WAVE THE FINGER AT PROVINCES BECAUSE THEY EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT DELIVERY.”**

<http://www.nationalnewswatch.com/2014/03/12/medicare-is-on-the-road-to-oblivion/#.U7Bsk5RdVuA>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR ABDICATING RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE CANADA HEALTH CARE ACT.**

<http://healthcoalition.ca/harper-plan-would-kill-medicare/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR IGNORING THE PLEAS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR CANCELING THE DEBT, AND THE PLEAS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE AND FOR COMPENSATION FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR ATMOSPHERIC SPACE (STATEMENT BY CANADA AT THE NEW YORK,10-14 JANUARY 2011 CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES , AT THE UN, IN NEW YORK.**

*CONTRIBUTING TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS NEGLIGENCE*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR VIOLATING THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE IN AFGHANISTAN THROUGH TRANSFERRING THE AFHAN DETAINEES**

**EVEN THOUGH A CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ADVISED THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE PRISONERS TRANSFERRED BY CANADA TO AN AFGHAN PRISON WERE BEING TORTURED, THE HARPER MINORITY GOVERNMENT IGNORED THE WARNING. THE HARPER MINORITY GOVERNMENT DENIED THAT THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED AND DISCREDITED HIM, AND NOW IN JUNE, THE DOCUMENTS INDICATE THAT HARPER HAD BEEN INFORMED.**

<http://mwcnews.net/focus/politics/40436-cia-torture-revelations.html>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR EXTENDING THE ANTI-TERRORIST ACT AND FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/conservatives-pass-anti-terror-bill-decried-by-civil-rights-advocates/article11535988/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE PUTTING UNDER SUREILLANCE CITIZENS ENGAGED IN LAWFUL ADVOCACY; THIS PRACTICE VIOLATES SECTION 1 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS- THAT AFFIRMS THAT THERE MUST BE NO DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF POLITICAL OR OTHER OPINION**



**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT' FOR VIOLATING LABOUR RIGHTS,  
ESPECIALLY FOR CHALLENGING THE RIGHT TO STRIKE**

[http://www.cupw.ca/index.cfm/ci\\_id/13985/la\\_id/1](http://www.cupw.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/13985/la_id/1)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE DENYING OF RIGHTS OF  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. ARTICLE 19 OF THE UN DECLARATION OF  
THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WHICH REQUIRES FAIR  
PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT; HARPER HAS STATED CONSENT DOES  
NOT REALLY MEAN CONSENT IT MEANS CONSULTATION. HE ALSO  
HAS DECLARED THAT THE UNDRIP IS ONLY ASPIRATIONAL.[HE  
RECENT DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT WILL NOT PERMIT  
THIS:**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9813:tsilhqotin-first-nation-granted-bc-title-claim-in-supreme-court-ruling&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9813:tsilhqotin-first-nation-granted-bc-title-claim-in-supreme-court-ruling&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218)

<http://intercontinentalcry.org/harper-launches-major-first-nations-termination-plan-as-negotiating-tables-legitimize-canadas-colonialism/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**A FEDERAL TRIBUNAL WHICH HAS REBUKED THE GOVERNMENT  
FOR HIDING DOCUMENTS IN A CHALLENGE OVER FUNDING FOR  
FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN.**

**THE CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL SAYS THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT KNEW ABOUT 50,000 DOCUMENTS "PREJUDICIAL TO  
ITS CASE AND HIGHLY RELEVANT" IN 2012, BUT DIDN'T DISCLOSE  
THEM UNTIL THEY WERE REVEALED THIS YEAR IN A REQUEST**

**UNDER FEDERAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS. (CBC)**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/ottawa-rebuked-for-holding-back-first-nations-documents-1.1362202>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT EMPLOYERS, WITH CRIMINAL RECORD, COULD NOT BE INVOLVED WITH THE TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORK PROGRAM**

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MOVING CANADA AWAY FROM A COUNTRY OF MULTIFAITH, AND NO FAITH TOWARDS A FORM OF CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALISM WITH LINKS TO ISRAEL**

<http://theyee.ca/Opinion/2012/03/26/Harper-Evangelical-Mission/>

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT'S BILL C10' TOUGH ON CRIME BILL WHICH HAS CAUSED VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE CRIME LEGISLATION TO BE DIRECTED TOWARDS INCREASING PUNISHMENT BY WAY OF MORE PRISON TERMS FOR MORE PEOPLE AND FOR LONGER. VIRTUALLY NOTHING IN ANY OF THE LEGISLATION DOES ANYTHING TO PREVENT CRIME**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/what-worries-critics-about-omnibus-crime-bill-1.1244907>

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENTS FAILURE TO CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR**

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR REFUSING TO FUND ANYTHING TO DO WITH FAMILY PLANNING AND ABORTION**

<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/gerry-caplan/2014/06/harpers-plan-maternal-health-not-nearly-good-enough>

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR IMPRISONING OF REFUGEES ARRIVING BY SHIP AND FOR CUTTING OFF HEALTH CARE FUNDING FOR REFUGEES, COMING FROM COUNTRIES, WHICH THE HARPER GOVERNMENT DEEMS TO BE SAFE TO CANADA.**

<http://healthcoalition.ca/main/issues/conservative-attack-on-refugee-health-care/>

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO**

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CAUSING, THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR TO INCREASE. IN CANADA**

**THE MEDIAN INCOME OF THE TOP 1% IS 10 TIMES HIGHER THAN THE REMAINING 99% OF TAX FILERS (STATISTICS CANADA).**

[www.canadiansocialresearch.net/inequality.htm](http://www.canadiansocialresearch.net/inequality.htm)

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT, FOR CAUSING CANADA TO FALL**

**FURTHER BEHIND ON MDG#1 IN RELATION TO ALL SECTORS OF POPULATION LIVING IN POVERTY WELL OVER THE European Union and OECD (ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT) AVERAGES, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO ABORIGINAL PERSONS (36% POVERTY RATE) SINGLE MOTHERS (21.5% POVERTY RATE), AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (26.4%).**

[www.makepovertyhistory.ca](http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca)

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CANADA BEING RANKED AS 20<sup>TH</sup> OUT OF 31 OECD COUNTRIES FOR MOVING WOMEN OUT OF POVERTY IN MEASURING POVERTY**

<http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/PDF-FactSheet-EndPoverty-Jan2013.pdf>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CAUSING CANADA TO BE 12 OUT OF 30 IN THE ASSESSMENT, BY UNICEF, IN CHILD WEL BEIN IN RICH COUNTRIES**

<http://www.unicef.org/media/files/ChildPovertyReport.pdf>

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL CRISIS BEING CAUSED BY DEREGULATION OF FINANCIAL MARKETS WHICH HAS ACCELERATED THIS INEQUALITY.**

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/monitor/global-economic-crisis-and-its-canadian-dimension>

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE INCREASING SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/n12/12-108-eng.asp>

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASING GLOBALIZATION, DEREGULATION AND PRIVATIZATION THROUGH ITS SUPPORT FOR TRADE AGREEMENTS, SUCH AS THE WTO/FTAA/NAFTA, SPP, CETA, FIPA TTIPS; AS WELL AS BYLATERAL AGREEMENTS. ALL THESE TRADE AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE DECLARED NULL AND VOID FOR VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL PEREMPTORY NORMS**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9737:-ceta-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms-pdf-print-e-mail-justice-news-posted-by-joan-russow-friday-18-october-2013-0706-ceta-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms-joan-russow-global-complianc&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9737:-ceta-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms-pdf-print-e-mail-justice-news-posted-by-joan-russow-friday-18-october-2013-0706-ceta-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms-joan-russow-global-complianc&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216)

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR UNDERMINING OF POST  
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**CANADA HAS REDUCED FUNDS FOR UNIVERSITIES, CAUSING  
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GOLDCORP. WITH TERRIBLE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS, AND FROM  
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<http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/blog/federal-programs-and-research-facilities-that-have-been-shut-down-or-had-th>

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AND FOR REJECTING US WAR RESISTERS**

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[HARPER BAILING OUT BANKS AND AUTO INDUSTRIES](#)

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING THE CONTINUED  
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**NUCLEAR ARMS CAPABLE VESSELS IN THE GREATER VICTORIA HARBOUR**

[WARSHIP SHOULD BE PROHIBITED IN CANADIAN WATERS](#)

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR ADVOCATING THAT AT THE END OF CANADIAN COMBAT OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD LOOK TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS POTENTIAL BUYERS OF CANADIAN-MADE GUNS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT**

[THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD LOOK TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS POTENTIAL BUYERS OF CANADIAN MADE GUNS](#)

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT, AND THE CONSERVATIVE DOMINATED SENATE, FOR OPPOSING A MINING BILL C300 WHICH WOULD REQUIRE CANADIAN MINING COMPANIES TO ABIDE BY STANDARDS WHEN THEY OPERATE OUTSIDE OF CANADA.**

[CANADIAN MINING SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL HARM](#)

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*VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS*

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS.**

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CHANGING THE EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY RULES. THESE CHANGES WILL INCREASE THE PRECARIOUSNESS OF JOBS AND JEOPARDIZE THE BARGAINING POWER OF WORKERS IN CANADA.**



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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE ABUSES AND EXPLOITATION OCCURRING IN THE TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER PROGRAM,**

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR VIOLATING SECTION 1 OF THE 1951 REFUGEE ACT BY MAKING A DISTINCTION BETWEEN WHAT IT DEEMS TO BE SAFE AND UNSAFE COUNTRIES. THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN ART. 1, REFUGEE ACT)**

[HARPER GOVERNMENT'S DISTINCTION BETWEEN REFUGEES FROM SAFE AND UNSAFE STATES](#)

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CAUSING A DETERIORATION IN CANADA OF FOOD SECURITY, AND FOR DISPENSIN WITH THE RQPPATEUR'S REPORT ON FOOD SECURITY**

[UN OFFICIAL SPARKS DEBATE OVER CANADIAN FOOD SECURITY](#)

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT ADDRESSING THE FACT THAT**

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**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CONTINUING TO HOST AND FOR EXPANDING CANSEC-THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRADE FAIR**

**“CANADA'S LARGEST WEAPONS BAZAAR. THOUSANDS OF BUYERS, SELLERS, USERS AND PROMOTERS OF THE LATEST TECHNOLOGIES FOR WAR AND REPRESSION WILL BE RUBBING SHOULDERS AT THIS HUGE, PRIVATE EVENT. CLOAKING THEMSELVES BEHIND A WALL OF DECEPTIVE EUPHEMISMS, LIKE "DEFENCE" AND "SECURITY" HUNDREDS OF HIGHLY-PROFITABLE CANADIAN CORPORATIONS WILL SHOWCASE THEIR DEADLY WARES”. (COALITION AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE)**

Last Updated on Tuesday, 01 July 2014 17:03

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[Alaska requests greater involvement in oversight of large B.C. gold mine](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 23 August 2014 13:48

JAMES KELLER <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/alaska-requests-greater-involvement-in-oversight-of-large-bc-gold-mine/article20182593/VANCOUVER> —

The Canadian Press

Friday, Aug. 22 2014, 8:24 PM EDT



The state of Alaska has taken the rare step of asking the Canadian government for greater involvement in the approval and regulation of a controversial mine in northwestern British Columbia amid growing concern that the project could threaten American rivers and fish.

Alaska's Department of Natural Resources outlined its request in a letter this week to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, which has been reviewing the proposed KSM gold and copper mine, owned by Seabridge Gold Inc. The project has already been approved by B.C.

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Video

[Video: Aerial footage shows consequences of Mount Polley Mine waste water spill](#)

“The state of Alaska has important obligations to our citizens relating to the protection of fish, wildlife, waters and lands that we hold in trust,” says the state’s

letter, signed by three senior bureaucrats.

They request in the letter that the state be involved in the authorization and permitting process for the KSM mine, the development of enforcement provisions in those permits, and the development of monitoring programs for water quality and dam safety.

Alaska has already been consulted during both the provincial and federal environmental reviews, which is routine for projects that could affect neighbouring jurisdictions, but the vast majority of permitting work occurs after an environmental certificate is issued.

Kyle Moselle of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources said the state has developed a good relationship with Canadian regulators, but he said that shouldn't stop when the environmental assessment process is over.

"As far as I know, we have not sought direct involvement in the permitting or monitoring processes for a large hard rock mine proposed in northwest B.C.," Mr. Moselle said in an interview Friday.

"That's really where the enforceable provisions of how the project will be constructed, operated and monitored are laid out. That's the process we want to be involved in."

Environmentalists, aboriginal groups and commercial fishermen in Alaska claim the project poses a risk to rivers that flow into their state, and they've pointed to a recent tailings spill at an unrelated mine in central B.C. to amplify those concerns.

The tailings dam at the Mount Polley mine failed almost three weeks ago, releasing millions of cubic metres of water and silt into the surrounding watershed and raising fears about the potential impact on the environment and fish. The B.C. government says testing has so far indicated water and fish in the area are safe for human consumption.

The KSM project would be located near the Unuk River system, which also flows into Alaska, though its tailings facility would be in the Nass River watershed, which empties into the Pacific Ocean in B.C.

While the tailings facility won't be located near the Unuk, treated effluent is expected to be discharged into the river.

Critics of the KSM mine in Alaska have called for the Canadian Environment Minister to refer the project to a more detailed process known as a panel review, which was used to evaluate the failed New Prosperity mine in central B.C. before the federal government rejected it.

In its letter, the state of Alaska does not take a position on whether a panel review is necessary.

"This letter includes the state's request that you carefully consider the numerous

petitions for a panel review and how the underlying public concerns might be best addressed, whether through such a review or other processes,” says the letter.

Ted Laking, a spokesman for Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq, said the government is reviewing a study report from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and that it would be inappropriate to comment.

He referred further questions to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, which did not respond.

Seabridge has said it has worked hard to address concerns in Alaska, and the company insisted the project will have no impact on American rivers or fish.

A spokesperson for Seabridge was not immediately available on Friday.

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[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 21 August 2014 15:16

**VIENNA — Aug 20, 2014, 6:45 PM ET**

By GEORGE JAHN Associated Press

The U.N. nuclear agency says that Iran is keeping commitments it agreed to with six world powers in a pact that temporarily caps its nuclear activities and eliminates material that could be most easily used to make nuclear weapons.

*The finding is contained in a restricted International Atomic Energy Agency report released Wednesday and obtained by The Associated Press.*

Under the agreement reached late last year, Iran agreed not to increase the scope or capacity of its uranium enrichment program. Iran says it needs the program to make reactor fuel, but uranium can also be used for the fissile component of nuclear warheads if enriched to high levels.

Iran also agreed to eliminate its enriched uranium stockpile closest to weapons grade. It insists it does not want such arms.

Last Updated on Thursday, 21 August 2014 20:37

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## [From sugar to drugs, Harper has turned everything partisan](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 21 August 2014 13:06

By KONRAD YAKABUSKI

[Konrad](#)

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/an-unhealthy-dose-of-partisanship/article20144092/> **The Globe and Mail**

Thursday, Aug. 21 2014, 8:32 AM EDT

Warning young people about the dangers of smoking pot should be about as controversial as telling them to brush their teeth. The same goes for recommending that adults consume no more sugar than they can bench-press. Health officials are right to point out the pitfalls of both.

This is Canada, in 2014, however, where the Harper government's insistence on putting its political stamp on policies that were previously left to independent agencies or experts in the bureaucracy means that even its public service announcements (PSAs) are suspect. Where an anti-pot ad aimed at teens seems partisan and nutritional guidelines seem to go light on the sugar lobby.

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[Video: How to spot the ‘added sugar’ culprits and cut back on sweets for good](#)

Health Minister Rona Ambrose, who is officially charged with looking out for the brain cells of Canadian teens and the waistlines of their parents, instead finds herself accused of caring more about her fast-aging government’s longevity. Her anti-marijuana campaign, in particular, seems conveniently timed to discredit Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, who supports legalizing pot.

Even if Ms. Ambrose’s intentions were pure, her party’s relentless and deceitful attacks on Mr. Trudeau’s pot plans – for example, a Tory leaflet recently distributed in Veteran Affairs Minister Julian Fantino’s Toronto-area riding said the Liberal Leader’s “first order of business is to make marijuana more accessible to minors” – have the effect of making her an accomplice in a political smear campaign.

Ms. Ambrose’s proposal to establish a new guideline on Canadians’ daily sugar intake also smacks of politics. Her proposed 100-gram cap does not distinguish between sugar that is naturally occurring in foods and sugar that is added by manufacturers. Fruit Loops or fruit, it’s all the same to her.

The minister says the experts at Health Canada told her that “sugar is sugar.” But a 355-millilitre can of Coke, which has 42 grams of added sugar, is not the nutritional equivalent of a couple of apples, which have about the same amount of naturally occurring sugar. Added sugar is the main ingredient in our obesity and diabetes epidemic.

By not specifying a recommended limit on added sugar, however, the minister lets food manufacturers off easy. No need to reconfigure that ketchup by adding real tomatoes when Health Canada says you can eat 20 tablespoons of the condiment without surpassing your daily sugar limit.

As far as Ms. Ambrose is concerned, we can all eat cake. In fact, we might as well.

What’s really sad about the Tory modus operandi is that worthy public health initiatives are discredited because fewer people trust this government to act in anything but its own interest.

[An article](#) by the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse, published in the June issue of The New England Journal of Medicine, concluded that pot-smoking teens, whose brains are still developing, risk permanent impairment. It found that “regular marijuana use in the early teen years lowers IQ into adulthood, even if users stopped smoking marijuana as adults.”

Yet the country's medical establishment this week pulled out of Health Canada's upcoming ad campaign aimed at discouraging young people from smoking marijuana and abusing prescription drugs because it did not want to be seen as a political pawn. The Canadian Medical Association and two other groups representing the country's doctors had earlier agreed to let their logos be used in the multimillion-dollar campaign that was reportedly set to launch this fall.

"The campaign, unfortunately, took a twist that looked a little political," outgoing CMA president Louis Hugo Francescutti said. "And as a non-partisan organization, we heard from our members loud and clear that they did not want us to be affiliated with that."

Ms. Ambrose blamed Mr. Trudeau for politicizing the ad campaign by raising questions about its motives. But why wouldn't he? Though he deserves criticism for being too vague about how he would "tax and regulate" pot, he has been clear that he sees marijuana as detrimental to young people and regulation as the best way to make it harder for them to get it. Yet, Tories shamelessly tell voters the opposite, that Mr. Trudeau wants to make buying pot "an everyday activity" for their kids.

If the minister goes ahead with her ads many parents will see them after a months-long barrage of Tory propaganda about Mr. Trudeau's marijuana proposal. It will be impossible for them to take the ads at face value, which may be exactly what the Tories are aiming for.

It's a sad day when you can't trust your own government's PSAs.

Follow Konrad Yakabuski on Twitter: [@konradyakabuski](https://twitter.com/konradyakabuski)

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## [Welcome to Guatemala: gold mine protester beaten and burnt alive](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 21 August 2014 11:04

Indigenous people speak out against the Marlin mine run by Canadian company Goldcorp

- Surge in deaths of environmental activists over past decade, report finds





The Marlin mine in western Guatemala owned by Canadian firm Goldcorp.  
Photograph: David Hill

“They took him and poured gasoline all over him. Then they struck a match and lit him.”

Doña A - not her real name, for security reasons - was standing up, arms crossed, lightly leaning against a ladder, and speaking in her language, Maya Mam, while a friend, a relation by marriage, translated into Spanish. There were 20 or so Mams in the room - mostly women, some children, one elderly man - and we were in an adobe-brick house in the highlands of far western Guatemala, not far from the border with Mexico, and just around the corner from an open sky and underground gold- and silver-mine called Marlin.

The Mams had gathered there - at some personal risk - to speak about the mine and how it impacts them. “Her husband was killed by workers of the company,” someone had said suddenly, meaning Doña A, “but she doesn’ t speak much Spanish”, although it was quickly suggested she could talk in Mam and a friend would translate for her.

“We heard the screams and the yellings but we didn’ t know what was happening,” she continued.

Her husband’ s two brothers were with him: they had to run away or would be burnt alive too.

“He didn’ t want to die,” she said. “It was the rainy season. There was a little bit of water which he tried to jump into and the fire sort of went away.”

This was 2009: Doña A named the month and the date. Her husband didn’ t survive. He was eventually taken to hospital, she said, but died there. Although a formal complaint was filed with the Attorney-General’ s regional office, it wasn’ t followed up because Doña A was “scared” of the consequences.

“They said that they would lynch [ “lynchar” ] us,” she said.

Why had her husband been killed?

“He was part of the struggle,” said Doña A’ s friend, answering directly. “He was defending our rights. He was informing the communities about the problems the mining company brought with it, and performing a community consultation.”

A lawyer from Guatemala City was in the room with us. He said the consultation process had been a grass-roots initiative which managed to consult 23 communities in the region - all of which pronounced against the mine - but “death threats”, among other things, had put an end to it.

But how could Doña A be sure this had something to do with the mine, the company? She had answered that earlier:

“They asked him, “Why are you against the mining?” They were wearing hoods. They asked him, “Why are you against the company?” That’ s why we knew they were members of the company.”

This is just one of many horror stories that many Maya Mams, as well as Maya Sipacapenses, from the neighbouring district, could tell about Marlin - which they have been speaking out against, resisting and protesting for over a decade. Speak to others and it’ s the same, desperate complaints: intimidation, threats, social division, violence, bribery and corruption of local authorities, destruction and contamination of water sources, livestock dying, houses shaking, cracked walls, the criminalization of protest, forest cleared, and appalling health impacts such as malnutrition and skin diseases.

In 2010 Guatemala was urged to suspend operations at Marlin by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) because of concerns

about the impacts, as well as the failure to properly consult the Mams and Sipacapenses, but that request was ignored and the IACHR later backtracked. Indeed, in allowing the mine to go-ahead in the first place the government also ignored an international treaty, the International Labour Organization's Convention 169, which Guatemala ratified in 1996 and which recognises, among other things: 1) indigenous peoples' rights of "ownership and possession" "over the lands which they traditionally occupy" ; and 2) indigenous peoples' rights to be consulted about "legislative or administrative measures which may affect them directly", and which must be carried out "with the objective of achieving agreement or consent to the proposed measures" - something many Mams and Sipacapenses say wasn't done regarding Marlin.

That failure to properly consult the Mayas also means that the World Bank's International Financial Corporation (IFC) violated its safeguards - no surprise at all - when it provided a catalytic loan of US\$45 million back in 2004 to kick-start operations. The Bank's "Operational Directive" on indigenous peoples stated that "direct consultation" must be done.

The company running Marlin is Montana Exploradora, a subsidiary of Goldcorp, based in Vancouver, Canada. I asked Goldcorp to comment on Doña A's allegation that company workers had been responsible for setting fire to her husband and received this response from the Communications Director, Christine Marks:

The allegation is patently false. Goldcorp and its subsidiary Montana Exploradora do not condone violence of any kind, against anyone. We respect the right of all individuals to voice their opinions respectfully. Goldcorp and Montana Exploradora have adopted the internationally-recognized standards of "Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights." These standards provide the guidelines for security policies which include and demonstrate respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. All of our security personnel are trained in the 'Voluntary Principles', as are the local members of the Guatemalan police and army.

Asked about the other allegations - the intimidation, the threats, the social division. . . - Marks directed me to a Goldcorp webpage where "you'll find common myths that have been exposed repeatedly as falsehoods." This lists eleven such "myths", which Goldcorp refutes, including ones that the company contaminates the local water

supply, that it doesn't consult local communities, that it doesn't respect human rights, that communities around the mine are negatively impacted, and that it intimidates opposition.

Goldcorp is just one of many Canadian companies currently operating in Latin America amid growing concern about their social and environmental impacts. Earlier this year the IACHR was presented with a report written by more than 30 civil society organizations about 22 large-scale mining projects in nine Latin American countries - Marlin among them - which argues that between 50% and 70% of Latin American mining is now done by Canadian firms and that Canada's authorities, while aware of the projects mentioned in the report, continue "to provide political, legal and financial support to companies which commit or tolerate human rights abuses."

"Canadian mining is getting a really bad reputation," someone in Guatemala, who I won't name either, told me. "Canada is hell."

## [Christy's Classroom for Public Education](#) [TUESDAY, SEPT. 2nd @ 9AM](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 20 August 2014 15:59

By Social Environmental Alliance

Please share widely

TUESDAY, SEPT. 2nd @ 9AM

BC LEGISLATURE GROUNDS

(in front of the Premier's Wing)

Wondering what to do during the **teachers' strike**? Want to join students, parents & teachers in a **Peoples' School** at Premier Christy Clark's **doorstep** on the Legislature Grounds?

ALL OUT at **Christy's Classroom** when classes resume on TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 2nd!

Last Updated on Wednesday, 20 August 2014 16:04

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Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 20 August 2014 12:01



[CHARLOTTE RACHAEL PROUDMAN](#)

Thursday 14 August 2014

Under international humanitarian law there have been many incidents that could constitute serious international crime

Last Updated on Wednesday, 20 August 2014 12:13

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## [Dutch Parliament votes to ban all neonicotinoid pesticide uses in the](#)



# Netherlands

## Earth News

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 20 August 2014 07:23

<http://www.ontariobee.com/inside-oba/news-and-updates/dutch-parliament-votes-to-ban-all-neonicotinoid-pesticide-uses-in-the-netherlands>

March 19, 2014

18th March 2014 Neonicotinoids are dangerous to bees and other pollinators and are a primary cause of the massive bee deaths . A majority of the Court today rallied behind motions of the Animal Welfare Party for a national ban on the use of this insecticide in agriculture and retail sales . Neonicotinoids are relatively new agricultural poisons which have a disastrous effect on bees. These insecticides are thousands of times more toxic than DDT . The Party for Animal Welfare has been campaigning for many years against the neonicotinoids .

In early 2013 a parliamentary majority endorsed a motion of Esther Ouwehand for a partial European ban on the pesticides . Due to this motion is the use of three types of neonicotinoids: imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam in all 27 countries of the EU is now restricted. However, the European ban on neonicotinoids only applies to selected crops which are attractive to bees; this means that most uses of the neonicotinoids on cereal crops for example, remains unchanged : as much as 80 % of crops which are treated with neonicotinoids in the Netherlands remain unaffected by the EU ban. Thus our country remains among the top three European countries with the highest use of pesticides in farming, and bee mortality is extremely high in Holland .

The Animal Welfare Party has therefore, urged the Secretary of State, Herr Dijkema to secure further restrictions in pesticide use. The Secretary of State refused, and wanted to leave the partial European ban

just as it was, with neonicotinoids only being banned on 'bee attractive crops' like sunflowers, canola and maize. **Today the Dutch Parliament forced Secretary of State Dijkma to take further action.** A majority of political parties: PvdA , SP, GL , D66 , 50 + and Freedom Party, endorsed two motions of Esther Ouwehand, namely that ALL neonicotinoids should be banned in the Netherlands for all uses in agriculture, domestic gardens and landscape uses. The motion which was passed also demanded a complete ban on a related systemic pesticide, Fipronil. This Parliamentary success is not only important for the survival of the bee and other pollinators; it is also of great importance for human public health. Scientists increasingly point out the dangers of neonicotinoids for people's health . The proposer of the Motion Esther Ouwehand said:

"This is a major breakthrough in the fight against bee deaths. We have always stressed the public interest of maintaining a healthy agriculture and a diversity of wildlife. Hitherto the political lobbying of the Pesticide Industry have ensured that the actions of the European Union were but a drop in the ocean.

Today, the House of Parliament has taken real action to protect Bees and human health" Pollination of crops by bees is essential for nature and for our own food . Toxic pesticides such as neonicotinoids , threaten the survival of this vital link in our ecosystem . Besides the use of pesticides , bees are also threatened by the lack of sufficiently varied food-sources: their habitat of wild flowers has been destroyed and there is less food available for bees. The Parliamentary Motion was proposed by Member of Parliament Esther Ouwehand with Gerard Schouw ( D66 ). A second motion demanding a new Eco-friendly roadside management policy was also supported and passed by a majority of the House today. motions : - Motion Ouwehand others on the use of neonicotinoids - Motion Ouwehand a fully national moratorium - Motion Ouwehand / Schouw about ecological and by nature immoral nature and roadside management

**Motion Put to the Dutch parliament:  
Moratorium on the use of  
neonicotinoids 15-11-2012 The**

Chamber, heard the deliberations, noting that the relationship between the use of neonicotinoids on the one hand and the high mortality of bees and the occurrence of brain damage in children on the other hand cannot be excluded, calls on the Dutch Government to impose a moratorium on the use of all neonicotinoids, until it is established that neonicotinoids do not have a harmful effect on bees and human health, and proceeds to the order of the day.  
Ouwehand Van Gerven  
chimney Status: Adopted  
18.03.2014 For: PvdD, SP, PvdA, GL, D66, 50 +, PVV By: VVD, CU, CDA, SGP, Bontes

326 readings

## [French labor union openly opposes nuclear](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 19 August 2014 13:59

by [Craig Morris](#) <http://energytransition.de/2014/08/french-labor-union-openly-opposes-nuclear/>

**12 Aug 2014**

This is big news - for the first time, French labour union General Confederation of Labor (CGT) has spoken out clearly for the closure of France's oldest nuclear plant. The reasons given argue against nuclear in general. Craig Morris investigates.





The pro-nuclear coalition in France continues to crumble, as biggest French union CGT debates its position on nuclear and further operation of Fessenheim nuclear plant. (Photo by [Florival fr](#), [CC BY SA 3.0](#))

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In Germany, labor union support for renewables and against nuclear has a [long tradition](#); German unions defected decades ago when they realized the net job gains from an energy transition.

In France, the situation has been much different. Granted, one labor union did openly state its criticism for nuclear [in 2013](#), but the CGT – which my French colleagues tell me is the stronger force to reckon with – has remained firmly pro-nuclear (see our [previous post](#) on the matter). [Until now](#).

Alsace is the region of France bordering Germany (the two *départements* of Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin). More importantly, it is where Fessenheim is located – France’s oldest operating nuclear reactor, and one that is scheduled to be shut down next. The question is when, and the answer will set the course for the country’s future energy policy. The [official policy](#) is that France aims to reduce the share of nuclear in power supply from the current roughly 75 percent to 50 percent – but we have no roadmap, and the French public is divided as soon as the discussion turns to specific plants being shut down.

On June 30, the Alsace chapter of the CGT did not mince words in a letter to the union’s Secretary-General:

“You have made statements to the press concerning nuclear that discredit the CGT among all workers.”

The letter charges that the CGT leaders “take no account of the expertise of nuclear workers, technicians, and engineers” who have expressed concerns, opting instead to

protect the interest of shareholders (“*capitalistes*”) “who maximize profit to the detriment of the public.”

From there, the letter reviews practically every charge against nuclear that has ever been made. It complains that “enriched uranium is to be used for nuclear weapons.” And while France often [mistakenly speaks](#) of its nuclear power as a “domestic” energy source, CGT Alsace argues that nuclear “pillages mineral resources” of other countries, “particularly Africa: AREVA operates mines in Niger.” And of course, it adds that cost are rising, as are risks.

One central argument made in favor of nuclear is that the power is needed, especially for industry, but Fessenheim was shut down temporarily and ahead of schedule on 18 April 2014, and “no restriction in energy consumption has disturbed either our way of life in Alsace or industrial activity.” Indeed, I might add that the Cattenom plant has also [shut down](#) repeatedly this year without any disruption in power supply. More importantly, the [official reason](#) given for the shutdown of reactor 2 at Cattenom was a reaction “to lower power demand.” A more complete [overview is here](#) from plant operator EDF, and Reuters also published [this list](#) of planned and unplanned nuclear shutdowns in France recently. I would conclude that there is excess generation capacity in France during the summer (and a deficit [in the winter](#)).

Unfortunately, the letter from CGT Alsace degenerates into boilerplate rhetoric near the end, where it speaks of “class warfare,” with “the capitalist world maximizing profits.” Germans would probably argue the following:

- We will get more jobs nationwide from renewables than we will lose by shutting down nuclear.
- A nuclear industry centralizes political and financial power, thereby perpetuating itself – you create powerful organizations that protect themselves.
- Renewables are more distributed, creating far more market players – not an oligopoly of firms “too big to fail.”
- Central power means that federal officials and experts will tell locals just to believe them, but if something goes wrong with nuclear, the local problem might be too big to fix.
- Finally, a distributed power supply will give communities a bigger say in local developments; in fact, people can build their energy supply themselves.

It’s too soon to say what the impact of the CGT Alsace’s breaking ranks will be, but the loss of the CGT as a proponent of nuclear in France would change the debate considerably. My sources in France tell me that other CGT delegates are also critical of the Secretary-General’s staunch pro-nuclear position but have yet to publish their criticism. Here’s hoping they go public soon – and move beyond the boilerplate rhetoric used on posters at demonstrations and adopt more convincing (indeed, irrefutable) arguments.

*Craig Morris (@PPchef) is the lead author of [German Energy Transition](#). He directs [Petite Planète](#) and writes every workday for [Renewables International](#).*

next article

[The conceptual underpinnings of a low carbon transition](#)

prev article

[We need a European energy transition](#)

## comments

1.

12 Aug 2014, 20:08 by jmdesp

2.

That's actually a paper by one specific branch of the CGT, the "CGT Equipement-Environnement" which represent employees of the ministry of ecology and of the ministry of equipment. CGT-energie which represent workers in the energy sectors has always been very much in favor of nuclear and very knowledgeable about what it brings.

3.

As usual, your prejudice against nuclear and in favor of fossil power is quite amazing. Do you not realize that tens of fossil plants are currently shut down in Germany because their power is not required in summer, and it's more efficient economically to shut them down and import power when there's a bit more demand ?

Why it this for you OK for fossil power, and supposedly a big huge problem for nuclear ? As the fuel is very cheap, a nuclear plant is usually not as quickly shut down as a fossil one. But where is the problem if it's done ?

4.

Last Updated on Tuesday, 19 August 2014 14:04

## [Keep Environmental Education in BC Classrooms!](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 30 August 2014 05:59

By Wildsight

<http://www.wildsight.ca/act/education%20>

Environmental education for our children is under threat. Our government is planning changes to the BC Education curriculum, which could weaken or even remove ecology and environmental education from BC classrooms. They're calling it a "re-engineering" of our education system: limiting environmental education to kindergarten through grade 3 and shifting the focus through grade 9 to chemistry, physics, human biology, and

geology. To sign petition go to <http://www.wildsight.ca/act/education%20>

[Read more...](#)

455 readings

## [Fatou Bensouda: the truth about the ICC and Gaza](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 30 August 2014 00:26

Under the laws of the Hague court, my office can only investigate alleged war crimes in Palestine if it grants us jurisdiction in its territory. It has not done so



[Fatou Bensouda](#) [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com),

Friday 29 August 2014



[It is my firm belief that recourse to justice should never be compromised by political expediency. Photograph: Mohammed Othman/AFP/Getty Images](#)

[Has the international criminal court avoided opening an investigation into alleged war crimes in Gaza due to political pressure, as suggested in an article published in the Guardian](#) earlier this week? The answer is an unequivocal “no”. As prosecutor of the ICC, I reject any suggestion of this in the strongest terms.

When an objective observer navigates clear of the hype surrounding this issue, the simple truth is that my office has never been in a position to open such an investigation due to lack of jurisdiction. We have always, clearly and publicly, stated

the reasons why this is so.

The [Rome statute](#), the ICC's founding treaty, is open to participation by states. The prosecutor can only investigate and prosecute crimes committed on the territory or by the nationals of states that have joined the ICC statute or which have otherwise accepted the jurisdiction of the ICC through an ad hoc declaration to that effect pursuant to article 12-3 of the statute.

This means that the alleged crimes committed in Palestine are beyond the legal reach of the ICC, despite the arguments of some legal scholars that fundamental jurisdictional rules can be made subject to a liberal and selective interpretation of the Rome statute. They appear to advocate that as the object and purpose of the ICC is to end impunity for mass crimes, the court ought to intervene, even where clear jurisdictional parameters have not been met. This is neither good law nor does it make for responsible judicial action.

The Palestinian Authority sought to accept the jurisdiction of the ICC in 2009. My office carefully considered all of the legal arguments put forth and [concluded in April 2012](#), after three years of thorough analysis and public consultations, that Palestine's status at the UN as "observer entity" was crucial – since entry into the Rome statute system is through the UN secretary general, who acts as treaty depositary. Palestine's status at the UN at that time meant it could not sign up to the Rome statute. The former ICC prosecutor concluded that as Palestine could not join the statute, it could also not lodge an article 12-3 declaration bringing itself under the ambit of the treaty, as it had sought to do.

In November 2012, [Palestine's status was upgraded](#) by the UN general assembly to "non-member observer state" through the adoption of resolution 67/19. My office examined the legal implications of this development and concluded that while this change did not retroactively validate the previously invalid 2009 declaration, Palestine could now join the Rome statute.

That Palestine has signed various other international treaties since obtaining this "observer state" status confirms the correctness of this position. Nonetheless, to date, the statute is not one of the treaties that Palestine has decided to accede to, nor has it lodged a new declaration following the November 2012 general assembly resolution. It is a matter of public record that Palestinian leaders are in the process of consulting internally on whether to do so; the decision is theirs alone and as ICC prosecutor, I cannot make it for them.

By virtue of the nature of the court's mandate, every situation in which the ICC prosecutor acts will be politically fraught. My mandate as prosecutor is nonetheless clear: to investigate and prosecute crimes based on the facts and exact application of the law in full independence and impartiality.

Whether states or the UN security council choose to confer jurisdiction on the ICC is a decision that is wholly independent of the court. Once made, however, the legal rules that apply are clear and decidedly not political under any circumstances. In both practice and words, I have made it clear in no uncertain terms that the office of the prosecutor will execute its mandate, without fear or favour, where jurisdiction is

established and will vigorously pursue those – irrespective of status or affiliation – who commit mass crimes that shock the conscience of humanity. My office’s approach to Palestine will be no different if the court’s jurisdiction is ever triggered over the situation.

It is my firm belief that recourse to justice should never be compromised by political expediency. The failure to uphold this sacrosanct requirement will not only pervert the cause of justice and weaken public confidence in it, but also exacerbate the immense suffering of the victims of mass atrocities. This, we will never allow.

Last Updated on Saturday, 30 August 2014 00:55

430 readings

## [Hague court under western pressure not to open Gaza war crimes inquiry](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 19 August 2014 10:16

Julian Borger, diplomatic editor

The Guardian, <http://www.theguardian.com/law/2014/aug/18/hague-court-western-pressure-gaza-inquiry> Monday 18 August 2014

Potential ICC investigation into actions of both the IDF and Hamas in Gaza has become a fraught political battlefield



Fatou Bensouda, the international criminal court prosecutor.  
Photograph: Michael Kooren/AFP/Getty Images

The international criminal court has persistently avoided opening an investigation into alleged war crimes in Gaza as a result of US and other western pressure, former court officials and lawyers claim.

In recent days, a potential ICC investigation into the actions of both the Israel Defence Forces and Hamas in Gaza has become a fraught political battlefield and a key negotiating issue at ceasefire talks in Cairo. But the question of whether the ICC could or should mount an investigation has also divided the Hague-based court itself.

An ICC investigation could have a far-reaching impact. It would not just examine alleged war crimes by the Israeli military, Hamas and other Islamist militants in the course of recent fighting in Gaza that left about 2,000 people dead, including women and children. It could also address the issue of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories, for which the Israeli leadership would be responsible.

The ICC's founding charter, the 1998 Rome statute ([pdf](#)), describes as a war crime "the transfer, directly or indirectly, by the occupying power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies".

Also at stake is the future of the ICC itself, an experiment in international justice that occupies a fragile position with no superpower backing. Russia, China and India have refused to sign up to it. The US and Israel signed the accord in 2000 but later

withdrew.

Some international lawyers argue that by trying to duck an investigation, the ICC is not living up to the ideals expressed in the Rome statute that "the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole must not go unpunished".

John Dugard, a professor of international law at the University of Leiden, in the Netherlands, and a longstanding critic of Israel's human rights record, said: "I think the prosecutor could easily exercise jurisdiction. Law is a choice. There are competing legal arguments, but she should look at the preamble to the ICC statute which says the purpose of the court is to prevent impunity."

In an exchange of letters in the last few days, lawyers for the Palestinians have insisted that the ICC prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, has all the legal authority she needs to launch an investigation, based on a Palestinian request in 2009. However, Bensouda is insisting on a new Palestinian declaration, which would require achieving elusive consensus among political factions such as Hamas, who would face scrutiny themselves alongside the Israeli government. There is strong US and Israeli pressure on the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, not to pursue an ICC investigation.

Western pressure on the ICC to stay away from the issue has caused deep rifts within the prosecutor's office. Some former officials say the Palestinians were misled in 2009 into thinking their request for a war crimes investigation - in the wake of an earlier Israeli offensive on Gaza, named Cast Lead - would remain open pending confirmation of statehood. That confirmation came in November 2012 when the UN general assembly (UNGA) voted to award Palestine the status of non-member observer state, but no investigation was launched.

Bensouda initially appeared open to reviewing the standing Palestinian request, but the following year issued a controversial statement (pdf) saying the UNGA vote made no difference to the "legal invalidity" of the 2009 request.

Luis Moreno Ocampo, who was prosecutor at the time of the Palestinian 2009 declaration, backed Bensouda, saying in an email to the Guardian: "If Palestine wants to accept jurisdiction, it has to submit a new declaration."



But another former official from the ICC prosecutor's office who dealt with the Palestinian declaration strongly disagreed. "They are trying to hiding behind legal jargon to disguise what is a political decision, to rule out competence and not get involved," the official said.

Dugard said Bensouda was under heavy pressure from the US and its European allies. "For her it's a hard choice and she's not prepared to make it," he argued. "But this affects the credibility of the ICC. Africans complain that she doesn't hesitate to open an investigation on their continent."

Moreno Ocampo took three years to make a decision on the status of the 2009 Palestinian request for an investigation, during which time he was lobbied by the US and Israel to keep away. According to a book on the ICC published this year, American officials warned the prosecutor that the future of the court was in the balance.

According to the book, *Rough Justice: the International Criminal Court in a World of Power Politics*, by David Bosco, the Americans suggested that a Palestine investigation "might be too much political weight for the institution to bear. They made clear that proceeding with the case would be a major blow to the institution."

Although the US does not provide funding for the ICC, "Washington's enormous diplomatic, economic and military power can be a huge boon for the court when it periodically deployed in support of the court's work," writes Bosco, an assistant professor of international politics at American University.

In his book, Bosco reports that Israeli officials held several unpublicised meetings with Moreno Ocampo in The Hague, including a dinner at the Israeli ambassador's residence, to lobby against an investigation.

A former ICC official who was involved in the Palestinian dossier said: "It was clear from the beginning that Moreno Ocampo did not want to get involved. He said that the Palestinians were not really willing to launch the investigation, but it was clear they were serious. They sent a delegation with two ministers and supporting lawyers in August 2010 who stayed for two days to discuss their request. But Moreno Ocampo was aware that any involvement would spoil his efforts to get closer to the US."

Moreno Ocampo denied that he had been influenced by US pressure. "I was very firm on treating this issue impartially, but at the same time respecting the legal limits," he said in an email on Sunday. "I heard all the arguments. I received different Oxford professors who were explaining the different and many times opposing arguments, and I concluded that the process should ... go first to the UN. They should decide what entity should be considered a state."

He added: "Palestine was using the threat to accept jurisdiction to negotiate with Israel. Someone said that if you have nine enemies surrounding you and one bullet, you don't shoot, you try to use your bullet to create leverage."

A spokeswoman for his successor, Fatou Bensouda, rejected allegations of bias in the prosecutor's choice of investigations. "The ICC is guided by the Rome statute and nothing else," she said. "Strict rules about jurisdiction, about where and when ICC can intervene should be not be deliberately misrepresented ... Geographical and political consideration will thus never form part of any decision making by the office."

The French lawyer representing the Palestinians, Gilles Devers, argued that it was for the court's preliminary chamber, not the ICC's prosecutor, to decide on the court's jurisdiction in the Palestinian territories. Devers said negotiations were continuing among the Palestinian parties on whether to file a new request for an investigation, even though he believed it to be unnecessary in legal terms. Ultimately, he said, the outcome would be determinedly politically.

"There is enormous pressure not to proceed with an investigation. This pressure has been exerted on Fatah and Hamas, but also on the office of the prosecutor," Devers said. "In both cases, it takes the form of threats to the financial subsidies, to Palestine and to the international criminal court."

Among the biggest contributors to the ICC budget are the UK and France, which have both sought to persuade the Palestinians to forego a war crimes investigation.

863 readings

[The American Cult of Bombing Why You](#)   

# Should Expect More Bombs to be Dropped Everywhere

[Peace News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 19 August 2014 06:18

By [William J. Astore](#)

<http://www.tomdispatch.com/blog/175883/>

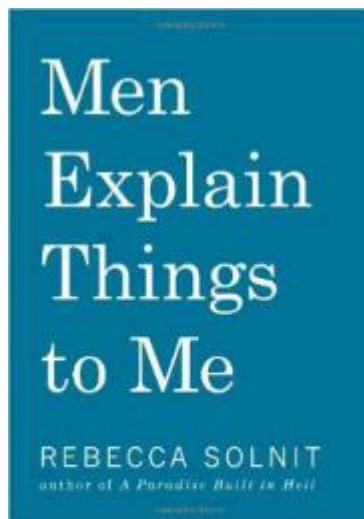
When you do something again and again, placing great faith in it, investing enormous amounts of money in it, only to see indifferent or even negative results, you wouldn't be entirely surprised if a neutral observer questioned your sanity or asked you if you were part of some cult. Yet few Americans question the sanity or cult-like behavior of American presidents as they continue to seek solutions to complex issues by bombing Iraq (as well as numerous other countries across the globe).

Poor Iraq. From Operation Desert Shield/Storm under George H.W. Bush to enforcing no-fly zones under Bill Clinton to Operation Iraqi Freedom under George W. Bush to the latest "humanitarian" bombing under Barack Obama, the one constant is American bombs bursting in Iraqi desert air. Yet despite this bombing -- or rather in part because of it -- Iraq is a devastated and destabilized country, slowly falling apart at seams that have been unraveling under almost a quarter-century of steady, at times relentless, pounding. "[Shock and awe](#)," anyone?

Well, I confess to being shocked: that U.S. airpower assets, including strategic bombers like B-52s and B-1s, built during the Cold War to deter and, if necessary, attack that second planetary superpower, the Soviet Union, have routinely been used to attack countries that are essentially helpless to defend themselves from

bombing.

In 1985, when I entered active duty as an Air Force lieutenant, if you had asked me which country the U.S. would “have” to bomb in four sustained aerial campaigns spanning three decades, among the last countries I would have suggested was Iraq. Heck, back then we were still helping Saddam Hussein in his war against Iran, [sharing intelligence](#) that [aided his military](#) in pinpointing (and using his chemical weapons against) Iranian troop concentrations. The Reagan administration had sent future Bush secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld there to [shake](#) Saddam’s hand for a photo op. We even overlooked Iraq’s “accidental” [bombing](#) in 1987 of a American naval vessel, the USS *Stark*, that resulted in the death of 37 American sailors, all in the name of containing Iran (and Shia revolutionary fervor).



**Buy the book**

It’s said that the enemy of my enemy is my friend, but Saddam didn’t remain a friend for long. Emboldened by U.S. support in his war with Iran, he took Kuwait, only to initiate the first round of devastating U.S. air raids against his military during Desert Shield/Storm in 1990–1991. As these and subsequent bombing campaigns damaged and debilitated Iraq, contributing to Saddam’s overthrow in 2003, the Shia majority in that country found common cause with Iran, strengthening one branch of militant Islam. At the same time, the general destabilization of Iraq from a

generation of air war and invasion has led to a Sunni revolt, the strengthening of an al-Qaeda-style movement, and the establishment of a “caliphate” across significant parts of Iraq (and Syria).

Now, given that less-than-stellar record, does anyone want to hazard a guess about the next American response to peoples and leaders our government doesn't like in Iraq or the rest of the Middle East? My money is on more bombing, which surely requires explanation.

### **Cranking Out Bombers**

If one weapon captured the image of the former Soviet Union, it was the main battle tank. From T-34s during World War II to T-72s near the end of the Cold War, the Russians cranked them out like sausages. And if one weapon captured the image of the U.S., then and now, it has surely been the bomber, whether of the strategic or heavy variety (think B-52) or the tactical or fighter-bomber variety (think the F-105 in the Vietnam years, the F-15 “Strike Eagle” in Iraq, and for the future, the most expensive weapons system of all time, the F-35). As the richer superpower, the U.S. cranked out high-tech bombers like so many high-priced sausages.

“The bomber will always get through.” That [article of faith](#), first expressed in 1932 by Stanley Baldwin, thrice Prime Minister of Britain, was seized upon by U.S. [airpower enthusiasts](#) in the run-up to World War II. Despite decidedly mixed and [disappointing results](#) ever since, bombing remains the go-to choice for American commanders-in-chief.

What we need in 2014 is a new expression that catches the essence of the cult of U.S. air power, something like:

“The bomber will always get funded -- and used.”

Let's tackle the first half of that equation: the bomber will always get funded. Skeptical? What else captures the reality (as well as the folly) of dedicating more than \$400 billion to the [F-35 fighter-bomber](#) program, a wildly over-budget and underperforming weapons system that may, in the end, cost the American taxpayer [\\$1.5 trillion](#). Yes, you read that right. Or the

persistence of U.S. plans to build yet another long-range [“strike” bomber](#) to augment and replace the B-1 and B-2 fleet? It’s a “must-have,” according to the Air Force, if the U.S. is to maintain its “full-spectrum dominance” on Planet Earth. Already pegged at an estimated price of [\\$550 million](#) per plane while still on the drawing boards, it’s just about guaranteed to replace the F-35 in the record books, when it comes to delays, cost overruns, and price. And if you don’t think it’ll get funded, you don’t know recent history.

Heck, I get it. I was a teenager once. In the 1970s, as an Air Force enthusiast and child of the Cold War, I hugged exotic and therefore pricey bomber jets to my chest. (Well, models of them, anyway.) I considered them to be both uniquely American and an absolute necessity when it came to defending our country against the lumbering (but nevertheless menacing) Soviet “bear.” As a result, I gasped in 1977 when President Jimmy Carter dared to cancel the [B-1 bomber](#) program. While I was a little young to pen my outrage, more mature critics than I quickly accused him of being soft on defense, of pursuing “unilateral disarmament.”

Back then, I’d built a model of the B-1 bomber. In my mind’s eye I still see its sexy white body and its rakish swing wings. No question that it was a man’s bomber. I recall attaching a firecracker to its body, lighting the wick, and dropping the plane from the third-floor porch. It exploded in mid-air, symbolic to me of the plane’s tragic fate at the hands of the pusillanimous Carter.

But I need not have feared for the B-1. In October 1981, as one of his first major acts in office, President Ronald Reagan rescinded Carter’s cancellation and revived the mothballed program. The Air Force eventually bought 100 of the planes for \$28 billion, expensive at the time (and called a [“turkey”](#) by some), but a relative bargain in the present budgetary environment when it comes to bombers (but these days, little else).

At that point, I was a young lieutenant serving on active duty in the Air Force. I had by then come to learn that

Carter, the peanut farmer (and former Navy nuclear engineer), was right. We really didn't need the B-1 for our defense. In 1986, for a contest at Peterson Air Force Base where I was stationed, I wrote a paper against the B-1, terming the idea of a "penetrating strategic bomber" a "flawed strategy" in an era of long-range air-launched cruise missiles. It earned an honorable mention, the equivalent of drawing the "you have won second prize in a beauty contest" card in Monopoly, but without the compensatory \$10.

That "penetrating," by the way, meant being loaded with expensive avionics, nowadays augmented by budget-busting "stealth" features, so that a plane could theoretically penetrate enemy air defenses while eluding detection. If the idea of producing such a bomber was flawed in the 1980s, how much more is it today, in an age of remotely-piloted drones and missiles guided by GPS and in a world in which no country the U.S. chooses to bomb is likely to have air defenses of any sophistication? Yet the Air Force insists that it needs at least 100 of the next generation version of them at a cost of \$55 billion. (Based on experience, especially with the F-35, you should automatically double or even triple that price tag, cost overruns and product development delays being a given in the process. So let's say it'll cost closer to \$150 billion. Check back with me, God willing, in 2040 to see whether the Air Force's figure or mine was closer to reality.)

### **Idols for Worship, Urges to Satisfy**

Obviously, there are staggering amounts of money to be made by feeding America's fetish for bombers. But the U.S. cult of air power and its wildly expensive persistence requires further explanation. On one level, exotic and expensive attack planes like the F-35 or the future "long range strike bomber" (LRS-B in bloodless acronym-speak) are the military equivalent of sacred cows. They are idols to be worshipped (and funded) without question. But they are also symptoms of a larger disease -- the engorgement of the Department of Defense. In the post-9/11 world, this has become so pronounced that the military-industrial-congressional

complex clearly believes it is entitled to a trough filled with money with virtually no accountability to the American taxpayer.

Add to that sense of entitlement the absurdist faith of administration after administration in the efficacy of bombing as a problem solver -- despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary -- and you have a truly lethal combo. Senator John McCain was widely mocked by progressives for his "[bomb Iran](#)" song, warbled during the 2008 presidential campaign to the tune of the Beach Boys's "[Barbara Ann](#)." In fact, his tuneless rendition captured perfectly Washington's absolute faith in bombing as a solution to... [whatever](#).

Even if the bombs bursting over Iraq or elsewhere don't solve anything, even when they make things worse, they still make a president look, well, *presidential*. In America, land of warbirds, it is always better politically to pose as a hunting hawk than a helpless dove.

So don't blame the Air Force for wanting more and deadlier bombers. Or don't blame only them. Just as admirals want more ships, flyboys naturally want [more planes](#), even when strategically obsolete from scratch and blazingly expensive. No military service has ever willingly given up even a tiny slice of its share of the prospective budgetary pie, especially if that slice cuts into the service's core image. In this sense, the Air Force takes its motto from King Lear's "Reason not the need!" and from Zack Mayo's "[I want to fly jets!](#)" (memorably uttered by that great Shakespearean actor Richard Gere in *An Officer and a Gentleman*).

The sad truth runs deeper: Americans evidently want them, too. More bombers. More bombs. In the movie *Top Gun*, Tom Cruise's Maverick got it all wrong. It's not [speed](#) Americans feel a need for; they have an urge to bomb. When you refuse to reason, when you persist in investing ever more resources in ever more planes, use almost automatically follows.

In other words, fund it, build it, and, as promised in the second half of my equation, the bomber will always



get used. Mock him all you want, but John McCain was on to something. It's bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb bomb if not (yet) Iran... then [Iraq](#), or [Pakistan](#), or [Libya](#), or [Yemen](#), or (insert intransigent foreign country/peoples here).

And like cults everywhere, it's best not to question the core belief and practices of its leaders -- after all, bombs bursting in air is now as American as the "Star Spangled Banner."

*William Astore, a retired lieutenant colonel (USAF), is a [TomDispatch regular](#) who edits the blog [The Contrary Perspective](#).*

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Last Updated on Tuesday, 19 August 2014 06:23

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## [2030 "Shaping the world you want" is impeded by the continuation of the world you do not want](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 18 August 2014 11:04

By Joan Russow Global Compliance research Project

[The theme of Rio+20 was "the future we Want". In 2015 the United Nations is linking the MDGS and SDGs in Conferences that will continue the theme of "the future we want." The question arises can we have the future we want without proscribing the future we do not want. Now there is a new theme: 2030 "SHAPING THE WORLD YOU WANT. Is it possible to have sustainability within a world of predominantly unsustainable institutes and practices without concurrently eliminating these practices? For example at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development \(CSD17\), states agreed to promote organic agriculture](#)

but were not willing to call for the banning of practices which detract from organic agriculture.

—

To SHAPE THE WORLD WE WANT WE MUST DO THE FOLLOWING

A. Prevent war and conflict

B Avert Environmental Devastation and Health Problems

C. Cease Exploitative Trade

D Stave off Corporatism and Financial Institutions

E. End social injustice and violation of Human Rights

F. Abandon the disregard for the rule of international law and legal precedents

#### A PREVENT WAR AND CONFLICT

1. Delegitimize war— Given the social, environmental, health, human rights, economic consequences of war, under no conditions or circumstance is war legal or just.

—

2. End any attempt to undermine the international resolve to prevent the scourge of war; this would include not engaging in intimidation, in cajoling or in offering economic incentives in exchange for support, at the UN Security Council, for military interventions.

—

3. End the practice of invoking Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations rather than invoking Chapter VI – the peaceful resolutions of disputes – and refusing to be judged by the International Court of Justice.

—

4. End the misconstruing of Article 51 (self-defence) of the Charter of the United Nations to justify premeditated non-provoked military aggression, or to use various such pretexts for invading other sovereign states.

—

5. End the guises for military intervention “human security” (Iraq 1991), “Humanitarian intervention” (Kosovo, 1999), “self-defence” (Afghanistan 2001), “Pre-emptive/ preventive” attack (Iraq, 2003) “Responsibility to Protect” (Haiti, 2004, Libya, 2011) or “will to intervene” (Mali, 2013)

—

6. End the practice of mollifying public opposition to war by couching aggressive acts in euphemistic “operations” such as “Operation Just Cause”, “Operation Iraqi Freedom”, “Operation Enduring Freedom

—

7. Stop ignoring the commitment to Reallocate military spending as agreed to under Chapter 33 16e of Agenda 21, UNCED and under many previous commitment under UNGA resolutions and Declarations

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8. Abandon the guise of the pre-emptive/preventive attack policy that has resulted in aggressive attacks on sovereign states and that has been in violation of the Article 2 of United Nations and international law as being the ‘supreme’ international crime of a war of aggression.

—

9. End the disrespect for the jurisdiction and decisions of the International

Court of Justice.

10. End occupation of sovereign states.

11. End the trumping of health, environment, civil and political and human rights for the sake of "militarized security,"

12. End the practice of targeting or assisting in the assassination of leaders of other sovereign states, and of engaging in "regime change".

13. End the destabilization of states and regions through the sale of arms, including through the guise of "foreign aid" or through infiltration of NGOs, such as USAID, NED, Freedom House or through fundamentalist Christians in groups such as Operation Rescue.

14. End the production of land mines, as required in the convention against landmines and end the procrastination, by those responsible, to remove land mines from all areas of the world where land mines are known to exist.

15. End the reluctance of nuclear arms states to comply with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by failing to implement Article VI of the Treaty, (Article VI: commits all parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on measures to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve disarmament.).

16. End the production of all weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical, and biological, as agreed to in UNCHE in 1972, and in specific conventions. And discontinue the gutting of the Treaty on Cluster bombs and other arms reduction treaties

17. Suffocate the production of uranium, end importing and exporting of uranium, prohibit the use of weapons such as those with depleted uranium and cluster and end the continued profit-making from the sale of arms and trade in small arms.

18. End "War Games" or "Military Exercises" such as Exercise Trident Fury or Northwest Training Range complex. Prohibit propaganda for war as per International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including establishing military bases, engaging in war games, producing and selling of armaments, and holding arms exhibition. End government investment in weapons systems:

19. No longer oppose the implementation of regional nuclear arms free areas around the world.

20. End the production, circulation and berthing of nuclear powered or nuclear arms-capable vessels throughout the world.

21. End the disregard for the obligations under the 1967 Outer Space Treaty to ensure that exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific

development, and shall be the province of all mankind [humanity].

22. Repeal the Patriot Act and Anti-Terrorism Act because they violate civil and political rights, and results in racial profiling.

23. End the practice of "rendering"- sending "persons of interests" to countries which are known to condone torture.

24. End the refusal to be judged by an international tribunal for any actions that might be deemed to violate international law related to crimes against the peace, to war crimes, or to genocide.

25. End the misuse of UN "peacekeeping" forces to clean up aggressive acts of destruction and occupation caused by other states.

26. End the discriminatory application of the ICC investigations "Some states are seen to be more Equal than others"

27. Close and convert, to peaceful purposes, all foreign military bases in sovereign states around the world.

28. End the reluctance to abide by the 1975 Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of humanity.

29. End the use of weapons that are prohibited under. Also in the additional Geneva protocol there are imposed limitations on the development of new weapons. Under Article 36, which reads. In the study, development, acquisition or adoption of a new weapons, means or method of warfare, states are under an obligation to determine whether its employment would, in some or all circumstances, be prohibited by this Protocol or by any other rule of international law (Art 36. New weapons provision) End the determine whether drones are prohibited by the Geneva Protocol on prohibited weapons

30. Demilitarize the economy by reallocating resources presently committed to military purposes to provide for the needs of citizens to pass on the peace dividend to the developing countries as undertaken through numerous UN Conference Action Plans and UN General Assembly Resolutions and Declarations.

31. End misplaced spending priorities: on militarism, on adulterated unsafe food, on production of products and substances harmful to the environment and human health, and redirecting budgetary expenses to eradicate poverty.

32. Prohibit environmental modification techniques as per Convention prohibiting environmental modification techniques (ENMOD), 1976

33. End the disregard for the UNESCO Declaration that affirms that science and technology should be used for peace and for the benefit of humanity

B

## AVERTING ENVIRONMENTAL DEVASTATION AND HEALTH PROBLEMS

— 34. End the exploitation of Nature affirmed in 1982 World Charter of Nature; every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to humans, and to accord other organisms such recognition's, humans must be guided by a moral code of action,

— 35 Eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries; this pattern has contributed to poverty, to the inequitable distribution of resources within countries and between countries, has increased the vulnerability to natural disasters and has threaten the well-being of future generations.

— 36. Reduce the ecological footprint, as required in Habitat II, that has contributed to a socially inequitable and environmentally unsound world; end the conversion of nature into a source of raw materials, and the practice of "built-in obsolescence"

— 37 .End the reluctance to invoke the precautionary principle - in the Rio Declaration, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Framework Convention on Climate Change- as a general and enforceable principle of law: where there is a threat of irreversible harm the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measure to prevent the threat.

— 38. End the failure to comply with Art. 2 of the UNFCCC to stabilize greenhouse gases below a level of dangerous anthropogenic emissions.

— 39...Phase out the use of fossil fuels, especially those from the unconventional sources such as the tar sands, reduce other greenhouse gas producing activities, ban fracking and end the substantial contribution to greenhouse gas emissions caused by methane gas resulting from the dependency on animal protein.

— 40. Discontinue the promoting of false "solutions" to climate change such as biofuels, large hydro projects, and nuclear energy which are not socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy sources. Abandon the market based proposal of the so-called Green Economy that commodities nature

— 41. End the failure of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to investigate and estimate the full impact of greenhouse gas emissions by the military, and to demand that each state release information related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all militarism, from military exercises, war games, weapons testing, military aviation troop transfer, military operations, and waste generation, to reconstruction after acts of violent interventions etc.

— 42. End the practice of member states relying not on the emerging scientific data, but on the IPCC 2007 report which was based on 2004 and 2005 data The

emerging data now indicates the urgency of keeping the rise in temperature below the dangerous level of 1° C, [which is the point at which global systems on land, water and air will be so affected as to create vicious feedback cycles and destabilise many ecosystems and human societies]; whereas the IPCC 2007 Report had indicated that 2 degrees was the safe threshold. The emerging scientific data also indicates that there are more serious climate-induced events than anticipated in the 2007 IPCC Report.

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43. End the climate injustice of using the atmospheric space of developing countries, and refusing to pay compensation

—  
44. End the misappropriation of agricultural land for the growing of biofuel and contributing to food insecurity, and prohibit the purchase and use of land for biofuels to serve foreign markets and undermine food security.

—  
45. End the strategy of substituting proposals of adaption to or offsetting of climate change rather than seriously addressing the issue of preventing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

—  
46. Prevent Nature's natural disasters caused by technology or technological disasters caused by natural disasters and not rely on after-the fact attempts to reduce or mitigate disasters.

—  
47. Ban, through the invoking the precautionary principle, the production and distribution of genetically engineered food and crops, the practice of biopiracy of genes of indigenous peoples, the dumping of GE food and adventitious materials [living modified organisms] on developing countries. And remove off the shelves all processed foods containing genetically engineered material.

—  
48. Ban Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which are bio-accumulative and toxic, and are capable of traveling long distances from their original source.

—  
49. Prosecute countries for violating the trans boundary principle that holds that states shall be held legally responsible for any pollution, in other states, caused by activities under their own jurisdiction.

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50. End the practice of causing environmental devastation and then relying on restorative or clean-up technologies to remediate the environmental destruction rather than taking the preventive approach so as to avoid costly and inadequate subsequent measures to "rehabilitate" the site.

—  
51. End unsustainable forest management, the conversion of forests into agricultural land and the expansion of large-scale agro-industrial monocultures for food, fibre and, increasingly, energy. End the land grab of land, by developed states, in developing states

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52. End land degradation, soil erosion, salinization, water logging, and soil pollution, which contribute to loss of soil fertility and food security.

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53. Prohibit the practice, by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in violating the principle that a regulator must not be a promoter, of promoting civil nuclear energy.

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54. Phase out the use of civil nuclear energy, and refuse to accept nuclear energy as the solution to climate change and delete Article IV of the NPT which bestows the inalienable right of states to access so-called "peaceful` use of nuclear energy.

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55...Prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health. (Principle 14 Rio Declaration, 1992)

-  
56. End the defiance by industrialized states, of principle 7 of the 1992 Rio Declaration which was adopted by all states at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This principle states that:  
`States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. (Principle 7, Rio Declaration)

-  
57. End environmentally induced diseases, address the social determinant of health problems- such as poverty, and provide universal access to a publicly-funded not-for-profit health non-two tier health care system.

-  
58 End the lack of commitment to ensure, as agreed in Habitat II, that Corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with international law, including international environmental law

-  
59. End the use of the notion of "prior consent" to persuade the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable countries or communities within developed countries to accept the dumping of products and substances that are potentially harmful to the environment and human health. End the ruse of using extraterritorialism. -what right do we have to impose our higher standards on a developing country with lower standards. the dumping of mine tailing in lakes and other waterways.

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60. Prevent Pharmaceutical collusion between university and Pharmaceutical corporations. And end the policy of permitting Universities to sell products of research to corporations

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61.End practice of the Pharmaceutical industry in creating new health problems to create market potential for new drugs

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62.Prohibit the patenting of genes under the WTO TRIPS provision

-  
63.End the misguided dependency on drugs when doctors fail to offer the

possibility that change in life style could effectively address the health problem

- 64. Oppose the continued production and export of products that have been banned... or withdrawn
- 65. Prevent import of products banned or not yet approved in country of origin

#### C. CEASING EXPLOITATIVE TRADE

- 66. End the undermining, by International Trade agreements, such as GATT, and the subsequent WTO, of measures which would advance and promote socially equitable environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.
- 67 Dismantle or abrogate trade institutions and agreements, such as WTO and NAFTA, which promulgate globalization, deregulation and privatization; these institutions and agreements undermine the rule of international public trust law, and condone and actively facilitate corporations benefiting and profiting from war and from environmental destruction.
- 68. End all proposals which will result, through the practice of harmonization of standards and regulations, in arriving at the lowest common denominator for health and environmental standards.
- 9. End the requirement of) "testing once" and (ii) "reliance on testing by the private sector". That if the private sector has already tested the substance or product, Environmental agencies would have to justify before congress if they want to test again.
  - (i) "Testing once" to eliminate redundancy by testing once so that if a product is tested in one of the three countries it does not have to be tested in the other two. This practice would undermine the ability of states to carry out their own tests and ban substances such as the banning by Canada of RBST or Bovine Growth Hormone in milk.
- 70. Abandon the IMF Structural Adjustment Program which has led to the violation of human rights, has exploited citizens in the developing world, which has resulted in years of privatization, and elimination of essential services throughout the world and has adversely impacted on vulnerable and indigenous peoples around the world.

#### D. STAVING OFF CORPORATISM AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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- 71. End the privatization, including Public Private Partnerships, of public services such as water, sewage and health care, and end the opposition to the affirmation that the access to water is a human right.
- 72. End corporate funding of education, including the corporate direction of research, and opposing end the opposition to the principle that research must



be arms-length and not tied to corporations.

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73. Enforce the international commitment made to ensure that corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with international law including international environmental law.

And oppose corporate "voluntary compliance",

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74. End the subsidizing and investing, of public funds, in corporations that have developed weapons of mass destruction and "conventional arms" that have violated human rights that have denied social justice, that have exploited workers, and that have destroyed the environment.

—  
75. Revoke charters of corporations, including transnational corporations, which have engaged in activities that impact on health and environment, including on the right to food, and right to water; end the legal fiction that the corporate form has constitutional rights as a person and prohibit corporate funding of political parties.

—  
76. Phase out sunset industries—ones that are harmful to human health and the environment and institute a fair and just transition for workers and communities affected by the phase out, and end the lucrative profits made on money trading...

—  
77. End the egregious practice of derivatives and other banking schemes, and end the support of non-cooperative and non-community banks

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78. End the bail-out of corporations and banks under the guise of their being "too big to fail", and end the reclassifying of function, by financial institutions, such as Goldman Sachs in order to take advantage of the bail -out

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79. Prohibit the centralization of banks and the egregious funny money banking systems and abandon the capitalist, exploitative, competitive economic model, and prohibit corporate funding of politicians,

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80. End shifting, by corporations, of their addresses offshore to lower their taxes, and end the evading, by corporations, of criminal charges by spinning off their companies.

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E. END SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

81 Eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generation... (Preamble, Declaration on the Establishment of a new international economic order, 1974)

—  
82. Cancel Third World debt. And end the reluctance to implement the long-standing international commitment to transfer .7% of the GDP for overseas development aid (ODA)

—  
83 End the practice of send arms as ODA and end the extension of active assistance to developing countries tied, political or military conditions. and

cancel third world debt

—  
84. End all discrimination on the following grounds:

- race, tribe, or culture;

- colour, ethnicity, national ethnic or social origin, or language;

nationality, place of birth, or nature of residence (refugee or immigrant, migrant worker):

- gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or form of family, [including same-sex marriage]

- disability or age;

- religion or conviction, political or other opinion, or - class, economic position, or other status.

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85. End the violation of human rights including labour rights, civil and political rights, social and cultural rights- right to food, right to housing, right to water right to sewage treatment, right to a universally accessible, not-for-profit health care system, right to education and social justice.

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86. End the denial of the labour right to strike, of the right to have collective bargaining,

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87 End the denial of the requirement of equal pay for work of equal value

—  
85. End the redefinition of Torture and thus the violating of the Convention against Torture through Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

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86 End the practice of rendition of citizens and failure to abide by the Geneva Conventions.

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87. End cruel and inhumane punishment such as capital punishment, which violates accepted international norms.

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89. End the discrimination against immigrants, and refugees and against Migrant Workers and their Families; and to revoke the Secure Fence Act and end the unconscionable wall between the United States and Mexico. Tear down walls and the wall in Israel/

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90. Abandon the no-fly`` list, and no-cross boarder lists.

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91 Oppose Strategic Law suits Against Public Participation ( "SLAPP) suits" against public participation.

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92 End the targeting, intimidating and discriminating against activists on the grounds of political and other opinion (a listed ground in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

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93. End religious extremism and proselytizing including the spread of Evangelical Christianity around the world, which has undermined local indigenous cultures, instilled fear through the dangerous belief in the "rapture", "Armageddon" and "left behind", and condemn dispensationalist "end

times” scenario which has serious irreversible consequences. And has led to the undermining of other established beliefs and practices

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94. End the practice of ending speeches with the invocation of God Bless a country

F  
ABIDIING BY INTERNATIONAL LAW.

—  
95 End the defiance of the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of civilians, and respect international human rights and humanitarian law.

96. End unilateralism and affirm a commitment to multilateralism and oppose unilateral actions that undermine global common security.

97. End current irreversible practices that will violate the rights of future generation intergenerational equity includes the rights of future generations to their cultural, natural heritage and to a safe environment.

98. End the US position of refusing to respect the jurisdiction of the international Court of Justice in terms of revenge through military intervention and to instead seek justice through the International Court of Justice.

99. End US reluctance to do the following:

1 to ratify the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties

2 to ratify the international Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its protocol

3. To ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity

4 to ratify the Kyoto Protocol

5 to ratify the Convention on the rights of migrant Workers and their families

6. to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child

7. to ratify the International Covenant of Social economic, and Cultural Rights

8. to ratify the Optional Protocols of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

9. to abide by the Convention Against Torture

10. to abide by the Geneva protocols on prohibited weapons

11. and to sign and ratify the Convention for the Banning of Landmines.

11to sign and ratify all Geneva Protocols, including Protocol V, which requires the removal of remnants of war

12 to invoke the precautionary principle, which appears in the Rio Declaration, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as a general and enforceable principle of law

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Justice News

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Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 31 March 2014 16:02

-Joan Russow Global Compliance research Project

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The theme of Rio+20 was” the future we Want” . In 2015 the United Nations is linking the MDGS and SDGs in Conferences that will continue the theme of ”the future we want.” The question arises can we have the future we want without

proscribing the future we do not want. Is it possible to have sustainability within a world of predominantly unsustainable institutes and practices without concurrently eliminating these practices? To achieve the future we want we must

A. Prevent war and conflict

B Avert Environmental Devastation and Health Problems

C. Cease Exploitative Trade

D Stave off Corporatism and Financial Institutions

E. Guarantee social Justice and Human Rights

F Abide by International Law

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.A  
PREVENTING WAR AND CONFLICT

1. Delegitimize war- Given the social, environmental, health, human rights, economic consequences of war, under no conditions or circumstance is war legal or just.

2. End any attempt to undermine the international resolve to prevent the scourge of war; this would include not engaging in intimidation, in cajoling or in offering economic incentives in exchange for support for military interventions.

3. End the reluctance to abide by the 1975 Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of humanity.

4. Reallocate military spending as agreed to under Chapter 33 16e of Agenda 21, UNCED

5. End the misconstruing of Article 51 (self-defence) of the Charter of the United Nations to justify premeditated non-provoked military aggression, or to use various such pretexts for invading other sovereign states.

6. Abandon the guise of the pre-emptive/preventive attack policy that has resulted in aggressive attacks on sovereign states and that has been in violation of the Article 2 of United Nations and international law as being the 'supreme' international crime of a war of aggression.

7. End the practice of invoking Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations rather than invoking Chapter VI - the peaceful resolutions of disputes - and be prepared to be judged by the International Court of Justice.

8. End the practice of disrespecting of the jurisdiction and decisions of the International Court of Justice.

9. Withdraw immediately from any military involvement and occupation of sovereign states.

- 10. End the trumping of health, environment, civil and political and human rights for the sake of "security, power and profit."
- 11. End the use of "human security" which has been extended to "humanitarian intervention", and used along with the "responsibility to protect" or with right to intervene with a view to justifying military intervention in other states.
- 12. End the failure to embrace "common security" as defined in the 1982 report on prepared by Olof Palme, and which entrench peremptory norms related to the preventing war and conflict, guaranteeing human rights, protecting the environment, and ensuring social justice.
- 13. Discontinue the propping up and financing of military dictators and abandon the long standing policy enunciated against Somoza "he' s a bastard but he is our bastard".
- 
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- 
- 20. Disband NATO for its disregard of the international rule of law, including the objective of the Charter of the United Nations, and the Convention against

Torture.

—  
21. Prohibit propaganda for war (ICCPR), including establishing military bases, engaging in war games, producing and selling of armaments, and holding arms exhibunequal treatment of the states itions. End government investment in weapons systems

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## B

### AVERTING ENVIRONMENTAL DEVASTATION AND HEALTH PROBLEMS

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—  
41 End the destruction of biodiversity and the disregard for obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity to invoke the precautionary principle and not have to wait until there is scientific certainty of loss of biodiversity to prevent the loss

—  
42. Ban Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which are bioaccumulative and

toxic, and are capable of traveling .long distances from their original source.

—  
43 .Prosecute countries for violating the transboundary principle that holds that states shall be held legally responsible for any pollution, in other states, caused by activities under their own jurisdiction.

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44. End the practice of causing environmental devastation and then relying on restorative or clean-up technologies to remediate the environmental destruction rather than taking the preventive approach so as to avoid costly and inadequate subsequent measures to "rehabilitate" the site.

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45.End the unsustainable forest management, the conversion of forests into agricultural land and the expansion of large-scale agro-industrial monocultures for food, fibre and, increasingly, energy. End the land grab of land in by developed states, in developing states

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46.End land degradation, soil erosion, salinization, water logging, and soil pollution, which contribute to loss of soil fertility.

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47. End the strategy of substituting proposals of adaption to or offsetting of climate change rather than seriously addressing the issue of preventing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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48. Phase out the use of fossil fuels, especially those from the unconventional sources such as the tar sands, reduce other greenhouse gas producing activities, ban fracking and end the substantial contribution to greenhouse gas emissions caused by methane gas resulting from the dependency on animal protein.

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49. Discontinue the promoting of false "solutions" to climate change such as biofuels, large hydro projects, and nuclear energy which are not socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy sources. Abandon the market based proposal of the so-called Green Economy that could lead to the commodifying nature

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50. End the failure of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to investigate and estimate the full impact of greenhouse gas emissions by the military, and to demand that each state release information related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all militarism, from military exercises, war games, weapons testing, military aviation troop transfer, military operations, and waste generation, to reconstruction after acts of violent interventions etc.

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51. End the practice of member states relying not on the emerging scientific data, but on the IPCC 2007 report which was based on 2004 and 2005 data The emerging data now indicates the urgency of keeping the rise in temperature below the dangerous level of 1° C, [which is the point at which global systems on land, water and air will be so affected as to create vicious feedback cycles and destabilise many ecosystems and human societies]; whereas the IPCC 2007 Report had indicated that 2 degrees was the safe threshold. The emerging



scientific data also indicates that there are more serious climate-induced events than anticipated in the 2007 IPCC Report.

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52. End the climate injustice of using the atmospheric space of developing countries, and refusing to pay compensation

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53. End the misappropriation of agricultural land for the growing of biofuel and contributing to food insecurity, and prohibit the purchase and use of land for biofuels to serve foreign markets and undermine food security.

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54. Prohibit the practice, by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in violating the principle that a regulator must not be a promoter, of promoting civil nuclear energy.

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55. Abandon the use of civil nuclear energy, and refuse to accept nuclear energy as the solution to climate change and delete Article IV of the NPT which bestows the inalienable right of states to access so-called "peaceful` use of nuclear energy.

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56. Prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health. (Principle 14 Rio Declaration, 1992)

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57. End the defiance by industrialized states, of principle 7 of the 1992 Rio Declaration which was adopted by all states at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This principle states that:  
`States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. (Principle 7, Rio Declaration)

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58. Prevent environmentally induced diseases, stop ignoring the social determinants of health problems- such as poverty/ environmentally induced diseases, etc and end the denigration universal access to a publicly-funded not-for-profit health non-two tier health care system.

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59 End the lack of commitment to ensure, as agreed in Habitat II, that Corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with international law, including international environmental law

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60. End the use of the notion of "prior consent" to persuade the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable communities within developed countries and in developing countries to accept the dumping of products and substances that are potentially harmful to the environment and human health. End the ruse of using extraterritorialism. -what right do we have to impose our higher standards on a developing country with lower standards  
And end the disregard for indigenous peoples by abiding by Article 19 in UNDRIP which requires free prior consent of indigenous people for use of their territories and end the claim that consent does not really mean consent.

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61. End collusion between universities and Pharmaceutical corporations. And end the policy of permitting Universities to sell products of research to corporations

62. End the practice used by the Pharmaceutical aided by public relation firms industries of inventing new health problems to create market potential for new drugs

62. Prohibit the patenting of genes under the WTO TRIPS provision

63. End the misguided dependency on drugs when doctors fail to offer the possibility that change in life style could effectively address the health problem

64. Oppose the continued production and export of products that have been banned... or withdrawn in country of origin being dumped on other countries

### C

#### C. CEASING EXPLOITATIVE TRADE

66. End the undermining, by International Trade agreements, such as GATT, and the subsequent WTO, of measures which would advance and promote socially equitable environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.

67. Dismantle or abrogate trade institutions and agreements, such as WTO and NAFTA, which promulgate globalization, deregulation and privatization; these institutions and agreements undermine the rule of international public trust law, and condone and actively facilitate corporations benefiting and profiting from war and from environmental destruction. End the negotiations of TTP, CETA and other emerging trade agreements ; All of which should be declared null and void for violating international peremptory norms

68. End all proposals which will result, through the practice of harmonization of standards and regulations, in arriving at the lowest common denominator for health and environmental standards.

69. End the requirement of) "testing once" and (ii) "reliance on testing by the private sector". That if the private sector has already tested the substance or product, Environmental agencies would have to justify before congress if they want to test again.

(i) "Testing once" to eliminate redundancy by testing once so that if a product is tested in one of the three countries it does not have to be tested in the other two. This practice would undermine the ability of states to carry out their own tests and ban substances such as the banning by Canada of RBST or Bovine Growth Hormone in milk.

70. Abandon the IMF Structural Adjustment Program which has led to the violation of human rights, has exploited citizens in the developing world, which has resulted in years of privatization, and elimination of essential services

throughout the world and has adversely impacted on vulnerable and indigenous peoples around the world.

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D.  
STAVING OFF CORPORATISM AND  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

— 71. End the privatization, including Public Private Partnerships, of public services such as water, sewage and health care, and end the opposition to the affirmation that the access to water is a human right.

— 72. End corporate funding of education, including the corporate direction of research, and end the opposition to the principle that research must be arms-length and not tied to corporations.

— 73. End the reluctance to enforce the international commitment made to ensure that corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with international law  
And oppose corporate "voluntary compliance",

— 74. End the subsidizing and investing, of public funds, in corporations that have developed weapons of mass destruction and "conventional arms" that have violated human rights that have denied social justice, that have exploited workers, and that have destroyed the environment.

— 75. Revoke charters of corporations, including transnational corporations, which have engaged in activities that impact on health and environment, including on the right to food, and right to water; end the legal fiction that the corporate form has constitutional rights as a person and prohibit corporate funding of political parties.

— 76. Phase out sunset industries—ones that are harmful to human health and the environment and institute a fair and just transition for workers and communities affected by the phase out, and end the lucrative profits made on money trading..

— 77. End the egregious practice of derivatives and other banking schemes, and end the support of non-cooperative and non-community banks

— 78. End the bail-out of corporations and banks under the guise of their being "too big to fail", and end the reclassifying of function, by financial institutions, such as Goldman Sachs in order to take advantage of the bail -out

— 79. Prohibit the centralization of banks and the egregious funny money banking systems and abandon the capitalist, exploitative, competitive economic model, and prohibit corporate funding of politicians,

— 80. End the shifting, by corporations, of their addresses offshore to lower their taxes, and end the evading, by corporations, of criminal charges by spinning off their companies.

E.

GUARANTEEING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

81 Eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generation... (Preamble, Declaration on the Establishment of a new international economic order, 1974)

82. Cancel Third World debt. And end the reluctance to implement the long-standing international commitment to transfer .7% of the GDP for overseas development aid (ODA)

83 End the practice of sending arms as ODA and end the extension of active assistance to developing countries tied, political or military conditions.

84. End all discrimination on the following grounds:  
- race, tribe, or culture;  
- colour, ethnicity, national ethnic or social origin, or language;  
nationality, place of birth, or nature of residence (refugee or immigrant, migrant worker);  
- gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or form of family, including same-sex marriage  
- disability or age;  
- religion or conviction, political or other opinion, or - class, economic position, or other status.

85. End the violation of human rights including labour rights, civil and political rights, social and cultural rights- right to food, right to housing, right to water right to sewage treatment, right to a universally accessible, not-for-profit health care system, right to education and social justice.

86. End the denial of the labour right to strike, and of the right to have collective bargaining,

87 End the denial of the requirement of equal pay for work of equal value

85. End the redefinition of Torture and thus the violating of the Convention against Torture through Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, And include in "state terrorism" in the definition of terrorism

86 End the practice of rendition of citizens and failure to abide by the Geneva Conventions.

87. End cruel and inhumane punishment such as capital punishment, which violates accepted international norms.

89. End the discrimination against immigrants, and refugees and against Migrant Workers and their Families; and to revoke the Secure Fence Act and end the unconscionable wall between the United States and Mexico. Tear down walls and

the wall in Israel/

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90. Abandon the no-fly` list, and no-cross boarder lists.

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91. Oppose Strategic Law suits Against Public Participation ( "SLAPP) suits" against public participation.

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92. End the targeting, intimidating and discriminating against activists on the grounds of political and other opinion (a listed ground in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

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93. End all religious extremism and proselytizing including the spread of Evangelical Christianity around the world, which has undermined local indigenous cultures, instilled fear through the dangerous belief in the "rapture", "Armageddon" and "left behind", and condemn dispensationalist "end times" scenario which has serious irreversible consequences. And has led to the undermining of other established beliefs and practices

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94. End the practice of ending speeches with the invocation of God Bless a country

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F.

ABANDON THE DISREGARD FOR THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND LEGAL PRECEDENTS

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95. End the defiance of the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of civilians, and respect international human rights and humanitarian law.

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96. End unilateralism and affirm a commitment to multilateralism and oppose unilateral actions that undermine global common security.

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97. .End current irreversible practices that will violate the rights of future generation intergenerational equity includes the rights of future generations to their cultural, natural heritage and to a safe environment.

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98. End the US position of refusing to respect the jurisdiction of the international Court of Justice in terms of revenge through military intervention and to instead seek justice through the International Court of Justice.

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99. End reluctance to do the following:

1 to ratify the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties

2 to ratify the international Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its protocol

3. to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity

4 to ratify the Kyoto Protocol

5 to ratify the Convention on the rights of migrant Workers and their families

6. to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child

7. to ratify the International Covenant of Social economic, and Cultural Rights

8. to ratify the Optional Protocols of the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights

9. to abide by the Convention Against Torture

10. to abide by the Geneva protocols on prohibited weapons

11. and to sign and ratify the Convention for the Banning of Landmines,

11to sign and ratify all Geneva Protocols, including Protocol V, which requires the removal of remnants of war

12 to invoke the precautionary principle, which appears in the Rio Declaration, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as a general and enforceable principle of law

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100. etc

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Last Updated on Tuesday, 19 August 2014 06:26

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People's Agreement on Climate.  
Change from Cochabamba must no  
longer be ignored



Earth News

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 20 September 2014 05:01



World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth

Building the People's World Movement for Mother Earth

# People's Agreement of Cochabamba

April 24, 2010 in [Announcement, News](#)

## **World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth**

**April 22nd, Cochabamba, Bolivia**

### **PEOPLE'S AGREEMENT**

Today, our Mother Earth is wounded and the future of humanity is in danger.

If global warming increases up to 2 degrees Celsius, a situation that the "Copenhagen Accord" could lead to, there is a 50% probability that the damages caused to our Mother Earth will be completely irreversible. Between 20% and 30% of species would be in danger of disappearing. Large extensions of forest would be affected, droughts and floods would affect different regions of the planet, deserts would expand, and the melting of the polar ice caps and the glaciers in the Andes and Himalayas would worsen. Many island states would disappear, and Africa would suffer an increase in temperature of more than 3 degrees Celsius. Likewise, the production of food would diminish in the world, causing catastrophic impact on the survival of inhabitants from vast regions in the planet, and the number of people in the world suffering from hunger would increase dramatically, a figure that already exceeds 1.02 billion people. The corporations and governments of the so-called "developed" countries, in complicity with a segment of the scientific community, have led us to discuss climate change as a problem limited to the rise in temperature without questioning the cause, which is the capitalist system.

We confront the terminal crisis of a civilizing model that is patriarchal and based on the submission and destruction of human beings and nature that accelerated since the industrial revolution.

The capitalist system has imposed on us a logic of competition, progress and limitless growth. This regime of production and consumption seeks profit without limits, separating human beings from nature and imposing a logic of domination upon nature, transforming everything into commodities: water, earth, the human genome, ancestral cultures, biodiversity, justice, ethics, the rights of peoples, and life itself.

Under capitalism, Mother Earth is converted into a source of raw materials, and human beings into consumers and a means of production, into people that are seen as valuable only for what they own, and not for what they are.

Capitalism requires a powerful military industry for its processes of accumulation and imposition of control over territories and natural resources, suppressing the resistance

of the peoples. It is an imperialist system of colonization of the planet.

Humanity confronts a great dilemma: to continue on the path of capitalism, depredation, and death, or to choose the path of harmony with nature and respect for life.

It is imperative that we forge a new system that restores harmony with nature and among human beings. And in order for there to be balance with nature, there must first be equity among human beings. We propose to the peoples of the world the recovery, revalorization, and strengthening of the knowledge, wisdom, and ancestral practices of Indigenous Peoples, which are affirmed in the thought and practices of “Living Well,” recognizing Mother Earth as a living being with which we have an indivisible, interdependent, complementary and spiritual relationship. To face climate change, we must recognize Mother Earth as the source of life and forge a new system based on the principles of:

- harmony and balance among all and with all things;
- complementarity, solidarity, and equality;
- collective well-being and the satisfaction of the basic necessities of all;
- people in harmony with nature;
- recognition of human beings for what they are, not what they own;
- elimination of all forms of colonialism, imperialism and interventionism;
- peace among the peoples and with Mother Earth;

The model we support is not a model of limitless and destructive development. All countries need to produce the goods and services necessary to satisfy the fundamental needs of their populations, but by no means can they continue to follow the path of development that has led the richest countries to have an ecological footprint five times bigger than what the planet is able to support. Currently, the regenerative capacity of the planet has been already exceeded by more than 30 percent. If this pace of over-exploitation of our Mother Earth continues, we will need two planets by the year 2030. In an interdependent system in which human beings are only one component, it is not possible to recognize rights only to the human part without provoking an imbalance in the system as a whole. To guarantee human rights and to restore harmony with nature, it is necessary to effectively recognize and apply the rights of Mother Earth. For this purpose, we propose the attached project for the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth, in which it's recorded that:

- The right to live and to exist;
- The right to be respected;
- The right to regenerate its bio-capacity and to continue it's vital cycles and processes free of human alteration;
- The right to maintain their identity and integrity as differentiated beings, self-regulated and interrelated;
- The right to water as the source of life;
- The right to clean air;
- The right to comprehensive health;
- The right to be free of contamination and pollution, free of toxic and radioactive waste;
- The right to be free of alterations or modifications of it's genetic structure in a manner that threatens it's integrity or vital and healthy functioning;
- The right to prompt and full restoration for violations to the rights acknowledged in this



Declaration caused by human activities.

The “shared vision” seeks to stabilize the concentrations of greenhouse gases to make effective the Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which states that “the stabilization of greenhouse gases concentrations in the atmosphere to a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic inferences for the climate system.” Our vision is based on the principle of historical common but differentiated responsibilities, to demand the developed countries to commit with quantifiable goals of emission reduction that will allow to return the concentrations of greenhouse gases to 300 ppm, therefore the increase in the average world temperature to a maximum of one degree Celsius.

Emphasizing the need for urgent action to achieve this vision, and with the support of peoples, movements and countries, developed countries should commit to ambitious targets for reducing emissions that permit the achievement of short-term objectives, while maintaining our vision in favor of balance in the Earth’s climate system, in agreement with the ultimate objective of the Convention.

The “shared vision for long-term cooperative action” in climate change negotiations should not be reduced to defining the limit on temperature increases and the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, but must also incorporate in a balanced and integral manner measures regarding capacity building, production and consumption patterns, and other essential factors such as the acknowledging of the Rights of Mother Earth to establish harmony with nature.

Developed countries, as the main cause of climate change, in assuming their historical responsibility, must recognize and honor their climate debt in all of its dimensions as the basis for a just, effective, and scientific solution to climate change. In this context, we demand that developed countries:

- Restore to developing countries the atmospheric space that is occupied by their greenhouse gas emissions. This implies the decolonization of the atmosphere through the reduction and absorption of their emissions;
- Assume the costs and technology transfer needs of developing countries arising from the loss of development opportunities due to living in a restricted atmospheric space;
- Assume responsibility for the hundreds of millions of people that will be forced to migrate due to the climate change caused by these countries, and eliminate their restrictive immigration policies, offering migrants a decent life with full human rights guarantees in their countries;
- Assume adaptation debt related to the impacts of climate change on developing countries by providing the means to prevent, minimize, and deal with damages arising from their excessive emissions;
- Honor these debts as part of a broader debt to Mother Earth by adopting and implementing the United Nations Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother

Earth.

The focus must not be only on financial compensation, but also on restorative justice, understood as the restitution of integrity to our Mother Earth and all its beings.

We deplore attempts by countries to annul the Kyoto Protocol, which is the sole legally binding instrument specific to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries.

We inform the world that, despite their obligation to reduce emissions, developed countries have increased their emissions by 11.2% in the period from 1990 to 2007.

During that same period, due to unbridled consumption, the United States of America has increased its greenhouse gas emissions by 16.8%, reaching an average of 20 to 23 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per-person. This represents 9 times more than that of the average inhabitant of the “Third World,” and 20 times more than that of the average inhabitant of Sub-Saharan Africa.

We categorically reject the illegitimate “Copenhagen Accord” that allows developed countries to offer insufficient reductions in greenhouse gases based in voluntary and individual commitments, violating the environmental integrity of Mother Earth and leading us toward an increase in global temperatures of around 4°C.

The next Conference on Climate Change to be held at the end of 2010 in Mexico should approve an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 under which developed countries must agree to significant domestic emissions reductions of at least 50% based on 1990 levels, excluding carbon markets or other offset mechanisms that mask the failure of actual reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

We require first of all the establishment of a goal for the group of developed countries to achieve the assignment of individual commitments for each developed country under the framework of complementary efforts among each one, maintaining in this way Kyoto Protocol as the route to emissions reductions.

The United States, as the only Annex 1 country on Earth that did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol, has a significant responsibility toward all peoples of the world to ratify this document and commit itself to respecting and complying with emissions reduction targets on a scale appropriate to the total size of its economy.

We the peoples have the equal right to be protected from the adverse effects of climate change and reject the notion of adaptation to climate change as understood as a resignation to impacts provoked by the historical emissions of developed countries, which themselves must adapt their modes of life and consumption in the face of this global emergency. We see it as imperative to confront the adverse effects of climate change, and consider adaptation to be a process rather than an imposition, as well as a tool that can serve to help offset those effects, demonstrating that it is possible to achieve harmony with nature under a different model for living.

It is necessary to construct an Adaptation Fund exclusively for addressing climate

change as part of a financial mechanism that is managed in a sovereign, transparent, and equitable manner for all States. This Fund should assess the impacts and costs of climate change in developing countries and needs deriving from these impacts, and monitor support on the part of developed countries. It should also include a mechanism for compensation for current and future damages, loss of opportunities due to extreme and gradual climactic events, and additional costs that could present themselves if our planet surpasses ecological thresholds, such as those impacts that present obstacles to “Living Well.”

The “Copenhagen Accord” imposed on developing countries by a few States, beyond simply offering insufficient resources, attempts as well to divide and create confrontation between peoples and to extort developing countries by placing conditions on access to adaptation and mitigation resources. We also assert as unacceptable the attempt in processes of international negotiation to classify developing countries for their vulnerability to climate change, generating disputes, inequalities and segregation among them.

The immense challenge humanity faces of stopping global warming and cooling the planet can only be achieved through a profound shift in agricultural practices toward the sustainable model of production used by indigenous and rural farming peoples, as well as other ancestral models and practices that contribute to solving the problem of agriculture and food sovereignty. This is understood as the right of peoples to control their own seeds, lands, water, and food production, thereby guaranteeing, through forms of production that are in harmony with Mother Earth and appropriate to local cultural contexts, access to sufficient, varied and nutritious foods in complementarity with Mother Earth and deepening the autonomous (participatory, communal and shared) production of every nation and people.

Climate change is now producing profound impacts on agriculture and the ways of life of indigenous peoples and farmers throughout the world, and these impacts will worsen in the future.

Agribusiness, through its social, economic, and cultural model of global capitalist production and its logic of producing food for the market and not to fulfill the right to proper nutrition, is one of the principal causes of climate change. Its technological, commercial, and political approach only serves to deepen the climate change crisis and increase hunger in the world. For this reason, we reject Free Trade Agreements and Association Agreements and all forms of the application of Intellectual Property Rights to life, current technological packages (agrochemicals, genetic modification) and those that offer false solutions (biofuels, geo-engineering, nanotechnology, etc.) that only exacerbate the current crisis.

We similarly denounce the way in which the capitalist model imposes mega-infrastructure projects and invades territories with extractive projects, water privatization, and militarized territories, expelling indigenous peoples from their lands, inhibiting food sovereignty and deepening socio-environmental crisis.

We demand recognition of the right of all peoples, living beings, and Mother Earth to have access to water, and we support the proposal of the Government of Bolivia to

recognize water as a Fundamental Human Right.

The definition of forests used in the negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which includes plantations, is unacceptable. Monoculture plantations are not forests. Therefore, we require a definition for negotiation purposes that recognizes the native forests, jungles and the diverse ecosystems on Earth.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples must be fully recognized, implemented and integrated in climate change negotiations. The best strategy and action to avoid deforestation and degradation and protect native forests and jungles is to recognize and guarantee collective rights to lands and territories, especially considering that most of the forests are located within the territories of indigenous peoples and nations and other traditional communities.

We condemn market mechanisms such as REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) and its versions + and + +, which are violating the sovereignty of peoples and their right to prior free and informed consent as well as the sovereignty of national States, the customs of Peoples, and the Rights of Nature.

Polluting countries have an obligation to carry out direct transfers of the economic and technological resources needed to pay for the restoration and maintenance of forests in favor of the peoples and indigenous ancestral organic structures. Compensation must be direct and in addition to the sources of funding promised by developed countries outside of the carbon market, and never serve as carbon offsets. We demand that countries stop actions on local forests based on market mechanisms and propose non-existent and conditional results. We call on governments to create a global program to restore native forests and jungles, managed and administered by the peoples, implementing forest seeds, fruit trees, and native flora. Governments should eliminate forest concessions and support the conservation of petroleum deposits in the ground and urgently stop the exploitation of hydrocarbons in forestlands.

We call upon States to recognize, respect and guarantee the effective implementation of international human rights standards and the rights of indigenous peoples, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples under ILO Convention 169, among other relevant instruments in the negotiations, policies and measures used to meet the challenges posed by climate change. In particular, we call upon States to give legal recognition to claims over territories, lands and natural resources to enable and strengthen our traditional ways of life and contribute effectively to solving climate change.

We demand the full and effective implementation of the right to consultation, participation and prior, free and informed consent of indigenous peoples in all negotiation processes, and in the design and implementation of measures related to climate change.

Environmental degradation and climate change are currently reaching critical levels, and one of the main consequences of this is domestic and international migration. According to projections, there were already about 25 million climate migrants by 1995. Current estimates are around 50 million, and projections suggest that between

200 million and 1 billion people will become displaced by situations resulting from climate change by the year 2050.

Developed countries should assume responsibility for climate migrants, welcoming them into their territories and recognizing their fundamental rights through the signing of international conventions that provide for the definition of climate migrant and require all States to abide by determinations.

Establish an International Tribunal of Conscience to denounce, make visible, document, judge and punish violations of the rights of migrants, refugees and displaced persons within countries of origin, transit and destination, clearly identifying the responsibilities of States, companies and other agents.

Current funding directed toward developing countries for climate change and the proposal of the Copenhagen Accord are insignificant. In addition to Official Development Assistance and public sources, developed countries must commit to a new annual funding of at least 6% of GDP to tackle climate change in developing countries. This is viable considering that a similar amount is spent on national defense, and that 5 times more have been put forth to rescue failing banks and speculators, which raises serious questions about global priorities and political will. This funding should be direct and free of conditions, and should not interfere with the national sovereignty or self-determination of the most affected communities and groups.

In view of the inefficiency of the current mechanism, a new funding mechanism should be established at the 2010 Climate Change Conference in Mexico, functioning under the authority of the Conference of the Parties (COP) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and held accountable to it, with significant representation of developing countries, to ensure compliance with the funding commitments of Annex 1 countries.

It has been stated that developed countries significantly increased their emissions in the period from 1990 to 2007, despite having stated that the reduction would be substantially supported by market mechanisms.

The carbon market has become a lucrative business, commodifying our Mother Earth. It is therefore not an alternative for tackle climate change, as it loots and ravages the land, water, and even life itself.

The recent financial crisis has demonstrated that the market is incapable of regulating the financial system, which is fragile and uncertain due to speculation and the emergence of intermediary brokers. Therefore, it would be totally irresponsible to leave in their hands the care and protection of human existence and of our Mother Earth.

We consider inadmissible that current negotiations propose the creation of new mechanisms that extend and promote the carbon market, for existing mechanisms have not resolved the problem of climate change nor led to real and direct actions to reduce greenhouse gases. It is necessary to demand fulfillment of the commitments assumed by developed countries under the United Nations Framework Convention on

Climate Change regarding development and technology transfer, and to reject the “technology showcase” proposed by developed countries that only markets technology. It is essential to establish guidelines in order to create a multilateral and multidisciplinary mechanism for participatory control, management, and evaluation of the exchange of technologies. These technologies must be useful, clean and socially sound. Likewise, it is fundamental to establish a fund for the financing and inventory of technologies that are appropriate and free of intellectual property rights. Patents, in particular, should move from the hands of private monopolies to the public domain in order to promote accessibility and low costs.

Knowledge is universal, and should for no reason be the object of private property or private use, nor should its application in the form of technology. Developed countries have a responsibility to share their technology with developing countries, to build research centers in developing countries for the creation of technologies and innovations, and defend and promote their development and application for “living well.” The world must recover and re-learn ancestral principles and approaches from native peoples to stop the destruction of the planet, as well as promote ancestral practices, knowledge and spirituality to recuperate the capacity for “living well” in harmony with Mother Earth.

Considering the lack of political will on the part of developed countries to effectively comply with commitments and obligations assumed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and given the lack of a legal international organism to guard against and sanction climate and environmental crimes that violate the Rights of Mother Earth and humanity, we demand the creation of an International Climate and Environmental Justice Tribunal that has the legal capacity to prevent, judge and penalize States, industries and people that by commission or omission contaminate and provoke climate change.

Supporting States that present claims at the International Climate and Environmental Justice Tribunal against developed countries that fail to comply with commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol including commitments to reduce greenhouse gases.

We urge peoples to propose and promote deep reform within the United Nations, so that all member States comply with the decisions of the International Climate and Environmental Justice Tribunal.

The future of humanity is in danger, and we cannot allow a group of leaders from developed countries to decide for all countries as they tried unsuccessfully to do at the Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen. This decision concerns us all. Thus, it is essential to carry out a global referendum or popular consultation on climate change in which all are consulted regarding the following issues; the level of emission reductions on the part of developed countries and transnational corporations, financing to be offered by developed countries, the creation of an International Climate Justice Tribunal, the need for a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth, and the need to change the current capitalist system. The process of a global referendum or popular consultation will depend on process of preparation that ensures the successful development of the same.

In order to coordinate our international action and implement the results of this “Accord of the Peoples,” we call for the building of a Global People’s Movement for Mother Earth, which should be based on the principles of complementarity and respect for the diversity of origin and visions among its members, constituting a broad and democratic space for coordination and joint worldwide actions.

To this end, we adopt the attached global plan of action so that in Mexico, the developed countries listed in Annex 1 respect the existing legal framework and reduce their greenhouse gases emissions by 50%, and that the different proposals contained in this Agreement are adopted.

Finally, we agree to undertake a Second World People’s Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in 2011 as part of this process of building the Global People’s Movement for Mother Earth and reacting to the outcomes of the Climate Change Conference to be held at the end of this year in Cancun, Mexico.

Last Updated on Saturday, 20 September 2014 11:05

815 readings

## [UN Climate Summit September 23 the contribution of militarism to Climate change](#)



[Earth News](#)

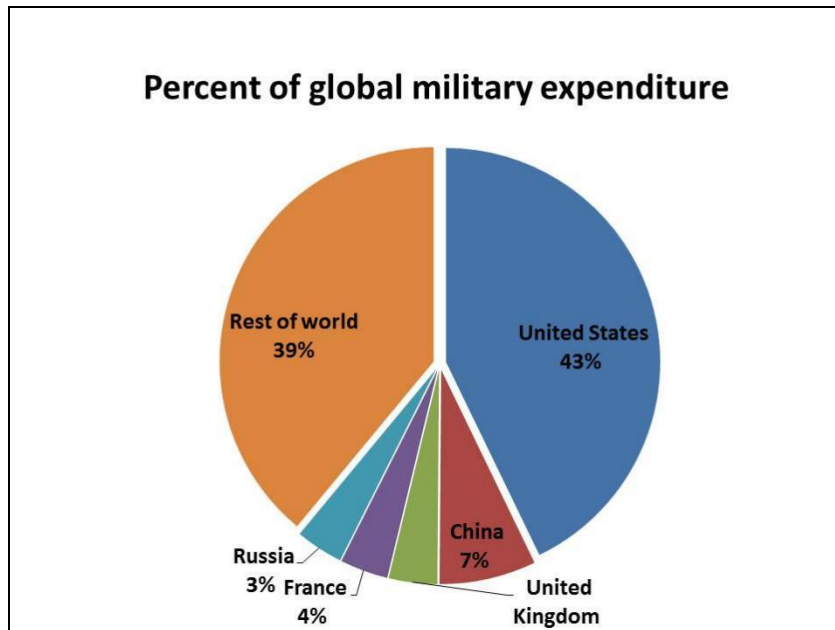
Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 19 September 2014 17:29

**Climate Change Advice; Curb Your Militarism and Abandon Spurious Solutions; Seven years of inaction since the September 7, 2007 DPI-NGO Summit**

By Joan Russow Global Compliance Research Project

**NO OIL FOR WAR /NO WAR FOR OIL**



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has not taken into consideration the contribution of militarism in all its aspect to greenhouse gas emissions. Even though the Chair, Rajendra K. Pachauri, was a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the Panel has not yet agreed to consider the impact of militarism on climate change. The military budgets of members has substantially increased to about 1 trillion per year (not including the 800 Billion of US additional funds allocated since 2001 for US-led invasions in Afghanistan and Iraq). (See enclosed charts). For years, every member state in the United Nations has made commitments to reallocate military budgets.

If citizens are willing to do their part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, member states of the the Global community must substantially reduce their military budgets and be prepared to release relevant military budget information to the Panel so that the Panel can estimate the full impact of militarism not only on all aspect of society, but also on greenhouse gas emissions.

**MILITARISM: THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM. DPI/NGO CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

Excerpts from the September 7, 2007 Declaration, prepared by the NGO military nuclear matters and the NGO Peace Caucus was presented to the Chair, Rajendra K. Pachauri, of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

We call upon the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to investigate and estimate the full impact on greenhouse gas emissions by the military and demand that each state release information related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all weapons systems, military exercises, from war games, weapons testing, military aviation, environmental warfare, troop transfer, military operations, waste generation, reconstruction after acts of violent interventions etc.;

We support the call for the disbanding of NATO, whose collective activities have



contributed to not only the perpetuation of the scourge of war and the violation of international peremptory norms, but also the substantial release of greenhouse gas emissions:

- (ii) call upon the member states of the United Nations to act on the commitment in Chapter 33 of Agenda 21, to reallocate military expenses;
- (iii) call upon the United Nations General Assembly UNGA to acknowledge the inextricable link between climate change and conflict over resources such as oil, water etc.;
- (v) call upon the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to investigate and estimate the full impact on greenhouse gas emissions by the military. and demand that each state release information related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all weapons systems, military exercises, from war games, weapons testing, military aviation, environmental warfare, troop transfer, military operations, waste generation, reconstruction after acts of violent interventions etc.;
- (vi) support the call for the disbanding of NATO, whose collective activities have contributed to not only the perpetuation of the scourge of war and the violation of international peremptory norms, but also the substantial release of greenhouse gas emissions.

## CURRENT ESTIMATION OF GLOBAL MILITARY BUDGETS

### **INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS TO REDUCE THE MILITARY BUDGET**

"The reduction of the military budget and disarmament are necessary conditions of security and development." (Anatole Rapapport, presentation at the World Order Conference, 2001).

Throughout the years, through international agreements, member states of the United Nations have recognized that the military budget has been a waste and misuse of resources. Unfortunately, institutional memory is either short or member states ignore precedents.

In 1976 at Habitat 1, member states of the United Nations affirmed the following in relation to the military budget:

"The waste and misuse of resources in war and armaments should be prevented. All countries should make a firm commitment to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament. Part of the resources thus released should be utilized so as to achieve a better quality of life for humanity and particularly the peoples of developing countries." (II, 12 Habitat 1).

In 1981, in the General Assembly Resolution entitled Resolution on the Reduction of the Military Budget, the member states:

- (i) reaffirmed "the urgent need to reduce the military budget, and agreed to freeze and reduce the military budget";
- (ii) recognised that "the military budget constitutes a heavy burden for the economies of all nations, and has extremely harmful consequences on international peace and

security";

(iii) reiterated the appeal "to all states, in particular the most heavily armed states, pending the conclusion of agreements on the reduction of military expenditures, to exercise self-restraint in their military expenditures with a view to reallocating the funds thus saved to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of developing countries." (Resolution on the Reduction of Military budgets, 1981).

These appeals were further reinforced in a 1983 General Assembly Resolution on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, that "curbing the arms build-up would make it possible to release additional resources for use in economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries." Also in the 1993 Resolution, member states considered that "the magnitude of military expenditures is now such that their various implications can no longer be ignored in the efforts pursued in the international community to secure the recovery of the world economy and the establishment of a new international economic order."

Also in 1992, all member states recognized that "Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development." ( Rio Declarations Principle 24, UNCED, 1992), and in Chapter 33, of Agenda 21, member states of the United Nations made a commitment to the "the reallocation of resources presently committed to military purposes." (33.18e).

In 1994, in adopting the statement from the International Conference on Population and Development, the member states of the United Nations concurred that the attainment of "quantitative and qualitative goals of the present Programme of Action clearly require additional resources, some of which could become available from a reordering of priorities at the individual, national and international levels. However, none of the actions required, nor all of them combined, is expensive in the context of either current global development or military expenditures." (Article 1.19).

In 1995, similarly, states in adopting the statement from the Social Development Summit endorsed the calling for the reallocation of military spending to ensure a greater pocket of resources to expand public services. Again, in 1995, member states of the United Nations reconfirmed these commitments by adopting the Platform of Action at the UN Conference on Women, Equality, Development and Peace. In the Platform of Action, states have made a commitment to maintain

Last Updated on Sunday, 06 July 2008 05:29

[21/9/2014 International Day of Peace; CHALLENGING MILITARIZED SECURITY: DELEGITIMIZATION OF WAR](#)

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9922:2014-international-day-of-peace-219-challenging-militarized-security-delegitimization-of-war&catid=104:i-peace-news&Itemid=204](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9922:2014-international-day-of-peace-219-challenging-militarized-security-delegitimization-of-war&catid=104:i-peace-news&Itemid=204)

Last Updated on Saturday, 20 September 2014 12:36

387 readings

## [Study cites chill from tax agency audits of charities political activities](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 16 September 2014 19:25

The Canadian Press Posted: Jul 10, 2014



A study has found evidence of "advocacy chill" among charities who've been subject to some of the dozens of political-activity audits being conducted by the Canada Revenue Agency. (Sean Kilpatrick/Canadian Press)

The Harper government's "ramp-up of anti-activist rhetoric," as it's been called, has drawn criticism in media and academic circles since 2012, but the targets themselves — environmental charities and others — have been muted and self-censored.

That's largely because they've been subject to new, high-stakes tax audits into their political activities that could strip them of their coveted charitable status.

[List of charities undergoing tax audits related to political activities](#)

But perhaps for the first time, some of their voices are being heard unfiltered.

Gareth Kirkby, a former journalist and now graduate student in communications, interviewed the leaders of 16 such groups for a master's thesis at Victoria's Royal Roads University, offering them anonymity in return for candid assessments of their predicaments.



Gareth Kirkby, a former journalist and now graduate student in communications, found evidence for what he called "advocacy chill" among charities who've been subject to some of the dozens of political-activity audits being conducted by the Canada Revenue Agency. (Jonathan Hayward/The Canadian Press)

Kirkby found evidence for what he called "advocacy chill" among charities who've been subject to some of the dozens of political-activity audits being conducted by the Canada Revenue Agency.

"The data suggest that the current federal government is corrupting Canada's democratic processes by treating as political enemies those civil-society organizations whose contributions to public policy conversations differ from government priorities," concludes Kirkby's MA thesis, accepted last month by the university after vetting by academic supervisors.

"What is unprecedented is the... coupling of that rhetoric with action. This action entails specifically politicized use of the associated governmental regulatory body (the Charities Directorate at CRA) to pursue harassing actions seemingly designed to 'muffle' and 'distract.'"

### 3 charitable sectors singled out

The study found that many organizations have toned down their public communications in the wake of the audits, whether in brochures, on the web, public statements or elsewhere.

"There's definitely more caution going on," Kirkby said in an interview from his home in Vancouver.

"It's hurting us. It's not about what this is doing to the charities. It's about what this is doing to what we need in society, which is vigorous policy debates about important

issues that we face."

'There is evidence that three specific charitable sectors are being singled out for CRA attention — environmental, development and human rights, and charities receiving donations from labour unions' –  
*Gareth Kirkby, a graduate student working on a master's thesis*

The 16 leaders he interviewed represent a broad range of subject areas, from environment and international development, to social services, research and conservation.

"Pervading the data is the presence of strong emotions that ... highlight a strong sense of confusion, fear, and vulnerability," he wrote in the study entitled "An Uncharitable Chill."

"There is evidence that three specific charitable sectors are being singled out for CRA attention — environmental, development and human rights, and charities receiving donations from labour unions."

Kirkby said some organizations are contemplating joint legal action, such as a lawsuit. Many are also paying closer attention to the internal tracking systems that record whenever they engage in political activity, to ensure the 10 per cent limit is respected to the letter.

And some are creating non-charity, non-profit arms to handle political activity, insulating them from charity audits, he found.

"It says something about the health of our democracy when these moderate organizations who many people donate to and support, peaceful organizations, are demonized ... as being criminal or terrorist organizations ... and then find themselves under threat of audits," he said in an interview.

[Click here for a list of charities undergoing tax audits related to political activities](#)

Last Updated on Saturday, 20 September 2014 10:54

453 readings

[Demand Forest Stewardship Council](#)



# [Stop Greenwashing Old-Growth Forest Logging](#)

[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 11 September 2014 17:38



\*\* Photo of an FSC certified clearcut logging of old-growth Canadian boreal forests for toilet paper

**TAKE ACTION** to protect old-growth forests and Earth's climate and biosphere:FOREST ACTION ALERT

By [Forests.org](#) project of [EcoInterne](#)

[http://forests.org/shared/alerts/sendsm.aspx?id=fsc\\_logging](http://forests.org/shared/alerts/sendsm.aspx?id=fsc_logging)

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) claims to certify the sustainability of forest management. Yet FSC greenwashes industrial scale old-growth forest logging - across an area two times the size of Texas for throw away consumer items such as toilet paper and lawn furniture - as being environmentally sensitive. A new motion has been presented by FSC member Greenpeace at FSC's General Assembly which would increase protections for primary and other old-growth forests, something which EcoInternet has demanded for a decade. Please make it clear that best science indicates old-growth forest logging is never ecologically sustainable, and FSC must stop claiming it is, starting by supporting Motion 65 to begin to end FSC greenwash of old-growth forest logging.

**LIST NOTES:**Some bugs related to sending protest emails on our new servers have been fixed. Please continue to [Donate to EcoInternet](#) as we still must raise \$7,500 to keep our deep ecology activism alive.

Discuss Alert at EcoInternet: <http://www.ecointernet.org/2014/09/11/fsc-greenwash-oldgrowth-forest-logging/>

Last Updated on Friday, 12 September 2014 16:37

3029 readings

[Playing God The Rebirth of Family](#)

[Capitalism or How the Koch Brothers,](#)   

[Sheldon Adelson, Sam Walton, Bill](#)

# Gates, and Other Billionaires Are Undermining America

Justice News

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 11 September 2014 17:29

By [Steve Fraser www.Tomdispatch175893](http://www.Tomdispatch175893)

George Baer was a railroad and coal mining magnate at the turn of the twentieth century. Amid a violent and protracted strike that shut down much of the country's anthracite coal industry, Baer defied President Teddy Roosevelt's appeal to arbitrate the issues at stake, saying, "The rights and interests of the laboring man will be protected and cared for... not by the labor agitators, but by the Christian men of property to whom God has given control of the property rights of the country." To the Anthracite Coal Commission investigating the uproar, Baer insisted, "These men don't suffer. Why hell, half of them don't even speak English."

We might call that adopting the imperial position. Titans of industry and finance back then often assumed that they had the right to supersede the law and tutor the rest of America on how best to order its affairs. They liked to play God. It's a habit that's returned with a vengeance in our own time.

The Koch brothers are only the most conspicuous among a whole tribe of "self-made" billionaires who imagine themselves architects or master builders of a revamped, rehabilitated America. The resurgence of what might be called dynastic or family capitalism, as opposed to the more impersonal managerial capitalism many of us grew up with, is changing the nation's political chemistry.

Our own masters of the universe, like the "robber barons" of old, are inordinately impressed with their ascendancy to the summit of economic power. Add their personal triumphs to American culture's perennial love affair with business -- President Calvin Coolidge, for

instance, is remembered today only for proclaiming that “the business of America is business” -- and you have a formula for megalomania.

Take [Jeff Greene](#), otherwise known as the “Meltdown Mogul.” Back in 2010, he had the chutzpah to campaign in the Democratic primary for a Florida senate seat in a Miami neighborhood ravaged by the subprime mortgage debacle -- precisely the arena in which he had grown fabulously rich. In the process, he rallied locals against Washington insiders and regaled them with stories of his life as a busboy at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach. Protected from the Florida sun by his Prada shades, he alluded to his wealth as evidence that, as a maestro of collateralized debt obligations, no one knew better than he how to run the economy he had helped to pulverize. He put an exclamation point on his campaign by flying off in his private jet only after securely strapping himself in with his gold-plated seat buckles.

Olympian entrepreneurs like Greene regularly end up seeing themselves as tycoons-cum-savants. When they run for office, they do so as if they were trying to get elected to the board of directors of America, Inc. Some will brook no interference with their will. Property, lots of it, in a society given over to its worship, becomes a blank check: everything is permitted to those who have it.

### **Dream and Nightmare**

This, then, is the indigenous romance of American capitalism. The man from nowhere becomes a Napoleon of business and so a hero because he confirms a cherished legend: namely, that it’s the primordial birthright of those lucky enough to live in the New World to rise out of obscurity to unimaginable heights. All of this, so the legend tells us, comes through the application of disciplined effort, commercial cunning and foresight, a take-no-prisoners competitive instinct, and a gambler’s *sang froid* in the face of the unforgiving riskiness of the marketplace. Master all of that and you deserve to be a master of our universe. (Conversely, this is the



dark fairy tale that nineteenth century Gilded Age anti-capitalist rebels knew as “the Property Beast.” )

What makes the creation of the titan particularly confounding is that it seems as if it shouldn't be so. Inside the colorless warrens of the counting house and factory workshop, a pedestrian preoccupation with profit and loss might be expected to smother all those instincts we associate with the warrior, the statesman, and the visionary, not to mention the tyrant. As Joseph Schumpeter, the mid-twentieth century political economist, [once observed](#), “There is surely no trace of any mystic glamour” about the sober-minded bourgeois. He is not likely to “say boo to a goose.”

Yet the titan of capitalism overcomes that propensity. As Schumpeter put it, he transforms himself into the sort of man who can “bend a nation to his will,” use his “extraordinary physical and nervous energy” to become “a leading man.” Something happens through the experience of commercial conquest so intoxicating that it breeds a willful arrogance and a lust for absolute power of the sort for which George Baer hankered. Call it the absolutism of self-righteous money.

Sheldon Adelson, Charles and David Koch, Sam Walton, Rupert Murdoch, Linda McMahon, or hedge fund honchos like John Paulson and Steven Cohen all conform in one way or another to this historic profile. Powers to be reckoned with, they presume to know best what we should teach our kids and how we should do it; how to defend the country's borders against alien invasion, revitalize international trade, cure what ails the health-care delivery system, create jobs where there are none, rejigger the tax code, balance the national budget, put truculent labor unions in their place, and keep the country on the moral and racial straight and narrow.

All this purported wisdom and self-assurance is home bred. That is to say, these people are first of all family or dynastic capitalists, not the faceless men in suits who shimmy their way up the greased pole that

configures the managerial hierarchies of corporate America. Functionaries at the highest levels of the modern corporation may be just as wealthy, but they are a fungible bunch, whose loyalty to any particular outfit may expire whenever a more attractive stock option from another firm comes their way.

In addition, in our age of mega-mergers and acquisitions, corporations go in and out of existence with remarkable frequency, morphing into a shifting array of abstract acronyms. They are carriers of great power, but without an organic attachment to distinct individuals or family lineages.

Instead dynasts of yesteryear and today have created family businesses or, as in the case of the Koch brothers and Rupert Murdoch, taken over ones launched by their fathers to which they are fiercely devoted. They guard their business sanctuaries by keeping them private, wary of becoming dependent on outside capital resources that might interfere with their freedom to do what they please with what they' ve amassed.

And they think of what they' ve built up not so much as a pile of cash, but as a patrimony to which they are bound by ties of blood, religion, region, and race. These attachments turn ordinary business into something more transcendent. They represent the tissues of a way of life, even a philosophy of life. Its moral precepts about work, individual freedom, family relations, sexual correctness, meritocracy, equality, and social responsibility are formed out of the same process of self-invention that gave birth to the family business. Habits of methodical self-discipline and the nurturing and prudential stewardship that occasionally turns a modest competency into a propertied goliath encourage the instinct to instruct and command.

There is no Tycoon Party in the U.S. imposing ideological uniformity on a group of billionaires who, by their very nature as *übermensch*, march to their own drummers and differ on many matters. Some are philanthropically minded, others parsimonious; some are

pietistic, others indifferent. Wall Street hedge fund creators may donate to Obama and be card-carrying social liberals on matters of love and marriage, while heartland types like the Koch brothers obviously take another tack politically. But all of them subscribe to one thing: a belief in their own omniscience and irresistible will.

### **There at the Creation**

Business dynasts have enacted this imperial drama since the dawn of American capitalism -- indeed, especially then, before the publicly traded corporation and managerial capitalism began supplanting their family capitalist predecessors at the turn of the twentieth century. John Jacob Astor, America's first millionaire, whose offices were once located on Manhattan Island where Zucotti Park now stands, was the most literal sort of empire builder. In league with Thomas Jefferson, he attempted to extend that president's "[empire for liberty](#)" all the way to the western edge of the continent and push out the British. There, on the Oregon coast, he established the fur-trading colony of Astoria to consolidate his global control of the luxury fur trade.

In this joint venture, president and tycoon both failed. Astor, however, was perfectly ready to defy the highest authority in the land and deal with the British when it mattered most. So when Jefferson embargoed trade with that country in the run-up to the War of 1812, the founder of one of the country's most luminous dynasties simply ran the blockade. An unapologetic elitist, Astor admired Napoleon, assumed the masses were not to be left to their own devices, and believed deeply that property ought to be the prerequisite for both social position and political power.

Traits like Astor's willfulness and self-sufficiency cropped up frequently in the founding generation of America's "captains of industry." Often they were accompanied by a chest-thumping braggadocio and thumb-in-your eye irreverence. Cornelius Vanderbilt, called

by his latest biographer "[the first tycoon](#)," was known in his day as "the Commodore." Supposedly, he warned someone foolish enough to challenge his supremacy in the steamboat business that "I won't sue you, I'll ruin you."

Or take "Jubilee" Jim Fisk. He fancied himself an admiral but wasn't one, and after the Civil War, when caught plundering the Erie Railroad, boasted that he was "born to be bad." Later on, when a plot he hatched to corner the nation's supply of gold left him running from the law, Jim classically summed up the scandal this way: "Nothing lost save honor."

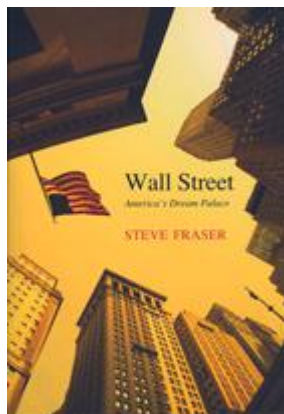
More than a century before Mitt Romney and Bain Capital came along, Jay Gould, a champion railroad speculator and buccaneering capitalist, scoured the country for companies to buy, loot, and sell. Known by his many detractors as "[the Mephistopheles of Wall Street](#)," he once remarked, when faced with a strike against one of his railroads, that he could "hire one half of the working class to kill the other half."

George Pullman, nicknamed "the Duke" in America's world of self-made royalty, wasn't shy about dealing roughly with the rowdy "mob" either. As a rising industrialist in Chicago in the 1870s, he -- along with other young men from the [city's new manufacturing elite](#) -- actually took up arms to put down a labor insurgency and financed the building of urban armories, stocked with the latest artillery, including a new machine gun marketed as the "Tramp Terror." (This was but one instance among many of terrorism from above by the forces of "law and order.")

However, Pullman was better known for displaying his overlordship in quite a different fashion. Cultivating his sense of dynastic noblesse oblige, he erected a model town, which he aptly named Pullman, just outside Chicago. There residents not only labored to manufacture sleeping cars for the nation's trains, but were also tutored in how to live respectable lives -- no drinking, no gambling, proper dress and deportment -- while living in company-owned houses, shopping at company-owned

stores, worshipping at company churches, playing in company parks, reading company-approved books in the company library, and learning the “three Rs” from company schoolmarms. Think of it as a Potemkin working class village, a commercialized idyll of feudal harmony -- until it wasn’ t. The dream morphed into a nightmare when “the Duke” suddenly began to slash wages and evict his “subjects” amid the worst depression of the nineteenth century. This, in turn, provoked a nationwide strike and boycott, eventually crushed by federal troops.

The business autocrats of the Gilded Age could be rude and crude like Gould, Vanderbilt, and Fisk or adopt the veneer of civilization like Pullman. Some of these “geniuses” of big business belonged to what Americans used to call the “shoddy aristocracy.” Fisk had, after all, started out as a confidence man in circuses and Gould accumulated his “start-up capital” by bilking a business partner. “Uncle” Daniel Drew, top dog on Wall Street around the time of the Civil War (and a pious one at that, who founded Drew Theological Seminary), had once been a cattle drover. Before bringing his cows to the New York market, he would feed them salt licks to make sure they were thirsty and then fill them with water so they would make it to the auction block weighing far more than their mere flesh and bones could account for. He bequeathed America the practice of “watered stock.”



**Buy the book.**

Not all the founding fathers of our original tycoonery, however, were social invisibles or refugees from the commercial badlands. They could also hail from the highest precincts of the social

register. The Morgans were a distinguished banking and insurance clan going all the way back to colonial days. J.P. Morgan was therefore to the manor born. At the turn of the twentieth century, he functioned as the country's unofficial central banker, meaning he had the power to allocate much of the capital that American society depended on. Nonetheless, when asked about bearing such a heavy social responsibility, he bluntly responded, "I owe the public nothing."

This sort of unabashed indifference to the general welfare was typical and didn't end in the new century. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the managements of some major publicly owned corporations felt compelled by a newly militant labor movement and the shift in the political atmosphere that accompanied President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal to recognize and bargain with the unions formed by their employees. Not so long before, some of these corporations, in particular United States Steel, had left a trail of blood on the streets of the steel towns of Pennsylvania and Ohio when they crushed the Great Steel Strike of 1919. But times had changed.

Not so, however, for the adamant patriarchs who still owned and ran the nation's "little steel" companies (which were hardly little). Men like Tom Girdler of Republic Steel resented any interference with their right to rule over what happened on their premises and hated the New Deal, as well as its allies in the labor movement, because they challenged that absolutism. So it was that, on Memorial Day 1937, 10 strikers were shot in the back and killed while picketing Girdler's Chicago factory.

### **The Great U-Turn**

By and large, however, the middle decades of the twentieth century were dominated by modern concerns like U.S. Steel, General Motors, and General Electric, whose corporate CEOs were more sensitive to the pressures of their multiple constituencies. These included not only workers, but legions of shareholders, customers,

suppliers, and local and regional public officials.

Publicly held corporations are, for the most part, owned not by a family, dynasty, or even a handful of business partners, but by a vast sea of shareholders. Those “owners” have little if anything to do with running “their” complex companies. This is left to a managerial cadre captained by lavishly rewarded chief executives. Their concerns are inherently political, but not necessarily ideological. They worry about their brand’s reputation, have multiple dealings with a broad array of government agencies, look to curry favor with politicians from both parties, and are generally reasonably vigilant about being politically correct when it comes to matters of race, gender, and other socially sensitive issues. Behaving in this way is, after all, a marketing strategy that shows up where it matters most -- on the bottom line.

Over the last several decades, however, history has done a U-turn. Old-style private enterprises of enormous size have made a remarkable comeback. Partly, this is a consequence of the way the federal government has encouraged private enterprise through the tax code, land-use policy, and subsidized finance. It is also the outcome of a new system of decentralized, flexible capitalism in which large, complex corporations have downloaded functions once performed internally onto an array of outside, independent firms.

Family capitalism has experienced a renaissance. Even giant firms are now often controlled by their owners the way Andrew Carnegie once captained his steel works or Henry Ford his car company. Some of these [new family firms](#) were previously publicly traded corporations that went private. A buy-out craze initiated by private equity firms hungry for quick turn-around profits, like Mitt Romney’s infamous Bain Capital, lent the process a major hand. This might be thought of as entrepreneurial capitalism for the short-term, a strictly finance-driven strategy.

But family-based firms in it for the long haul have also proliferated and flourished in this era of economic

turbulence. These are no longer stodgy, technologically antiquated outfits, narrowly dedicated to churning out a single, time-tested product. They are often remarkably adept at responding to shifts in the market, often highly diversified in what they make and sell, and -- thanks to the expansion of capital markets -- they now enjoy a degree of financial independence not unlike that of their dynastic forebears of the nineteenth century, who relied on internally generated resources to keep free of the banks. They have been cropping up in newer growth sectors of the economy, including retail, entertainment, energy, finance, and high tech. Nor are they necessarily small-fry mom-and-pop operations. [One-third](#) of the Fortune 500 now fall into the category of family-controlled.

Feet firmly anchored in their business fiefdoms, family patriarchs loom over the twenty-first-century landscape, lending it a back-to-the-future air. They exercise enormous political influence. They talk loudly and carry big sticks. Their money elects officials, finances their own campaigns for public office, and is reconfiguring our political culture by fertilizing a rain forest of think tanks, journals, and political action committees. A nation which, a generation ago, largely abandoned its historic resistance to organized wealth and power has allowed this newest version of the "robber baron" to dominate the public arena to a degree that might have astonished even John Jacob Astor and Cornelius Vanderbilt.

### **The Political Imperative**

That ancestral generation, living in an era when the state was weak and kept on short rations, didn't need to be as immersed in political affairs. Contacting a kept senator or federal judge when needed was enough. The modern regulatory and bureaucratic welfare state has extended its reach so far and wide that it needs to be steered, if not dismantled.

Some of our new tycoons try doing one or the other from off-stage through a bevy of front organizations and



hand-selected candidates for public office. Others dive right into the electoral arena themselves. Linda McMahon, who with her husband created the World Wrestling Entertainment empire, is a two-time loser in senate races in Connecticut. Rick Scott, a pharmaceutical entrepreneur, did better, becoming Florida's governor. Such figures, and other triumphalist types like them, claim their rise to business supremacy as their chief credential, often their only credential, when running for office or simply telling those holding office what to do.

Our entrepreneurial maestros come in a remarkable range of sizes and shapes. On style points, "the Donald" looms largest. Like so many [nineteenth century dynasts](#), his family origins are modest. A German grandfather arriving here in 1885 was a wine maker, a barber, and a saloonkeeper in California; father Fred became the Henry Ford of homebuilding, helped along by New Deal low-cost housing subsidies. His son went after splashier, flashier enterprises like casinos, luxury resorts, high-end hotels, and domiciles for the 1%. In all of this, the family name, splashed on towers of every sort and "the Donald's" image -- laminated hair-do and all -- became his company's chief assets.

Famous for nothing other than being very rich, Trump feels free to hold forth on every conceivable subject of public import from same-sex marriage to the geopolitics of the Middle East. Periodically, he tosses his hat into the electoral arena. But he comports himself like a clown. He even has a game named after himself: "Trump -- The Game," whose play currency bears Donald's face and whose lowest denomination is \$10 million. No wonder no one takes his right-wing bluster too seriously. A modern day "Jubilee Jim Fisk," craving attention so much he's willing to make himself ridiculous, the Donald is his own reality TV show.

Rupert Murdoch, on the other hand, looks and dresses like an accountant and lives mainly in the shadows. Like Trump, he inherited a family business. Unlike Trump, his family pedigree was

auspicious. His father was Sir Keith, a media magnate from Melbourne, Australia, and Rupert went to Oxford. Now, the family's media influence straddles continents, as Rupert attempts -- sometimes with great success -- to make or break political careers and steer whole political parties to the right.

The News Corporation is a dynastic institution of the modern kind in which Murdoch uses relatively little capital and a complex company structure to maintain and vigorously exercise the [family's control](#). When the Ford Motor Company finally went public in 1956, it did something similar to retain the Ford family's dominant position. So, too, did Google, whose "dual-class share structure" allowed its founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin to continue calling the shots. Murdoch's empire may, on first glance, seem to conform to American-style managerial corporate capitalism, apparently rootless, cosmopolitan, fixed on the bottom line. In fact, it is tightly tethered to Murdoch's personality and conservative political inclinations and to the rocky dynamics of the Murdoch succession. That is invariably the case with our new breed of dynastic capitalists.

Sheldon Adelson, the [CEO](#) of the Las Vegas Sands Corporation and sugar daddy to right-wing political wannabes from city hall to the White House, lacks Murdoch's finesse but shares his convictions and his outsized ambition to command the political arena. He's the eighth richest man in the world, but grew up poor as a Ukrainian Jew living in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston. His father was a cab driver and his mother ran a knitting shop. He went to trade school to become a court reporter and was a college drop-out. He started several small businesses that failed, winning and losing fortunes. Then he gambled and hit the jackpot, establishing lavish hotels and casinos around the world. When he again lost big time during the global financial implosion of 2007-2008, he [responded](#) the way any nineteenth century sea dog capitalist might have: "So I lost twenty-five billion dollars. I started out with zero... [there is] no such thing as fear, not to any entrepreneur. Concern, yes. Fear,

no.”

A committed Zionist, Adelson was once a Democrat. But he jumped ship over Israel and because he believed the party’s economic policies were ruining the country. (He’s described Obama’s goal as “a socialist-style economy.”) He established the Freedom Watch’s dark-money group as a counterweight to George Soros’s Open Society and to MoveOn.org. According to [one account](#), Adelson “seeks to dominate politics and public policy through the raw power of money.” That has, for instance, meant backing Newt Gingrich in the Republican presidential primaries of 2012 against Mitt Romney, whom he denounced as a “predatory capitalist” (talk about the pot calling the kettle black!), and not long after, funneling cash to candidate Romney.

### **Free Markets and the Almighty**

Charles and David Koch are perfect specimens of this [new breed](#) of family capitalists on steroids. Koch Industries is a gigantic conglomerate headquartered in the heartland city of Wichita, Kansas. Charles, who really runs the company, lives there. David, the social and philanthropic half of this fraternal duopoly, resides in New York City. Not unlike George “the Duke” Pullman, Charles has [converted Wichita](#) into something like a company city, where criticism of Koch Industries is muted at best.

The firm’s annual revenue is in the neighborhood of \$10 billion, generated by oil refineries, thousands of miles of pipelines, paper towels, Dixie cups, Georgia Pacific lumber, Lycra, and Stainmaster Carpet, among other businesses. It is the second largest privately owned company in the United States. (Cargill, the international food conglomerate, comes first.) The brothers are inordinately wealthy, even for our “new tycoonery.” Only Warren Buffett and Bill Gates are richer.

While the average businessman or corporate executive is likely to be pretty non-ideological, the Koch brothers are dedicated libertarians. Their free market

orthodoxy makes them adamant opponents of all forms of government regulation. Since their companies are among the top 10 air polluters in the United States, that also comports well with their material interests -- and the Kochs come by their beliefs naturally, so to speak.

Their father, Fred, was the son of a Dutch printer who settled in Texas and started a newspaper. He later became a chemical engineer and invented a better method for converting oil into gasoline. In one of history's little jokes, he was driven out of the industry by the oil giants who saw him as a threat. Today, Koch Industries is sometimes labeled "the Standard Oil of our time," an irony it's not clear the family would appreciate. After a sojourn in Joseph Stalin's Soviet Union (of all places), helping train oil engineers, Fred returned stateside to set up his own oil refinery business in Wichita. There, he joined the John Birch Society and ranted about the imminent Communist takeover of the government. In that connection he was particularly worried that "the colored man looms large in the Communist plan to take over America."

Father Fred raised his sons in the stern regimen of the work ethic and instructed the boys in the libertarian catechism. This left them lifelong foes of the New Deal and every social and economic reform since. That included not only predictable measures like government health insurance, social security, and corporate taxes, but anything connected to the leviathan state. Even the CIA and the FBI are on the Koch chopping block.

Dynastic conservatism of this sort has sometimes taken a generation to mature. [Sam Walton](#), like many of his nineteenth-century analogs, was not a political animal. He just wanted to be left alone to do his thing and deploy his power over the marketplace. So he stayed clear of electoral and party politics, although he implicitly relied on the racial, gender, and political order of the old South, which kept wages low and unions out, to build his business in the Ozarks. After his death in 1992, however, Sam's heirs entered the political arena in a big way.

In other respects Sam Walton conformed to type. He was [impressed with himself](#), noting that “capital isn’t scarce; vision is” (although his “one stop shopping” concept was already part of the retail industry before he started Walmart). His origins were humble. He was born on a farm in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. His father left farming for a while to become a mortgage broker, which in the Great Depression meant he was a farm re-possessor for Metropolitan Life Insurance. Sam did farm chores, then worked his way through college, and started his retail career with a small operation partly funded by his father-in-law.

At every juncture, the firm’s expansion depended on a network of family relations. Soon enough, his stores blanketed rural and small-town America. Through all the glory years, Sam’s day began before dawn as he woke up in the same house he’d lived in for more than 30 years. Then, dressed in clothes from one of his discount stores, off he went to work in his red Ford pick-up truck.

Some dynasts are pietistic and some infuse their [business with religion](#). Sam Walton did a bit of both. In his studiously modest “life style,” there was a kind of outward piety. Living without pretension, nose to the grindstone, and methodically building up the family patrimony has for centuries carried a sacerdotal significance, leaving aside any specific Protestant profession of religious faith. But there was professing as well. Though not a fundamentalist, he was a loyal member of the First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville, Arkansas, where he was a “ruling elder” and occasionally taught Sunday school (something he had also done in college as president of the Burall Bible Class Club).

Christianity would play a formative role in his labor relations strategy at Walmart. His employees -- “associates,” he dubbed them -- were drawn from an Ozark world of Christian fraternity which Walmart management cultivated. “Servant leadership” was a concept designed to encourage workers to undertake their duties serving the company’s customers in the same spirit as

Jesus, who saw himself as a “servant leader.”

This helped discourage animosities in the work force, as well as blunting the -- to Walton -- dangerous desire to do something about them through unionizing or responding in any other way to the company's decidedly subpar working conditions and wages. An aura of Christian spiritualism plus company-scripted songs and cheers focused on instilling company loyalty, profit-sharing schemes, and performance bonuses constituted a twentieth century version of Pullman's town idyll.

All of this remained in place after Sam's passing. What changed was the decision of his fabulously wealthy relatives to enter the political arena. Walton lobbying operations now cover a broad range of issues, including lowering corporate taxes and getting rid of the estate tax entirely, as his heirs subsidize mainly Republican candidates and causes. Most prominent of all have been the Walton efforts to privatize education through vouchers or by other means, often enough turning public institutions into religiously affiliated schools.

Wall Street has never been known for its piety. But the tycoons who founded the Street's most lucrative hedge funds -- men like John Paulson, Paul Tudor Jones II, and Steve Cohen, among others -- are also determined to up-end the public school system. They are among the country's most powerful proponents of charter schools. Like J.P. Morgan of old, these men grew up in privilege, went to prep schools and the Ivy League, and have zero experience with public education or the minorities who tend to make up a large proportion of charter school student bodies.

No matter. After all, some of these people make several million dollars a day. What an elixir! They are joined in this educational crusade by fellow business conquistadors of less imposing social backgrounds like Mark Zuckerberg, who has ensured that Facebook will remain a family domain even while “going public.” Another example would be Bill Gates, the most celebrated of a brace of techno-frontiersmen who --

legend would have it -- did their pioneering in homely garages, even though the wonders they invented would have been inconceivable without decades of government investment in military-related science and technology. What can't these people do, what don't they know? They are empire builders and liberal with their advice and money when it comes to managing the educational affairs of the nation. They also [benefit handsomely](#) from a provision in the tax code passed during the Clinton years that rewards them for investing in "businesses" like charter schools.

Our imperial tycoons are a mixed lot. They range from hip technologists like Zuckerberg to heroic nerds like Bill Gates, and include yesteryear traditionalists like Sam Walton and the Koch brothers. What they share with each other and their robber baron ancestors is a god-like desire to create the world in their image.

Watching someone play god may amuse us, as "the Donald" can do in an appalling sort of way. It is, however, a dangerous game with potentially deadly consequences for a democratic way of life already on life support.

*Steve Fraser is the author of [Wall Street: America's Dream Palace](#), among other works, and a [TomDispatch regular](#). His next book, [The Age of Acquiescence: The Life and Death of American Resistance to Organized Wealth and Power](#), will be published by Little Brown in February. He is a writer, historian, and co-founder of the [American Empire Project](#).*

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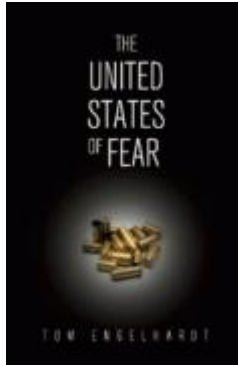
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[NATO Summit 2014 in Wales: NATO must be Disbanded](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 04 September 2014 06:05

By Joan Russow, Global Compliance Research Project



Protestors marching through Newport, Wales *Credit: Ben Birchall/PA Wire*

1.

NATO, must be Disbanded for Contributing to the Scourge of War in violation of the fundamental objective of the Charter of the United Nations and for violating, through its war games, “the prohibition of the provocation of war” affirmed in the international covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

2.

3.

When Soviet Union ended the Warsaw Pact, there was an understanding with Russia that NATO would not expand. NATO reneged on this understanding.

While, on April 4, 2009, the NATO state leaders celebrate the 60th Anniversary Conference of NATO in Strasbourg and Baden Baden, the majority of states of the United Nations would have been more inclined to celebrate the demise of NATO.

Last Updated on Thursday, 04 September 2014 06:46

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[Fixed election date in October 2015 must not be changed to cover up Duffy's potentially devastating testimony](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 23 September 2014 15:37

By Joan Russow Global Compliance Research Project

**The Harper government evaded the investigation, by the Parliamentary Committee on Ethics and Access to Information, into the fraudulent in-and out funding scheme; the Harper government prorogued parliament to avoid an investigation into Canadian complicity in torturing Afghani prisoners; and the Harper government again prorogued Parliament, to prevent the Opposition from forming a coalition. The then Governor General succumbed to his requests. Prior to the 2011 election there was a serious oil spill; this event was covered up and only revealed after the election  
The Fixed election date in October 15 must not be changed to cover up Duffy's potential devastating testimony.**

**SINCE 2006, THE HARPER GOVERNMENT HAS CAUSED CANADA TO BE**

**PERCEIVED AS AN INTERNATIONAL PARIAH. BEFORE THE 2015 ELECTION  
WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DENOUNCE THE HARPER GOVERNMENT  
FOR YEARS OF TRANSGRESSIONS:**

**HERE IS A BEGINNING LIST.**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVING THE ENBRIDGE  
PIPELINE FOR**

**. THE HARPER GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED**

**THE FLAWED DECISION OF THE ENBRIDGE PANEL WHICH  
IGNORED**

**NOT ONLY THE DEEP CONCERNS, SUBMITTED TO THE PANEL,**

**BY THE CITIZENS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BUT ALSO**

**INTERNATIONAL NORMS WHICH WOULD BE VIOLATED**

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*ESCALATING THE DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PASSING THE SO-CALLED “FAIR  
ELECTIONS” ACT WHICH PROVIDE NEW FUNDING LOOPHOLES,**

**UNDERMINES THE ROLE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,  
PLACES THE ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER THE ATTORNEY  
GENERALS OFFICE WITHOUT HAVING POWER TO COMPEL  
WITNESSES, AND ABOVE ALL SUPPRESSES THE VOTE BY  
REMOVING PROCEDURES THAT FACILITATE THE VOTE.**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9801:-  
breaking-were-taking-the-unfair-elections-act-to-court&catid=75:cjustice-  
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[www.cbc.ca/.../inside-canada-s-top-secret-billion-dollar-spy-palace-1.19](http://www.cbc.ca/.../inside-canada-s-top-secret-billion-dollar-spy-palace-1.19)

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[http://www.globalresearch.ca/canadian-spy-agency-establishes-covert-  
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**” A CONSERVATIVE MP HAS BROUGHT FORWARD, WITH THE BLESSING OF THE PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE, A BILL THAT WOULD REQUIRE PARLIAMENTARY WATCHDOGS AND ALL THEIR EMPLOYEES [TO DISCLOSE PREVIOUS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES](#).**

**THE PERIOD OF DISCLOSURE WOULD COVER THE DECADE PREVIOUS TO THEIR APPOINTMENTS. THE LEGISLATION WOULD BE RETROACTIVE — MEANING ALL CURRENT EMPLOYEES WOULD EFFECTIVELY HAVE TO SUBMIT TO POLITICAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.”**

**LAWRENCE MARTIN [HTTP://WWW.IPOLITICS.CA/2014/01/15/NON-CONSERVATIVES-NEED-NOT-APPLY/](http://www.ipolitics.ca/2014/01/15/non-conservatives-need-not-apply/)**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASINGLY ABUSING ITS CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS AND CAUSING CANADA TO BECOME**

## **AN AUTOCRACY WITH FEW CHECKS AND BALANCES**

<https://www.pej.org/html/modules.php?op=modload&name;=News&file;=article&sid;=8440>

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR USING FRAUDULENT MEANS FOR ACCEDING TO POWER: FROM THEIR 2006 IN-AND OUT FUNDING SCHEME TO THEIR USE, IN 2011, OF ROBO CALLS**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view;=article&id;=7946:a-mockery-of-justice-conservatives-should-be-prosecuted-not-rewarded-for-their-violation-of-the-elections-act&catid;=75:cjustice-news&Itemid;=218](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view;=article&id;=7946:a-mockery-of-justice-conservatives-should-be-prosecuted-not-rewarded-for-their-violation-of-the-elections-act&catid;=75:cjustice-news&Itemid;=218)

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR DISSOLVING PARLIAMENT TO EVADE THE INVESTIGATION INTO ITS IN-AND-OUT SCHEME, FOR**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view;=article&id;=7946:a-mockery-of-justice-conservatives-should-be-prosecuted-not-rewarded-for-their-violation-of-the-elections-act&catid;=75:cjustice-news&Itemid;=218](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view;=article&id;=7946:a-mockery-of-justice-conservatives-should-be-prosecuted-not-rewarded-for-their-violation-of-the-elections-act&catid;=75:cjustice-news&Itemid;=218)

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PROROGUING PARLIAMENT TO AVOID AN INVESTIGATION INTO CANADIAN COMPLICITY IN TORTURING AFGHANI REFUGEES, AND FOR PROROGUING PARLIAMENT TO PREVENT THE OPPOSITION FROM FORMING A COALITION**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view;=article&id;=7955&catid;=75:cjustice-news&Itemid;=218](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view;=article&id;=7955&catid;=75:cjustice-news&Itemid;=218)

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR USING OMNIBUS BILLS**

**WHICH HAVE PREVENTED IN DEPTH, MEANINGFUL DEBATE ON  
KEY ISSUES**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR SHOWING CONTEMPT OF  
PARLIAMENT AND FOR PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS  
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES**

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[http://sciencewriters.ca/initiatives/muzzling\\_canadian\\_federal\\_scientists/](http://sciencewriters.ca/initiatives/muzzling_canadian_federal_scientists/)

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AND CLOSING KEY GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES**

<http://www.canadaspastmatters.ca/public-libraries/federal-library-cuts-and-closures.aspx>

**WE DENOUNCE**

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[www.canada.com/story.html?id=68567994-1f34-4338-b878..](http://www.canada.com/story.html?id=68567994-1f34-4338-b878..)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR, CUTTING OFF FUNDING FOR SCIENCE AND CLOSING LABS WHOSE RESULTS THREATEN CORPORATE INTERESTS**

**SEE January 10 2013 VIDEO ON FIFTH ESTATE**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/research-cutbacks-by-government-alarm-scientists-1.2490081>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR SCRAPPING THE MANDATORY LONG-FORM CENSUS DESPITE BEING TOLD BY STATISTICS CANADA OFFICIALS THAT IMPORTANT DATA WOULD LIKELY BE LOST OR IMPAIRED AS A RESULT. GOOD DATA IS ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING GOOD POLICY**

[www.cbc.ca/news/politics/tories-scrap-mandatory-long-census-1.888048](http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/tories-scrap-mandatory-long-census-1.888048)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR IMPEDING ACCESS TO INFORMATION, FOR DENYING AND DELAYING REQUESTS. FOR SUPPRESSING RESEARCH, AND FOR INTIMIDATING LIBRARIANS AND ARCHIVISTS**

<http://news.nationalpost.com/tag/suzanne-legault/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR REFRAMING CANADA AND CANADIAN HISTORY. AT THE 2013 CONGRESS, HISTORIANS AND POLITICAL SCIENTISTS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT HOW**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT WAS REFRAMING CANADA AS A MILITARISTIC NATION.**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/05/03/harper-conservatives-canadian-history\\_n\\_3208625.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/05/03/harper-conservatives-canadian-history_n_3208625.html)

**ALSO QUESTIONS WERE RAISED ABOUT HOW THE CITIZENSHIP TEST WAS BEING REFRAMED AS WELL**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CUTTING FUNDING, FOR UNDERMINING AND FOR INTIMIDATING THE CBC**

**THE CBC REFUSED TO AUTHORIZE AND PLAY THIS AD**

[The Man Behind the Desk](#)

<http://vimeo.com/69748338>

*FOSTERING MILITARISM*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASING INTEGRATION WITH THE UNITED STATES**

**CANADA, UNDER HARPER GOVERNMENTS, HAS INCREASINGLY CLOSE MILITARY INTEGRATION WITH US POLICY, AND ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT, CUTELY CALLED "SHIPRIDER PROGRAM" THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO INCREASE BORDER SECURITY BY ALLOWING THE RCMP AND THE U.S. COAST GUARD TO TEAM UP AND RIDE IN EACH OTHERS VESSELS DURING BORDER PATROLS. THE HARPER GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO AN ENHANCED ROLE FOR NORAD. HARPER IS TO GO ANYWHERE, ANY PLACE AND AT ANY TIME AT THE BEHEST OF THE US POLICY OF PREVENTIVE/PRE-EMPTIVE AGGRESSION.**

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ibet-eipf/shiprider-eng.htm>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR USING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT DOCTRINE TO JUSTIFY THE INVASION OF LIBYA AND SUPPORTED THE MISSION CREEP**

<http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2013/11/25/Libyan-Hell-After-Civil-War/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR TRIPPLING THE MILITARY BUDGET; IT HAS INCREASED THREEFOLD SINCE 2000; THE CURRENT BUDGET IS 30 BILLION, NOT INCLUDING THE FAR REACHING EXPENSES OF CANADA FIRST PLAN**

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/about/canada-first-defence-strategy>.

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR ENGAGING IN MILITARY EXERCISES SUCH AS NATO'S EXERCISE TRIDENT FURY, AND NORTHCOM'S EXERCISE- AND FOR NOT OPPOSING THE INCREASED NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9129:exercise-trident-fury-2013-rogue-states-engaged-in-propaganda-for-war&catid=104:i-](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9129:exercise-trident-fury-2013-rogue-states-engaged-in-propaganda-for-war&catid=104:i-)

[peace-news&Itemid;=204](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING THE INFAMOUS CHILEAN TORTURE SHIP, THE ESMERALDA TO BERTH IN THE GREATER VICTORIA HARBOUR AND IN THE VANCOUVER HARBOUR.**

<http://www.straight.com/news/bc-residents-oppose-visit-chilean-navy-ship-la-esmeralda-vancouver>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT SIGNING THE ARMS TRADE TREATY [EVEN THE US HAS SIGNED IT ALONG WITH 117 OTHER STATES; NINE STATES HAVE RATIFIED IT.]**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/harper-refuses-to-sign-landmark-arms-trade-treaty/article14539869/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR IGNORING THE BUDGET OFFICER ASSESSMENT OF THE COST OF THE F-35 JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER (JSF) AND FOR FAILING TO BE TRANSPARENT WITH THE OPPOSITION**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/budget-watchdog-accuses-tories->

[of-low-balling-f-35-cost/article4104618/](http://www.socialist.ca/node/1442)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FUNDING, UNDER THE WESTERN DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAM, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, A PROGRAM TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND PRODUCE DRONES WITH SYSTEMS THAT ARE CONFIGURABLE WITH MILITARY USES (DOCUMENT RECEIVED THROUGH ACCESS TO INFORMATION)**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR REVERSING, IN 2007, CANADA'S LONGSTANDING SUPPORT FOR A NUCLEAR ARMS FREE MIDDLE EAST. AND FOR REFUSING YET AGAIN, AT THE 2013 HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, TO SUPPORT NUCLEAR ARMS FREE MIDDLE EAST. (FROM CANADIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS AT THE NPT CONFERENCES AND FROM HIGH LEVEL MEETING AT UN IN NEW YORK)**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR DISMISSING THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON AS A BEING "A MEASURED' RESPONSE." IN ADDITION, CANADA WAS ONE A FEW COUNTRIES THAT DID NOT CONDEMN THE DEADLY ISRAELI ATTACK IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, ON THE HUMANITARIAN FLOTILLA.**

<http://www.socialist.ca/node/1442>

<http://rabble.ca/news/2010/06/israel-can-do-no-wrong-harpers-policy>



**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR SUPPORTING THE MURDEROUS ATTACK BY ISRAEL ON GAZA IN GAZA IN 2008-9, AN ATTACK WHICH KILLED OVER 1400 PALESTINIANS, MOSTLY CIVILIANS, AND WHICH WAS DENOUNCED IN THE GOLDSTONE REPORT TO THE UN AS VIOLATIONS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL LAW**

<http://www.crescent-online.net/2014/05/jewish-group-accuses-harper-government-of-hypocrisy-in-treatment-of-irfan-canada-ijv-canada-4444-articles.html>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO CONDEMN THE ILLEGAL BLOCKADE, OF GAZA BY ISRAEL, WHICH IS A VIOLATION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AGAINST COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT.**

<http://rabble.ca/news/2010/06/israel-can-do-no-wrong-harpers-policy>

*DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MISCONTRUING THE INTERNATIONAL PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**

**THE INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE IS THE FOLLOWING;**

**WHERE THERE IS A THREAT OF IRREVERSIBLE HARM OR A THREAT OF LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY OR A THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH,**

**THE LACK OF FULL SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY OF HARM SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A REASON TO POSTPONE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE THREAT.**

**IN CANADA THE WORDING IS**

**“THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE” RECOGNIZES THAT THE ABSENCE OF FULL SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY” OF SAFETY SHALL NOT BE USED AS A REASON FOR POSTPONING DECISIONS**

**IN CANADA, THIS VERSION HAS RESULTED IN THE QUESTIONABLE APPROVAL OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CROPS AND THE IGNORING OF YEARS OF INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INDICATING HARM. (FROM PETITION SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AUGUST 2013)**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9536:enb-ridge-pipeline-the-panel-ignored-the-precautionary-principle-and-the-government-has-misconstrued-the-principle&catid=89:bc-earth-news&Itemid=213](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9536:enb-ridge-pipeline-the-panel-ignored-the-precautionary-principle-and-the-government-has-misconstrued-the-principle&catid=89:bc-earth-news&Itemid=213)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT BANNING THE NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO HARM BEES, AND BIRDS**

[http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/toxins/Neonic\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/toxins/Neonic_FINAL.pdf)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT BANNING MOTORIZED SEAWEED HARVESTING AND INSTITUTING A MORATORIUM ON NON-MORTORIZED HARVESTING**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9500:-open-letter-mechanizedindustrialized-seaweed-harvesting-must-be-](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9500:-open-letter-mechanizedindustrialized-seaweed-harvesting-must-be-)

[banned&catid;=89:bc-earth-news&Itemid;=213](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR USING THE OMNIBUS BILL 45  
AND CHANGING THE NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION ACT**

**THIS CHANGE REMOVES THOUSANDS OF LAKES AND STREAMS  
FROM FEDERAL PROTECTION UNDER THAT LAW.**

<http://www.ecojustice.ca/publications/files/envirolaw-watch/navigable-waters-protection-act-briefing/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR UNDERMINING THE CANADIAN  
ECONOMY BY CAUSING CANADA TO BECOME A FOSSIL FUEL  
STATE**

<http://commonsensecanadian.ca/petro-state-economy-costs-canada-far-jobs-creates/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR TOLERATING CLIMATE  
CHANGE DENIERS, FOR FUNDING THE “FRIENDS OF SCIENCE” AND  
FOR SACRIFICING HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN CANADA  
FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE TAR SANDS PIPELINES AND  
TANKERS.**

[http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Friends\\_of\\_Science](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Friends_of_Science)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT'S NATURAL RESOURCE MINISTER**

**WHO SAID THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WANTED TO SPEND UP TO \$16.5 MILLION ON ADVERTISING IN THE UPCOMING YEAR, "THIS IS A CRITICAL MOMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THEREFORE WE HAVE ALLOCATED A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR ADVERTISING,' OLIVER TOLD A SPECIAL COMMITTEE STUDYING SPENDING ESTIMATES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS"**

<http://tarsandssolutions.org/in-the-media/stephen-harpers-government-withholds-details-of-16-million-pr-campaign-for>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR COVERING UP, UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION, A SERIOUS SPILL IN THE TARSANDS WHICH OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE 2011 ELECTION**

<http://www.victoriacouncilofcanadians.ca/climate-justice/huge-oil-spill-in-alberta-cover-up-by-regulators>

/

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CALLING THOSE WHO SEEK TO PREVENT THE SENDING OF FOSSIL FUELS ACROSS BC AS "EXTREMISTS".**

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20120301/northern-gateway-pipeline-canada-harper-tar-oil-sands-forestethics-first-nations-charities-nonprofits-keystone-xl>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MAKING, IN 2009 AT COP15, A LOW COMMITMENT FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (17 PER CENT FROM 2005 LEVELS BY 2020; WHEREAS THE EU HAD AGREED TO 20% FROM THE 1990 LEVEL).**

**AND THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT ESTABLISHING A CREDIBLE PLAN FOR REACHING EVEN THIS MODEST COP 15 COMMITMENT BY 2020**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/emissions-will-soar-after-2020-without-oil-sands-regulation-federal-report-says/article16250220/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**HARPER GOVERNMENT, FOR FAILING TO INSTITUTE A CANADA-WIDE BAN ON FRACKING TO PREVENT THE NAFTA SUIT AGAINST QUEBEC'S BAN ON FRACKING**

<http://www.canadians.org/media/one-pine-resources-files-outrageous-nafta-lawsuit-against-fracking-ban>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR UNDERMINING THE RESOLVE IN THE RIO+20 CONFERENCE TO ELIMINATE SUBSIDIES FOR FOSSIL FUELS**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9814:rio20-canada-the-deleter-of-key-principles-and-commitments&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9814:rio20-canada-the-deleter-of-key-principles-and-commitments&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CONSISTENTLY RECEIVING THE FOSSIL AWARD OR THE COLLOSAL FOSSIL AWARDS AT THE**

**CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK**

**CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7527&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7527&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENTS WITHDRAWING FROM THE KYOTO PROOCOL**

<http://o.canada.com/news/its-official-harper-government-withdraws-from-kyoto-climate-agreement>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/canada-quietly-pulls-out-of-un-anti-droughts-convention-1.1388320>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR TURNING LAKES INTO MINE DUMP SITES**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/lakes-across-canada-face-being-turned-into-mine-dump-sites-1.733972>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PASSING C-38**

**WHICH CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING;**

**(i) CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTALASSESSMENT  
ACT DITCHED.**

**(ii) (CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
AGENCY SERIOUSLY WEAKENED.**

**(iii) CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
ACT UNDERCUT.**

**(iv) KYOTO PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION ACT  
KILLED.**

**(v) (FISHERIES ACT SERIOUSLY WEAKENED.**

**(vi) NAVIGABLEWATERS PROTECTION ACT  
HAMPERED.**

**(vii) ENERGY BOARD ACT NEUTERED.**

**(viii) SPECIES AT RISK ACT HAMSTRUNG.**

**(ix) PARKS CANADA AGENCY ACT TRIMMED,  
STAFF CUT.**

**(x) CANADIAN OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS ACT  
MADE MORE INDUSTRY FRIENDLY.**

**(xi) COASTING TRADE ACT MADE MORE  
OFFSHORE DRILLING FRIENDLY.**

**(xii) (NUCLEAR SAFETY CONTROL ACT  
UNDERMINED.**

**(xiii) CANADA SEEDS ACT INSPECTIONS  
PRIVATIZED.**

**(xiv) AGRICULTURE AFFECTED.**

**(xv) NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON THE  
ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY KILLED.**

(xvi) **MORE ATTACKS ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS FUNDED. (vii) WATER PROGRAMS CUT.**

(xvii) **WASTEWATER SURVEY CUT. )**

(xviii) **MONITORING EFFLUENT CUT.**

Outline above from The Tye <http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2012/05/10/Bill-C38/>

## **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT, FOR OBSTRUCTING THE BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL, INDIGENOUS GROUPS ALLEGE CANADIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM ON THE BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL**

<http://www.ip-watch.org/2010/10/21/indigenous-groups-allege-canadian-obstructionism-to-biodiversity-abs-protocol/>

## **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASING PRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CROPS**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9807:publication-of-professor-seralinis-study-time-to-be-responsible&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9807:publication-of-professor-seralinis-study-time-to-be-responsible&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

## **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO INVOKE THE INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE AND INSTITUTE A BAN ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CROPS**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9773:presentation-at-the-victoria-2014-march-against-monsanto&catid=80:i-pej-](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9773:presentation-at-the-victoria-2014-march-against-monsanto&catid=80:i-pej-)



[events&Itemid;=228](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO INVOKE THE INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE TO PREVENT THE IMPACT OF GE ON THE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES.**

<http://www.startribune.com/local/143017765.html>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVING THE PRODUCTION OF TRANSGENIC SALMON EGGS IN PEI**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9548:transgenic-salmon-is-fraught-with-uncertainties-and-irreversible-harmful-consequences&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid;=210](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9548:transgenic-salmon-is-fraught-with-uncertainties-and-irreversible-harmful-consequences&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid;=210)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE “DOWNLISTING” OF PACIFIC HUMPBAC WHALES FROM “THREATENED” TO “SPECIAL CONCERN”**

<http://news.wildlife.org/featured/controversy-over-canadas-decision-to-downlist-humpback-whales/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**HARPER FOR CONSIDERING DIFFERENT DELIVERY SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH CARE WHICH COULD RESULT IN INCREASE PRIVATIZATION AND END TO MEDICARE**

**IN THE 2011 LEADERS DEBATE HARPER SAID; “GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THIS COUNTRY HAVE EXPERIMENTED WITH ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY....WE’RE NOT GOING TO WAVE THE FINGER AT PROVINCES BECAUSE THEY EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT**

**DELIVERY.”**

<http://www.nationalnewswatch.com/2014/03/12/medicare-is-on-the-road-to-oblivion/#.U7Bsk5RdVuA>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR ABDICATING RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE CANADA HEALTH CARE ACT.**

<http://healthcoalition.ca/harper-plan-would-kill-medicare/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR IGNORING THE PLEAS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR CANCELING THE DEBT, AND THE PLEAS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE AND FOR COMPENSATION FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR ATMOSPHERIC SPACE (STATEMENT BY CANADA AT THE NEW YORK,10-14 JANUARY 2011 CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES , AT THE UN, IN NEW YORK.**

*CONTRIBUTING TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS NEGLIGENCE*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR VIOLATING THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE IN AFGHANISTAN THROUGH TRANSFERRING THE AFHAN DETAINEES**

**EVEN THOUGH A CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ADVISED THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE PRISONERS TRANSFERRED BY CANADA TO AN AFGHAN PRISON WERE BEING TORTURED, THE HARPER MINORITY GOVERNMENT IGNORED THE WARNING. THE HARPER MINORITY GOVERNMENT DENIED THAT THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED AND DISCREDITED HIM, AND NOW IN JUNE, THE DOCUMENTS INDICATE THAT HARPER HAD BEEN INFORMED.**

<http://mwnews.net/focus/politics/40436-cia-torture-revelations.html>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR EXTENDING THE ANTI-TERRORIST ACT AND FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/conservatives-pass-anti-terror-bill-decried-by-civil-rights-advocates/article11535988/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE PUTTING UNDER SUREILLANCE CITIZENS ENGAGED IN LAWFUL ADVOCACY; THIS PRACTICE VIOLATES SECTION 1 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS- THAT AFFIRMS THAT THERE MUST BE NO DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF POLITICAL OR OTHER OPINION**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT' FOR VIOLATING LABOUR RIGHTS,  
ESPECIALLY FOR CHALLENGING THE RIGHT TO STRIKE**

[http://www.cupw.ca/index.cfm/ci\\_id/13985/la\\_id/1](http://www.cupw.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/13985/la_id/1)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE DENYING OF RIGHTS OF  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. ARTICLE 19 OF THE UN DECLARATION OF  
THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WHICH REQUIRES FAIR  
PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT; HARPER HAS STATED CONSENT  
DOES NOT REALLY MEAN CONSENT IT MEANS  
CONSULTATION. HE ALSO HAS DECLARED THAT THE UNDRIP IS  
ONLY ASPIRATIONAL.[HE RECENT DECISION OF THE SUPREME  
COURT WILL NOT PERMIT THIS:**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9813:tsilh-qotin-first-nation-granted-bc-title-claim-in-supreme-court-ruling&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9813:tsilh-qotin-first-nation-granted-bc-title-claim-in-supreme-court-ruling&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218)

<http://intercontinentalcry.org/harper-launches-major-first-nations-termination-plan-as-negotiating-tables-legitimize-canadas-colonialism/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**A FEDERAL TRIBUNAL WHICH HAS REBUKED THE GOVERNMENT  
FOR HIDING DOCUMENTS IN A CHALLENGE OVER FUNDING FOR  
FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN.**

**THE CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL SAYS THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT KNEW ABOUT 50,000 DOCUMENTS "PREJUDICIAL  
TO ITS CASE AND HIGHLY RELEVANT" IN 2012, BUT DIDN'T  
DISCLOSE THEM UNTIL THEY WERE REVEALED THIS YEAR IN A**

**REQUEST UNDER FEDERAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS.  
(CBC)**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/ottawa-rebuked-for-holding-back-first-nations-documents-1.1362202>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT EMPLOYERS, WITH CRIMINAL RECORD, COULD NOT BE INVOLVED WITH THE TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORK PROGRAM**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MOVING CANADA AWAY FROM A COUNTRY OF MULTIFAITH, AND NO FAITH TOWARDS A FORM OF CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALISM WITH LINKS TO ISRAEL**

<http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2012/03/26/Harper-Evangelical-Mission/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT'S BILL C10' TOUGH ON CRIME BILL WHICH HAS CAUSED VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE CRIME LEGISLATION TO BE DIRECTED TOWARDS INCREASING PUNISHMENT BY WAY OF MORE PRISON TERMS FOR MORE PEOPLE AND FOR LONGER. VIRTUALLY NOTHING IN ANY OF THE LEGISLATION DOES ANYTHING TO PREVENT CRIME**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/what-worries-critics-about-omnibus-crime-bill-1.1244907>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENTS FAILURE TO CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR  
THE TREATMENT OF THE PALESTINIANS**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PULLING FUNDING FROM  
GROUPS WHICH WERE CRITICAL OF ISRAEL**

<http://briarpatchmagazine.com/articles/view/ngos-and-empire>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR REFUSING TO FUND ANYTHING  
TO DO WITH FAMILY PLANNING AND ABORTION**

<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/gerry-caplan/2014/06/harpers-plan-maternal-health-not-nearly-good-enough>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR IMPRISONING OF REFUGEES  
ARRIVING BY SHIP AND FOR CUTTING OFF HEALTH CARE  
FUNDING FOR REFUGEES, COMING FROM COUNTRIES, WHICH  
THE HARPER GOVERNMENT DEEMS TO BE SAFE TO CANADA.**

<http://healthcoalition.ca/main/issues/conservative-attack-on-refugee-health-care/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO**

*FULFILL MILLENNIAL GOALS*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CAUSING, THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR TO INCREASE. IN CANADA**

**THE MEDIAN INCOME OF THE TOP 1% IS 10 TIMES HIGHER THAN THE REMAINING 99% OF TAX FILERS (STATISTICS CANADA).**

[www.canadiansocialresearch.net/inequality.htm](http://www.canadiansocialresearch.net/inequality.htm)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT, FOR CAUSING CANADA TO FALL**

**FURTHER BEHIND ON MDG#1 IN RELATION TO ALL SECTORS OF POPULATION LIVING IN POVERTY WELL OVER THE European Union and OECD (ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT) AVERAGES, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO ABORIGINAL PERSONS (36% POVERTY RATE) SINGLE MOTHERS (21.5% POVERTY RATE), AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (26.4%).**

[www.makepovertyhistory.ca](http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CANADA BEING RANKED AS 20<sup>TH</sup> OUT OF 31 OECD COUNTRIES FOR MOVING WOMEN OUT OF POVERTY IN MEASURING POVERTY**

<http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/PDF-FactSheet-EndPoverty-Jan2013.pdf>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CAUSING CANADA TO BE 12 OUT**

**OF 30 IN THE ASSESSMENT, BY UNICEF, IN CHILD WEL BEIN IN RICH COUNTRIES**

<http://www.unicef.org/media/files/ChildPovertyReport.pdf>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL CRISIS BEING CAUSED BY DEREGULATION OF FINANCIAL MARKETS WHICH HAS ACCELERATED THIS INEQUALITY.**

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/monitor/global-economic-crisis-and-its-canadian-dimension>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE INCREASING SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/n12/12-108-eng.asp>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASING GLOBALIZATION, DEREGULATION AND PRIVATIZATION THROUGH ITS SUPPORT FOR TRADE AGREEMENTS, SUCH AS THE WTO/FTAA/NAFTA, SPP, CETA, FIPA TTIPS; AS WELL AS BYLATERAL AGREEMENTS. ALL THESE TRADE AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE DECLARED NULL AND VOID FOR VIOLATING INTERNTIONAL PEREMPTORY NORMS**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9737:-ceta-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms-pdf-print-e-mail-justice-news-posted-by-joan-russow-friday-18-october-2013-0706-ceta-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms-joan-russow-global-complianc&catid=74:justice-news&Itemid=216](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9737:-ceta-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms-pdf-print-e-mail-justice-news-posted-by-joan-russow-friday-18-october-2013-0706-ceta-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms-joan-russow-global-complianc&catid=74:justice-news&Itemid=216)

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9792:the-](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9792:the-)



<http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/blog/federal-programs-and-research-facilities-that-have-been-shut-down-or-had-th>

## **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR UNDERMINING OF POST SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**CANADA HAS REDUCED FUNDS FOR UNIVERSITIES, CAUSING UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCHERS TO GROVEL FOR CORPORATE FUNDING, SUCH AS FROM MINING CORPORATIONS SUCH GOLDCORP. WITH TERRIBLE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS, AND FROM DEFENCE FUNDING.**

<http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/blog/federal-programs-and-research-facilities-that-have-been-shut-down-or-had-th>

## **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR ABANDONING CANADA'S LONG STANDING ROLE OF A SANCTUARY FOR THOSE OPPOSED TO WAR AND FOR REJECTING US WAR RESISTERS**

[Iraq war resistors meet cool receptio in Canada](#)

## **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR BAILING OUT THE BANKS AND LOWERING CORPORATE TAXES YET CUTTING BACK ON FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

[HARPER BAILING OUT BANKS AND AUTO INDUSTRIES](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING THE CONTINUED BERTHING AND CIRCULATING OF NUCLEAR POWERED AND NUCLEAR ARMS CAPABLE VESSELS IN THE GREATER VICTORIA HARBOUR**

[WARSHIP SHOULD BE PROHIBITED IN CANADIAN WATERS](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR ADVOCATING THAT AT THE END OF CANADIAN COMBAT OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD LOOK TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS POTENTIAL BUYERS OF CANADIAN-MADE GUNS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT**

[THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD LOOK TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS POTENTIAL BUYERS OF CANADIAN MADE GUNS](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT, AND THE CONSERVATIVE DOMINATED SENATE, FOR OPPOSING A MINING BILL C300 WHICH WOULD REQUIRE CANADIAN MINING COMPANIES TO ABIDE BY STANDARDS WHEN THEY OPERATE OUTSIDE OF CANADA.**

[CANADIAN MINING SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL HARM](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR BLOCKING THE PLACING OF ASBESTOS ON THE ROTTERDAM LIST OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES LIST.**

[RUSSIA ZIMBABWE PICK UP THE ASBESTOS BATON FROM CANADA](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING, A STRAIN OF MONSANTO ALFALFA GE SEED TO BE APPROVED AND FOR COMPROMISING FOOD SECURITY**

[APPLICATION FOR DISTRIBUTIO PDF](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING [APPROVED HAVING ONLY ONE ENGINEER ON TRAINS. THIS COULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ILL-FATED TRAIN DISASTER IN LAC MEGANTIC](#)**

[OTTAWA APPROVED HAVING ONLY ONE ENGINEER ON ILL-FATED TRAIN](#)

*VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS.**

[WHOSE DEMOCRACY](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CHANGING THE EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY RULES. THESE CHANGES WILL INCREASE THE PRECARIOUSNESS OF JOBS AND JEOPARDIZE THE BARGAINING POWER OF WORKERS IN CANADA.**

[STEPHEN HARPER'S NEW EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE RULES WHACK ONTARIO HARD](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE ABUSES AND EXPLOITATION OCCURRING IN THE TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER PROGRAM,**

[HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES PREVALENT AMONG VULNERABLE GROUPS PDF](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR VIOLATING SECTION 1 OF THE 1951 REFUGEE ACT BY MAKING A DISTINCTION BETWEEN WHAT IT DEEMS TO BE SAFE AND UNSAFE COUNTRIES. THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (ART. 1, REFUGEE ACT)**

[HARPER GOVERNMENT'S DISTINCTION BETWEEN REFUGEES FROM SAFE AND UNSAFE STATES](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CAUSING A DETERIORATION IN CANADA OF FOOD SECURITY, AND FOR DISPENSIN WITH THE RQPPATEUR'S REPORT ON FOOD SECURITY**

[UN OFFICIAL SPARKS DEBATE OVER CANADIAN FOOD SECURITY](#)

*ENTRENCHING CORPORATISM*

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT ADDRESSING THE FACT THAT**

[Canada now dominates World Bank corruption list, thanks to SNC-Lavalin](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CONTINUING TO HOST AND FOR EXPANDING CANSEC-THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRADE FAIR**

**“CANADA'S LARGEST WEAPONS BAZAAR. THOUSANDS OF BUYERS, SELLERS, USERS AND PROMOTERS OF THE LATEST TECHNOLOGIES FOR WAR AND REPRESSION WILL BE RUBBING SHOULDERS AT THIS HUGE, PRIVATE EVENT. CLOAKING THEMSELVES BEHIND A WALL OF DECEPTIVE EUPHEMISMS, LIKE "DEFENCE" AND "SECURITY" HUNDREDS OF HIGHLY-PROFITABLE CANADIAN CORPORATIONS WILL SHOWCASE THEIR DEADLY WARES”. (COALITION AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE)**

Last Updated on Tuesday, 23 September 2014 17:06

4190 readings

[Fixed election date in October 2015 must not be changed to cover up Duffy' s potentially devastating testimony](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 23 September 2014 15:37

By Joan Russow Global Compliance Research Project

**The Harper government evaded the investigation, by the Parliamentary Committee on Ethics and Access to Information, into the fraudulent in-and out funding scheme; the Harper government prorogued parliament to avoid an investigation into Canadian complicity in torturing Afghani prisoners; and the Harper government again prorogued Parliament, to prevent the Opposition from forming a coalition. The then Governor General succumbed to his requests. Prior to the 2011 election there was a serious oil spill; this event was covered up and only revealed after the election  
The Fixed election date in October 15 must not be changed to cover up Duffy's potential devastating testimony.**

**SINCE 2006, THE HARPER GOVERNMENT HAS CAUSED CANADA TO BE PERCEIVED AS AN INTERNATIONAL PARIAH. BEFORE THE 2015 ELECTION WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DENOUNCE THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR YEARS OF TRANSGRESSIONS:**

**HERE IS A BEGINNING LIST.**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FO APPROVING THE ENBRIDGE PIPELINE FOR**

**. THE HARPER GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED**

**THE FLAWED DECISION OF THE ENBRIDGE PANEL WHICH IGNORED**

**NOT ONLY THE DEEP CONCERNS, SUBMITTED TO THE PANEL,**

**BY THE CITIZENS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BUT ALSO  
INTERNATIONAL NORMS WHICH WOULD BE VIOLATED**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9797:the-cabinet-decisions-mimiked-the-flawed-decision-by-the-joint-review-panel-if-one-reviews-the-initial-submissions-to-the-panel-in-august-2010-one-can-clearly-see-that-the-issues-raised-by-the-submissions-were-completely-ignored-&catid=87:c-earth-news&Itemid=212](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9797:the-cabinet-decisions-mimiked-the-flawed-decision-by-the-joint-review-panel-if-one-reviews-the-initial-submissions-to-the-panel-in-august-2010-one-can-clearly-see-that-the-issues-raised-by-the-submissions-were-completely-ignored-&catid=87:c-earth-news&Itemid=212)

*ESCLATING THE DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PASSING THE SO-CALLED “FAIR ELECTIONS” ACT WHICH PROVIDE NEW FUNDING LOOPHOLES, UNDERMINES THE ROLE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, PLACES THE ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER THE ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE WITHOUT HAVING POWER TO COMPEL WITNESSES, AND ABOVE ALL SUPPRESSES THE VOTE BY REMOVING PROCEDURES THAT FACILITATE THE VOTE.**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9801:-breaking-were-taking-the-unfair-elections-act-to-court&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9801:-breaking-were-taking-the-unfair-elections-act-to-court&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR SPENDING 1.2 BILLION ON THE “SPY PALACE” FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT CANADA (CSEC)**

1. [Inside Canada’s top-secret billion-dollar spy palace – Politics ...](#)

[www.cbc.ca/.../inside-canada-s-top-secret-billion-dollar-spy-palace-1.19](http://www.cbc.ca/.../inside-canada-s-top-secret-billion-dollar-spy-palace-1.19)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING CSEC TO  
ESTABLISH COVERT SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS WORLDWIDE  
AS PART OF NSA GLOBAL SPYING APPARATUS**

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/canadian-spy-agency-establishes-covert-surveillance-operations-worldwide-as-part-of-nsa-global-spying-apparatus/5361566>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR EMBARKING UPON INCREASED  
INTRUSIVE SURVEILLANCE OF CANADIAN CITIZEN AND FOR  
SHARING “INTELLIGENCE WITH OTHER STATES**

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/monitor/massive-secret-surveillance-canada>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR BRINGING FORWARD WHAT  
LAWRENCE MARTIN CALLS THE “LOYALTY ACT”**

**” A CONSERVATIVE MP HAS BROUGHT FORWARD, WITH THE  
BLESSING OF THE PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE, A BILL THAT**



**WOULD REQUIRE PARLIAMENTARY WATCHDOGS AND ALL THEIR EMPLOYEES [TO DISCLOSE PREVIOUS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.](#)**

**THE PERIOD OF DISCLOSURE WOULD COVER THE DECADE PREVIOUS TO THEIR APPOINTMENTS. THE LEGISLATION WOULD BE RETROACTIVE — MEANING ALL CURRENT EMPLOYEES WOULD EFFECTIVELY HAVE TO SUBMIT TO POLITICAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.”**

**LAWRENCE MARTIN [HTTP://WWW.IPOLITICS.CA/2014/01/15/NON-CONSERVATIVES-NEED-NOT-APPLY/](http://www.ipolitics.ca/2014/01/15/non-conservatives-need-not-apply/)**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASINGLY ABUSING ITS CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS AND CAUSING CANADA TO BECOME AN AUTOCRACY WITH FEW CHECKS AND BALANCES**

<https://www.pej.org/html/modules.php?op=modload&name;=News&file;=article&sid;=8440>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR USING FRAUDULENT MEANS FOR ACCEDING TO POWER: FROM THEIR 2006 IN-AND OUT FUNDING SCHEME TO THEIR USE, IN 2011, OF ROBO CALLS**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view;=article&id;=7946:a-mockery-of-justice-conservatives-should-be-prosecuted-not-rewarded-for-their-violation-of-the-elections-act&catid;=75:cjustice-news&Itemid;=218](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view;=article&id;=7946:a-mockery-of-justice-conservatives-should-be-prosecuted-not-rewarded-for-their-violation-of-the-elections-act&catid;=75:cjustice-news&Itemid;=218)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR DISSOLVING PARLIAMENT TO**

**EVADE THE INVESTIGATION INTO ITS IN-AND-OUT SCHEME, FOR**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7946:a-mockery-of-justice-conservatives-should-be-prosecuted-not-rewarded-for-their-violation-of-the-elections-act&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7946:a-mockery-of-justice-conservatives-should-be-prosecuted-not-rewarded-for-their-violation-of-the-elections-act&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PROROGUING PARLIAMENT TO AVOID AN INVESTIGATION INTO CANADIAN COMPLICITY IN TORTURING AFGHANI REFUGEES, AND FOR PROROGUING PARLIAMENT TO PREVENT THE OPPOSITION FROM FORMING A COALITION**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7955&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7955&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR USING OMNIBUS BILLS**

**WHICH HAVE PREVENTED IN DEPTH, MEANINGFUL DEBATE ON KEY ISSUES**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR SHOWING CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT AND FOR PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=8095&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8095&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MUZZLING FEDERAL SCIENTISTS, BY PREVENTING THE PRESENTING OF THEIR**

**RESULTS WHICH WERE PAID FOR BY TAXPAYERS**

[http://sciencewriters.ca/initiatives/muzzling\\_canadian\\_federal\\_scientists/](http://sciencewriters.ca/initiatives/muzzling_canadian_federal_scientists/)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**FOR DESTROYING FILES OF RAW DATA IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
AND CLOSING KEY GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES**

<http://www.canadaspastmatters.ca/public-libraries/federal-library-cuts-and-closures.aspx>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MARGINALIZING THE OFFICE OF  
THE NATIONAL SCIENCE ADVISOR, AND CUTTING OF FUNDING  
FOR SCIENCE**

[www.canada.com/story.html?id=68567994-1f34-4338-b878..](http://www.canada.com/story.html?id=68567994-1f34-4338-b878..)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR, CUTTING OFF FUNDING FOR  
SCIENCE AND CLOSING LABS WHOSE RESULTS THREATEN  
CORPORATE INTERESTS**

**SEE January 10 2013 VIDEO ON FIFTH ESTATE**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/research-cutbacks-by-government-alarm-scientists-1.2490081>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR SCRAPPING THE MANDATORY  
LONG-FORM CENSUS DESPITE BEING TOLD BY STATISTICS  
CANADA OFFICIALS THAT IMPORTANT DATA WOULD LIKELY BE  
LOST OR IMPAIRED AS A RESULT. GOOD DATA IS ESSENTIAL FOR**

## **DEVELOPING GOOD POLICY**

[www.cbc.ca/news/politics/tories-scrap-mandatory-long-census-1.888048](http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/tories-scrap-mandatory-long-census-1.888048)

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR IMPEDING ACCESS TO INFORMATION, FOR DENYING AND DELAYING REQUESTS. FOR SUPPRESSING RESEARCH, AND FOR INTIMIDATING LIBRARIANS AND ARCHIVISTS**

<http://news.nationalpost.com/tag/suzanne-legault/>

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR REFRAMING CANADA AND CANADIAN HISTORY. AT THE 2013 CONGRESS, HISTORIANS AND POLITICAL SCIENTISTS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT HOW THE HARPER GOVERNMENT WAS REFRAMING CANADA AS A MILITARISTIC NATION.**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/05/03/harper-conservatives-canadian-history\\_n\\_3208625.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/05/03/harper-conservatives-canadian-history_n_3208625.html)

**ALSO QUESTIONS WERE RAISED ABOUT HOW THE CITIZENSHIP TEST WAS BEING REFRAMED AS WELL**

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CUTTING FUNDING, FOR UNDERMINING AND FOR INTIMIDATING THE CBC**

**THE CBC REFUSED TO AUTHORIZE AND PLAY THIS AD**

[The Man Behind the Desk](#)

<http://vimeo.com/69748338>

*FOSTERING MILITARISM*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASING INTEGRATION WITH THE UNITED STATES**

**CANADA, UNDER HARPER GOVERNMENTS, HAS INCREASINGLY CLOSE MILITARY INTEGRATION WITH US POLICY, AND ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT, CUTELY CALLED "SHIPRIDER PROGRAM" THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO INCREASE BORDER SECURITY BY ALLOWING THE RCMP AND THE U.S. COAST GUARD TO TEAM UP AND RIDE IN EACH OTHERS VESSELS DURING BORDER PATROLS. THE HARPER GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO AN ENHANCED ROLE FOR NORAD. HARPER IS TO GO ANYWHERE, ANY PLACE AND AT ANY TIME AT THE BEHEST OF THE US POLICY OF PREVENTIVE/PRE-EMPTIVE AGGRESSION.**

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ibet-eipf/shiprider-eng.htm>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR USING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT DOCTRINE TO JUSTIFY THE INVASION OF LIBYA AND SUPPORTED THE MISSION CREEP**

<http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2013/11/25/Libyan-Hell-After-Civil-War/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR TRIPPLING THE MILITARY BUDGET; IT HAS INCREASED THREEFOLD SINCE 2000; THE CURRENT BUDGET IS 30 BILLION, NOT INCLUDING THE FAR REACHING EXPENSES OF CANADA FIRST PLAN**

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/about/canada-first-defence-strategy>.

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR ENGAGING IN MILITARY EXERCISES SUCH AS NATO'S EXERCISE TRIDENT FURY, AND NORTHCOM'S EXERCISE- AND FOR NOT OPPOSING THE INCREASED NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9129:exercise-trident-fury-2013-rogue-states-engaged-in-propaganda-for-war&catid=104:i-peace-news&Itemid=204](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9129:exercise-trident-fury-2013-rogue-states-engaged-in-propaganda-for-war&catid=104:i-peace-news&Itemid=204)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING THE INFAMOUS CHILEAN TORTURE SHIP, THE ESMERALDA TO BERTH IN THE GREATER VICTORIA HARBOUR AND IN THE VANCOUVER HARBOUR.**

<http://www.straight.com/news/bc-residents-oppose-visit-chilean-navy-ship-la-esmeralda-vancouver>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT SIGNING THE ARMS TRADE TREATY [EVEN THE US HAS SIGNED IT ALONG WITH 117 OTHER**

**STATES; NINE STATES HAVE RATIFIED IT.]**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/harper-refuses-to-sign-landmark-arms-trade-treaty/article14539869/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR IGNORING THE BUDGET OFFICER ASSESSMENT OF THE COST OF THE F-35 JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER (JSF) AND FOR FAILING TO BE TRANSPARENT WITH THE OPPOSITION**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/budget-watchdog-accuses-tories-of-low-balling-f-35-cost/article4104618/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FUNDING, UNDER THE WESTERN DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAM, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, A PROGRAM TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH AND PRODUCE DRONES WITH SYSTEMS THAT ARE CONFIGURABLE WITH MILITARY USES (DOCUMENT RECEIVED THROUGH ACCESS TO INFORMATION)**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR REVERSING, IN 2007, CANADA'S LONGSTANDING SUPPORT FOR A NUCLEAR ARMS FREE MIDDLE EAST. AND FOR REFUSING YET AGAIN, AT THE 2013 HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, TO SUPPORT NUCLEAR ARMS FREE MIDDLE EAST. (FROM CANADIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS AT THE NPT CONFERENCES AND FROM HIGH LEVEL**

MEETING AT UN IN NEW YORK)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR DISMISSING THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON AS A BEING "A MEASURED' RESPONSE." IN ADDITION, CANADA WAS ONE A FEW COUNTRIES THAT DID NOT CONDEMN THE DEADLY ISRAELI ATTACK IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, ON THE HUMANITARIAN FLOTILLA.**

<http://www.socialist.ca/node/1442>

<http://rabble.ca/news/2010/06/israel-can-do-no-wrong-harpers-policy>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR SUPPORTING THE MURDEROUS ATTACK BY ISRAEL ON GAZA IN GAZA IN 2008-9, AN ATTACK WHICH KILLED OVER 1400 PALESTINIANS, MOSTLY CIVILIANS, AND WHICH WAS DENOUNCED IN THE GOLDSTONE REPORT TO THE UN AS VIOLATIONS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL LAW**

<http://www.crescent-online.net/2014/05/jewish-group-accuses-harper-government-of-hypocrisy-in-treatment-of-irfan-canada-ijv-canada-4444-articles.html>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO CONDEMN THE ILLEGAL BLOCKADE, OF GAZA BY ISRAEL, WHICH IS A VIOLATION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AGAINST COLLECTIVE**



**PUNISHMENT.**

<http://rabble.ca/news/2010/06/israel-can-do-no-wrong-harpers-policy>

*DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MISCONSTRUING THE  
INTERNATIONAL PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**

**THE INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY  
PRINCIPLE IS THE FOLLOWING;**

**WHERE THERE IS A THREAT OF IRREVERSIBLE HARM OR A THREAT  
OF LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY OR A THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH,  
THE LACK OF FULL SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY OF HARM SHOULD  
NOT BE USED AS A REASON TO POSTPONE MEASURES TO PREVENT  
THE THREAT.**

**IN CANADA THE WORDING IS**

**“THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE” RECOGNIZES THAT THE  
ABSENCE OF FULL SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY” OF SAFETY  
SHALL NOT BE USED AS A REASON FOR POSTPONING  
DECISIONS**

**IN CANADA, THIS VERSION HAS RESULTED IN THE QUESTIONABLE  
APPROVAL OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CROPS AND  
THE IGNORING OF YEARS OF INDEPENDENT RESEARCH  
INDICATING HARM. (FROM PETITION SUBMITTED TO THE  
COMMISSIONER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AUGUST 2013)**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9536:enb-ridge-pipeline-the-panel-ignored-the-precautionary-principle-and-the-government-has-misconstrued-the-principle&catid=89:bc-earth-news&Itemid=213](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9536:enb-ridge-pipeline-the-panel-ignored-the-precautionary-principle-and-the-government-has-misconstrued-the-principle&catid=89:bc-earth-news&Itemid=213)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT BANNING THE  
NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO  
HARM BEES, AND BIRDS**

[http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/toxins/Neonic\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/toxins/Neonic_FINAL.pdf)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT BANNING MOTORIZED  
SEAWEED HARVESTING AND INSTITUTING A MORATORIUM ON  
NON-MOTORIZED HARVESTING**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9500:-open-letter-mechanizedindustrialized-seaweed-harvesting-must-be-banned&catid=89:bc-earth-news&Itemid=213](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9500:-open-letter-mechanizedindustrialized-seaweed-harvesting-must-be-banned&catid=89:bc-earth-news&Itemid=213)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR USING THE OMNIBUS BILL 45  
AND CHANGING THE NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION ACT**

**THIS CHANGE REMOVES THOUSANDS OF LAKES AND STREAMS  
FROM FEDERAL PROTECTION UNDER THAT LAW.**

<http://www.ecojustice.ca/publications/files/envirolaw-watch/navigable-waters-protection-act-briefing/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR UNDERMINING THE CANADIAN ECONOMY BY CAUSING CANADA TO BECOME A FOSSIL FUEL STATE**

<http://commonsensecanadian.ca/petro-state-economy-costs-canada-far-jobs-creates/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR TOLERATING CLIMATE CHANGE DENIERS, FOR FUNDING THE “FRIENDS OF SCIENCE” AND FOR SACRIFICING HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN CANADA FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE TARSANDS PIPELINES AND TANKERS.**

[http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Friends\\_of\\_Science](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Friends_of_Science)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT'S NATURAL RESOURCE MINISTER WHO SAID THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WANTED TO SPEND UP TO \$16.5 MILLION ON ADVERTISING IN THE UPCOMING YEAR, "THIS IS A CRITICAL MOMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THEREFORE WE HAVE ALLOCATED A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR ADVERTISING,' OLIVER TOLD A SPECIAL COMMITTEE STUDYING SPENDING ESTIMATES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS"**

<http://tarsandssolutions.org/in-the-media/stephen-harpers-government-withholds-details-of-16-million-pr-campaign-for>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR COVERING UP, UNTIL AFTER**

**THE ELECTION, A SERIOUS SPILL IN THE TARSANDS WHICH OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE 2011 ELECTION**

<http://www.victoriacouncilofcanadians.ca/climate-justice/huge-oil-spill-in-alberta-cover-up-by-regulators>

/

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CALLING THOSE WHO SEEK TO PREVENT THE SENDING OF FOSSIL FUELS ACROSS BC AS "EXTREMISTS".**

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20120301/northern-gateway-pipeline-canada-harper-tar-oil-sands-forestethics-first-nations-charities-nonprofits-keystone-xl>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MAKING, IN 2009 AT COP15, A LOW COMMITMENT FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (17 PER CENT FROM 2005 LEVELS BY 2020; WHEREAS THE EU HAD AGREED TO 20% FROM THE 1990 LEVEL).**

**AND THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR NOT ESTABLISHING A CREDIBLE PLAN FOR REACHING EVEN THIS MODEST COP 15 COMMITMENT BY 2020**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/emissions-will-soar-after-2020-without-oil-sands-regulation-federal-report-says/article16250220/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**HARPER GOVERNMENT, FOR FAILING TO INSTITUTE A CANADA-WIDE BAN ON FRACKING TO PREVENT THE NAFTA SUIT AGAINST QUEBEC'S BAN ON FRACKING**

<http://www.canadians.org/media/lone-pine-resources-files-outrageous-nafta->

[lawsuit-against-fracking-ban](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR UNDERMINING THE RESOLVE IN THE RIO+20 CONFERENCE TO ELIMINATE SUBSIDIES FOR FOSSIL FUELS**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9814:rio20-canada-the-deleter-of-key-principles-and-commitments&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9814:rio20-canada-the-deleter-of-key-principles-and-commitments&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CONSISTENTLY RECEIVING THE FOSSIL AWARD OR THE COLLOSAL FOSSIL AWARDS AT THE**

**CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7527&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7527&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENTS WITHDRAWING FROM THE KYOTO PROOCOL**

<http://o.canada.com/news/its-official-harper-government-withdraws-from-kyoto-climate-agreement>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE  
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/canada-quietly-pulls-out-of-un-anti-droughts-convention-1.1388320>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR TURNING LAKES INTO MINE  
DUMP SITES**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/lakes-across-canada-face-being-turned-into-mine-dump-sites-1.733972>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PASSING C-38**

**WHICH CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING;**

- (i) CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTALASSESSMENT  
ACT DITCHED.**
- (ii) (CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
AGENCY SERIOUSLY WEAKENED.**
- (iii) CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
ACT UNDERCUT.**
- (iv) KYOTO PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION ACT  
KILLED.**
- (v) (FISHERIES ACT SERIOUSLY WEAKENED.**
- (vi) NAVIGABLEWATERS PROTECTION ACT  
HAMPERED.**

- (vii) **ENERGY BOARD ACT NEUTERED.**
- (viii) **SPECIES AT RISK ACT HAMSTRUNG.**
- (ix) **PARKS CANADA AGENCY ACT TRIMMED, STAFF CUT.**
- (x) **CANADIAN OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS ACT MADE MORE INDUSTRY FRIENDLY.**
- (xi) **COASTING TRADE ACT MADE MORE OFFSHORE DRILLING FRIENDLY.**
- (xii) **(NUCLEAR SAFETY CONTROL ACT UNDERMINED.**
- (xiii) **CANADA SEEDS ACT INSPECTIONS PRIVATIZED.**
- (xiv) **AGRICULTURE AFFECTED.**
- (xv) **NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY KILLED.**
- (xvi) **MORE ATTACKS ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS FUNDED. (vii) WATER PROGRAMS CUT.**
- (xvii) **WASTEWATER SURVEY CUT. )**
- (xviii) **MONITORING EFFLUENT CUT.**

Outline above from The Tye <http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2012/05/10/Bill-C38/>

## **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT, FOR OBSTRUCTING THE BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL, INDIGENOUS GROUPS ALLEGE CANADIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM ON THE BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL**

<http://www.ip-watch.org/2010/10/21/indigenous-groups-allege-canadian-obstructionism-to-biodiversity-abs-protocol/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASING PRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CROPS**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9807:publication-of-professor-seralinis-study-time-to-be-responsible&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9807:publication-of-professor-seralinis-study-time-to-be-responsible&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO INVOKE THE INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE AND INSTITUTE A BAN ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD AND CROPS**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9773:presentation-at-the-victoria-2014-march-against-monsanto&catid=80:i-pej-events&Itemid=228](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9773:presentation-at-the-victoria-2014-march-against-monsanto&catid=80:i-pej-events&Itemid=228)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO INVOKE THE INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE TO PREVENT THE IMPACT OF GE ON THE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES.**

<http://www.startribune.com/local/143017765.html>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVING THE PRODUCTION**



## **OF TRANSGENIC SALMON EGGS IN PEI**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9548:transgenic-salmon-is-fraught-with-uncertainties-and-irreversible-harmful-consequences&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9548:transgenic-salmon-is-fraught-with-uncertainties-and-irreversible-harmful-consequences&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE “DOWNLISTING” OF PACIFIC HUMPBACK WHALES FROM “THREATENED” TO “SPECIAL CONCERN”**

<http://news.wildlife.org/featured/controversy-over-canadas-decision-to-downlist-humpback-whales/>

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**HARPER FOR CONSIDERING DIFFERENT DELIVERY SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH CARE WHICH COULD RESULT IN INCREASE PRIVATIZATION AND END TO MEDICARE**

**IN THE 2011 LEADERS DEBATE HARPER SAID; “GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THIS COUNTRY HAVE EXPERIMENTED WITH ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY....WE’RE NOT GOING TO WAVE THE FINGER AT PROVINCES BECAUSE THEY EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT**

**DELIVERY.”**

<http://www.nationalnewswatch.com/2014/03/12/medicare-is-on-the-road-to-oblivion/#.U7Bsk5RdVuA>

### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR ABDICATING RESPONSIBILITY**

**OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE CANADA HEALTH CARE ACT.**

<http://healthcoalition.ca/harper-plan-would-kill-medicare/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR IGNORING THE PLEAS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR CANCELING THE DEBT, AND THE PLEAS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE AND FOR COMPENSATION FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR ATMOSPHERIC SPACE (STATEMENT BY CANADA AT THE NEW YORK,10-14 JANUARY 2011 CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES , AT THE UN, IN NEW YORK.**

*CONTRIBUTING TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS NEGLIGENCE*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR VIOLATING THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE IN AFGHANISTAN THROUGH TRANSFERRING THE AFHAN DETAINEES**

**EVEN THOUGH A CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ADVISED THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE PRISONERS TRANSFERRED BY CANADA TO AN AFGHAN PRISON WERE BEING TORTURED, THE HARPER MINORITY GOVERNMENT IGNORED THE WARNING. THE HARPER MINORITY GOVERNMENT DENIED THAT THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED AND DISCREDITED HIM, AND NOW IN JUNE, THE DOCUMENTS INDICATE THAT HARPER HAD BEEN INFORMED.**

<http://mwcnews.net/focus/politics/40436-cia-torture-revelations.html>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR EXTENDING THE ANTI-TERRORIST ACT AND FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/conservatives-pass-anti-terror-bill-decried-by-civil-rights-advocates/article11535988/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE PUTTING UNDER SUREILLANCE CITIZENS ENGAGED IN LAWFUL ADVOCACY; THIS PRACTICE VIOLATES SECTION 1 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS- THAT AFFIRMS THAT THERE MUST BE NO DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF POLITICAL OR OTHER OPINION**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT' FOR VIOLATING LABOUR RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY FOR CHALLENGING THE RIGHT TO STRIKE**

[http://www.cupw.ca/index.cfm/ci\\_id/13985/la\\_id/1](http://www.cupw.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/13985/la_id/1)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE DENYING OF RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. ARTICLE 19 OF THE UN DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WHICH REQUIRES FAIR PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT; HARPER HAS STATED CONSENT**

**DOES NOT REALLY MEAN CONSENT IT MEANS CONSULTATION. HE ALSO HAS DECLARED THAT THE UNDRIP IS ONLY ASPIRATIONAL.[HE RECENT DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT WILL NOT PERMIT THIS:**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9813:tsilhqotin-first-nation-granted-bc-title-claim-in-supreme-court-ruling&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9813:tsilhqotin-first-nation-granted-bc-title-claim-in-supreme-court-ruling&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218)

<http://intercontinentalcry.org/harper-launches-major-first-nations-termination-plan-as-negotiating-tables-legitimize-canadas-colonialism/>

#### **WE DENOUNCE**

**A FEDERAL TRIBUNAL WHICH HAS REBUKED THE GOVERNMENT FOR HIDING DOCUMENTS IN A CHALLENGE OVER FUNDING FOR FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN.**

**THE CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL SAYS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT KNEW ABOUT 50,000 DOCUMENTS "PREJUDICIAL TO ITS CASE AND HIGHLY RELEVANT" IN 2012, BUT DIDN'T DISCLOSE THEM UNTIL THEY WERE REVEALED THIS YEAR IN A REQUEST UNDER FEDERAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAWS.  
(CBC)**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/ottawa-rebuked-for-holding-back-first-nations-documents-1.1362202>

#### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT EMPLOYERS, WITH CRIMINAL RECORD, COULD NOT BE INVOLVED WITH THE TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORK PROGRAM**

#### **WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR MOVING CANADA AWAY FROM A COUNTRY OF MULTIFAITH, AND NO FAITH TOWARDS A FORM OF**

**CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALISM WITH LINKS TO ISRAEL**

<http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2012/03/26/Harper-Evangelical-Mission/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT'S BILL C10' TOUGH ON CRIME BILL WHICH HAS CAUSED VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE CRIME LEGISLATION TO BE DIRECTED TOWARDS INCREASING PUNISHMENT BY WAY OF MORE PRISON TERMS FOR MORE PEOPLE AND FOR LONGER. VIRTUALLY NOTHING IN ANY OF THE LEGISLATION DOES ANYTHING TO PREVENT CRIME**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/what-worries-critics-about-omnibus-crime-bill-1.1244907>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENTS FAILURE TO CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR THE TREATMENT OF THE PALESTINIANS**

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PULLING FUNDING FROM GROUPS WHICH WERE CRITICAL OF ISRAEL**

<http://briarpatchmagazine.com/articles/view/ngos-and-empire>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR REFUSING TO FUND ANYTHING TO DO WITH FAMILY PLANNING AND ABORTION**

<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/gerry-caplan/2014/06/harpers-plan-maternal-health-not-nearly-good-enough>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR IMPRISONING OF REFUGEES ARRIVING BY SHIP AND FOR CUTTING OFF HEALTH CARE FUNDING FOR REFUGEES, COMING FROM COUNTRIES, WHICH THE HARPER GOVERNMENT DEEMS TO BE SAFE TO CANADA.**

<http://healthcoalition.ca/main/issues/conservative-attack-on-refugee-health-care/>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO**

*FULFILL MILLENNIAL GOALS*

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CAUSING, THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR TO INCREASE. IN CANADA**

**THE MEDIAN INCOME OF THE TOP 1% IS 10 TIMES HIGHER THAN THE REMAINING 99% OF TAX FILERS (STATISTICS CANADA).**

[www.canadiansocialresearch.net/inequality.htm](http://www.canadiansocialresearch.net/inequality.htm)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT, FOR CAUSING CANADA TO FALL**

**FURTHER BEHIND ON MDG#1 IN RELATION TO ALL SECTORS OF**

**POPULATION LIVING IN POVERTY WELL OVER THE European Union and OECD (ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT) AVERAGES, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO ABORIGINAL PERSONS (36% POVERTY RATE) SINGLE MOTHERS (21.5% POVERTY RATE), AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (26.4%).**

[www.makepovertyhistory.ca](http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CANADA BEING RANKED AS 20<sup>TH</sup> OUT OF 31 OECD COUNTRIES FOR MOVING WOMEN OUT OF POVERTY IN MEASURING POVERTY**

<http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/PDF-FactSheet-EndPoverty-Jan2013.pdf>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR CAUSING CANADA TO BE 12 OUT OF 30 IN THE ASSESSMENT, BY UNICEF, IN CHILD WEL BEIN IN RICH COUNTRIES**

<http://www.unicef.org/media/files/ChildPovertyReport.pdf>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL CRISIS BEING CAUSED BY DEREGULATION OF FINANCIAL MARKETS WHICH HAS ACCELERATED THIS INEQUALITY.**

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/monitor/global-economic-crisis-and-its-canadian-dimension>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR THE INCREASING SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/n12/12-108-eng.asp>

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASING GLOBALIZATION, DEREGULATION AND PRIVATIZATION THROUGH ITS SUPPORT FOR TRADE AGREEMENTS, SUCH AS THE WTO/FTAA/NAFTA, SPP, CETA, FIPA TTIPS; AS WELL AS BYLATERAL AGREEMENTS. ALL THESE TRADE AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE DECLARED NULL AND VOID FOR VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL PEREMPTORY NORMS**

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9737:-ceta-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms-pdf-print-e-mail-justice-news-posted-by-joan-russow-friday-18-october-2013-0706-ceta-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms-joan-russow-global-compliance&catid=74:justice-news&Itemid=216](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9737:-ceta-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms-pdf-print-e-mail-justice-news-posted-by-joan-russow-friday-18-october-2013-0706-ceta-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms-joan-russow-global-compliance&catid=74:justice-news&Itemid=216)

[https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9792:the-ttip-will-enshrine-corporate-rights-erode-democracy-and-defy-international-peremptory-norms&catid=74:justice-news&Itemid=216](https://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9792:the-ttip-will-enshrine-corporate-rights-erode-democracy-and-defy-international-peremptory-norms&catid=74:justice-news&Itemid=216)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR UNDERMINING OF POST SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**CANADA HAS REDUCED FUNDS FOR UNIVERSITIES, CAUSING UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCHERS TO GROVEL FOR CORPORATE FUNDING, SUCH AS FROM MINING CORPORATIONS SUCH GOLDCORP. WITH TERRIBLE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS, AND FROM DEFENCE FUNDING.**

<http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/blog/federal-programs-and-research-facilities-that-have-been-shut-down-or-had-th>



**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR ABANDONING CANADA'S LONG  
STANDING ROLE OF A SANCTUARY FOR THOSE OPPOSED TO WAR  
AND FOR REJECTING US WAR RESISTERS**

[Iraq war resisters meet cool receptio in Canada](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR BAILING OUT THE BANKS AND  
LOWERING CORPORATE TAXES YET CUTTING BACK ON FEDERAL  
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

[HARPER BAILING OUT BANKS AND AUTO INDUSTRIES](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING THE CONTINUED  
BERTHING AND CIRCULATING OF NUCLEAR POWERED AND  
NUCLEAR ARMS CAPABLE VESSELS IN THE GREATER VICTORIA  
HARBOUR**

[WARSHIP SHOULD BE PROJIBITED IN CANADIAN WATERS](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR ADVOCATING THAT AT THE END  
OF CANADIAN COMBAT OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN, THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD LOOK TO DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES AS POTENTIAL BUYERS OF CANADIAN-MADE GUNS  
AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT**

[THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD LOOK TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS POTENTIAL BUYERS OF CANADIAN MADE GUNS](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT, AND THE CONSERVATIVE DOMINATED SENATE, FOR OPPOSING A MINING BILL C300 WHICH WOULD REQUIRE CANADIAN MINING COMPANIES TO ABIDE BY STANDARDS WHEN THEY OPERATE OUTSIDE OF CANADA.**

[CANADIAN MINING SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL HARM](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR BLOCKING THE PLACING OF ASBESTOS ON THE ROTTERDAM LIST OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES LIST.**

[RUSSIA ZIMBABWE PICK UP THE ASBESTOS BATON FROM CANADA](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING, A STRAIN OF MONSANTO ALFALFA GE SEED TO BE APPROVED AND FOR COMPROMISING FOOD SECURITY**

[APPLICATION FOR DISTRIBUTIO PDF](#)

**WE DENOUNCE**

**THE HARPER GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING APPROVED HAVING ONLY ONE ENGINEER ON TRAINS. THIS COULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ILL-FATED TRAIN DISASTER IN LAC MEGANTIC**

**OTTAWA APPROVED HAVING ONLY ONE ENGINEER ON ILL-FATED TRAIN**

*VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS*

**WE DENOUNCE**

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Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 22 September 2014 13:45

By Joan Russow Global Compliance Research Project



## **MEMBER STATE LEADERS MUST AFFIRM AND COMMIT**

**to substantial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, conserving sinks and Establishing Pathways and methodologies to achieve cuts**

Because of the global urgency, there must be the political will to return earth's temperature to its natural pre-industrial level, and strict time frames must be imposed, so that overall global emissions of greenhouse gases will begin to be reversed as of 2011. There must be a global target for greenhouse gas emission reductions of at least 30% below 1990 levels by 2015, at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2020, at least 75% below 1990 levels by 2030, at least 85% below 1990 levels by 2040 and 100% below 1990 emissions by

2050, while adhering to the precautionary principle, the differentiated responsibility principle \*, and the fair and just transition principle. The required reductions in emissions cannot be achieved without an immediate end to the destruction of carbon sinks. Under the UNFCCC, every state signatory incurred the obligation to conserve carbon sinks; thus the destruction of sinks, including deforestation and elimination of bogs must end immediately.

**(1) THAT** if the obligation in Art 2 of the UNFCCC- stabilization of the greenhouse gas emissions below the dangerous level- is to be discharged emission pathways to eliminate CO<sub>2</sub> must arrive at the 300 ppm at least by 2050 and that the rise in temperature must remain below 1.5 °C temperature.[100% below 1990]

Based on current knowledge and current changes happening to practically all ice masses, especially the Arctic, the rise in global temperature as, defined in the UNFCCC ,as dangerous should be kept below a 1.5 °C rise in temperature. The Copenhagen Accord which referred to 2°C limit ignored the demand of the majority of developing countries for the temperature not to rise above 1.5 ° Degrees. (Bolivia, and some others had advocated not rising above 1°C). In COP15, at a press conference, a representative from the IPCC stated that at a 2 degree rise in temperature the poor, the disenfranchised and the vulnerable would not survive would not survive. Obama et al at COP15 ignored this warning. Perhaps now after the global community's expression of urgency, there will be the needed political will and the moral/legal imperative to finally address the urgency of climate change .

**(2) THAT** time frames should be imposed to exclude any risk of global climate catastrophe. These timeframes should give sufficient consideration to tipping point effects such as ice sheet melt, forest dieback and Arctic methane carbon and other feedback triggered mechanisms that will cause runaway global heating. This today means nothing less than an all-out global emergency response to reduce global emissions at the greatest possible speed to return to 278 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> by at

the latest 2050. And that all states must embark immediately on time-bound phasing out of fossil fuel use and of subsidies for fossil fuel, nuclear energy and large scale hydro projects under all forms.

**(3) THAT** Because of the global urgency, there must be the political will to strive to return earth's temperature to its pre-industrial level. And strict time frames must be imposed, so that overall global emissions will begin to be reversed as of 2011. There must be a global target of at least 30% below 1990 levels by 2015, at least 50% below by 2020, at least 75% by 2030, at least 85% by 2040 and at least 100% below by 2050, while adhering to the precautionary principle, the differentiated responsibility principle, and the fair and just transition principle. Under the Framework Convention, every state signatory incurred the obligation to conserve carbon sinks; thus the destruction of sinks, including deforestation and elimination of bogs must end immediately. The ultimate goal is to return temperatures to pre-industrial levels and return atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> back to 278ppm at least by 2050.

**(4) THAT** Baseline research has revealed that only if the CO<sub>2</sub> levels are not beyond 278 ppm will the rise in temperature be maintained below 1°C, which has been assessed by many scientists as being the danger level. (5)

**(5) THAT** to succeed in being below the dangerous 1°C, member states of the United Nations must commit to remove between 1105.62GT CO<sub>2</sub> and 1842GT CO<sub>2</sub> these proposed numbers are based on initial research and would require further in detail analysis from the atmosphere (see tables 1 and 2). The initial removal phase should start in 2011 and run to 2020, with a research program to determine the required GT GHG to be removed to achieve 278ppm of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050 and socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound methods of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. By the latest in 2020, between 36.85 GT CO<sub>2</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup> and 61.42 GT CO<sub>2</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup> must be removed. In the period 2010-2020 natural carbon sinks must be restored.



## **Conserving Sinks**

**(6) THAT** Destructive land use practices including in the rural, the urban and peri-urban environment must end. Deforestation and all other depletion of sinks must end immediately and developing nations whose development will be affected must be compensated. There must be caps on yearly emissions of GHG as per table 1 and graphs 2 and 3 and as required for the less than 1°C target.

## **Establishing Pathways and methodologies to achieve cuts**

**(7) THAT** Emission reductions should be based on global caps for emissions of GHG and must follow a smooth path as shown in Graphs 1, 2 and 3. Carbon elimination must not be used to offset reduction targets, and must be done through socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound methods.

## **Advancing methodology to achieve required reductions within timeframes that allow climate change prevention**

**(8) THAT** The emissions reduction required to avoid dangerous climate change and the small timeframes available to achieve this are so extreme that the methods used to achieve the required reductions must be based on the maximum achievable targets within the shortest timeframes as described in diagram .

**(9) THAT** targets must be set based on current science; research indicates that current science supports the calculation of maximum emissions which we have calculated to be a maximum of 360GT CO<sub>2</sub>.

## **ii. Discharging obligations**

**(10) THAT** All member states of the United Nations must discharge the obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate and THAT the objective of the UNFCCC was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve carbon sinks, and that under Article 2, the signatories incurred the following obligation; “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere must be at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

**(11) THAT** states must respect the emerging and current science which affirms that this dangerous level equates to a temperature below 1°C, which is the point at which global systems on land, water and air will be so affected as to create vicious feedback cycles and destabilise many ecosystems and human societies. For the avoidance of doubt we repeat that this is:

A paper published in Nature (no. 458) on the 30 April 2009 which is the up to date current science on climate change emission thresholds states that in order to have a 8-37% chance of not exceeding 2 Degrees we can only emit 886GT CO<sub>2</sub> between 2000 and 2050. Between 2000 and 2011 we have used 363GT CO<sub>2</sub> or 41% of the total budget for a high chance of exceeding 2 Degrees. We are currently at 0.78 Degrees above pre-industrial temperatures and possibly committed to at least 0.6 Degrees of further warming (Lenton et al). At 1.5 Degree Lenton et al suggest that forest dieback will emit an additional 100Gt of CO<sub>2</sub>. Reducing the 886 GT limit to 776GT. An important recent paper by Turney and Jones (Does the Agulhas Current amplify global temperatures during super-interglacials?, Chris S.M. Turney, Richard T. Jones, Journal of Quaternary Science, Volume 25, Issue 6, pages 839–843, September 2010) suggests that at 1.9 Degrees there is a high risk of a rise in sea levels of between 6.6 and 9.4 m and serious disturbance to regional

ocean circulations that can amplify warming effects.

Based on these facts it is clear that an agreement must be reached this year.

**(12) THAT** all states must invoke the precautionary principle that states:

"Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing such measures, ..." To achieve this, such policies and measures should take into account different socio-economic contexts, be comprehensive, cover all relevant sources, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and adaptation, and comprise all economic sectors. Efforts to address climate change should be carried out cooperatively by all Parties. (Article 3. Framework Convention on Climate Change).

**(13) THAT** states must interpret "measures" to involve "prevention" rather than after-act "mitigation" - preventing something from happening and anticipating or developing a clean-up technology. And THAT adaptation - mitigation should not be the foci of climate change negotiations. The foci should be prevention. - preventing not just mitigating and adapting to errors

**(14) THAT** obligations were incurred in the Framework Convention on Climate Change "to protect the climate system for present and future generations" ;and THAT states must respect the rights of future generations by acting now to prevent the devastating impacts of climate change, which could also threaten international peace and security

**(15) THAT** with any agreement, only mechanisms which lead to the reductions of all emissions will serve to discharge the obligation under article 2 of the UNFCCC.

**(16) THAT** the state must implement the principle in article 3 2 of the UNFCCC: The Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Accordingly, the developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change

**AND THAT** the signatories of the UN Convention for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNCNCH) incurred an obligation to respect the rights of future generation to their natural and cultural heritage

**(17) THAT** states must discharged the obligation under Article 3 Principle 2 UNFCCC) to take into consideration

The specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and of those Parties, especially developing country Parties, that would have to bear a disproportionate or abnormal burden under the Convention, should be given full consideration.

**(18) THAT** the obligation, to provide the right to a safe environment, incurred in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, must be discharged, all states must ratify the Convention and delinquent states must be compelled to comply with this obligation in the Convention **AND THAT** states must put in place a child advocate to facilitate children's ability to challenge states regarding their state's refusal to take action under international and national laws to protect the rights of future generations and to provide a safe environment

**(19) THAT** states must give children access to legal aid and advocacy services to facilitate children's ability to challenge states regarding their

state's refusal to take action under international and national laws to protect the rights of these children and future generations and to provide a safe environment. It is important to note that by the age of 18 these children will no longer have the ability to seek remedy for the current breaches of their rights to a healthy and bright future.

**(20) THAT** to prevent dangerous anthropogenic level of greenhouse gas emissions major greenhouse gas producing states signatories of the UNFCCC must no longer spend time on devising devious strategies to offset their emissions and avoid emissions

### **Committing to the conserving of carbon sinks**

**(21) THAT** worldwide depletion of carbon sinks must end immediately, deforestation must end, including the logging of old-growth/original forests, which are major carbon sinks; and THAT all global carbon sinks such as peat bogs, the oceans etc. must be rigorously protected as a major priority

### **III. Declaring of a state of emergency**

**(22) THAT** states must not succumb to entrenched immovable national interests that serve to dismiss the state of emergency and block serious legally binding instruments The actual and anticipated impacts of climate change as well as the unintended consequences of climate change, and the short-term and long-term effects that are known and yet to be known have all contributed to the state of emergency. Any denial of the state of emergency is eclipsed by the moral imperative and legal obligation to abide by the precautionary principle The time for procrastination about climate change has long since passed; the world is in a state of emergency and further inaction is gross if not criminal negligence.

**(23) THAT** there must be a formal acknowledgement from IPCC scientists submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat that the world is almost beyond dangerous climatic interference and that the world is facing a real and rapidly rising risk of (never ending) global climate catastrophe. A state of dire planetary emergency must be declared and genuine political will must be summoned to address the emergency;

#### **IV Adhering to peremptory norms**

**(24) THAT** states must ratify the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and must adhere to Article 53 and not enter any legally binding agreement that would be in conflict with a peremptory norm (jus cogens) of general international law

**(25) THAT** states must accept that “Peremptory norms“ are international norms that can be extracted from years of international instruments agreed to by a broad group of states, from widely divergent geographical areas, functioning under a range of legal systems,

**(26) THAT** states must acknowledge that peremptory norms can be drawn from Conventions, Covenants and Treaties, which have been signed and ratified, and are in force; from Conference Action plans which have been adopted by Consensus, or from UN General Assembly Resolutions and Declaration adopted at the UNGA. **And THAT** these norms are derived from instruments that guarantee human rights including social and Economic and Cultural rights , civil and political rights, labour rights, women’s’ rights and indigenous rights; that ensure social justice, that protect and conserve the environment, move away from the over consumptive model of development and reduce the ecological footprint and that prevent war and conflict

**(27) AND THAT** The Copenhagen Accord will lead to a violation of peremptory norms and as such must be declared null and void

## **V. Integrating important considerations in the UNFCCC processes**

### **Water**

**(28) THAT** states must include in the UNFCCC processes serious consideration of the vital role of the depletion of water as a both as a contributor to and a consequence of climate change must be included in the discussion on climate change

**(29) THAT** states must prevent destructive development processes resulting from large dams, river diversions, water installations and irrigation schemes, erosion, sedimentation, deforestation and desertification have led to increased land degradation, and the creation of reservoirs has, in some cases, resulted in adverse effects on ecosystems. Many of these problems have arisen from a development model that is environmentally destructive and from a lack of public awareness and education about surface and groundwater resource protection. Ecological and human health effects are the measurable consequences, although the means to monitor them are inadequate or non-existent in many countries. There is a widespread lack of perception of the linkages between the development, management, use and treatment of water resources and aquatic ecosystems.

**(30) THAT** states must adopt a preventive approach to avoid irreversibility or costly subsequent measures to rehabilitate, treat and develop new water supplies”

**(31) THAT** the human right to water must be guaranteed, which would involve the mandatory conservation of water, the prohibition of the privatization of the water supply, and the ending of the depletion of water resources especially those linked to the fossil fuel industries and the spurious climate change solutions such as nuclear and biofuel. And

consequently, the UN General Assembly Resolution Recognizing Access to Clean Water, Sanitation as a Human Right must be adopted and implemented by all states

## **Biodiversity**

**(32)THAT** states must seriously consider the impact of climate change on biodiversity as well as the impact on climate change resulting from loss of biodiversity

**(33)THAT** In the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, all member States of the United Nations should have signed and ratified the convention on biological diversity and implement the necessary legislation to ensure compliance. All states must end deforestation, preserve forests and protect biodiversity and states must recognize the vital processes in the forests – ones that have taken place over millions of years, upon which Indigenous peoples depend. All states must adopt the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance. States must seek and respect Indigenous knowledge.

**(34)THAT** the importance of Traditional Knowledge and practices not been given in developing strategies must be given prominence in the UNFCCC.

## **Human rights**

**(35)THAT** the UNFCCC processes must integrate considerations about



the impact of climate change on human rights including the rights of climate refugees.

“Climate change has many implications for the effective enjoyment of human rights, and for Nations human rights obligations and commitments”. (United Nations Human Rights Council Website October 2010, [www2.ohchr.org](http://www2.ohchr.org))

**(36) THAT** the human rights perspective is indispensable to the ongoing negotiations leading to the Lima COP20 leading up to global, legally binding agreement, on carbon emissions at COP21 Conference in Paris, As it should have been in all the Climate Change Conferences.

### **Rights of women**

**(37) THAT** States must consider that women, particularly rural and indigenous women will be disproportionately impacted by climate change

### **Hunger and food security**

**(38) THAT** in the UNFCCC processes the impact of climate change on hunger and food security has not been sufficiently addressed at the UNFCCC negotiations. The longstanding commitment to eradicate hunger is absent.

“Time is short. Urgent and sustained action is vital. The conference, therefore, calls upon all peoples expressing their will as individuals, and through their Governments, and non-governmental organizations to work together to bring about the end of the age old scourge of hunger. (Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, 1974)

## **Land use**

**(39) THAT the impact of inappropriate and uncontrolled land use on climate change or the impact of false climate change solutions on Land use has not been sufficiently addressed in the UNFCCC negotiations.**

“Inappropriate and uncontrolled land uses are a major cause of degradation and depletion of land resources. Present land use often disregards the actual potentials, carrying capacities and limitations of land resources as well as their diversity in space. It is estimated that the world's population, now at 5.4 billion, will be 6.25 billion by the turn of the century. The need to increase food production to meet the expanding needs of the population will put enormous pressure on all natural resources, including land” (14.34., Agriculture, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992)

## **AND THAT**

“Land degradation is the most important environmental problem affecting extensive areas of land in both developed and developing countries. The problem of soil erosion is particularly acute in developing countries, while problems of salinization, water logging, soil pollution and loss of soil fertility are increasing in all countries. (14.44. Agriculture, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992)

**(40) THAT** the serious equity, health, and security consequences, especially on the land of indigenous peoples and marginalized communities of large-scale biofuel and large-scale hydroelectric projects, and ecologically and socially unacceptable location of small-scale hydro projects **must end**

**(41) THAT** the mitigation and adaptation processes such as monocrop plantations and biofuel that are being proposed under the Kyoto Protocol are producing adverse impacts on indigenous people must end.

## **Vegetable protein**

**(42) THAT** the contribution to greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the dependency on animal protein has not been sufficiently addressed in the UNFCCC and IPCC processes. And THAT evidence indicating the substantial contribution, to the greenhouse gases such as methane, of reliance on animal protein must be acknowledged, and there must be an international effort to move from animal based protein to vegetable protein.

## **VI Changing the Commission on Sustainable Development**

**(43) THAT** that the Commission on Sustainable Development, in light of the failure in negotiations of CSD15 must produce a negotiated outcome on climate change and other issues, be upgraded to a Council, which would be able to convene at any time to deal with new or emerging environmental threats. This Council should be based outside the US, for example in Switzerland, and governments must send mandated experts to negotiate real solutions to the issues. It should be an umbrella organisation that oversees the sustainability debate monitoring and intervening where and when international negotiations are failing. In terms of climate change this is now a crisis issue requiring intervention. International agreements should be designed within the context of a prevailing philosophy that should be outlined within the context of a CSD umbrella agreement on all the major issues. This document should be the basis of future negotiations at CSD, and should build on UNCED agreements and others pre-WSSD, which was a step backwards;

**(44) THAT** there should be no privileges and immunities for individuals serving on constituted bodies established under the Kyoto Protocol or any other protocols and GO or NGO bodies, in regards to dispensing their duties to society under the law. (Please refer to SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION, Thirtieth Session, Bonn, 1–10 June,

2009, Thirtieth Session, Item 14 (d) of the provisional agenda);

## **VII respecting the emerging and current science**

### **IPCC**

**(45) THAT** instead of waiting many years for an agreed document THE IPCC must use a system that is sensitive to the rapid changes in scientific understanding of climate change and not be constrained by the requirement to seek close to scientific certainty

**(46) THAT** the need for independence in matters of factual science on this crucial issue for humanity is essential. It is thus critical that the IPCC must be independent of national, economic or political vested interests and that an assessment of the independence of members must be carried out, and any member who has been shown to be currently funded by the fossil fuel, military, nuclear, biofuel industry must step down. Members of the IPCC who do not base their analysis on planetary science and facts must be deemed to be negligent and in dereliction of duty and subject to legal recourse;

**(47) THAT** the mandate of the IPCC must change and IPCC scientists must be permitted to fully acknowledge the urgency and be able to prescribe solutions and proscribe spurious solutions;

**(48) THAT** there must be a formal acknowledgement from IPCC scientists submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat that the world is beyond dangerous climate interference facing a real and rapidly rising risk of (never ending) global climate catastrophe which is a state of dire planetary emergency – this is required to generate genuine political will

to act to address the emergency;

**(49) THAT** scientists, involved with climate change, must move away from the current tendency to be constrained by the political barriers that have delineated the criteria for their research, and return to advocating solutions based on the climate science. That would require agreement that the rise in temperature must remain below 1 °C temperature- the dangerous level- and that targets and time frames must follow the pathway to eliminate CO<sub>2</sub> by arriving at the pre-industrial level of 278 ppm at least by 2050 and

**(50) THAT** the issue of tipping points be considered integrally within any future agreement and IPCC Reports. The thresholds that are likely to result in steep changes of level of impacts once triggered must be addressed. This includes those relating to Amazonian forest dieback, ice melt, El Nino and Atlantic Thermohaline Circulation. Please see flow diagram 1. The IPCC Special Report on Emission Scenarios must include feedback effects.

**(51) THAT** not only the states must adhere to the precautionary principle but also the IPCC scientists must adhere to the principle and must ensure that the percentage of concurrence is not so high that it almost reflects scientific certainty

**(52) THAT** ‘after the fact mitigation’ of and ‘adaptation’ to climate change should not be used to justify inaction in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in conserving of carbon sinks and in undermining the resolve to prevent the dangerous anthropogenic level of interference with the climate

**(53) THAT** there must be a formal acknowledgement, submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, from a group of climate scientists that the world is beyond dangerous climate interference and that the world is facing a real and rapidly rising risk of (never ending) global climate catastrophe- a state of dire planetary emergency. This acknowledgement will hopefully serve to finally move the political will to act.

**(54) THAT** the mandate of the IPCC must change and IPCC scientists must be permitted to fully acknowledge the urgency and be able not only to prescribe solutions and projects that are integrated into the local ecosystems, working within the structure of the natural environment but also to proscribe actions that could be socially inequitable and environmentally unsound;

#### **VIII Discontinuing the UNFCCC negotiating processes which impede change**

**(55) THAT** rather than descending to the lowest common denominator in assessing climate targets in all international negotiating arenas, the strongest percentage emission reduction and targets required to discharge the obligation article 2 of the UNFCCC must be agreed to in **AND THAT** at COP 20 & 21 in deliberations must be based on the current and emerging science

**(56) THAT** the entrenched immovable national interests that serve to block serious legally binding instruments must be prevented from blocking the adoption, in the General Assembly, of a strong legally binding agreement on climate change. Article 18 of the Charter of the United Nations reads: “Decisions of the General Assembly on important questions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. These questions shall include recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security.” Undoubtedly, the impact of climate change could be deemed to fall under this category. In Paris, given the urgency of the issue of climate change, and

its potential effects on the global population and on the political, economic, ecological and social global systems, the requirement for consensus must be waived, and a binding agreement on all states will be deemed to exist, if 66 % of the states concur. It is possible that a majority of the member states could agree to a strong global, legally binding agreement, on carbon emissions at COP21 Conference in Paris,” to the UNFCCC. A strong Protocol to the UNFCCC could then be used against the delinquent states, and a case could be taken to the International Court of Justice under the UNFCCC, which has been signed and ratified by 192 states. Even most of the delinquent states including Canada and the US, have signed and ratified the UNFCCC. If not 66%, then the proposal made by Papua New Guinea at COP 15 should be in place in Lima and Paris; the proposal was that the state parties to the Convention should strive

for Consensus with a fall back on 75%. It should be noted that the UNFCCC was adopted by 150 of the then 188 members of the United Nations (79%) and that under article 2 of the Montreal Protocol, Parties can if all efforts at consensus have been exhausted, and no agreement reached, adopt decisions by a two-thirds majority.

**(57) THAT** the practice of Anglocentricity at the United Nations must end, and full translation in the six official languages must be provided, not only in the plenary but also in all working and negotiating groups. In the working groups and in the plenary, the disproportion of interventions and domination by the umbrella Developed groups must no longer be permitted.

## **Revisiting NGO Accreditation and private**

### **sector accreditation NGOs**

**(58) THAT** the influence of transnational corporations on the UNCCC processes, as well as on international NGOs raises serious concerns.

**(59) THAT** the current trend for public/private partnerships in United Nations sustainable development policy be reversed since it inherently compromises participants and for these funds to be channelled into their appropriate international arenas. In terms of energy directed to The Fund for the Implementation of the UNFCCC.

**(60) THAT** if governmental and non-governmental organizations fail to advocate bold and adequate action and if they undermine efforts of states to address the issue of climate change they should face the appropriate charges under national and internal law;

**(61) THAT** Charters and licences of Transnational corporations which violate international laws related to guaranteeing human rights, ensuring social justice, preventing war and conflict, protecting and conserving the environment, and increasing the ecological footprint.

Must be revoked.

**(62) THAT** NGOs must disclose their source of funding and if NGOs are funded by corporations or foundations which might put them in a conflict of interest they must recuse themselves from the process

**(63) THAT** All NGOS, including industry front group participating at the UN Conferences, including COP 20 and 21 must reveal any sources of funding, such as that of corporate funding, or any board members that might jeopardise the willingness of the NGOS to take strong positions or that might seriously place the NGOS in conflict of interest

## **IX Moving from the over-consumptive pattern of development**



## **Embracing a different lifestyle and fostering conservation**

### **Moving from overconsumption pattern of development**

**(64) THAT** all states must act on the commitment to move away from the over-consumptive model of development

**(65) THAT to achieve** socially equitable and environmentally-sound and a higher quality of life for all people, Governments *should reduce and shall* eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption .... (3.9., International Conference on Population and Development, 1994)

**(66) THAT** states must act on the years of commitments to conserve resources including energy forests, water, soil, biodiversity

**(67) THAT** not only states but also individual citizens must move towards and embrace a Conserver society

### **Fostering conservation**

**(68) THAT** States and citizens around the world must conserve resources

**(69) THAT** states should collaborate on the proper conservation of natural resources which might be utilized, for food production

**(70) THAT** there must be conservation and the legitimate utilization of natural resources and all sources of energy

**(71) THAT** States must fully recognize the urgency of maintaining the stability and quality of nature and of conserving natural resources and preserving nature

**(72) THAT** states must conserve the living resource in the sea and coastal States, taking into account the best scientific evidence available to it, must ensure through proper conservation and management measures that the maintenance of the living resources in the exclusive economic zone is not endangered by over-exploitation.

### **X Addressing the plight of the most vulnerable**

**(73) THAT** Developed countries have an environmental debt to the world since they are responsible for 70% of historical carbon emissions into the atmosphere since 1750.

**(74) THAT** all states must act on the fact that the poorest states have been disproportionately affected by climate change and that the major emitting states owe a substantial climate to the developing states.

**(75) THAT** emissions budgets should use a context of the carbon footprint of a nation and THAT all emissions should be linked to the country where the goods or services are used. Exporter manufacturing imports and overseas based business enterprises should all be linked to

the originator countries' greenhouse gas emissions.

**(76) THAT** states must move towards an international economy based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and co-operation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generation

**(77) THAT** active assistance to developing countries by the whole international community, must be free of any political or military conditions

**(78) THAT** states must abide by principle 14 of the Rio Declaration

States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health. (Principle 14 Rio Declaration, 1992)

**(79) THAT** States shall take measures to extend the benefits of science and technology to all strata of the population and **to both men and women** and to protect them, both socially and materially, from possible harmful effects of the misuse of scientific and technological developments... and States must provide socially equitable and environmentally sound technology. **AND THAT** Intellectual Property Rights must not impede the transfer of socially equitable and environmentally sound technology and there is need for action on the part of members negotiating at the UNFCCC to agree to measures that overcome the IP barriers and facilitate transfer of technology as well as

associated skills and know-how.

**(80) THAT** the major greenhouse gas emitting states must compensate developing states for having inequitably occupied the atmospheric space of developing states; this occupation of atmospheric space arises as a result of many of the fossil fuel industries function in developing states primarily to benefit not the developing states but the developed ones.

**(81) THAT** industrialized states must no longer use the so-called principle of extra territorialism - that is what right to developed states have to impose their higher standards on developing states.

**(82) THAT** The transition to a zero carbon society should meet the needs of all nations and people in an equitable fashion and should be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, human rights and social justice. (Principle 7 Rio Declaration)

## **XI Releasing and providing new and different sources of funding;**

**(83) THAT** the industrialized states and major greenhouse gas producers must be prepared to enter into binding obligations not only through targets and time frames but also through funding mechanisms. This fund could be named Fund for the Implementation of the UNFCCC, and it would fund socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound energy renewable energy, transportation, agriculture and forestry. This fund would replace the GEF as the main source of funding for the UNFCCC.

**(84) THAT** the dominant greenhouse gas-producing and emitting states should be compelled to finance this international fund. Funds

traditionally distributed not only through the GEF but also through the Bretton Woods institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and additional bilateral funds, such as those in the German Fund for International Climate Initiative, should be channelled through this global fund. This fund would be indispensable for preventing climate change, and for achieving the objectives of the UNFCCC.

**(85)THOSE additional funds** must be derived from reallocation of global military expenses, including budgets and arms production and sales. Part of this fund could be allocated to compensate states damaged in any way by the failure of industrialized states to discharge obligations under the UNFCCC and other legal obligations.

**(86)THAT** other budgetary sources for this Fund would be the redirecting of subsidies from socially inequitable and environmentally unsound non-sustainable energy to socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.

**(87)THAT** in addition, measures to alleviate the impacts of climate change must include the cancellation of the outstanding debt of developing states, and the implementation of the minimal long-standing commitment of 0.7% of GDP being transferred to Overseas Development (ODA). The 0.7% obligation for development must not be diverted to climate change; there must be an additional obligation of more than 7% of GDP specifically designated for addressing, through socially equitable and environmentally sound practices, the climate debt and obligation owed to humanity, the poor the vulnerable and the disenfranchised The ODA must serve the needs not of the developed states but of the developing states. Any shortfall in funding should be bolstered by increased ODA by nations that inequitably have gained an advantage from historical emissions or reduction scenarios that are not in line with the principle of equity.

**(88) THAT** all these funding measures could only just begin to compensate for the “emissions debt” owed, by the developed states to the developing states.

The impact, of climate change on the world's poor, on indigenous peoples, vulnerable communities, and especially low-lying states will be the greatest, and they must be assisted by Industrial states, which have incurred a legal and moral obligation, to provide funds for socially equitable and renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.

**(89) THAT** in addition, major greenhouse gas-producing states must be forced to implement the actions that would discharge the obligations incurred when they signed and ratified the UNFCCC (provisions of the UNFCCC have become international peremptory norms and as such are binding) and be forced to repay the emission debt. Historic emissions should be calculated and an assessment made of the degree of dereliction of duty in the implementation of the UNFCCC. From these assessments, provisions must be made to compensate the states that have been most damaged by the failure, of the major greenhouse gas emitting states, to discharge obligations under the Convention. In such cases, a fund should be set up to assist vulnerable states in taking delinquent states to the International Court of Justice, including the Chamber on Environmental Matters (<http://www.icjci.org/presscom/index.php?pr=106&p1;=6&p2;=1&search;=%22%22Composition+of+the+Chamber+for+Environmental+Matters>)

**(90) THAT** a Fund for the Implementation of the UNFCCC be established and financed by funds as suggested in this submission.

**(91) THAT** this fund would take a holistic and scientific approach to tackling climate change. It would have as its core an ideology of participatory planning, by local people, of locally adapted projects within an overarching framework of principles to undergird the implementation of the UNFCCC legal obligations "to protect the climate

system for present and future generations”. The fund would also have as a final objective to stabilize emissions, within mandatory time frames. To prevent dangerous anthropogenic interferences, while most importantly to protect the world’s poor and the global ecosystem. The Fund will be governed not by market demands but by scientific facts which will dictate what needs to be done to achieve the implementation of these objectives;

**(92) THAT** funds must be redirected nationally from the subsidising of unsustainable practices, to supporting conservation and subsidising socially equitable environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.;

**(93) THAT** funds from the subsidising of unsustainable energy generation practices, must be redirected internationally to the fund for the implementation of the UNFCCC for the purpose of assisting in the conservation of energy, and of subsidising socially equitable environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.;

**(94) THAT** the Global Environmental Facility funding should be transferred into the proposed fund for the Implementation of the UNFCCC, whose purpose is to fund socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy; this fund would never be used to fund nuclear, biofuels or crop (genetic) engineering, or large corporate hydro projects. The UNFCCC fund with the ultimate aims of the UNFCCC in mind would not base its philosophy on the markets but on planetary science and social needs of current and future generations;

**(95) THAT** funds from the IMF, World Bank, including the World Bank Climate Investment Fund, and FROM all bilateral and multilateral funds for

climate change such as the German Fund for International Climate Initiative should be transferred into the proposed fund for implementation of the UNFCCC, Fund, whose purpose is to fund socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy; this fund would never be used to fund nuclear, biofuels or crop (genetic) engineering, or large scale corporate hydro projects;

**(96) THAT** the dominant greenhouse gas-producing states should be compelled to finance The Fund for the Implementation of the UNFCCC. This international fund should be used for socially equitable environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc. and for supporting energy conservation and projects in low-income areas of developing countries and economies in transition;

**(97) THAT** developed nations must act on the long-standing commitment to transfer 0.7% of GDP to Overseas Development. IN Addition, (ODA) funds should go to the Fund for the Implementation of the UNFCCC. The 0.7% obligation for development must not be diverted to climate change; there must be an additional obligation of 7% of GDP specifically designated for addressing climate debt. Any shortfall in funding for implementation of the UNFCCC should be bolstered by increased ODA by developed nations;

**(98) THAT** Overseas Development Aid (ODA) must not be linked to political motivations BUT based on the need for a sustainable and equitable world.

**(99) THAT** to alleviate the impacts of targets and time frames on developing nations the outstanding debts of developing states must be cancelled immediately;



**(100) THAT** Developed countries should pay off their debt through payments to the Fund for the Implementation of the UNFCCC;

**(101) THAT** Military expenses must be reallocated. This reallocation could release over \$750/€507 billion per annum. These funds will be transferred to establish a fund for sustainable development, most importantly part of the resources should be directed to The Fund for the Implementation of the UNFCCC that will fund socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.

**(102) THAT** funds for ODA should not be administered by World Bank or World Bank-type organisations; instead these should be managed by independently-minded bodies whose sole aim is to succeed in implementing a sustainable and equitable world social system. The basis of aid should be properly evaluated and be socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound, and be sustainability-need based;

**(103) THAT** the polluter pay principle must be enforced against dominant greenhouse gas-producing states and their “overseas” operations (military and corporate) and that charters and licences of transnational corporations that have contributed to greenhouse gas emissions, must be revoked to prevent further pollution. This principle should be retrospective. The polluter pays principle is one of the most significant environmental legal instruments used in developed countries, on that basis these countries cannot hide from the implementation of this same principle in their relations with the developing world.

## **Xii Abandoning false solutions and spurious subsidies**

**(104) THAT** all states must embark immediately on time-bound phasing

out of fossil fuels and of subsidies for fossil fuel. The unconventional extraction of oil from Bitumen, such as in the process in the tar/oil sands, is a major contribution to greenhouse gas and must be prohibited, and dangerous deep drilling in the oceans prohibited. In addition there must be an immediate end to subsidies for and an eventual phase-out of both (i) biofuel, which has resulted in seriously impacting food security, and (II) nuclear energy, which is too dangerous to be deemed a solution to climate change and an end to the subsidizing of biofuel and of nuclear energy, instead there must be a time-bound commitment to conservation, and to subsidizing and investing in socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc. options, that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**(105) THAT** because of the serious health and environmental consequences, the use of genetically engineering technology, and biofuels, must be banned.

**(106) THAT** in some of the poorest regions agricultural land that should be used for local food production must not be used for biofuels or any other bio-resource to offset emissions from the developed world

**(107) THAT** the Anchorage Declaration that calls upon the Parties to the UNFCCC to recognize the importance of Traditional Knowledge and practices shared by Indigenous Peoples in developing strategies to address climate change must be respected and implemented

**(108) THAT** “market based” or “market centre approaches, which are being proposed by developed states must be opposed because they will not serve the needs of developing states. (Third World Network, 2009);

**(109) THAT** the advocating of nuclear energy, along with large-scale hydro, biofuel, carbon capture as a solution to climate change must be

condemned - no proposed course of action should either continue or exacerbate serious environmental or health problems, and/or contribute to global destabilization by undermining disarmament;

**(110) THAT** nuclear energy is not a solution to climate change because, although promulgated by proponents, as "safe, clean, and cheap", there is clear and valid scientific evidence of its inherent dangers: lack of safety (emissions into both air and ground water), security-linked issues, unresolved (and likely irresolvable) waste disposal problems.

**(111) THAT** states must not install large hydroelectric dams. And THAT states must not use large dams to generate energy for continuing to produce fossil fuels

**(112) THAT states must dismantle the** International Trade agreements, such as GATT, and the subsequent WTO, along with the regional trade agreements, that have undermined international resolve to seriously address unsustainable practices, AND THAT states must enforce regulations that would socially equitable environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.

**Xiii Committing to instituting support for socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.**

**(113) THAT** any agreement must only seek to implement energy sources which can realistically be considered new, renewable and clean energy sources. These are solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, wind, hydro, ....geothermal, ocean, animal and human power, as referred to in the reports of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, prepared specifically for the

Conference 2? (See A/CONF.151/PC/119 and A/AC.218/1992/5).

**(114) THAT** the Fair and Just transition principle must be instituted to assist workers and communities in the transition from unsustainable to sustainable development. This principle holds that workers who are engaged in unsustainable practices that are harmful to human health and the environment, will not oppose the transition to socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound practices (SEESS), providing society offers them a fair and just transition to (SEESS).

**(115) THAT** all states must embark immediately on time-bound phasing out of subsidies for fossil fuel, for biofuel, for nuclear energy and other non-sustainable energy sources, and a time-bound commitment to conservation, and to subsidizing and investing in socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc. options, that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These funds should flow into and out of the Fund for the Implementation of the UNFCCC. AND THAT The United Nations should establish by the end of 2011 transparent mechanisms to ensure the disclosure of detailed and accurate national GHG emissions data, including data related of greenhouse gas emissions from military activities. This data should be collected by independent UN appointed scientists, who should determine whether full disclosure has taken place. Where there has not been full disclosure then enforcement mechanism should be in place.

**(116) THAT** governments and international organizations must adopt at the national level, policies leading to timetables for progressively disclosing and phasing out the energy subsidies that inhibit sustainable development. And to establish by the end of 2011 transparent mechanisms within the United Nations system to receive and publicize annual reports from all governments and intergovernmental bodies, that

would detail:

- a. data on all energy-related governmental and intergovernmental subsidies, and
- b. data on the phasing out of harmful subsidies to reflect their environmental impacts; and calls upon governments at the national level to establish transparent national mechanisms for collecting and reporting data on energy-related subsidies provided by all levels of government in that country;
- c. Data related to national greenhouse gas emissions including data related to greenhouse gas emissions from military activities must be disclosed, by 2011 and assessed by the United Nations. This data should be collected by independent UN appointed scientists, who should determine whether full disclosure has taken place. Where full transparency and disclosure have not occurred, enforcement mechanisms must be invoked.

**(117) THAT** states should reveal the disproportionate tax ‘relief’ given to major greenhouse gas producers, and exorbitant tax deferrals that have benefitted the major greenhouse gas emitting states

**(118) THAT** the member states should institute a fair and just transition program for workers and communities affected by the sunset of fossil fuel, biofuel and nuclear industries. This program would involve re-training and compensation for workers;

**(119) THAT** there is need for action on the part of members negotiating at the UNFCCC to agree to measures that overcome the International Intellectual property barriers and facilitate transfer of technology as well as associated skills and know-how; AND nothing should prevent governments from taking steps to deal with climate change, this includes intellectual property rights that pose an unconscionable barrier to the implementation of the UNFCCC;

Intellectual property

**(120) THAT** All members of society and institutions must be called upon to invest in socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc. that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. And that the concept of 'due diligence' has to be reversed so that rather than financial managers, of pensions and other funds, being deemed guilty for not exercising due diligence if they invest in socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy and transportation and transportation, the financial managers will in the future be guilty of failure to exercise due diligence if they invest funds in the fossil fuel, nuclear, biofuel, and large hydro industries; AND there could be a new global transport system; in this system the use of roads for cars for individuals would be phased out, the roads would be replaced by natural habitats and much smaller surface areas used for communal transport mechanisms as far as is possible, these would be able to cater for all human needs . This would create a major carbon sink, considerably increase quality of life, protect biodiversity, increase the spread of transport from A to B and create major cost and efficiency benefits for nations and business, as well as having a major impact on greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally the recent breakthroughs in the use of solar flights must be built upon; the need to travel by air is counterbalanced by the need to preserve our climate. For long distance and over water transport systems sustainable clean renewable energy must be developed. This will require a dramatic move away from air transport to other methods of transportation.

#### **XIV Instituting policies that prevent deforestation and destruction to replace the flawed REDD**

**(121) THAT** Policy proposals to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries must be analysed within the framework of the equity dimension of the climate regime in general

**(122) THAT** the large-scale agro-industrial monocultures for food, fibre and, increasingly, energy production that cause forest loss and

deforestation must end

**(123) THAT**the exotic species must not replace endemic species

**(124) THAT**the Convention on Biological Diversity must be ratified by all states and provisions for enforcement implemented

**(125) THAT**Sustainable Livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples who use their forests for food, shelter, water supply, medicines etc. must be protected

**(126) THAT**In addition spurious arguments that, in the name of climate change, attempt to legitimize the replacement of old-growth forests by advancing the argument that there is a point where and when old-growth forests are no longer efficient sinks and that they should be replaced with fast-growing young trees must end.

**(127) THAT**the REDD program is flawed and must be abandoned. All developed states, in which the transnationals are registered, must be required to revoke the charters of the aforementioned transnational corporations for contributing to the violation of state obligations under the Biodiversity Convention, and for the destructions of forests; if developed states fail to do this, developing states must be urged to expropriate these transnational corporations for violation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Furthermore, the UN fund should be used to give money to the state to conserve forests and for Indigenous and local peoples for their use, and for local communities to use for socially equitable and environmentally sound development.

**(128) THAT**the flawed REDD must be abandoned,

## **XV Acknowledging and addressing the impact of militarism on climate change**

**(129) THAT**the long standing commitment to transfer the peace dividend to developing countries must be respected

In 1976 at Habitat 1, a UN conference in Vancouver member states of the United Nations affirmed the following in relation to the military budgets and armaments:

"The waste and misuse of resources in war and armaments should be prevented. All countries should make a firm commitment to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament. Part of the resources thus released should be utilized so as to achieve a better quality of life for humanity and particularly for the peoples of developing countries" (II, 12 Habitat 1).

**(130) THAT**Overseas Development Aid (ODA) must not be linked to military purchases, or to the acceptance of socially inequitable and environmentally unsound practices or technologies, and THAT foreign military bases, which in addition to all the other reasons for closure, they are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions; they must be converted to peaceful purposes ;

**(131) THAT**the following is drawn from the Declaration that was prepared by members of the Peace Caucus and the Anti-militarisation Caucus at the DPI-NGO 2007 Conference on Climate Change:

- the member states of the United Nations must act on the commitment in Chapter 33 of Agenda 21, to reallocate military expenses.
- States must implement the commitment made in Agenda 21 to "the



reallocation of resources committed to military purposes" (33.18), and to transfer the peace dividend to seriously address the urgent issue of climate change and other serious sustainable development issues

- the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change must investigate and estimate the full impact on greenhouse gas emissions by the military and demand that each state release information related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all weapon systems, military exercises, from war games, weapons testing, military aviation, environmental warfare, troop transfer, military operations, waste generation, and reconstruction after acts of violent interventions etc.

- NATO, whose collective activities have contributed to not only the perpetuation of the scourge of war and the violation of international peremptory norms, but also the substantial release of greenhouse gas emissions, must be disbanded.

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) must discontinue its promotion of nuclear energy - the most hazardous and expensive form of energy known - as the solution to climate change

**(132) THAT** the agreement, of silence, between WHO and IAEA must end, and the World Health Organization (WHO) must acknowledge and address the short and long-term impacts on health of nuclear power generation.

## **Xvi Launching legal challenges under all other applicable law**

### **Including a possible charge of criminal negligence**

**(133) THAT** there exist an opportunity in Lima to impark on a *clear draft of the universal agreement, a shared determination by all to deliver significant national contributions to build a low carbon resilient future; This will be leading to* and Paris

to be replace ``the take note`` Copenhagen Accord with a legally

binding Protocol based on credible emerging scientific and institutional data and on the principle of differentiated responsibility and not on the vested economic interests of the fossil fuel emitting corporate states .

**(134) THAT**the process of coercing reluctant states to adopt the Copenhagen Accord must end; the Copenhagen Accord which ignored not only the pleas from the most vulnerable states but also the emerging science and fundamental peremptory norms must be deemed null and void, under Article 53 of the Vienna Convention on the Laws of Treaties.

**(135) THAT**there must be provisions for states to launch cases in the ICJ or in the Chamber on Environmental Matters within the ICJ against the egregious greenhouse gas-producing states that are signatories of the UN Convention on Climate Change, and its Kyoto Protocol;

**(136) THAT**the transboundary principle must be extended and applied to failure to take seriously the responsibility to not harm other states though the greenhouse gas emissions

**(137) THAT**delinquent states must be taken to the ICJ or the Chamber on Environmental Matters of the International Court of Justice (<http://www.icjci.org/presscom/index.php?pr=106&p1;=6&p2;=1&search;=%22%22Composition+of+the+Chamber+for+Environmental+Matters>)

the Chamber on Environmental Matters of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)which was set up to address the failure of states to comply with obligations incurred under the Environmental agreements such as UNFCCC UNFCCC;

**(138) THAT**there should be an advisory opinion sought from the ICJ on what constitutes criminal negligence and on whether the failure of many

developed states to discharge their obligations under the UNFCCC constitutes criminal NEGLIGENCE. National and international courts should evaluate cause in fact and proximate cause, damages, legal duty, and breach of the standard of care for not acting on the risks of climate change. Fault may be found even in the case of *unintended* harm if it stems from *unreasonable* conduct. The lack of intent to harm may not constitute a defence if damage results from conscious acts performed in careless disregard for others: The basis of the evaluations should be that “Everyone is criminally negligent who (a) in doing anything, or (b) in omitting to do anything that it is his duty to do, shows wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons” (where ‘duty’ means a duty imposed by law). In Canadian law, significantly, states that “a person commits homicide when, *directly or indirectly, by any means*, he causes the death of a human being, by being negligent (emphasis added).” (Cited by Bill Rees in “is Canada criminally negligent”)

**(139) THAT** major greenhouse gas-producing states be forced to implement the actions that would discharge the obligations incurred when they signed and ratified the UNFCCC. In addition, historic emissions should be calculated and an assessment made of the degree of dereliction of duty in the implementation of the UNFCCC. From these assessments, provisions must be made to compensate the states that have been most damaged by the failure to discharge obligations under the Convention (the climate debt). In such cases, a fund should be set up to assist vulnerable states in taking delinquent states to the International Court of Justice. These resources should be put into a fund for the Implementation of the UNFCCC; and the proposal in the peoples Agreement from Cochabamba of setting up of an international Tribunal to process delinquent states must be provided for under the auspices of the UNFCCC.

**(140) THAT** the UN General Assembly must invoke article 22 ,of the Charter of the United Nations, and set up an international tribunal to investigate the states that continue to engage in practices which will cause the global community to reach the dangerous anthropogenic level of interference with the climate change

**(141) THAT**the International Criminal Court should be able to extend its jurisdiction to cover crimes against humanity resulting from irreversible consequences of climate change

**(142) THAT**there should be set up an International Court of Compliance linked to the International Court of Justice, where citizens could take evidence of state and corporate non-compliance. And the proposal in the peoples Agreement from Cochabamba of setting up of an international Tribunal to process delinquent states must be provided for under the auspices of the UNFCCC.

**(143) THAT**the follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol or any other policy agreement/legal instrument directed towards reducing climate change related emissions should move towards an equitable international system that protects not prejudices the world's poor or politically disadvantaged men, women and children at risk;

**PREAMBLE FROM SUBMISSION TO COP 16  
ILEVICKI**

### **PREAMBLE**

*(i)Failing to commit to emissions reductions and time frames*

**NOTING WITH DEEP CONCERN THAT** states for reasons of vested self-interest refuse to commit to the emission reductions and time frames that are necessary

to address the urgency of climate change that discharge obligations under Article 2, of the UNFCCC for the “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere must be at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.”

**CONVINCED THAT** there must be the political will to undertake immediate action to return earth’s temperature to its natural pre-industrial level by 2050.

*(ii) Failing to discharge UNFCCC obligations*

**HAVING ADOPTED** the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change in 1992 by a 79% majority decision of the member States of the United Nations, the convention came into force in 1994 and is now ratified by 194 states. The Framework Convention on Climate Change is thus a legally binding document reflecting international peremptory norms;

**CONVINCED THAT** the Kyoto Protocol with the prominent market based scheme resulted in delaying and undermining the actions required by States to discharge their obligations under the UNFCCC. The Annex 1 developed states in the Kyoto Protocol were not even able to live up to the modest emissions reductions and targets.

**BEARING IN MIND THAT** the objective of the UNFCCC was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve carbon sinks, and that under Article 2, the signatories incurred the following obligation; “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the

atmosphere must be at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

**DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT** emerging science affirms that this dangerous level equates to a temperature below 1°C, which is the point at which global systems on land, water and air will be so affected as to create vicious feedback cycles and destabilise many ecosystems and human societies.

**RECALLING THAT** under the UNFCCC, the signatories of the Convention were bound to invoke the precautionary principle that reads:

“Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing such measures, ...” To achieve this, such policies and measures should take into account different socio-economic contexts, be comprehensive, cover all relevant sources, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and adaptation, and comprise all economic sectors. Efforts to address climate change should be carried out cooperatively by all Parties. (Article 3. Framework Convention on Climate Change).

This obligation to invoke the precautionary principle complemented the broader Rio Principle:

”Where there is the threat of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent the threat.”

**ALARMED THAT** rather than interpreting “measures” to involve “prevention” (as was the case in the version of the precautionary principle in the Rio Declaration), many member states of the UN have embraced after-act “mitigation” – not preventing something from happening but anticipating or developing a clean-up technology, and then unfortunately, now, many member states are settling for adaptation being the primary focus of climate change negotiations. The primary focus should be prevention.

**DEEPLY DISTURBED THAT** often states are moving away from the imperative to prevent climate change to simply adaptation to climate change. Rectifying errors rather preventing them.

**CONCERNED THAT** often states are moving away from the imperative to prevent climate change to the inadequate and illegal objective of simply adapting to climate change. Rectifying errors rather than preventing them

**RECALLING THAT** obligations were incurred in the Framework Convention on Climate Change “to protect the climate system for present and future generations” ; the rights of future generations will be violated if the global community fails to act now to prevent the devastating impacts of climate change, that could also threaten international peace and security

**RECALLING** that the signatories of the Convention on Natural and Cultural Heritage (UNCNCH) incurred the obligation to protect cultural and Natural Heritage for

future generations

**AFFIRMING THAT** the fundamental principle of intergenerational equity includes the rights of future generations to their cultural, natural heritage and to a safe environment.

**DEEPLY DISTURBED THAT** industrialized states have defied principle 7 of the 1992 Rio Declaration which was adopted by all states at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This principle states that:

“States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. (Principle 7, Rio Declaration)

**AWARE THAT** the common and differentiated principle and the principle of intergenerational equity were reaffirmed in the Article 3 of the UNFCCC:

“The Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future Generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Accordingly, the developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof. “

**AWARE THAT** States had agreed to take into consideration ‘The specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties, especially



those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and of those Parties, especially developing country Parties, that would have to bear a disproportionate or abnormal burden under the Convention, should be given full consideration. (Article 3 Principle 2 UNFCCC)

**DEPLORING** the fact that most states signatories of the UNFCCC have failed to live up to their obligations and that the signatories are currently in serious breach of their legal obligations to protect humanity and the environment. They spend more time devising devious strategies to avoid the emission reductions required for the prevention of dangerous interference with our climate

*(iii) Dismissing the state of emergency*

**CONCERNED THAT** there are entrenched immovable national interests that will serve to dismiss the state of emergency and block serious binding instruments

**DEEPLY CONCERNED** that the paper published in Nature (no. 458) on the 30 April 2009 which is the up to date current science on climate change emission thresholds states that in order to have an 8-37% chance of not exceeding 2 Degrees we can only emit 886GT CO<sub>2</sub> between 2000 and 2050.

**FURTHER ALARMED THAT** between 2000 and 2010 we have used 363GT CO<sub>2</sub> or 41% of the total budget for a high chance of exceeding 2 Degrees. **NOTING FURTHER THAT** we are currently at 0.78 Degrees above pre-industrial temperatures and

committed to at least 0.6 Degrees of further warming. Even more concerned that, at 1.5 Degree, Lenton et al suggest that (The Tipping Points Report commissioned jointly by Allianz and WWF) forest dieback will emit an additional 100Gt of Co2. Reducing the 886 GT limit to 776GT.

**ALARMED ABOUT** the data from a recent paper by Turney and Jones (Does the Agulhas Current amplify global temperatures during super-interglacials?, Chris S.M. Turney, Richard T. Jones, Journal of Quaternary Science, Volume 25, Issue 6, pages 839–843, September 2010) suggests that at 1.9 Degrees there is a high risk of a rise in sea levels of between 6.6 and 9.4 m and serious disturbance to regional ocean circulations that can amplify warming effects.

**DEEPLY CONVINCED** that based on these facts it is clear that an agreement must be reached this year.

**DEEPLY CONCEARNED AS WELL THAT** these facts suggest that less than a further 360GT of CO2 in the next 40 years can be emitted and THAT currently 36.3 GT a year is being emitted and that would mean that only ten years of emissions at current rates can be allowed.

**AWARE THAT THE ABOVE** current scientific understanding demands an immediate and all out agreement and urgent action.

**AND AWARE** of other feedback mechanisms and tipping points such as a loss of albedo and further forest dieback and effects on regional climate systems. AND

AWARE of the emergency being ignored and the weakness of current IPCC science.

**DEEPLY DISTURBED THAT** changes in world climate would have serious impacts on human health and **AND THAT** concerns about the impacts on human health are mostly absent in the UNFCCC COP deliberations.

**AWARE OF** The World Health Organisation findings that estimated, in its “World Health Report 2002”, that climate change was responsible in 2000 for approximately 2.4% of worldwide diarrhoea, 154 000 deaths and affected 5.5 million people’s health. More than 84% of this burden occurred in developing countries

**DEEPLY ALARMED** that the Global Humanitarian Forum Climate Change Human Impact report that summarized data including that issued by WHO on the impacts estimates that in 2009, 325 million people were seriously affected by climate change (based on negative health outcomes), and there were 303,000 deaths as a result of climate change. It predicts that in 2030, 660 million people a year will be affected by climate change and that 471,500 people will die from climate change. These factual estimates invoke very serious legal obligations for immediate action based on the current science. Action that will knowingly cause deaths which number over 10 million must be treated as crimes related to humanity. Climate change could kill 250,000 children next year, and the figure could rise to more than 400,000 by 2030, according to a report by Save the Children,

Feeling the Heat.

**DEPLORING THAT**there has not been a formal acknowledgement, from IPCC scientists submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, that the world is beyond dangerous climate interference and the world is facing a real and rapidly rising emergency with risks of (never ending) a global climate catastrophe- a state of dire planetary emergency – this is required to generate genuine political will to act to address the emergency;

*(iv) Disregarding of peremptory norms*

**KEEPING IN MIND THAT**Under Article 53 of the Convention on the Law of Treaties “Treaties conflicting with a peremptory norm of general international law (*jus cogens*) are null and void.

“A treaty is void if, at the time of its conclusion, it conflicts with a peremptory norm of general international law. For the purposes of the present convention, a peremptory norm of general international law is a norm accepted and recognized by the international community of States as a whole as a norm from which no derogation is permitted and which can be modified only by a subsequent norm of general international law having the same character.”

To be designated as a “Peremptory norm “the norm must be accepted and recognized as a peremptory norm by the internationally community of states as a whole. Peremptory norms can be extracted from years of international instruments agreed to by a broad group of states, from widely divergent geographical areas,

functioning under a range of legal systems,

**NOTING FURTHER THAT**peremptory norms can be drawn from Conventions, Covenants and Treaties, which have been signed and ratified, and are in force; from Conference Action plans which have been adopted by Consensus, or from UN General Assembly Resolutions and Declaration adopted at the UNGA.

**RECOGNIZING THAT**these norms are derived from instruments that guarantee human rights including social and Economic and Cultural rights , civil and political rights, labour rights, women's' rights and indigenous rights; that ensure social justice, that protect and conserve the environment, move away from the overconsumptive model of development and reduce the ecological footprint and that prevent war and conflict

**DEEPLY DISTURBED ABOUT**the potential impacts of climate change on the world's children who are not able to defend their future rights during their childhood. These children will have to deal with the climate change issue that will have been left to them– the loathsome legacy of the negligent behaviours of those who have preceded them

**NOTING THAT**the transboundary principle has become a peremptory norm

The Transboundary principle has been found in different forms in the following international instruments:

(a) 1972 in the UNCHE in Stockholm; Principle 21

States have, in accordance with the Charter of the

United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. UNCHE

(b) 1992 Convention on the Law of Seas

“states shall take all measures necessary to ensure that activities under their jurisdiction or control are so conducted as not to cause damage by pollution to other States and their environment, and that pollution arising from incidents or activities under their jurisdiction or control does not spread beyond the areas where they exercise sovereign rights in accordance with this Convention.” (Art. 194. 2., Law of the Seas, 1982)

(c) 1992 Rio Declaration

Principle 2 States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. (Principle 2 Rio declaration)

(d) 1992 Preamble Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal In addition, the liability in accordance

with international law is recognized in relation to their international obligations concerning the protection of human health and protection and preservation of the environment, and are liable in accordance with international law (Preamble Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 1992);

(e) 1994 Convention on the Environmental Impact assessment in a transboundary Context.

Mindful of the need and importance to develop anticipatory policies and of preventing, mitigating and monitoring significant adverse environmental impact in general and more specifically in a transboundary context (11.9. Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, 1994)

**CONCURRING THAT** the essence of the transboundary principle could be applied in some way to support the duty not to harm other states and could be applied to the transboundary impact of greenhouse gas emissions

*(v) Omitting or minimising important considerations in the UNFCCC processes*

water

**RECOGNISING**, the vital role of water as a contributor to and as a consequence of climate change must be included in the discussion on climate change

**REGRETTING THAT** the 1992 commitment to

freshwater protection is being abandoned;

“Freshwater is a unitary resource. Long-term development of global freshwater requires holistic management of resources and a recognition of the interconnectedness of the elements related to freshwater and freshwater quality. There are few regions of the world that are still exempt from problems of loss of potential sources of freshwater supply, degraded water quality and pollution of surface and groundwater sources. Major problems affecting the water quality of rivers and lakes arise, in variable order of importance according to different situations, from inadequately treated domestic sewage, inadequate controls on the discharges of industrial waste waters, loss and destruction of catchment areas, ill-considered siting of industrial plants, deforestation, uncontrolled shifting cultivation and poor agricultural practices. This gives rise to the leaching of nutrients and pesticides. Aquatic ecosystems are disturbed and living freshwater resources are threatened. Under certain circumstances, aquatic ecosystems are also affected by agricultural water resource development projects such as dams, river diversions, water installations and irrigation schemes. Erosion, sedimentation, deforestation and desertification have led to increased land degradation, and the creation of reservoirs has, in some cases, resulted in adverse effects on ecosystems. Many of these problems have arisen from a development model that is environmentally destructive and from a lack of public awareness and education about surface and groundwater resource protection. Ecological and human health effects are the measurable consequences, although the means to



monitor them are inadequate or non-existent in many countries. There is a widespread lack of perception of the linkages between the development, management, use and treatment of water resources and aquatic ecosystems. A preventive approach, where appropriate, is crucial to the avoiding of costly subsequent measures to rehabilitate, treat and develop new water supplies” (18.35., Freshwater, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992)

### *Biodiversity*

**DISMAYED THAT** biodiversity has been ignored in the analysis of impact from climate change

**THAT** “In-situ conservation” means the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties (Definition, Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCED, 1992)

**RECALLING** the obligation to take action where necessary for the conservation of biological diversity through the in situ conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats, as well as primitive cultivars and their wild relatives, and the maintenance and recover of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings, and implement ex situ measures, preferably in the source country. In situ measures should include the reinforcement of terrestrial, marine and aquatic protected area systems and embrace, inter alia, vulnerable freshwater and other wetlands and coastal ecosystems, such as estuaries, coral reefs and

mangroves;...(15.5 g. Biodiversity, Agenda 21 UNCED, 1992)

**RECOGNIZING** the close and traditional dependence of many indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles on biological resources, and the desirability [necessity] of sharing equitably benefits arising from the use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components (Preamble, Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCED, 1992)

Subject to its national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices (8j Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCED, 1992)

**AWARE** of the following obligation in the Convention on Biological Diversity

Subject to its national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the

holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices (8j Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCED, 1992)

### **MINDFUL THAT**

The loss of biological diversity may reduce the resilience of ecosystems to climatic variations and air pollution damage. Atmospheric changes can have important impacts on forests, biodiversity, and freshwater and marine ecosystems, as well as on economic activities, such as agriculture (9.16., Atmosphere, Agenda 21, 1992)

**DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT** the importance of Traditional Knowledge and practices in developing strategies to address climate change has not been given prominence in the UNFCCC.

### *Human Rights*

**NOTING WITH DEEP CONCERN THAT** the UNFCCC process has disregarded the fact that “climate change poses an immediate and far-reaching threat to people and communities around the world and has implications for the full enjoyment of human rights” (Human Rights Council Resolution 7/23)

**BEARING IN MIND THAT** a United Nations formed Human Rights Council panel has emphasized that a successful outcome of climate change negotiations matters for human rights. The human rights perspective is indispensable to the ongoing negotiations leading to

the year-end Cancun Climate Change Conference As it has been in all the Climate Change Conferences.

“As you engage in those negotiations, you must bear in mind the grave human rights consequences of a failure to take decisive action now,” said United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Deputy High Commissioner Kyung-wha Kang when she opened the panel on 15 June.

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

“A successful outcome of ongoing climate change negotiations matters for human rights. A new climate change agreement must be fair, balanced and sufficiently ambitious to be effective.

“Climate change is related not only to environmental factors but also to poverty, discrimination and inequalities – this is why climate change is a human rights issue,” said Kang, adding that the human rights perspective is particularly well suited to analyzing how climate change affects people differently.

### *Women’s Rights*

**DEPLORING THAT** Continuing environmental degradation that affects all human lives often has a more direct impact on women. Women’s health and their livelihood are threatened by pollution and toxic wastes, large-scale deforestation, desertification, drought, and depletion of the soil and of coastal and marine resources, with a rising incidence of environmentally related health problems and even death reported among women and girls. Those most affected are rural and indigenous

women, whose livelihood and daily subsistence depends directly on sustainable ecosystems (Art. 36 Advance draft, Platform of Action, UN. Conference on Women May 15)

### *Food Security*

**CONCERNED THAT** the impact of climate change on hunger and food security has not been discussed sufficiently at the UNFCCC negotiations. The longstanding commitment to eradicate hunger is absent.

“Time is short. Urgent and sustained action is vital. The conference, therefore, calls upon all peoples expressing their will as individuals, and through their Governments, and non-governmental organizations to work together to bring about the end of the age old scourge of hunger. (Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, 1974)

**REGRETTING THAT** the impact of climate change land use has not been addressed sufficiently at the UNFCCC negotiations. The longstanding commitment to ending inappropriate and uncontrolled land use is absent.

“Inappropriate and uncontrolled land uses are a major cause of degradation and depletion of land resources. Present land use often disregards the actual potentials, carrying capacities and limitations of land resources as well as their diversity in space. It is estimated that the world’s population, now at 5.4 billion, will be 6.25 billion by the turn of the century. The need to increase food production to meet the expanding needs of the

population will put enormous pressure on all natural resources, including land“ (14.34., Agriculture, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992)

Soil fertility

### **AND THAT**

“Land degradation is the most important environmental problem affecting extensive areas of land in both developed and developing countries. The problem of soil erosion is particularly acute in developing countries, while problems of salinization, water logging, soil pollution and loss of soil fertility are increasing in all countries. (14.44. Agriculture, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992)

Vegetable protein

**ALARMED THAT**the contribution to greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the dependency on animal protein has not been sufficiently addressed in the UNFCCC and IPCC processes, and evidence indicates that the contribution of reliance on animal protein to the greenhouse gas methane is substantial.

**RECALLING THAT**at the DPINGO 2007 Conference on Climate Change DR Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC, in response to a question about a practical proposal to address Climate change responded that moving from a meat based protein diet to a vegetable based protein diet would be most productive

(vi) Eroding of the Commission on Sustainable

## Development

**CONCERNED THAT** the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development has been eroded. Its mandate was originally to ensure effective follow-up to Agenda 21, and other UNCED obligations and commitments. As such in light of the failure to address climate change at CSD should intervene and have been prevented from doing so by the current power structures and lack of NGO action. The Commission on Sustainable Development, in light of the failures of its current format, should be upgraded to a Council, which would be able deal with new or emerging environmental threats, and with on-going threats, such as climate change, which requires continuous intervention. Also too often at the Commission on Sustainable Development, serious policies, which would address the urgency are thwarted by the requirement to reach consensus, and serious consideration must be given to a different negotiation process and requirements.

**NOTING THAT** the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/47/191 states that the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) should ensure effective follow-up to Agenda 21, and other UNCED obligations and commitments

**DISMAYED THAT** the CSD failed in this role in its current format as shown by the failure of negotiations at CSD15, especially to produce a negotiated outcome on climate change and other issues. This failure was also evident in the weak document emerging from CSD 17

**DISMAYED THAT** government and non-governmental

organisations have embraced the backward-looking agreement made at WSSD and are building on this agreement which is not an appropriate mechanism for instituting a socially equitable and environmentally sound world

**DISMAYED THAT** since its conception in 1992, changes in how CSD functions have progressively affected its ability to fulfill its mandate in its original form

**CONCERNED THAT** at CSD 11 (UN E/2003/29, E/CN.17/2003/6) it was decided that in order to fulfill the CSD mandate the work of the Commission will be organized in a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, which will include an evaluation of progress in implementing Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, while focusing on identifying constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation with regard to the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle

**MINDFUL THAT** this two year rotation process has not worked because urgent issues wait for long periods of time to be addressed, this in itself is fundamentally flawed. For example climate change waited three years and in its two-year cycle no adequate agreement was reached. Now in the subsequent meetings on for example water any agreements may be undermined by the lack of action on climate. The current issues as they relate to sustainable development may be irreversible and this procrastination will only mean that the delay is more critical than it already is. This delay also prevents



the CSD from performing its role as outlined in General Assembly Resolution A/RES/47/191.

(vii) Failing to address emerging and current science and tipping points

**ALARMED THAT** the 2007 IPCC report will still be the basis of the negotiations in 2010 and 2011, and the dire warnings in the emerging science will be disregarded because of the approach of the IPCC to not proceed with releasing data unless there is a high level of concurrence.

Updated Report or Reliance on out-dated IPCC Report

The last Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report is from 2007 IPCC Report that was based mostly on data from the years 2004 and 2005, and some data from 2006 and thus much of the research could be over six years old. Most recent scientific evidence indicates that the impact of climate change is happening much more rapidly than expected. Apart from the serious concerns about the emerging data the fact that a new IPCC report was not ready for Copenhagen and will not be ready until September 14 2014 (ARS Synthesis Report) continues to be troubling. In the absence of this synthesis report, in Cancun the current emerging data should be given the prominence that is deserved.

**DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT** the 2007 report itself states that "between climate and biogeochemical cycles. The areas of science covered in this report continue to undergo rapid progress and it should be recognised that the present assessment reflects scientific understanding

based on the peer-reviewed literature available in mid-2006.”

**DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT** the 2007 IPCC Report presented a gradual and smooth increase in scale and severity of impacts with increasing temperature. The reality is that this is unlikely. There are a number of thresholds along the way that are likely to result in step changes of level of impacts once triggered. These ‘tipping points’, or small change can make a big difference.). For the report suggests that “Historical GHG emissions have already ‘committed’ us to at least 0.6 °C of further warming.” That takes us into a 1.5°C pre-industrial scenario which according to the report would result in an additional 100 GTCO<sub>2</sub> emissions from forest dieback. This is the equivalent to more than 20% of available emissions not considered in IPCC scenarios. Add to the feedback effects of the melting of the ice sheets and decrease albedo and the thresholds in the IPCC reports may become unsafe. Please see flow diagram 2 for an example of the possible feedbacks and tipping points.

Source: Major Tipping points in the Earth’s Climate System and Consequences for the Insurance Sector, 2009, Tim Lenton, UEA/Tyndall Centre, Anthony Footitt, UEA/Tyndall Centre, Dr. Andrew Dlugolecki, Andlug Consulting,

**DEEPLY CONCERNED** that the tendency for the science of climate change is to suggest a worsening scenario. The “burning embers” shown in diagram 3 displaying the climate impacts for 5 categories, as taken from IPCC in 2001 (on the left) and updated in 2009 (on

the right). (Paper by Smith et Al, 2009, Assessing dangerous climate change through an update of the IPCC PNAS)

Major changes from the 2001 to 2009 assessment are:

“substantial or severe risks” of extreme weather events at temperature at 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels are now present

“Moderately significant” – risks of “large-scale discontinuities” below 2 degrees are now present and these were “very low” in 2001”.

Please see diagram 3

This tendency is alarming

**EQUALLY ALARMED THAT**the new IPCC report will not be released until 2014 not only after the COP16 in Cancun but maybe beyond the point at which emission reductions can safely be reduced. The Working Group I report is scheduled to be finalized in September 2013, the Working Group II report in March 2014 and the Working Group III report in April 2014. The scope and content of the AR5 Synthesis Report will be developed in the course of the year 2010. The Synthesis Report is scheduled to be finalized in September 2014.

**EQUALLY ALARMED THAT**the 2007 IPCC report states that the effects of increasing atmospheric CO2 on large scale terrestrial uptake cannot be quantified reliably at present.

**FULLY AWARE THAT**scientists now know with total

confidence that any global warming target above 0.8°C is planetary suicide because of events happening to the Arctic, the oceans and coral reefs today at today's warming of 0.78°C.

**DEEPLY DISTURBED ALONG WITH**Lenton et al WHO suggest that those historical Emissions have already committed us to at least 0.6C of further warming. And since the cut off for material reviewed in AR4 the Earth System has displayed some abrupt changes, especially in the Northern Cryosphere. Deeply disturbed that conceivably there could be tipping elements that have not been triggered yet but which we are already committed to being triggered and/or have already been triggered, but we have yet to fully realize. Although having the potential to affect very significant numbers of people such elements are virtually absent from policy and decision contexts concerning what changes in temperature or other variables constitute 'dangerous climate change'. Deeply disturbed that current commitment to climate change may be as high as 2 degrees, this is higher than some of the tipping points and as such the urgency of required targets is accentuated. Deeply disturbed that some tipping elements exhibit strong interrelationships.

Source: Major Tipping points in the Earth's Climate System and Consequences for the Insurance Sector, 2009, Tim Lenton, UEA/Tyndall Centre, Anthony Footitt, UEA/Tyndall Centre, Dr. Andrew Dlugolecki, Andlug Consulting, The Tipping Points Report

**AWARE THAT**negotiation process for the international law on climate change has been

undermined by the interaction of global economic and nation based power structures.

**RECOGNIZING THAT** this has led to the adoption and justification of international agreements that are neither legal, realistic nor scientific with regards tackling the issue of global warming.

Today's warming is projected to double by today's atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations and last for over 1000 years. The published science for several years shows that additional methane is being emitted as carbon feedback to global warming from warming Northern peat lands thawing permafrost and melting subsea Arctic methane hydrates obviously. This methane Arctic carbon feedback is recognized as a major danger with regards atmospheric greenhouse elevation and global warming. Another reason we know this is the state of the world's coral reefs and the opinion from scientists that it may already be too late to prevent their practical total loss from global warming and acidification (N.B. irreversible damage to natural ecosystems under FCCC). Realistically it may be too late now to avoid losing the great coral reefs and to avoid runaway global heating. (Dr. Peter Carter, personal communication, 2009).

(viii) Continuing the UNFCCC negotiating processes and other UN processes which impede change perpetuating institutional problems

UNFCCC negotiating processes

**MINDFUL THAT** Article 18 of the Charter of the

United Nations reads: “Decisions of the General Assembly on important questions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. These questions shall include recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security.” Undoubtedly, the impact of climate change could be deemed to fall under this category.

**NOTING THAT the UNFCCC** was adopted by 150 of the then 188 members of the United Nations

**RECALLING THAT** Papua New Guinea had proposed that at Copenhagen, states should not descend to the lowest Common denominator but strive for consensus with a fallback of 75%

**RECALLING THAT** under article 2 of the Montreal Protocol, it is stated that “the Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement by consensus. If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted, and no agreement reached, such decisions shall, as a last resort, be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting representing a majority of the Parties”

**DEEPLY DISTURBED THAT** many politicians in developed countries “receive political donations” from the military, fossil fuel, nuclear, biofuel, large-scale – hydro etc. industries, and when no longer in politics sit on the boards of these industries

**EQUALLY DISTURBED THAT** developed nations exercise economic and political leverage on developing states to interfere with the international climate change prevention process

**EQUALLY DISTURBED THAT** in the build up to the COP Cancun Climate Change 2010 talks and last year for the COP Copenhagen 2009 talks many BIG NGOs were asking and are still asking for inadequate emissions targets and time lines. There is a long history of compromising for coverage on the climate change issue for example in Copenhagen many NGOS including tcktcktck.org and their 250 partners asked for a reduction from developed nations of at least 40% by 2020 without even mentioning a baseline

**DEEPLY DISTURBED THAT** TckTckTck and its 250 partners continue to support the following inadequate and negligent position:

The Official Campaign Asks: We want our political leaders to be in Copenhagen and to show historic leadership in achieving a treaty that is fair, ambitious, and binding:

- Reduce developed country emissions by at least 40% by 2020.

The statement is a complete contradiction in terms and misleading since the demand of 40% by 2020 for developed countries will not achieve climate change prevention and according to the science will have serious health, social, human right, and environmental consequences

NOTE: It appears that on Monday, November 30, 2009, a U.S. federal trademark registration was filed for tcktcktck. This trademark is owned by Euro RSCG Worldwide, LLC, 350 Hudson Street, New York,

10014. These PR firms have as clients major nuclear and genetically engineered food and crops corporations

**ASTONISHED THAT** while the Climate Action Network (CAN) bestows well deserved “fossil” awards on states, CAN, by following the herd mentality, continues to be meek in demanding for the rise in temperature to remain below not 1 degree, as some developing states demand, but below 1.5 degrees

**NOTING WITH REGRET** that the practice of anglocentricity at the United Nations persists in the negotiating and working groups **AND THAT** in the plenary, there is a disproportion number of interventions by the umbrella Developed groups

Multistakeholder processes

*NGOs*

**NOTING WITH CONCERN THAT** many international NGOs are beholden to the military, fossil fuel, nuclear, biofuel, large-scale – hydro etc. industries through having corporate members on their boards and through receiving corporate funding

**DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT** many big international NGOs are not demanding what must be done and instead demand what is expedient or what is in their own self-interest; they are often more concerned about sustaining themselves rather than in sustaining the planet. For example in Copenhagen, an umbrella NGO like tcktcktck.org, and many of its members such as 350.org and CAN had weak positions; and unfortunately overshadowed the NGOs that were



willing to make bolder demands

**COGNIZANT THAT** these NGOs undermined not only other NGOs that were willing to espouse stronger demands, but also States that were willing to lead. Compromising for coverage is a fundamental systemic constraint preventing change. Also they have displayed “marginalisation avoidance“ where Big NGOS are also reluctant to risk demanding what they perceive might be deemed to marginalize them and opt for the lowest common denominator because of the political implication of offending their funders if they take the strong position that they themselves even know is needed.

**AWARE THAT** there is substantial evidence of this within the big environmental movement often attaining and especially retaining charitable status involves limited political activity. Political activity is often perceived to be any position that seriously challenges the status quo. Institutes with charitable status, which support and advance the status quo, are not deemed to be engaged in political activity

**CONCERNED THAT** NGOs are not required to disclose their source of funding which might put them in a conflict of interest

**CONCERNED THAT** All NGOS, including industry front group participating at the UN Conferences, are not required to reveal sources of funding or to divulge, sources of corporate funding, or the corporate interests of any board members

## *Labour*

**BEARING IN MIND THAT** labour often opposes for economic reasons strong recommendations to curb the phasing out of fossil fuel industries and that corporations and states have ignored labour demands to institute the fair and just transition principle and phase out fossil fuels

## *Business*

**AWARE AND CONCERNED THAT** over the years at the UN many polluting industries have set up industry front NGOs

**DISTURBED THAT** after Rio many states set up a multisectoral round table consensus based- decision-making process which glorifies conflict of interest through the participation of corporate vested interests.

**NOTING WITH INCREASING CONCERN THAT** states have often devolved their power and responsibility by forming “public private partnerships” which often, through the profit motive, undermine the state obligations to the commons

**RECOGNISING THAT** the developing countries are aware that there are many barriers to transfer of technology to developing countries. Intellectual Property Rights are one such barrier particularly where the transfer involves development of domestic capacities to absorb, innovate based on the knowledge and commercialization of the results. (Third World Network, 2009)

**CONCERNED ABOUT** the influence of transnational corporations on the UNFCCC and about the current trend for public/private partnerships in United Nations sustainable development policy; this trend must be discontinued because it inherently compromises the public process. There must be public funds available for promoting socially equitable and environmentally sound practices and for these funds to be channelled into their appropriate international arenas.

In terms of climate change prevention, funds must be channelled into The Fund for the Implementation of the UNFCCC.

### *Science*

**EQUALLY CONCERNED THAT** the science representatives at the UN are beholden to corporate interests

(ix) Promulgating unsustainable patterns of consumption and disregarding conserving resources

### *Unsustainable consumption*

**DISMAYED THAT** States, primarily the industrialised states, have not lived up to the years of commitments to move away from the current model of over-consumption;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT** one of the most serious problems now facing the planet is that associated with historical patterns of unsustainable consumption and production, leading to environmental degradation, aggravation of poverty and imbalances in the

development of countries. (4.3 Changing consumption patterns, Agenda 21 UNCED)

**DEEPLY DISTURBED THAT** around the world many of the basic resources on which future generations will depend for their survival and well-being are being depleted and environmental degradation is intensifying, driven by unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, unprecedented growth in population, widespread and persistent poverty, and social and economic inequality (Preamble, 1.2. International Conference on Population and Development, 1994)

Some patterns of consumption, production and development have the potential for increasing the vulnerability to natural disasters, particularly of the poor and socially disadvantaged groups. Convention for reducing disasters

**REAFFIRMING THAT**...the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances. (4.3. Changing consumption patterns, Agenda 21. 1992)

Failing to conserve resources

**CONVINCED THAT** States and citizens around the world must conserve resources

**RECALLING** the committing to conservation of natural resources in the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, 1974)

To assure the proper conservation of natural resources being utilized, or which might be utilized, for food production, all countries must collaborate in order to facilitate the preservation of the environment, including the marine environment. (Sect. 8., Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, 1974)

AND in on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

To promote international co-operation in research and development in exploration and exploitation, conservation and the legitimate utilization of natural resources and all sources of energy (transfer of technology Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 1974 IV e).

Recalling also the commitment In World Charter of Nature, 1982) World Charter of Nature Man

Humans can alter nature and exhaust natural resources by their actions or the consequences and, therefore, must fully recognize the urgency of maintaining the stability and quality of nature and of conserving natural resources and preserving nature (Preamble, UN Resolution, 37/7, World Charter of Nature, 1982) World Charter of Nature, 1982)

RECALLING AS WELL the commitment in the law of seas to conserve the living resource in the sea The coastal State, taking into account the best scientific evidence available to it, shall ensure through proper conservation and management measures that the maintenance of the living resources in the exclusive

economic zone is not endangered by over-exploitation. As appropriate, the coastal State and competent international organizations, whether subregional, regional or global, shall co-operate to this end. (Art. 61. 2. Law of Seas, Conservation of the Living Resource, 1982)

AWARE OF the commitment, in the ending of Deforestation Chapter in Agenda 21 to conserve forest

The present situation calls for urgent and consistent action for conserving and sustaining forest resources. The greening of suitable areas, in all its component activities, is an effective way of increasing public awareness and participation in protecting and managing forest resources. It should include the consideration of land use and tenure patterns and local needs and should spell out and clarify the specific objectives of the different types of greening activities (11. 13. Deforestation, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992)

AWARE of the commitment in the chapter on agriculture to indigenous conservation practices. Collect and record information on indigenous conservation and rehabilitation practices and farming systems as a basis for research and extension programmes. (14.47 c., Agriculture, Agenda 21 UNCED 1992)

(x). Disregarding the plight of the most vulnerable

DISTURBED THAT it is estimated that 50 of the world's poorest countries collectively produce less than one per cent of the global greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. These countries have undoubtedly

been Because of the global disproportionately affected by climate change, and the responsibility must be on the shoulders of the developed states. (Humanitarian Forum)

DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT the report ‘The Anatomy of a Silent Crisis (2009) by the Global Humanitarian Forum, led by Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary-General, states that: “Developing countries bear over nine-tenths of the climate change burden: 98 percent of the seriously affected and 99 percent of all deaths from weather-related disasters, along with over 90 percent of the total economic losses. The 50 Least Developed Countries contribute less than 1 percent of global carbon emissions.

DISMAYED THAT the exploitation of human and natural resources by developed states, in developing states, and states in transition has undermined the ability of the latter states to address the impact of climate change

DEEPLY DISTURBED that the main victims of climate change will be the world’s poorest nations and communities, and appalled that when per capita emissions are considered it is the high emitting rich who will suffer least while they inflict these emissions on the poor who emit less.

CONCERNED THAT when per capita state emissions are calculated, often a substantial part of the emissions in developing states have resulted from practices of transnational corporations based in developed states; these emissions in the developing states have served to benefit less the developing states than the developed

states`

CONCERNED THAT there is an unfulfilled climate debt owed by the developed states to the developing states

CONCERNED THAT the discrepancy in the carbon footprint between the industrialised and non-industrialised states continues to be ignore

ALARMED THAT states opposed to the Copenhagen Accord were pressured or coerced to adopt the accord

REAFFIRMING THAT the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) in calling for Extension of active assistance to developing countries by the whole international community, free of any political or military conditions (4 k., Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 1974)

AND REAFFIRMING THAT the solemn proclamation of our united determination to work urgently for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and co-operation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generation... (Preamble, Declaration on the Establishment of a new international economic order,



1974)

**AWARE OF** the imperative to abide by principle 14 of the Rio Declaration

States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health. (Principle 14 Rio Declaration, 1992)

**AWARE THAT** Developed countries have an environmental debt to the world since they are responsible for 70% of historical carbon emissions into the atmosphere since 1750.

**DEPLORING THAT** the long standing commitment to transfer the peace dividend to developing countries has been disregarded:

In 1976 at Habitat 1, a UN conference in Vancouver member states of the United Nations affirmed the following in relation to the military budgets and armaments:

“The waste and misuse of resources in war and armaments should be prevented. All countries should make a firm commitment to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament. Part of the resources thus released should be utilized so as to achieve a better quality of life for humanity and particularly for the peoples of developing countries” (II, 12 Habitat 1).

**CONCERNED ABOUT** the reluctance to invest in socially equitable and environmentally sound practices

**PROCLAIMING THAT** all States shall take measures to extend the benefits of science and technology to all strata of the population and to both men and women and to protect them, both socially and materially, from possible harmful effects of the misuse of scientific and technological developments... (Art. 6, Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace)

**KEEPING IN MIND THAT** the major greenhouse gas emitting states have inequitably occupied the atmospheric space of developing states; this occupation of atmospheric space arises as a result of many of the fossil fuel industries function in developing states primarily to benefit not the developing states but the developed ones.

### *Intellectual Property Rights*

**OBSERVING THAT** that Intellectual property rights (IP) impede the transfer of socially equitable and environmentally sound

**REGRETTING THE** impact of IP In light of the imminent challenges posed by climate change and the patenting trend (with ownership of technology focused in industrialized nations, a trend likely to continue more robustly in coming years), there is need for action on the part of members negotiating at the UNFCCC to agree to measures that overcome the IP barriers and facilitate transfer of technology as well as associated skills and

know-how.

**ALARMED THAT** states opposed to the Copenhagen Accord were pressured or coerced to adopt the accord

(xi) Proposing unconscionable and inequitable funding mechanisms

**DEPLORING** the failure of current funding proposals to begin to address in any way, the long standing climate debt

**MINDFUL THAT** the developed states have failed to act on the longstanding commitment to transfer .7 % of GDP for overseas development aid (ODA) to developing and that many developed states have, rather than fulfilling this commitment and adding 7% of the GDP to address the climate debt owed to developing states, These States are diverting or contemplating diverting ODA funds to service the climate debt.

**MINDFUL THAT** the Breton Woods Institutions, since their inception, have been responsible for unfortunate policies such as the IMF Structural Adjustment programmes and many unsustainable mega projects such as those funded by the World Bank)

**DEEPLY CONCERN THAT** in the UNFCCC deliberations the proposed funds are to be administered by the World Bank

**NOTING WITH CONCERN AS WELL** that the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) has failed to achieve its mandate which was to fund projects that would contribute to the discharging of the obligations under the

UNFCCC.

**REGRETTING THAT**the Global Environmental Facility is involved in funding climate change projects, which involve biofuels, nuclear and crop (genetic) engineering. AND THAT the GEF is a developed world instrument, and it does not implement policies with the ultimate goals of the UNFCCC in mind, AND THAT the GEF is undermined by its being beholden in industry interests, and as such cannot function under its title as the funding mechanism for the UNFCCC.

**OBSERVING THAT**bilateral funding, often with funder-interest conditions, fails to serve the needs of the disenfranchised, of the vulnerable and of the poor and the objectives of the UNFCCC

**RECALLING THAT**at Habitat II all states made the following commitment; to ensure that corporations, including transnational corporations comply with ... and international law, including international environment law

(xii) Advocating false solutions and condoning institutions that undermine the necessary change

**REMINDED OF**the failure to act on the commitment made under Chapter 9 of Agenda 21 – the section on Atmosphere, which calls for environmentally sound renewable energy:

New and renewable energy sources are solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, wind, hydro, ....geothermal, ocean, animal and human power, as referred to in the reports of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of

New and Renewable Sources of Energy, prepared specifically for the Conference 2? (See A/CONF.151/PC/119 and A/AC.218/1992/5)

**AFFIRMING ALSO THAT**nuclear energy is not a solution to climate change because, although promulgated by proponents, as “safe, clean, and cheap”, there is clear and valid scientific evidence of its inherent dangers: lack of safety (emissions into both air and ground water), security-linked issues, unresolved (and likely irresolvable) waste disposal problems. And finally “there is the inextricable link between civil nuclear energy and the development of nuclear arms.” (Dr. Fred Knelman, author of “Nuclear Energy: The Unforgiving Technology”.)

**NOTING WITH DISMAY THAT**the serious equity, health, and security consequences, especially on the land of indigenous peoples and marginalized communities of large-scale biofuel large-scale hydroelectric projects, and ecologically, and socially unacceptable location of small-scale hydro projects

**NOTING WITH DISMAY THAT**Carbon offsetting schemes, instead of reducing emissions, undermine real measures to tackle climate change. Offsetting schemes encourage individuals, businesses and governments to emit dangerous carbon into the atmosphere and in effect results in the UNFCCC and especially the Kyoto Protocol to be used to emit rather than to cut emissions in breach of article 2.

**APPREHENSIVE OF**the use of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as a means of

discharging obligations in energy generation projects; the CDMs have been deemed neither to have benefited the developing countries nor to be in accordance with the principles of the UNFCCC.

**CONCURRING WITH**the developing states at the climate change meeting in Bangkok (Bangkok climate change talks: 28 September – 9 October 2009) that “market-based” or “market centre approaches, which are being proposed by developed states must be opposed because they will not serve the needs of development

**CONVINCED THAT**A primary obstacle to the use of more sustainable forms of energy is the enormous amounts of government economic subsidies that perpetuate the myths of “cheap” fossil fuels and large-scale hydropower or “clean” nuclear power. (United Nations E/CN.17/2001/6/Add.5, Multi-Stake Holder Dialogue on Sustainable Energy and Transport)

**CONVINCED THAT**market-centre approaches are neither an efficient nor an equitable framework for the achievement of the UNFCCC objectives

**CONCURRING WITH**the Report prepared for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues **THAT** The International Panel on Forests cites, among others, discriminatory international trade, trade distorting policies, structural adjustment programmes (SAPs), external debt, market distortions and market failure, perverse subsidies, undervaluation of wood and non-wood forest products, and poorly regulated investments as the international underlying causes of deforestation (2007: Report to Permanent Forum on Indigenous

Issues)

**CONCURRING AS WELL** with the Report prepared for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that “The environmental justice approach which strikes at the underlying causes of global warming was defeated when the Convention took a more market-based approach as seen in the proposals of the Kyoto Protocol.” Annex 1 countries (38 industrialized countries) pledged that by 2012 they will reduce their emissions by an average of 5.2 percent below the 1990 levels by buying “carbon credits” from less polluting countries or corporations and by investing in projects which “sequester” or “store” carbon. None of the three market-based “flexible mechanisms” tackle directly the physical root causes of global warming: the transfer of fossil fuels from underground, where they are effectively isolated from the atmosphere, to the air”

**AND WITH A FURTHER STATEMENT** in the Report: The flexible mechanisms allow Northern countries to avoid or delay reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) allows Northern countries to finance projects in the South to mitigate climate change in return for credits, which are banked and ultimately used to license continued pollution at home. Joint Implementation means that Northern countries can finance projects aimed at mitigating climate change in other Northern (often Eastern European) and Southern countries, receiving credits accordingly. With these in place, traders and bankers have started establishing carbon exchanges in those countries where major stock exchanges are based. (2007: Permanent Forum on

Indigenous Issues Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues)

**CONCURRING WITH**the Cochabamba People's Agreement that "under capitalism, Mother Earth is converted into a source of raw materials, and human beings into consumers and a means of production, into people that are seen as valuable only for what they own, and not for what they are". AND THAT "Capitalism requires a powerful military industry for its processes of accumulation and imposition of control over territories and natural resources, suppressing the resistance of the peoples".

FULLY AWARE THAT International Trade agreements, such as GATT, and the subsequent WTO, along with regional trade agreements, have undermined international resolve to seriously address unsustainable practices, and to enforce regulations that would advance and in many cases have been used to undermine development, by sovereign states, of socially equitable environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.

AND THAT given that all states have ratified the UNFCCC and are mutually bound by the UNFCCC, if an fossil fuel exporting states wishes, for environmental reasons, to end production of fossil fuel, other importing states cannot take the exporter to the WTO Tribunal because the states are mutually bound by an existing instrument. (Presentation of the Monitoring section of the WTO at 2009 WTO Conference)

(xiii) Reneging on commitments to socially equitable,



environmentally safe and sound transportation  
renewable energy, transportation, agriculture,

**MINDFUL THAT** in 1976 at the Habitat I Conference, there was a commitment to address the problem of transportation:

Consideration should be given to the radical reversal of current trends, both in terms of facilities for and modes of transport in order to prevent further deterioration of the situation where larger cities are congested with private vehicles which in most countries cater only to a minority while adequate public transport is unavailable to urban and rural residents. (Recommendation C 14 Transportation and communication, a Habitat, I 1976)

Policies on transportation and communication should promote desired patterns of development to satisfy the needs of the majority of the population, to assure the distribution of activities to favour mass transportation, and to reduce congestion and pollution by motor vehicles. (Recommendation C 14 Transportation and communication, b Habitat, I 1976)

**STRESSING THAT** at in 1996 at Habitat II Conference every member state made a commitment to move away from car dependency

**CONCERNED THAT** often labour engaged in non-renewable resource extraction, including the fossil fuel industry and the nuclear industry are reluctant to oppose the continued existence of industrial practices that are harmful to human health and the environment, and that labour would not be so reluctant if there were the

implementation of the fair and just transition principle; and that often the call by labour for a fair and just transition to socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound energy is ignored by industry and governments.

It is crucial that nothing prevent governments from taking steps to deal with climate change, this includes intellectual property rights that pose an absurd barrier to the implementation of the UNFCCC

(xiv) Condoning deforestation and destruction of the forests through REDD

OBSERVING THAT the recognition, in UNCED, of the impact of deforestation has not been addressed;

Forests world-wide have been and are being threatened by uncontrolled degradation and conversion to other types of land uses, influenced by increasing human needs, agricultural expansion and environmentally harmful mismanagement, including, for example, lack of adequate forest-fire control and anti-poaching measures, unsustainable commercial logging, overgrazing and... the impacts of loss and degradation of forests are in the form of soil erosion, loss of biological diversity, damage to wildlife habitats and degradation of watershed areas, deterioration of the quality of life and reduction of the options for sustainable development [socially equitable and environmental] development. (11.12. Deforestation, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992)

FULLY AWARE THAT (i) unsustainable forest management is the main cause of forest degradation,

while the conversion of forests into agricultural land is by far the main cause of deforestation. (ii) The expansion of large-scale agro-industrial monocultures for food, fibre and, increasingly, energy production is both an important direct cause of deforestation and an important underlying cause of forest loss (iii) The expansion of monocultures on existing arable land causes cattle ranching and other forms of agriculture to move towards forest areas and other natural ecosystems. (iv) Biodiversity i.e. Monoculture plantations are usually (not always) exotics therefore replacement (after cutting) creates problems for endemic species (v) Sustainable Livelihoods ARE IGNORED. Indigenous Peoples use their forests for food, shelter, water supply, medicines etc. (vi) Monocultures provide no protection for endemics or livelihoods and the risk from monocultures of indigenous species poses a potential threat to biodiversity (presentation, Sandy Gauntlett Pacific Indigenous Peoples Environment Coalition: Presentation to the Peoples Conference, Cochabamba)

CONDEMNING the flawed REDD programme AND CONCERNED THAT there was a meeting, regarding the REDD programme, in Norway: While REDD is a UN programme under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), only those states that have taken note or been coerced into taking note of the Copenhagen Accord had been invited to participate in the deliberations in Norway.

CONCERNED ALSO THAT corporations including transnational corporation have been granted concessions

in forests in developing states and on Indigenous lands, to log or to plant bio-fuel plantations, which have been in violation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The REDD program is being used to give carbon credits to transnational corporations to offset years of destructive practices supported or condoned by major industrialised states.

RECALLING THAT in 1996, at Habitat II, all states made a commitment to ensure that all corporations including transnational corporations comply with all international agreements, including international environmental agreements. These agreements would include the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

(xv) Ignoring the impact of militarism on climate change

ALARMED THAT the IPCC and COP15 have not calculated the impact of militarism on greenhouse gas emissions

RECALLING THAT at the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, all agreed, in Chapter 33 of Agenda 21, to the reallocation of military expenses.

BECOMING more and more aware of the dangers related to climate change, and the potential security implications related to resource conflict, and militarism,

DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT foreign refusal to supply fossil fuel for the consumption of developed states could be deemed to violate “strategic national interest” of developed states and result in military

intervention,

DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT in violation of international law, some developed nations, in the pursuit of resources, are flagrantly engaging in war crimes under the guise of “human security”, “humanitarian intervention”, “responsibility to protect” or the “will to intervene”; these guises have been used to justify the policy of “preventive/pre-emptive military strikes which contravenes the ultimate international crime of aggression.

REAFFIRMING THAT warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development” (Rio Declaration, Principle 24, UNCED, 1992), and that there must be rigorous adherence to and enforcement of the [1978] Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD),

REAFFIRMING THAT the commitment made in Chapter 33 of Agenda 21, to reallocate resources presently committed to military purposes, and the importance of implementing this commitment made, and to transfer part of the peace dividend to assist the developing states in the development of socially equitable environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc. These resources should be put into a fund for the implementation of the UNFCC.

NOTING THAT in Agenda 21, there was an estimate of the annual cost of implementing all the AGENDA 21 provisions each year, and that a reallocation of the

GLOBAL military budget could begin to seriously facilitate implementation of these commitments,

AWARE THAT at the September, 2007 DPI/NGO Conference, the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was presented with a declaration calling for the IPCC to include a full analysis of the contribution of militarism to greenhouse gas emissions.

AWARE THAT states adopted Principle 24 in the 1992 Rio Declaration, UNCED: this principle affirms that “Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development.” This principle confirms that military actions create a barrier to sustainable development.

(xvi) Defying international Law and Obligations

MINDFUL THAT the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Chamber on Environmental Matters under the ICJ are competent organs to address the failure of states to comply with obligations incurred under the UNFCCC; Also the international Climate Justice Tribunal, under the UNFCCC, proposed by Peoples Conference held in Cochabamba will serve as an important new organ to advance compliance with the UNFCCC

CONCLUDING THAT, in the apparent absence of an international definition of what constitutes criminal negligence, there appears to be common components within national statutes of what constitutes criminal negligence.

Canadian common law provides useful guidance because Canada has a system of law drawn from both

the Common Law and the Civil Code systems.

Under Canadian law “Environmental negligence” suits focus on compensation for loss caused by unreasonable conduct that damages legally protected interests.

Unreasonable conduct means doing something that a prudent or reasonable person would not do, or failing to do something that a reasonable person would do. The plaintiff must establish certain key elements of the tort— cause in fact and proximate cause, damages, legal duty, and breach of the standard of care. Note that fault may be found even in the case of unintended harm if it stems from unreasonable conduct.

The Criminal Code (Section 219) is even clearer that lack of intent to harm is no defence if damage results from conscious acts performed in careless disregard for others: “Everyone is criminally negligent who (a) in doing anything, or (b) in omitting to do anything that it is his duty to do, shows wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons” (where ‘duty’ means a duty imposed by law). Significantly, Section 222(5) (b) states that “a person commits homicide when, directly or indirectly, by any means, he causes the death of a human being, by being negligent (emphasis added) (Cited by Bill Rees in “is Canada criminally negligent”)

United Kingdom common law also provides similar guidance. Under United Kingdom Law: Criminal Negligence need only show that a person failed to act within the standards of a reasonable man. The WHO have confirmed that there are already large numbers of fatalities and will be many more as a result of the failure to act on climate change prevention. Manslaughter can

be defined expressly In terms of negligence, but it must be gross. Additionally all statutory offences do not need to employ the word negligence but often impose liability for negligence. The minimum fault element should be based on the reasonable cause to believe. The AR4 IPCC report provides reasonable cause to believe and this is very significantly accentuated by the recent accepted science that things are actually far worse than stated in AR4. You are not required to prove a state of mind although the accused knowledge of the facts are relevant in determining reasonable cause. The offence is still committed if the accused has made an unreasonable mistake of fact and this is a limit to the defence that a person did not know. The need for a mistake to be reasonable as a defence is actually less relevant than before since the *Minor v DPP* case in 2000. Parliament requires mistakes to be based on reasonable grounds as well. The Statutes often put the burden of proof on the accused such as within the Trade Description Act

Brazilian, US, Chinese, Spanish, and Indian codes to be reviewed and translated

CONVINCED THAT under the transboundary principle, that has become a peremptory norm, all states have the responsibility, when carrying out activities in their own jurisdiction- water air and land to not impact on other states, not only on adjacent states. It is clear that the activities in the major greenhouse gas emitting states have impacted on other states. States, as signatories of the UNFCCC, have a legal duty to keep greenhouse gas emissions below the dangerous anthropogenic level. It could be argued that by continuing to ignore their responsibility to other states



and by not discharging their legal duty to seriously reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the major greenhouse gas emitting states, especially those with high per capita emissions, are guilty of gross negligence and even criminal negligence. Not acting to reduce greenhouse gases demonstrates dereliction of duty and unreasonable conduct because it is an action that a prudent or reasonable person would not do. A person may be considered to be criminally negligent when he/she does something or omits to do anything that it is his/hers duty to do, and shows wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons

The lack of intent to harm may not constitute a defence if damage results from conscious acts performed in careless disregard for others: The basis of the evaluations should be that “Everyone is criminally negligent who (a) in doing anything, or (b) in omitting to do anything that it is his duty to do, shows wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons” (where ‘duty’ means a duty imposed by law).

CONCERNED THAT climate change has not been perceived as a threat to peace and security and security is narrowly defined as military security and does not include environment; the United Nations has not adopted Olaf Palme`s concept of `common security`, which did include environmental security.

DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT climate change poses an environmental threat to peace and security on a scale not yet seen AND THAT there has not yet been a case, related to climate change as a peace and security issue, under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter brought

to the International Court of Justice

AWARE THAT under article 5 of the Rome statute of the International Criminal Court:

The International Criminal Court shall have jurisdiction limited to the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole and that these include, the crime of genocide, and Crimes against humanity;

DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT international legal instruments such as the Criminal Court have not been made available to all states in an equitable manner because of the condition imposed on persecution and prosecution of state leaders who are deemed to be guilty of crimes against humanity. In order for the criminal court to investigate the state must not have a legitimate legal system. What has resulted is that there is a biased determination of what constitutes a legitimate legal system;

This may be result of the effects of unbalanced power structures within the United Nations.

Last Updated on Tuesday, 23 September 2014 08:57

574 readings

## [Danger](#) [in the](#) [fields](#)

[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 27 September 2014 13:35

Dario Aranda

Pagina12, 23 June 2014

<http://www.pagina12.com.ar/diario/sociedad/3-249175-2014-06-23.html>

English translation of the Spanish original by Google/GMWatch

A report by the Ministry of Health in Cordoba on deaths from cancerous tumours shows that the highest rate of deaths occur in areas where GM crops and agrochemicals are used. The rate is double the national average.

The Ministry of Health of Córdoba released a comprehensive report on cancer in the province. It documented five years of information and, among other parameters, geographically determined the cases. The peculiarity which caused a major alarm is that the highest rate of deaths occurs in the "pampa gringa" area, where most transgenic and agrochemicals are used. And where the death rate is double the national average. "Once again, what we have complained about for years was confirmed and especially what doctors say about the sprayed towns and areas affected by industrial agriculture. Cancer cases are multiplying as never before in areas with massive use of pesticides," said the doctor and member of the University Network for Environment and Health (Reduas), Medardo Avila Vazquez. They demanded immediate measures to protect the population.

The official investigation in book form is entitled "Report on cancer in Cordoba 2004-2009", and was prepared by the Provincial Tumour Registry and the

Department of Statistics and Census. It was introduced in the Legislature by the Minister of Health, Francisco Fortuna, and the director of the Provincial Cancer Institute, Martín Alonso.

The international standard is to calculate deaths per 100 thousand inhabitants. The provincial average is 158 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, and in Cordoba Capital the rate is 134.8. But four Cordoba departments are well above those rates: Marcos Juárez (229.8), Presidente Roque Sáenz Peña (228.4), Unión (217.4) and San Justo (216.8). It's called "pampa gringa", the emblematic area of Cordoba agriculture.

According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (of the World Health Organization), in its latest 2012 data for Argentina, mortality is 115.13, half of what is suffered in Marcos Juárez (229.8).

Fernando Manas holds a PhD in Biology and is a member of the Genetics and Environmental Mutagenesis Group, National University of Rio Cuarto, which is investigating the effect of agrochemicals. He doesn't think the cancer cases in agricultural areas are a coincidence: "There is evidence of high levels of genetic damage in people of Marcos Juárez, which may result from unintentional exposure to pesticides."

Researchers at Río Cuarto have studied the people of Córdoba for eight years and have confirmed, in fifteen scientific publications, that those exposed to pesticides suffer genetic damage and are more prone to cancer. Manas recalled that in Marcos Juárez province, glyphosate (and its major degradation product, AMPA) have been detected in lakes, soils, and even in rainwater.

The Córdoba government's investigation arranged the cancer map according to groupings for the level of deaths. The "pampa gringa" (the whole of the east of the province) is located in the first segment. The second level corresponds to the departments of Río Cuarto, General San Martín, Celman, Tercero Arriba and General Roca. The deaths range from 180-201 per 100 thousand inhabitants, rates that exceed the provincial and national average. This second level also has the distinction of being dedicated to industrial farming.

The provincial government emphasized the overall statistics of incidence (new cases) and compared them with other countries (the province remains at the average rate), stratified by age and sex, and locations of tumours. It de-emphasised the link between high mortality and agricultural areas. In Cordoba there is much debate over the Monsanto facility in the town of Malvinas Argentinas.

Damian Verzeñassi is a doctor and professor of social and environmental health at the Faculty of Medical Sciences in Rosario. He is one of those responsible for the "Health Camp", an educational initiative in which dozens of students in the final year of their medical training are installed in a location for a week and made a health map. "The study of Córdoba matches the surveys we conducted in eighteen industrial agriculture areas. Cancer has skyrocketed in the last fifteen years," said Verzeñassi.

The university professor questioned the claims of government and industry. "They

keep demanding studies on something that is already proven and do not take urgent measures to protect the population. There is ample evidence that the agricultural model has health consequences, we are talking about a production model that is a huge public health problem," he claimed.

Avila Vázquez of the University Network for Environment and Health detailed a dozen scientific studies that prove the link between chemicals and cancer, and also listed some thirty villages where official records confirm the increase of the disease: Brinkmann, Noetinger, Hernando (Córdoba) and San Salvador (Entre Ríos), among others. "The tobacco companies denied the link between smoking and cancer, and took decades to recognize the truth. The biotech and agrochemical corporations are the same as the tobacco industry, they lie and favour business over the health of the population," Avila Vasquez said. He demanded urgent initial measures: prohibiting aerial spraying, ensuring that no terrestrial applications are made within 1000 meters of houses, and prohibiting depositories of agro-chemicals and spraying machinery in urban areas.

524 readings

## [A Change in the Climate The Climate Movement Steps Up](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 02 October 2014 08:46

By [Todd Gitlin](#) - As the globe warms so does the climate movement

Less than two weeks have passed and yet it isn't too early to say it: the People's Climate March changed the social map -- many maps, in fact, since hundreds of smaller marches took place in [162 countries](#). That march in New York City, [spectacular](#) as it may have been with its [400,000](#) participants, joyous as it was, moving as it was (slow-moving, actually, since it filled more than a mile's worth of wide avenues and countless side streets), was no simple spectacle for a day. It represented the upwelling of something that matters so much more: a genuine global climate movement.

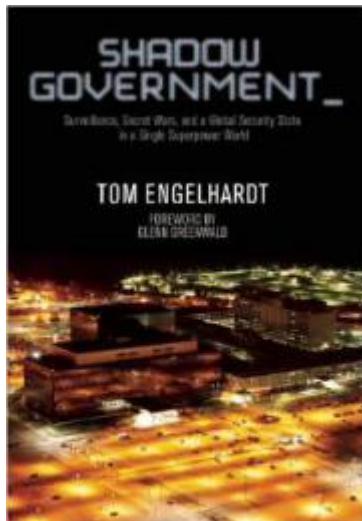
When I first heard the term "climate movement" a year ago, as a latecomer to this developing tale, I suspected the term was extravagant, a product of wishful thinking. I had, after all, seen a few movements in my time (and participated in several). I knew something of what they felt like and looked like -- and this, I felt, wasn't it.

I knew, of course, that there were climate-related organizations, demonstrations, projects, books, magazines, tweets, and for an amateur, I was reasonably well read on "the issues," but I didn't see, hear, or otherwise sense that intangible, polymorphous, transformative presence that adds up to a true, potentially society-changing movement.

It seemed clear enough then: I could go about most of my life without brushing up against it. Now, call me a convert, but it's here; it's big; it's real; it matters.

There is today a climate movement as there was a civil rights movement and an antiwar movement and a women's liberation movement and a gay rights movement - - each of them much more than its component actions, moments, slogans, proposals, names, projects, issues, demands (or, as we say today, having grown more polite, "asks"); each of them a culture, or an intertwined set of cultures; each of them a political force in the broadest as well as the narrowest sense; each generating the wildest hopes and deepest disappointments. Climate change is now one of them: a burgeoning social fact.

The extraordinary range, age, and diversity exhibited in the People's Climate March -- race, class, sex, you name it, and if you were there, you saw it -- changes the game. The phalanxes of unions, indigenous and religious groups, and all manner of local activists in New York formed an extraordinary *mélange*. There were hundreds and hundreds of grassroots groups on the move -- or forced to stand still for hours on end, waiting for the immense throng, hemmed in by police barricades, to find room to walk, let alone march. At least in the area that I could survey -- I was marching with the [Divest Harvard](#) group, alongside [Mothers Out Front](#) -- opposition to fracking seemed like the most common thread. And the only audible appeal to a politician I heard was a clamor to get [Governor Andrew Cuomo](#) to ban fracking in New York State.



## Buy the book

If what follows sounds circular, so be it: there is a social movement when some critical mass of people feel that it exists and act as if they belong to it. They begin to sense a shared culture, with its own heroes, villains, symbols, slogans, and chants. Their moods rise and fall with its fate. They take pleasure in each others' company. They look forward to each rendezvous. And people on every side -- the friendly, the indifferent, as well as the hostile -- all take note of it as well and feel something about it; they take sides; they factor it into their calculations; they strive to bolster or obstruct or channel it. It moves into their mental space.

The climate movement is, of course, plural, a bundle of tendencies. There are [those](#) who emphasize [climate justice](#)-- "fairness, equity, and ecological rootedness" in one formulation -- and those who don't. Politico's headline-writer called 350.org and other march co-sponsors "[rowdy greens](#)," to distinguish them from old-line Washington-based environmental groups. To my mind, they are not so much rowdy as decentralized on principle, which means that the range of approaches and styles is striking. This is a feature characteristic of all the great social movements of our time.

### Unities and Diversities

Degrees of militancy also vary-- again, this goes with the territory of mass movements. The day after the march came the [Flood Wall Streetsit-downs](#), tiny by comparison and far more targeted on specific enemies: the hell-bent fossil-fuel corporations that pump record amounts of carbon into the atmosphere and the banks that support them. These demonstrations have their own disruptive but [remarkably civil](#) forms of disobedience, and there will be more of them in the months to come, as well as a host of local campaigns -- against tar sands oil in [South Portland, Maine](#), on ranches and campuses in [Nebraska](#), and among [Texas evangelicals](#); against fracking throughout New York and [many other states](#). Some will be more militant, some more sedate, some broader-based, some narrower. Factions will emerge -- a movement large enough to turn out throngs won't be able to avoid them -- but so will an acute awareness of commonalities, not least the recognition that time is running out for a

civilization that seems unnervingly committed to burning down the house it inhabits.

“Were you in New York on September 21, 2014?” will be a question that future generations will wield as today those of a certain age might ask, “Were you in the March on Washington on August 28, 1963?” (In both cases, they’re prone to mistake a single manifestation for the entirety of the movement.)

Cynics will look at photos of the crowd, observe the staggering range of posters and banners, and conclude that those 400,000 participants -- the number certified in a remarkable act of legitimation by [Fox News](#)-- are so disparate that they can’t even agree about what they stand for; and that would be accurate, up to a point, but rather trivial in the end and certainly not as important as critics might imagine.

The same could have been said of the vast antiwar mobilizations of the late 1960s -- crowds ranging from Quaker pacifists and Democratic liberals to Vietnam veterans and Viet Cong supporters, and more brands of revolutionary socialists than General Mills made cereals -- and of the early feminist parades as well. The civil rights movement called itself nothing more specific than a “freedom movement,” and both its supporters and its adversaries knew in their bones what that meant. The house of the climate movement will hold many mansions (and probably its share of hovels, too), but for all the differing emphases, even conflicts on particular issues, there will be a great bulge of de facto agreement on one thing: governing institutions have, so far, defaulted and the depredations of corporations and governments have to be stopped. Now.

Complaints about the movement’s disparate nature, its radical “horizontalism,” its lack of “demands” also miss the coordination abundantly in evidence. At 12:58 p.m. that Sunday in New York, two minutes of silence, previously announced via text messages and e-mails, cascaded northward from Columbus Circle up Central Park West through a boisterous crowd -- a crowd of crowds -- and suddenly the roar, the bands, the noise subsided. The silence surged block after block in the most disciplined manner. You could feel it rippling uptown. And so did the clamor that followed, block by block, the whooping and horn-blowing and marching-band uproar that signaled a single, unmistakable, gigantic statement: “We’re here!”

Slash-and-burn leftists will carp. Some [already have](#), calling the March “[a corporate PR campaign](#),” a zinger joyfully picked up by the world’s biggest climate [change denial site](#), or claiming that the march sold out to capitalism because \$220,000 was raised to plaster the subways with posters advertising the march and some large environmental groups have decidedly un-green investment policies. It will be said that to make any substantial progress, there must be a global revolution against capitalism, but what such a revolution should disown is decidedly unclear: Markets? All large corporations, or some? All profit motives?

And what forms of social organization are to be recommended is equally blurry. Broad-brush sloganeering is feel-good bait for those who nestle comfortably in the history of left-wing revolutions, but erases important distinctions among types of capitalists and forms of capitalism. There’s a world of difference between the ExxonMobils and BPs straining to extract every last reserve of fossil fuel from the



ground and companies that harness solar, wind, and other sustainable energy. There's equally a world of difference between American-style top-down corporate governance and German-style [codetermination](#), a system in which labor elects almost half a company's board of directors.

## Caps and Freezes

Critics will accurately note that this new movement is unfocused; it does not converge on a single demand or small set of demands as did the anti-Vietnam War movement of the 1960s and early 1970s, or the nuclear freeze movement of the 1980s, which was responsible for the only New York protest (Central Park, 1982) that outnumbered the People's Climate March. Some climate activists think a [carbon tax](#) might prove the common denominator; it's even supported by some conservatives, and [recent moves](#) by fossil-fuel companies suggest that they believe a carbon tax is only a matter of time. Others doubt that America is ready for new taxes, whatever they're called.

What policies and terminology will best underscore the truths that carbon-based energy is scarcely "cheap" and that it exacts a host of planet-imperiling [social and economic costs](#) remains in dispute. There's a big push for "carbon pricing" from the [World Bank](#), for instance. What's meant is a mixture of taxes, cap-and-trade policies, and internal pricing proposals, all based on the principle that once the actual costs of carbon are factored into policy calculations, it will become pricier and renewable energy less so.

After the march, Éva Borsody-Das, an activist with the Divest Harvard alumni, wondered whether unity might be attained on the common ground of a "carbon freeze." It would be modeled on the ["nuclear freeze"](#) proposal of the early 1980s for a U.S.-Soviet agreement to stop the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons. The author-psychiatrist [Robert Jay Lifton](#), a veteran of that movement, has proposed the use of the term "climate freeze," meaning "a transnational demand for cutting back on carbon emissions." In Lifton's judgment, public as well as elite opinion is undergoing a ["climate swerve"](#) that might plow the ground for advances in policy.

What would such freezes mean? How would progress toward them be measured? Would they be enough? That's for future debates within the movement to sort out, if they can. But immense social movements are not buckets of answers, but places where people converge on questions. They are zones where debates evolve. They raise expectations, they disappoint. They win battles, but lose them, too. People arrive, people burn out, people fall away. They get fed up with each other, accuse each other of buying in and selling out and preaching to the choir, and undoubtedly in the case of the present movement, charges that none of us have yet imagined.

But don't forget this: the movement has arrived. It's a fact. And as the climate-change crisis mounts and powerful institutions default, it needs to grow if we have any hope of keeping in the ground the lion's share of the carbon reserves already known to lie there. ([Eighty percent](#) of them is the figure usually cited.)

It would be decidedly premature to suggest that this movement will soon win anything, no less everything it wants, or that it will succeed in curtailing the burn-off of fossil fuel carbon compounds and all the extinctions and acidifications and extreme weather and sea rise that will follow. But the People's Climate March does suggest that something commensurate with the magnitude of the global climate crisis has come into being.

The great boom of the last two-and-a-half centuries happened because industrialists took charge of the remains of previous life forms --*fossil*fuels indeed! -- to power the most rapid, productive, and destructive transformation in history. They remade the world and, in the process, unmade it. With all its accomplishments, the world they made is well on its way to burning through its assets.

Nature and history have talked back. In a few short centuries, the carbon-based fuels of the industrial breakthrough have come to threaten the entirety of a civilization they made possible. In the People's Climate March is the suggestion that civilization might rise to the challenge, perhaps in time to avert total catastrophe. After the march, the four-letter word I heard most was: hope.

*Todd Gitlin, professor of journalism and sociology and chair of the PhD program in communications at Columbia University, is a [TomDispatch regular](#) and the author of 15 books, including *The Whole World Is Watching*, *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage*, and [Occupy Nation: The Roots, the Spirit, and the Promise of Occupy Wall Street](#).*

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# Detection of Neonicotinoid Insecticides in Wetlands of Canada's Prairie Pothole Region

[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 04 October 2014 10:41

- By Anson R. Main, John V. Headley, Kerry M. Peru, Allan J. Cessna, Christy A. Morrissey mail
- Published: March 26, 2014
- DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0092821 Article [About the Authors Metrics](#)

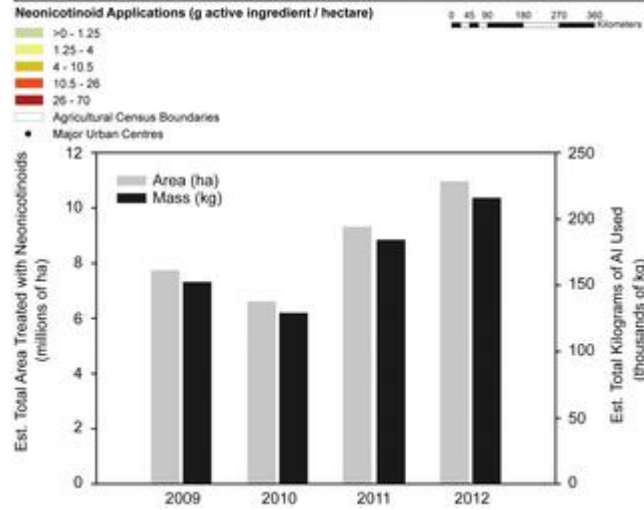
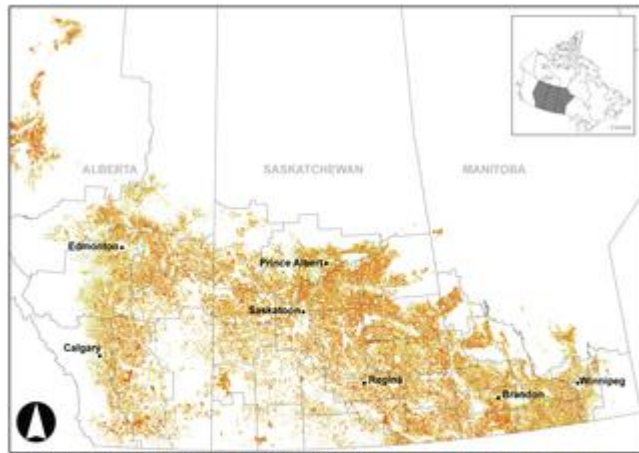
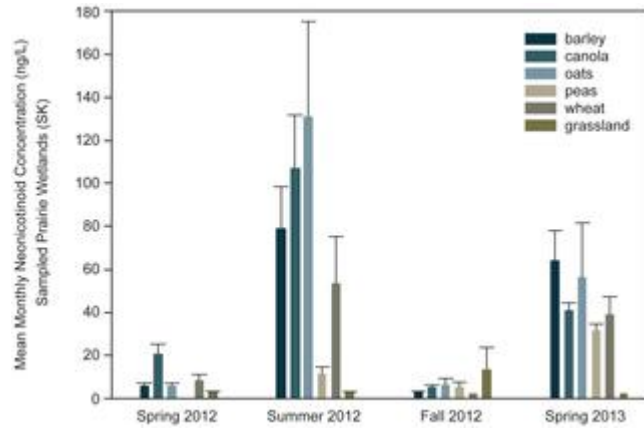
## Corrections

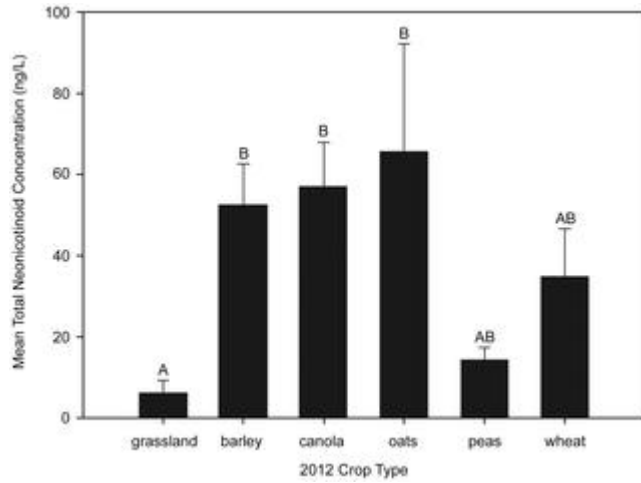
24 Jun 2014: The PLOS ONE Staff (2014) Correction: Widespread Use and Frequent Detection of Neonicotinoid Insecticides in Wetlands of Canada's Prairie Pothole Region. PLoS ONE 9(6): e101400. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0101400 | [View correction](#)

## Abstract

Neonicotinoids currently dominate the insecticide market as seed treatments on Canada's major Prairie crops (e.g., canola). The potential impact to ecologically significant wetlands in this dominantly agro-environment has largely been overlooked while the distribution of use, incidence and level of contamination remains unreported. We modelled the spatial distribution of neonicotinoid use across the three Prairie Provinces in combination with temporal assessments of water and sediment concentrations in wetlands to measure four active ingredients (clothianidin, thiamethoxam, imidacloprid and acetamiprid). From 2009 to 2012, neonicotinoid use was increasing; by 2012, applications covered an estimated ~11 million hectares (44% of Prairie cropland) with >216,000 kg of active ingredients. Thiamethoxam, followed by clothianidin, were the dominant seed treatments by mass and area. Areas of high neonicotinoid use were identified as high density canola or soybean production. Water sampled four times from 136 wetlands (spring, summer, fall 2012 and spring 2013) across four rural municipalities in Saskatchewan similarly revealed clothianidin and thiamethoxam in the majority of samples. In spring 2012 prior to seeding, 36% of wetlands contained at least one neonicotinoid. Detections increased to 62% in summer 2012, declined to 16% in fall, and increased to 91% the following spring 2013 after ice-off. Peak concentrations were recorded during summer 2012 for both thiamethoxam (range:

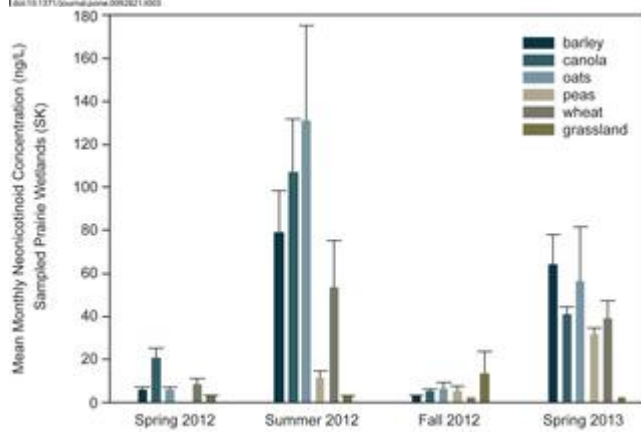
# Figures

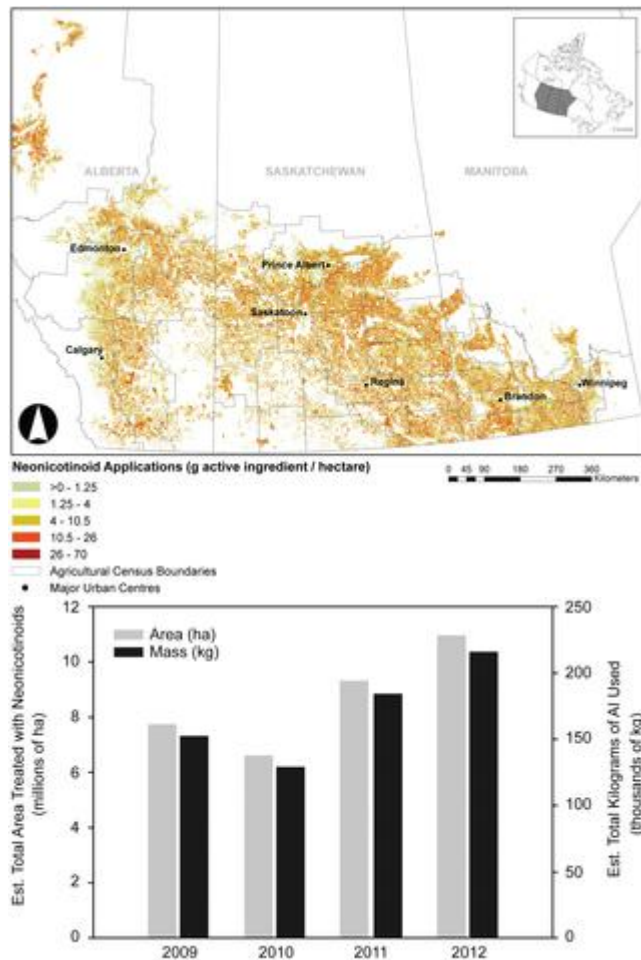




Fixed Effects	$\beta$ Estimate $\pm$ SE	t	P
Intercept	6.63 $\pm$ 0.54	1.53	0.13
<b>Season (reference: summer 2012)</b>			
Fall 2012	0.34 $\pm$ 0.57	0.60	0.55
Spring 2013	-0.12 $\pm$ 0.60	-0.21	0.84
<b>Crop (reference: Grassland)</b>			
Barley	2.29 $\pm$ 0.60	2.84	<b>0.007</b>
Canola	2.23 $\pm$ 0.74	3.03	<b>0.004</b>
Oats	1.43 $\pm$ 1.42	2.42	<b>0.02</b>
Peas	0.85 $\pm$ 1.00	0.84	0.41
Wheat	1.07 $\pm$ 0.73	1.47	0.15
<b>Spring 2012 Concentration</b>			
	0.15 $\pm$ 0.06	3.31	<b>0.014</b>
<b>2011 Crop (reference: Grassland)</b>			
Barley	-0.05 $\pm$ 0.49	-0.10	0.92
Canola	0.11 $\pm$ 0.40	0.29	0.77
Oats	0.34 $\pm$ 0.53	0.63	0.53
Wheat	0.22 $\pm$ 0.49	0.45	0.65
<b>Season x Crop (reference: Summer 2012 Grassland)</b>			
Barley Fall 2012	-3.04 $\pm$ 0.76	-3.98	<b>0.0001</b>
Barley Spring 2013	0.20 $\pm$ 0.75	0.26	0.79
Canola Fall 2012	-2.33 $\pm$ 0.64	-3.67	<b>0.001</b>
Canola Spring 2013	0.25 $\pm$ 0.66	0.38	0.71
Oats Fall 2012	-3.09 $\pm$ 1.39	-2.58	<b>0.013</b>
Oats Spring 2013	-0.82 $\pm$ 1.29	-0.64	0.53
Peas Fall 2012	-0.96 $\pm$ 0.87	-1.00	0.32
Peas Spring 2013	1.41 $\pm$ 0.85	1.66	0.14
Wheat Fall 2012	-1.74 $\pm$ 0.70	-2.48	<b>0.014</b>
Wheat Spring 2013	1.30 $\pm$ 0.74	1.76	0.09
<b>Random Effects</b>			
<b>Season x Quarter Section</b>			
Summer 2012	1.14		1.07
Fall 2012	0.13		0.11
Spring 2013	0.23		0.48
<b>Season x Wetland (nested within Site)</b>			
Summer 2012	1.36		1.16
Fall 2012	0.50		0.79
Spring 2013	0.52		0.72

Total neonicotinoid concentration was measured repeatedly in up to 136 wetlands situated on 53 agricultural quarter sections in Saskatchewan during spring 2012 through spring 2013.  
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0082621.t003





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**Citation:** Main AR, Headley JV, Peru KM, Michel NL, Cessna AJ, et al. (2014) Widespread Use and Frequent Detection of Neonicotinoid Insecticides in Wetlands of Canada's Prairie Pothole Region. PLoS ONE 9(3): e92821. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821

**Editor:** Christopher Joseph Salice, Texas Tech University, United States of America

**Received:** December 12, 2013; **Accepted:** February 26, 2014; **Published:** March 26, 2014

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**Funding:** This study was funded by the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) ([http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/index\\_eng.a\\_sp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/index_eng.a_sp)), Environment Canada (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/?lang=En>) and graduate scholarships from the

University of Saskatchewan's College of Graduate Studies (<http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/>) and the School of Environment and Sustainability ([www.usask.ca/sens](http://www.usask.ca/sens)). The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

**Competing interests:** The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

## Introduction

Degradation of aquatic ecosystems from chemical inputs is a global concern because of the loss of ecosystem services provided through water supplies, food resources and habitat for species of fish and wildlife. Wetlands are some of the most sensitive, biologically diverse, and globally productive ecosystems [1]. Worldwide, the rate of loss and deterioration of wetlands is accelerating due to increasing anthropogenic impacts affecting their overall ecological condition [2]. Wetlands in agricultural areas in Canada are under serious threat from expanding agricultural intensification; specifically, increased reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides (herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides). There is a growing concern that these inputs are degrading wetland water quality and, consequently, impacting aquatic and wetland-dependent terrestrial species. With over 50% of the wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of Canada historically drained, the remaining intact wetlands are under stress due to eutrophication, sedimentation, loss of vegetation and tillage of marginal lands as a result of agricultural activity [3]. Farming has shifted toward large-scale production, mechanization and mono-cropping. Researchers estimate an exponential growth in chemical inputs designed for improved agricultural yields – specifically, the increased use of insecticides [4].

Current agricultural practices are dependent on a newer class of insecticides, the neonicotinoids. Valued for their versatility in application [5]–[7] and widely used throughout Europe and North America, these chemicals represent the fastest growing class of insecticides globally since the introduction of the pyrethroids. The extensive use of the neonicotinoids is largely due to their effectiveness and broad spectrum toxicity to a wide range of pests [8]. Eighty percent of all treated seeds are coated with a neonicotinoid insecticide [5]. Seeds of the major Prairie crops in Canada (e.g., canola, wheat, barley, oat and field pea) are commonly coated with one of the neonicotinoid active ingredients clothianidin, imidacloprid, or thiamethoxam while acetamiprid is also used on fruit or leafy vegetable crops. The Canadian Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) consists of 39 million hectares (ha) and accounts for 98% of the country's canola production – over 8.5 million ha were seeded in 2012 [9] of which nearly all were seeded with neonicotinoid-treated seed (PMRA pers. comm).

Neonicotinoids - systemic insecticides - contain an active ingredient that translocates throughout the growing plant and acts on the nervous system of insect pests [10]. Recent concern over this class of insecticides is, in part, due to their acute toxicity to non-target insects such as bees and aquatic invertebrates [11]–[16]. In addition, some of the neonicotinoids have relatively long half-lives in soil (e.g., thiamethoxam  $DT_{50}$  = avg. 229 days; clothianidin  $DT_{50}$  = 148–1,155 days) and high water solubility (e.g., thiamethoxam = 4,100 mg/L; clothianidin = 327 mg/L) [17] leading to environmental persistence and high potential for transport into surface waters via surface runoff or

groundwater discharge [18]–[19].

From 1971 to 1991, pesticide use in Canada increased by 500% resulting in a greater quantity of pesticides susceptible to transport [20]. Today, more pesticides are used in the Prairies than any other region of Canada. Wetlands in the PPR typically occupy topographic depressions that naturally accumulate surface runoff which may contain pesticides from adjacent/surrounding agricultural fields [20]. Millions of PPR wetlands drain surrounding agricultural fields and accumulate snowmelt and (to a lesser extent) summer rainfall [21]–[22] potentially making them susceptible to neonicotinoid contamination. For example, up to 24% of Saskatchewan's wetlands may surpass pesticide regulatory requirements for protection of aquatic life during storm events [23]. During high rainfall events, Prairie wetlands in flooded agricultural landscapes were found to contain an average of 19 herbicides and insecticides [24].

Many western nations are examining the distribution and use of neonicotinoids along with impacts on ecosystem health [18]. However, the actual distribution and concentration of neonicotinoids in North American surface water systems remains poorly known with the exception of limited published studies focused on imidacloprid in rivers and streams [19], [25]–[26] and one study reporting thiamethoxam and acetamiprid detections in playa wetlands of Texas [27]. In the PPR agricultural-wetland landscape, the actual distribution of use of neonicotinoids and their levels in agricultural wetlands remains unknown. Therefore, our objectives were to: 1) develop geospatial maps of current neonicotinoid use within the PPR in relation to annual crop plantations and 2) survey levels of neonicotinoids in water and sediment of a subset of wetlands surrounded by different crops (grasslands, barley, canola, oat, wheat and field pea) through time. We hypothesized that neonicotinoid applications would be highest in areas of intensive canola production and neonicotinoid concentrations and detections in wetlands would similarly be higher in canola fields, particularly during the summer growing season.

## Methods

### Ethics Statement

No ethics approval was required. We obtained right-of-entry agreements for water sampling and sediment collection on community pastures (RM of Wolverine - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), Ducks Unlimited lands (Ducks Unlimited Canada) and St. Denis National Wildlife Area (Environment Canada) in addition to private landowner permission. Private landowners who granted access in this study wish to remain anonymous and specific GPS coordinates cannot be provided as part of that confidentiality. Our field studies did not involve endangered or protected species.

### Study Area for Wetland Sampling

Our study was carried out across a 32-km<sup>2</sup> area in central-east Saskatchewan. Water and sediment samples were collected from wetlands situated in agricultural fields near the communities of St. Denis (52° 10'22" N, 106° 5'57" W), Colonsay (51° 59'



0" N, 105° 53' 0" W), Lanigan (51° 51' 0" N, 105° 2' 0" W) and Humboldt (52° 12' 7" N, 105° 7' 23" W). The study fields were selected to represent the range of Prairie crop types located in zones of intensive agricultural production and neonicotinoid use as well as a high density of pothole wetlands.

## GIS Mapping of Neonicotinoid Applications

Pesticide use reporting in Canada is currently considered confidential and seed treatments are poorly monitored. To estimate the spatial distribution of neonicotinoid use across the Canadian Prairies, we integrated standard pesticide application rate recommendations for registered uses of seed treatment products and their associated crops (Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, 2011) [28], percentage of each crop treated with neonicotinoids (2009–2010 confidential PMRA data), and remote-sensing field-level crop inventory maps (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) into a geographic information system (GIS; ArcMap 10, Environmental Systems Resource Institute, Redlands, CA). Data on PPR cropland distribution was derived from Agriculture Canada's remotely sensed land cover maps at 56-m resolution (2009–2010) and 30-m resolution (2011–2012). For our analysis, cropland of interest included all land potentially planted with treated seed including: barley, canola, corn, dry bean, field pea, mustard, oat, soybean and wheat. Percentages of singular treated crops were then extracted from remote sensing crop maps based on available 2010 confidential PMRA data to isolate treated land areas from total planted areas. Integrated maps were individually created for three neonicotinoid compounds (thiamethoxam, clothianidin, imidacloprid) and year (2009–2012). Because we were primarily interested in seed treatments of grain crops, acetamiprid maps were not compiled because Prairie crop-use data were limited to potato which is treated both with a seed treatment and foliar spray. We determined the neonicotinoid application rate via treated seed by multiplying grams of neonicotinoid active ingredient (AI) per kilogram of seed by the seeding rate of kilograms seed per hectare. This produced a rate of grams of active ingredient per hectare (g AI/ha). For crops potentially using more than one application rate, we conservatively used median recommended guidelines (e.g., thiamethoxam: barley = 13 g/ha, canola = 21 g/ha, beans = 26 g/ha). We calculated the pixel equivalent of a hectare for all raster maps by dividing raster resolution by size of an actual hectare (e.g., resolution = 56 m×56 m/ha = 100 m×100 m). We then used a conditional statement in ArcMap Spatial Analyst tools to multiply the hectare equivalent by calculated application rate (g AI per specific crop) to determine an estimated value for each hectare planted to one crop type. Because the majority of field crops are planted on a quarter section level (65 ha), all individual crop maps by AI were merged together (by specific year) and summed to estimate total neonicotinoid distribution throughout the PPR.

## Water Sampling

We used the Dominion Land Survey system [29] which divides agricultural land across the Canadian Prairies into 1.6-km<sup>2</sup> sections (260 ha) containing four quarter sections (65 ha) to delineate zones for wetland sampling because crops are planted at the quarter section scale. We sampled, where available, three replicate wetlands from each of 50 quarter sections across a range of wetland classes (Class II: temporary ponds; Class III: seasonal ponds; Class IV: semi-permanent ponds; and Class V:

permanent ponds). Fields were randomly selected to represent five agricultural crop types in the study area (canola, barley, wheat, oat and field pea) in addition to grasslands/hayfields. In total, water samples from 136 wetlands in 50 quarter sections were collected for analysis; 89% of wetlands sampled were situated in crop fields as follows: canola (40%), barley (20%), wheat (18%), oat (11%), field pea (0%) with 11% of the wetlands situated in grassland and hayfield (reference) areas. In spring 2012, there were no wetlands situated in fields seeded to field pea the previous year, but wetlands in pea fields were sampled in subsequent water collections. Water samples from the same wetlands were collected four times: between snowmelt and seeding in spring 2012 (April), during the growing season in summer 2012 (June), after harvest in fall 2012 (September) and again between snowmelt and seeding in spring 2013 (May). Collection sites were accessible by foot and samples were collected centrally in each wetland beyond surrounding edge vegetation and, where possible, distant from submerged aquatic vegetation. One litre (L) of water was collected using a subsurface grab at a depth of 10 cm in chemically cleaned (acetone: hexane washed) amber glass jars. Bottles were sealed with Teflon-lined caps and then stored in the dark during transport and refrigerated at 4°C until analysis.

The type of crop surrounding each wetland was determined from landowner crop rotation schedules or by plant identification. GPS coordinates and photographs of each study wetland were recorded to ensure the same wetlands were sampled in subsequent sampling periods.

### Sediment Sampling

During the summer 2012 water collection, we also collected sediment cores from each study wetland. Sediment sampling involved collection of three replicate 0- to 6-cm depth samples from three zones within each wetland: centrally, the zone of emergent vegetation and that of submerged vegetation. Sediment was collected using a 1.2-m black PVC pipe with a 15-cm diameter opening and 0.6-cm holes drilled into the lower sides of the pipe to allow water to evacuate during coring. The combined sediment cores were pooled to yield a sediment sample of approximately 1 kg. Sediment was placed in polyethylene freezer bags, transported to the laboratory in a large cooler and then immediately placed in a freezer at -20°C until analysis.

### Chemical Analysis

Wetland water and sediment samples were analyzed at the National Hydrology Research Centre, Environment Canada, Saskatoon, SK using methods adapted from that of Xie et al. [30]. Analytical standards of thiamethoxam, clothianidin, imidacloprid and acetamiprid were from Chem Service (West Chester, PA, USA) and the internal standard, d<sub>4</sub>-imidacloprid, from CDN Isotopes (Pointe-Claire, Quebec, CA).

### Sample Extraction.

In brief, water samples (500 mL) were passed through Oasis HLB cartridges (Waters, Mississauga, Canada) which had been sequentially conditioned with

methanol (10 mL) and water (10 mL). After sample loading, the cartridges were washed with de-ionized water (5 mL) to remove salts and the cartridges were dried under vacuum for 5 min. The retained analytes were eluted with methanol (10 mL), the eluates were evaporated to dryness and the extract residues reconstituted in 500  $\mu$ L of water followed by addition of the internal standard. Sediment samples (5.0 g wet-weight) and acetonitrile (10 mL) were sonicated (30 min) and then centrifuged (15 min @ 5000 rpm) and the supernatant decanted. Following a second sonication and centrifugation, the combined decantates were evaporated to ~1 mL, taken to a final volume of 2 mL with water, and internal standard added.

#### LC/MS/MS Analysis.

A Waters 2695 Alliance HPLC system (Waters Corp., Milford, MA), consisting of a solvent degassing unit, pump and autosampler, was used with a Waters XTerra MS-C<sub>8</sub> (3.5- $\mu$ m dia. particle size) column (2.1- $\times$ 100-mm) (Waters Corp., Milford, MA) at 30°C. Isocratic elution of the analytes was achieved with an 80/20 mix of solvent A (100% water and 0.1% formic acid) and solvent B (90% acetonitrile, 10% water and 0.1% formic acid). The run time was 10 min and the injection volume was 20  $\mu$ L.

The neonicotinoid insecticides were quantitated (internal standard method) and their presence confirmed using the Micromass Quattro Premier triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (Waters Corp., Milford, MA) equipped with an electrospray ionization interface set to positive ion mode. Ionization and MS/MS conditions were optimized by infusing a 0.5 mg/L solution of each insecticide into the ion source in a 50:50 (v/v) acetonitrile:water solution with a syringe pump. MRM transitions, selected from the product ion scan and optimal cone voltages and collision energies for each neonicotinoid are provided in [Table S1](#). Other instrumental settings were as follows: source temperature, 90°C; capillary voltage, 3.00 kV; extractor voltage, 5.00 V; desolvation temperature, 240°C; nitrogen desolvation gas flow rate, 476 L/h; nitrogen cone gas flow rate, 38 L/h; nitrogen nebulizer gas flow rate was at maximum flow; multiplier voltage, 657 V; and the interchannel delay was 0.10 s. Argon was used as the collision gas at a pressure which increased the Pirani gauge reading to  $3.12 \times 10^{-4}$  mbar. Resolution was set to achieve unit mass resolution for quadrupole 1 and approximately 2 amu resolution for quadrupole 3.

A four-level calibration curve (5 to 50  $\mu$ g) was analyzed before and after each batch of 10 samples which also contained a laboratory or field blank and a fortified sample. Limits of quantification (LOQ) in water were as follows: thiamethoxam, 1.8 ng/L; clothianidin, 1.2 ng/L; imidacloprid 1.1 ng/L; and acetamiprid, 0.5 ng/L. Mean recoveries (n = 33) from Milli Q (n = 8) and river (n = 3) water each fortified at 500, 100 and 50 ng/L were as follows: thiamethoxam, 88.8 $\pm$ 3.4%; clothianidin, 78.9 $\pm$ 5.4% (mean  $\pm$  SD); imidacloprid, 85.9 $\pm$ 3.9% and acetamiprid, 89.6 $\pm$ 3.7%. Mean recoveries from sediment fortified at 20  $\mu$ g/kg (n = 5) were as follows: thiamethoxam: 73.6 $\pm$ 5.2%; clothianidin: 72.3 $\pm$ 7.0%; imidacloprid: 73.5 $\pm$ 7.1%; and acetamiprid: 74.5 $\pm$ 5.9%. All neonicotinoid concentrations were corrected for recovery and all laboratory and field blanks were below detection.

#### Statistical Analysis

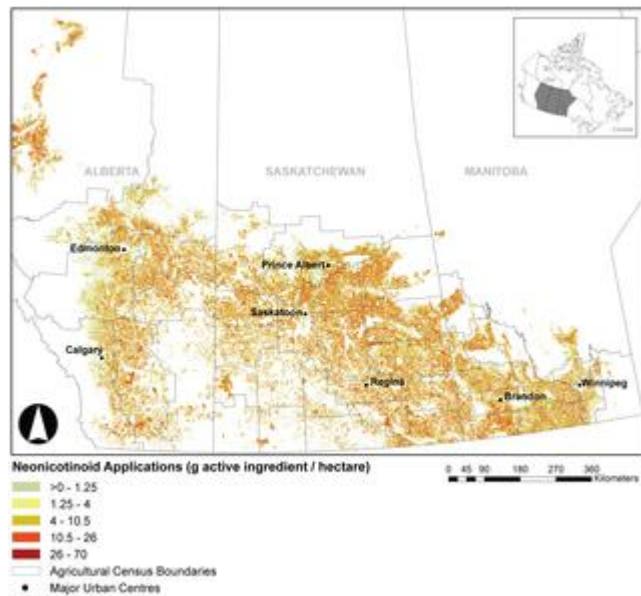
Given the structural similarity of clothianidin, thiamethoxam, imidacloprid and acetamiprid and their cumulative and irreversible binding to insect nicotinic acetylcholine receptors, individual neonicotinoids are assumed to be additive in relative toxicity [31]. Therefore, concentrations of multiple neonicotinoids detected in a given sample were summed and presented as total neonicotinoids.

We used a general linear mixed model (GLMM) in package lme4 in R (R Core Team 2013) to investigate the effects of crop type (grassland, barley, canola, field pea, oat, wheat) on changes in wetland total neonicotinoid concentration over one full agricultural growing season (April 2012 to May 2013). A GLMM with a Gaussian distribution was used because total neonicotinoid concentration met the assumption of normally-distributed residuals after log transformation. Crop type and time were fixed effects; wetlands nested within quarter sections and the slope of change in neonicotinoid concentrations over time were random effects; and baseline (spring 2012) neonicotinoid concentration and prior year's (2011) crop type were covariates. We had an unbalanced design because some ponds could not be resampled due to wetland drawdown (fall 2012) and spring 2013 overflooding. We used Akaike's information criteria (AIC) to identify the best distribution and to decide whether to retain slope and intercept random effects [32]. Significant interactions of crop type and time were examined using *post-hoc* testing of interaction contrasts in package “phia” [33]. We corrected for multiple comparisons and associated Type I errors using the Dunn-Šidák correction, because it has more power than Bonferroni [34].

## Results

### Neonicotinoid distribution in the Prairies

Our predictive maps indicated broad neonicotinoid distribution and application rates across the Canadian Prairies (range: >0–70 g/ha) (Fig. 1; Fig. S1–S3) with further GIS analysis showing a trend of increasing use over time. By 2012, nearly 11 million hectares (est. total Prairie cropland = 25 million ha) of cropland across the Canadian Prairies was estimated to be treated with clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid; an approximate 30% increase from 2009 (7.7 million ha; Table 1, Fig. 2). Most treated areas fell in the medium range of application rates (4–10.5 g/ha). We conservatively estimate that total combined mass of neonicotinoids used across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba ranged between 129,000 kg (2010) to 216,000 kg (2012; Fig. 2). This also represents a significant proportion of the total annually seeded cropland in the Prairies ranging from 31% in 2009 to 44% in 2012 (Table 1). Remote sensing data of cropland in Manitoba was not completed by Agriculture Canada in 2010, and therefore not included, which may explain the decrease in estimated neonicotinoid use. The increasing trend is evident in spite of the wet springs of 2010 and 2011, when a substantial area (2.9 million ha in 2010 and 3.1 million ha in 2011) of cropland was not seeded (Table 1).



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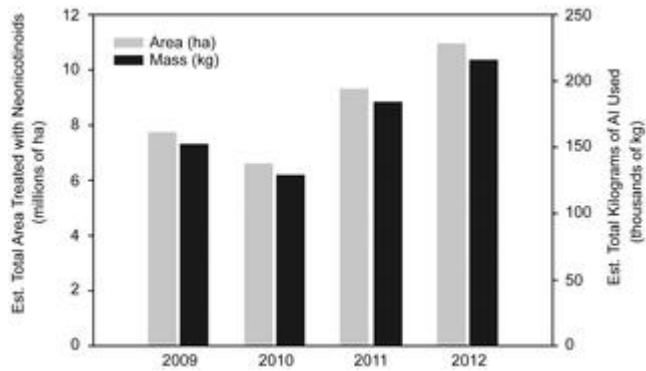
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**Figure 1. Map of modelled distribution of neonicotinoid use across Prairie Canada: Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (2012).**

Neonicotinoid application rates (g AI/ha) represent the sum total of clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam across an agricultural quarter section (65-ha field) on all crops predicted to be treated with neonicotinoid seed treatments. Acetamiprid is not included because Prairie crop-use data were limited to potato which is treated both with a seed treatment and foliar spray.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.g001



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**Figure 2. Estimated total neonicotinoid distribution across Prairie Canada.**

Area of total agricultural land (millions of ha) using a neonicotinoid seed treatment and estimated total mass (kg) of active ingredient (AI) applied across the Canadian Prairie region from 2009 to 2012. Composite area and mass values include all predicted treated crop types and neonicotinoid active ingredients (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam) based on extrapolation of mapped distribution.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.g002

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**Table 1. Estimated distribution of cropland area treated with neonicotinoids in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of Canada (2009–2012).**

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.t001

Neonicotinoid treated areas and application rates (g/ha) differ by crop and active ingredient. In 2009, the dominant crops (by area) with neonicotinoid seed treatments ranked as follows: canola > wheat > corn > field pea > barley > oat. By 2012, that ranking had changed slightly to canola > wheat > soybean > corn > barley > field pea > dry bean > oat. Although canola and wheat seed treatments cover the largest area, field pea treated with thiamethoxam was calculated to have the highest application rate (70 g/ha) while oat had the lowest calculated application rate (12 g/ha). Thiamethoxam (5.8 million ha) covered the broadest spatial extent due to the range of crops on which it is currently used as a seed treatment (e.g., canola, wheat, barley). Clothianidin (5.1 million ha) was the second most widely used neonicotinoid whereas imidacloprid (45,000 ha) was substantially less. The application area for acetamiprid was not calculated because Prairie crop-use data were limited to potato which is treated both with a seed treatment and foliar spray. Overall, maximum neonicotinoid use occurred in regions with intensive canola (Peace River region of Alberta, central Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba) and soybean production (southeastern Manitoba). Our results suggest that the neonicotinoids are widely used in the Canadian Prairies and that PPR wetlands are generally surrounded by crops treated with neonicotinoids which likely increases their risk of contamination with neonicotinoid insecticides.

#### Neonicotinoid concentrations in water

In spring 2012, between snowmelt and seeding, 36% of (49/136) wetlands sampled contained at least one neonicotinoid. By summer 2012, the number of wetlands with detectable concentrations of neonicotinoids had increased to 62% (83/134) after seeding ([Table 2](#)). After harvest (fall 2012), 16% (13/80) wetlands contained trace neonicotinoid concentrations. Of the wetlands that were accessible for re-sampling the following spring (2013), 91% (82/90) had detectable neonicotinoid concentrations. At the field level, neonicotinoids were detected in wetlands on 29 of 52 quarter sections in spring 2012 (56%); 37 of 49 quarter sections in summer 2012 (76%); 11 of 38 quarter sections in fall 2012 (29%) and 33 of 35 quarter sections in spring 2013 (94%). Detections of neonicotinoids in wetlands included all crop types

and grassland samples.

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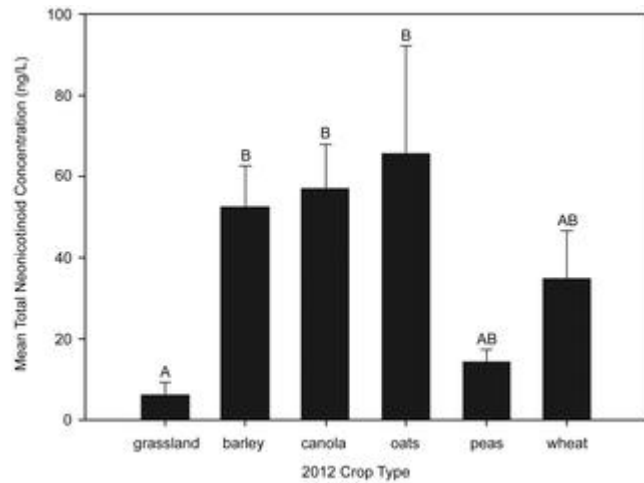
**Table 2. Summary of detections, arithmetic means and maximum concentrations of total neonicotinoids and active ingredients in water from Prairie wetlands of central Saskatchewan (2012–2013).**

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.t002

Thiamethoxam and clothianidin were detected in all 4 sampling periods; imidacloprid was not detected in fall 2012 and acetamiprid was not detected in spring 2013. Clothianidin was the most commonly detected neonicotinoid in water samples, and had the highest maximum and mean concentrations during three of the sampling periods: spring 2012 (max: 144 ng/L; mean: 16), summer 2012 (max: 3110 ng/L; mean: 142), and spring 2013 (max: 173 ng/L; mean: 39) ([Table 2](#)). In the fall, thiamethoxam had the highest maximum concentration (max: 100 ng/L; mean: 12).

Differences in mean concentrations between field crop types were apparent. Wetlands situated in barley, canola and oat fields had significantly higher mean annual concentrations than those in grasslands ([Table 3](#), [Fig. 3](#)). Pre-seeding (spring 2012) concentrations had a small ( $\beta \pm$  S.E.:  $0.15 \pm 0.06$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ), but positive effect on summer 2012 concentrations whereas previous year's (2011) crop type did not ([Table 3](#)).





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**Figure 3. Mean total neonicotinoid water concentrations by crop type measured in wetlands in central Saskatchewan.**

Bars represent means ( $\pm$ SE) for each crop over all sampling periods in 2012–2013. Statistical comparisons (letters) of individual crops are relative to grasslands. Bars sharing the same letter (i.e. A, B) indicate no statistical difference in means.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.g003

Fixed Effects	$\beta$ Estimate $\pm$ SE	t	P
Intercept	0.63 $\pm$ 0.54	1.53	0.13
<b>Seasons (inference: summer 2012)</b>			
Fall 2012	0.34 $\pm$ 0.57	0.60	0.55
Spring 2013	-0.12 $\pm$ 0.60	-0.21	0.84
<b>Crop (inference: Grassland)</b>			
Barley	2.29 $\pm$ 0.60	2.84	<b>0.007</b>
Canola	2.23 $\pm$ 0.74	3.03	<b>0.004</b>
Oats	1.43 $\pm$ 1.42	2.42	<b>0.02</b>
Peas	0.85 $\pm$ 1.00	0.84	0.41
Wheat	1.07 $\pm$ 0.71	1.47	0.15
<b>Spring 2013 Concentration</b>			
2011 Crop (inference: Grassland)	0.15 $\pm$ 0.06	2.51	<b>0.014</b>
<b>2011 Crop (inference: Grassland)</b>			
Barley	-0.05 $\pm$ 0.49	-0.10	0.92
Canola	0.11 $\pm$ 0.40	0.29	0.77
Oats	0.34 $\pm$ 0.33	0.63	0.53
Wheat	0.22 $\pm$ 0.49	0.45	0.65
<b>Season x Crop (inference: Summer 2012 Grassland)</b>			
Barley Fall 2012	-3.04 $\pm$ 0.76	-3.98	<b>0.0001</b>
Barley Spring 2013	0.29 $\pm$ 0.71	0.38	0.70
Canola Fall 2012	-2.33 $\pm$ 0.64	-3.67	<b>0.000</b>
Canola Spring 2013	0.25 $\pm$ 0.66	0.38	0.70
Oats Fall 2012	-3.09 $\pm$ 1.39	-2.58	<b>0.013</b>
Oats Spring 2013	-0.62 $\pm$ 1.29	-0.64	0.53
Peas Fall 2012	-0.96 $\pm$ 0.87	-1.00	0.32
Peas Spring 2013	1.41 $\pm$ 0.85	1.69	0.14
Wheat Fall 2012	-1.74 $\pm$ 0.70	-2.48	<b>0.014</b>
Wheat Spring 2013	1.30 $\pm$ 0.74	1.76	0.09
<b>Random Effects</b>			
	Variance		SD
<b>Season x Quarter Section</b>			
Summer 2012	1.14		1.07
Fall 2012	0.13		0.35
Spring 2013	0.23		0.48
<b>Season x Wetland (nested within Site)</b>			
Summer 2012	1.36		1.18
Fall 2012	0.50		0.70
Spring 2013	0.32		0.57

Total neonicotinoid concentration was measured repeatedly at up to 136 wetlands situated on 53 agricultural quarter sections in Saskatchewan during spring 2012 through spring 2013.  
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.t003

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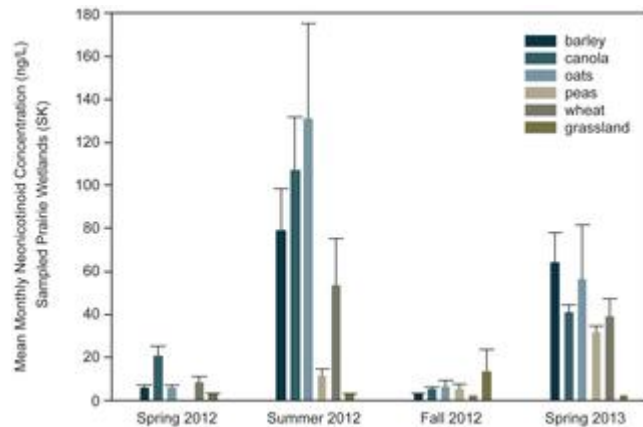
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**Table 3. Results of generalized linear mixed model analyzing total neonicotinoid concentration in response to crop type and season.**

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.t003

Strong interactions between season and crop type ([Table 3](#), [Figure 4](#)) masked the effect of season alone in the model. Declines in concentrations between summer and fall were found for barley ( $X^2 = 28.01$ ,  $P = <0.0001$ ), canola ( $X^2 = 55.13$ ,  $P = <0.0001$ ), and wheat ( $X^2 = 11.59$ ,  $P = 0.0007$ ). Subsequent increases in concentrations were found the following spring 2013 for barley ( $X^2 = 79.66$ ,  $P = <0.0001$ ), canola ( $X^2 = 150.74$ ,  $P = <0.0001$ ), wheat ( $X^2 = 53.48$ ,  $P = <0.0001$ ), field pea ( $X^2 = 11.25$ ,  $P = 0.0008$ ) and oat ( $X^2 = 9.75$ ,  $P = 0.002$ ) though not grasslands

( $X^2 = 0.86$ ,  $P = 0.35$ ).



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**Figure 4. Mean total neonicotinoid water concentrations measured in wetlands sampled in central Saskatchewan over one year.**

Wetlands were sampled repeatedly over an annual growing cycle (spring 2012, summer 2012, fall 2012 and spring 2013). Spring 2012 wetlands reflect the 2011 crop type whereas summer 2012 and spring 2013 samples reflect new crops that were seeded in 2012.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.g004

Because many wetlands were dry, thus not sampled in fall 2012, the significant decline and subsequent increase in neonicotinoid concentrations between seasons could result from a sampling effect rather than a within-wetland temporal trend. However, neonicotinoid concentrations were similar between ponds that dried in the fall and those that remained wet in both summer 2012 ( $U(df = 1) = 1558$ ,  $P = 0.34$ ) and spring 2013 ( $U(df = 1) = 688$ ,  $P = 0.99$ ). This indicates that the observed fall decline and spring rebound in total neonicotinoid concentrations occurred within

individual wetlands and was not a sampling effect.

### Neonicotinoid residues in sediment

Of the sediment samples collected during summer 2012, only 8 (6%) of the wetlands situated in fields of barley, canola, field pea and wheat contained neonicotinoid active ingredients ([Table 4](#)). The highest concentrations of each compound were thiamethoxam (max: 20.0 µg/kg, canola), imidacloprid (max: 17.5 µg/kg, canola), and clothianidin (max: 4.4 µg/kg, peas). Acetamiprid was not detected in any sediment sample.

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**Table 4. Summary of detections, arithmetic means and maximum concentrations of total neonicotinoids and active ingredients in the sediment of 134 sampled Prairie wetlands of central Saskatchewan (summer 2012).**

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.t004

### Discussion

To our knowledge, this is the first study that specifically assessed the scale of use of neonicotinoids in any Canadian region and level of neonicotinoid contamination in wetlands. Sales of neonicotinoid seed treatment products in Canada have rapidly expanded since the early 2000s when seed treatments using thiamethoxam (canola, mustard) and clothianidin (canola, corn) were registered. From 2002–2005, uses of thiamethoxam further increased to include seed treatment products for wheat, barley, soybean, corn, field pea, dry bean, sunflower and lentil. Globally, uses of the neonicotinoid active ingredients examined in this study have been registered for a number of foliar, soil and seed treatment applications: imidacloprid (140),

acetamiprid (60), thiamethoxam (115) and clothianidin (40) [6]. The multiple seed-treatment products applied across widely distributed agricultural crops over large geographic areas presents a high degree of environmental loading and increases the potential for contamination of surface waters by neonicotinoids. According to our GIS analysis of neonicotinoid use on the Canadian Prairies, smaller areas with high application rates appear to be in regions where corn and soybean (southeastern Manitoba) and pulses or field pea (southern Saskatchewan) are extensively seeded. Mappings created by the Pesticide National Synthesis Project of “estimated agricultural use” of clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam revealed corresponding exponential growth throughout the United States since the early 2000s. Zones of high use (presented as pounds per square mile) are similarly located in regions growing corn, soybean and crops such as cotton [35]. Our analysis also showed that large areas seeded to canola are treated with medium-high application rates. The same can be mentioned of cereals such as wheat and barley indicating neonicotinoid seed treatments are gaining popularity.

The number of previous studies in which surface waters (rivers, lakes and streams) in North America were monitored for neonicotinoids is generally limited [25]–[26], [36]–[37] with only one study on wetlands [27]. Moreover, most have focused solely on the presence of imidacloprid. For example, in California, 89% of river samples had detections with concentrations of 50 to 3290 ng/L [19]. Maximum imidacloprid values, detected in stream and agricultural run-off studies of eastern Canadian provinces (New Brunswick; Prince Edward Island), ranged from 420 ng/L to 15,880 ng/L [26], [36]–[37]. Given the physico-chemical properties of neonicotinoids, they are highly susceptible to transport into aquatic ecosystems. Neonicotinoids appear to behave similarly to other pesticides which move into aquatic systems in pulses during surface run-off and deposition of aerial spray drift [38]–[39]. It is unclear if other factors such as wind erosion of treated seeds during spring planting also influence neonicotinoid transport into wetlands. Peak concentrations of all four neonicotinoids in the water columns of wetlands in cropped fields (not grasslands) occurred in summer 2012 with a mean concentration of 91.7 ng/L, but with maximum concentrations, which frequently consisted of more than one neonicotinoid, being as high as 3110 ng/L. However, grab sampling in rivers is known to underestimate actual maxima concentrations by 1–3 orders of magnitude and average concentrations of pesticide residues by 50% [26]; the same may be true of wetlands in our study area.

Our mapping of potential neonicotinoid use within the PPR based on commonly grown crops (canola, barley, wheat, oat and field pea) suggested that wetlands situated within the PPR are exposed to neonicotinoid insecticides from seed treatments. Sampling the water column of a subset (range: fall 2012 = 80; spring 2012 = 136) of wetlands within the PPR confirmed that neonicotinoids were consistently present in 16–91% of the monitored wetlands situated in fields seeded to canola, barley, wheat, oat and field pea and in concentrations significantly higher than those detected in comparable wetlands situated in grasslands. This may have consequences for the numerous ecosystem services provided by Prairie pothole wetlands. Wetlands not only provide functions to agricultural production (e.g., clean water for livestock), they provide habitat for a large number of species such as waterbirds, amphibians and invertebrates [2]–[3]. Importantly, a small proportion of grassland wetland samples had low levels of neonicotinoids further suggesting its

susceptibility to transport and potential to affect those wetlands that are isolated from agricultural production.

While maximum neonicotinoid concentrations were typically detected in wetlands situated in canola fields, wetlands in fields seeded to other crops that were monitored in the current study were also found to contain similar mean neonicotinoid levels. This may be explained by: 1) the current high economic yield of canola, resulting in frequent 2 or 3 year rotations with wheat, barley, oat or field pea [40], 2) high soil persistence that exhibits carry over between seasons and/or 3) the area of cereal crops treated by neonicotinoids has grown exponentially since 2004 leading to higher susceptibility of wetlands to neonicotinoid contamination.

Although unexpected, we found high frequency of neonicotinoid detections prior to spring planting: 36% of 136 wetlands in spring 2012 and 91% of 90 wetlands in spring 2013. Spring water samples most commonly contained clothianidin (max = 173 ng/L) and often also contained thiamethoxam. This was despite the fact that most of the same wetlands the previous autumn had no detectable concentrations of neonicotinoids and they were not strongly retained in wetland sediments. Neonicotinoids have relatively low soil-water organic carbon partition coefficients ( $K_{oc}$ ) and high water solubility (e.g., clothianidin  $\log K_{oc} = 123$ , solubility = 327 mg/L) thereby limiting the potential for retention and accumulation in wetland sediments [17]. Clothianidin ( $DT_{50} = 148\text{--}1,155$  d) and thiamethoxam ( $DT_{50} = 51$  d) are highly persistent in soil [17] with higher reported  $DT_{50}$  values likely reflecting cold soil temperatures as frequently encountered in the Canadian Prairies. This is in agreement with regulatory studies indicating that clothianidin soil half-lives ( $DT_{50}$  values) were 385 d in Ontario, but 1386 d in North Dakota [41]. In support, a Saskatchewan study similarly found 80% of the initial (0-day) concentration in soil was still present after 775 d, indicating extremely high persistence in soils under Prairie conditions [41]. We speculate that neonicotinoid concentrations detected in Prairie wetlands in spring 2012 and 2013 were not due to persistence in water or sediment, but resulted from carryover in the soil during winter and subsequent transport to the wetlands in snowmelt runoff.

Continuous low-level contamination of wetlands by neonicotinoids both early and mid-season may have important implications for insect emergence patterns since chronic, low-level exposure may reduce invertebrate survival and growth [11], [15]. A recent study of macroinvertebrate decline in Dutch surface waters found a significant negative relationship between imidacloprid concentrations and abundance of aquatic macroinvertebrates [18]. Field studies and studies of sublethal insect toxicity from chronic exposure are generally scarce. However, the results of the current study show these compounds are continuously detected in wetlands over several months. Prolonged exposure of invertebrates to the neonicotinoids as a result of persistence, or repeated pulses to the wetlands as documented here likely lowers the dose required to cause toxicity over short-term exposure [11], [39], [42]. In addition, we detected more than one neonicotinoid in many wetlands; therefore, it is equally important to understand the cumulative effects of long-term exposure to mixtures of neonicotinoids and the potential for additive or synergistic effects of multiple neonicotinoids on aquatic organisms. Investigating single-pulse exposure of thiacloprid to stream invertebrate communities, Beketov et al. (2008) found that

short-living species recovered after 10 weeks of contamination whereas long-living invertebrate species did not recover until almost 7 months later [43]. Furthermore, in the current study, peak concentrations were detected during summer months when insect emergence patterns show greatest plurality suggesting food web effects may be significant.

In Canada, an interim water quality guideline for regulation of imidacloprid for the protection of freshwater aquatic life is set at 230 ng/L [44]. Other guidelines for imidacloprid have been set by the U.S. EPA at 1050 ng/L for long term exposure and 35,000 ng/L for acute pulse events [45]. The European Water Framework Directive applies a Maximum Permissible Concentration (MPC) of 65 ng/L for long term exposure or Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC) of 200 ng/L for acute exposure. In regard to thiamethoxam, the US EPA has a published guideline for acute exposure set at 17,500 ng/L. Recently, Mineau and Palmer (2013) recommended 10–30 ng/L as a protective concentration under long term exposure based on a species sensitivity distribution analysis and the HC<sub>5</sub> using available chronic toxicity studies [46]. The mean and maximum concentrations of clothianidin and thiamethoxam detected in this study frequently exceeded many of these guidelines based on the chemically related compound, imidacloprid. For example, clothianidin was detected at concentrations up to 14 times above the modest Canadian benchmark for imidacloprid. However, this must be interpreted cautiously because there are currently no accepted aquatic benchmarks for either of clothianidin or thiamethoxam in Canada and most international regulatory agencies are currently reviewing their existing guidelines.

## Conclusion

Modelling neonicotinoid seed treatment applications within the PPR in Canada revealed increasing use over a large geographic area. Due to the intensity of crop rotations with neonicotinoid treated crops and the high environmental persistence of neonicotinoids in soil, the potential for environmental loading and transport into wetlands appears high. Monitoring the water column of a subset of wetlands within the PPR in Saskatchewan confirmed that neonicotinoid insecticides were repeatedly present in many of the wetlands sampled. Our findings have important implications for wetland ecosystem services such as litter breakdown, nutrient cycling and aquatic insect production, with potential consequences for wetland dependent species (e.g., amphibians, waterfowl; aerial insectivorous birds). In order to fully understand the effects of neonicotinoids on PPR wetlands, we recommend future studies: 1) determine levels of neonicotinoid contamination in other regional aquatic systems and across a landscape level scale; 2) determine the ecological features that make PPR wetlands susceptible to neonicotinoid contamination; and 3) identify insect abundance, productivity and emergence responses to chronic and repeated neonicotinoid exposures.

## Supporting Information

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**Map of modelled distribution of neonicotinoid use across Prairie Canada: Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (2011).**

[Figure S1.](#)

**Map of modelled distribution of neonicotinoid use across Prairie Canada: Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (2011).**

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.s001

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[Figure S2.](#)

**Map of modelled distribution of neonicotinoid use across Prairie Canada: Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (2010).** Remote sensing crop data for Manitoba was unavailable from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in 2010.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.s002

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[Figure S3.](#)

**Map of modelled distribution of neonicotinoid use across Prairie Canada: Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (2009).**

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.s003

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[Table S1.](#)

**Details of MS/MS transitions and operational parameters for neonicotinoid analysis.**

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092821.s004



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## Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the numerous area farmers and landowners for generous access to their land for sediment and water sample collection, without whom our study would have been impossible. We thank the Pesticide Management and Regulatory Agency (PMRA) for supplying information on pesticide registration history and pesticide use data. We thank Michael Cavallaro, Leanne Flahr, Kasia Majewski, Chantel Michelson, Brandon White and Alex Zahara for their assistance in field sample collection and Matthew Hauck for laboratory water and sediment analysis. Special thanks to Pierre Mineau and Jim Devries for advice, background literature and assistance with GIS analysis. We are grateful to other anonymous reviewers for their valuable insights into development of this paper.

## Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: AM CM. Performed the experiments: AM CM. Analyzed the data: AM NM CM. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: JH KP. Wrote the paper: AM CM. Validated and performed the analytical chemistry: KP JH AC.

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[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 05 October 2014 14:57

By [Pepe Escobar](#) <http://www.tomdispatch.com/contact/>

A specter haunts the fast-aging “New American Century” : the possibility of a future Beijing-Moscow-Berlin strategic trade and commercial alliance. Let’s call it the BMB.

Its likelihood is being seriously discussed at the highest levels in Beijing and Moscow, and viewed with interest in Berlin, New Delhi, and Tehran. But don’t mention it inside Washington’s Beltway or at NATO headquarters in Brussels. There, the star of the show today and tomorrow is the new Osama bin Laden: Caliph Ibrahim, aka Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the elusive, self-appointed beheading prophet of a new mini-state and movement that has provided an acronym feast -- ISIS/ISIL/IS -- for hysterics in Washington and

elsewhere.

No matter how often Washington remixes its Global War on Terror, however, the tectonic plates of Eurasian geopolitics continue to shift, and they're not going to stop just because American elites [refuse to accept](#) that their historically brief "unipolar moment" is on the wane. For them, the closing of the era of "full spectrum dominance," as the Pentagon likes to call it, is inconceivable. After all, the necessity for the indispensable nation to control all space -- military, economic, cultural, cyber, and outer -- is little short of a religious doctrine. Exceptionalist missionaries don't do equality. At best, they do "coalitions of the willing" like the one crammed with "[over 40 countries](#)" assembled to fight ISIS/ISIL/IS and either applauding (and plotting) from the sidelines or sending the odd plane or two toward Iraq or Syria.

NATO, which unlike some of its members won't officially [fight Jihadistan](#), remains a top-down outfit controlled by Washington. It's never fully bothered to take in the European Union (EU) or considered allowing Russia to "feel" European. As for the Caliph, he's just a minor diversion. A postmodern cynic might even contend that he was an emissary sent onto the global playing field by China and Russia to take the eye of the planet's hyperpower off the ball.

### **Divide and Isolate**

So how does full spectrum dominance apply when two actual competitor powers, Russia and China, begin to make their presences felt? Washington's approach to each -- in Ukraine and in Asian waters -- might be thought of as divide and isolate.

In order to keep the Pacific Ocean as a classic "American lake," the Obama administration has been "pivoting" back to Asia for several years now. This has involved only modest military moves, but an immodest attempt to pit Chinese nationalism against the Japanese variety, while strengthening alliances and relations across Southeast Asia with a focus on South China Sea



energy disputes. At the same time, it has moved to lock a future trade agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), in place.

In Russia's western borderlands, the Obama administration has stoked the embers of regime change in Kiev into flames (fanned by local cheerleaders [Poland](#) and the [Baltic nations](#)) and into what clearly looked, to Vladimir Putin and Russia's leadership, like an existential threat to Moscow. Unlike the U.S., whose sphere of influence (and military bases) are global, Russia was not to retain any significant influence in its former near abroad, which, when it comes to Kiev, is not for most Russians, "abroad" at all.

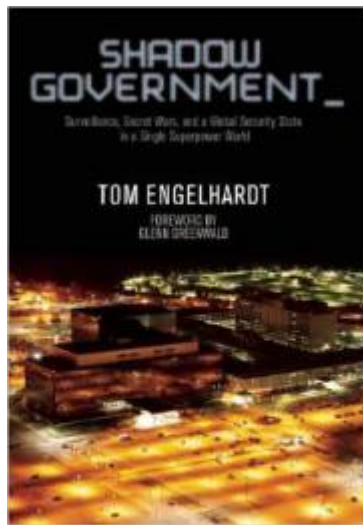
For Moscow, it seemed as if Washington and its NATO allies were increasingly interested in imposing a new Iron Curtain on their country from the Baltic to the Black Sea, with Ukraine simply as the tip of the spear. In BMB terms, think of it as an attempt to isolate Russia and impose a new barrier to relations with Germany. The ultimate aim would be to split Eurasia, preventing future moves toward trade and commercial integration via a process not controlled through Washington.

From Beijing's point of view, the Ukraine crisis was a case of Washington crossing every imaginable red line to harass and isolate Russia. To its leaders, this looks like a concerted attempt to destabilize the region in ways favorable to American interests, supported by a full range of Washington's elite from neocons and Cold War "liberals" to humanitarian interventionists in the Susan Rice and Samantha Power mold. Of course, if you've been following the Ukraine crisis from Washington, such perspectives seem as alien as any those of any Martian. But the world looks different from the heart of Eurasia than it does from Washington -- especially from a rising China with its newly minted "[Chinese dream](#)" (*Zhongguo meng*).

As laid out by President Xi Jinping, that dream would include a future network of Chinese-organized new Silk Roads that would create the equivalent of a Trans-Asian

Express for Eurasian commerce. So if Beijing, for instance, feels pressure from Washington and Tokyo on the naval front, part of its response is a two-pronged, trade-based advance across the Eurasian landmass, one prong via Siberia and the other through the Central Asian “stans.”

In this sense, though you wouldn’ t know it if you only followed the American media or “debates” in Washington, we’ re potentially entering a new world. Once upon a time not so long ago, Beijing’ s leadership was flirting with the idea of rewriting the geopolitical/economic game side by side with the U.S., while Putin’ s Moscow hinted at the possibility of someday joining NATO. No longer. Today, the part of the West that both countries are interested in is a possible future Germany no longer dominated by American power and Washington’ s wishes.



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Moscow has, in fact, been involved in no less than half a century of strategic dialogue with Berlin that has included industrial cooperation and increasing energy interdependence. In many quarters of the Global South this has been noted and Germany is starting to be viewed as “the sixth BRICS” power (after Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).

In the midst of global crises ranging from Syria to

Ukraine, Berlin's geostrategic interests seem to be slowly diverging from Washington's. German industrialists, in particular, appear eager to pursue unlimited commercial deals with Russia and China. These might set their country on a path to global power unlimited by the EU's borders and, in the long term, signal the end of the era in which Germany, however politely dealt with, was essentially an American satellite.

It will be a long and winding road. The Bundestag, Germany's parliament, is still addicted to a strong Atlanticist agenda and a preemptive obedience to Washington. There are still tens of thousands of American soldiers on German soil. Yet, for the first time, German chancellor Angela Merkel has been hesitating when it comes to imposing ever-heavier sanctions on Russia over the situation in Ukraine, because no fewer than 300,000 German jobs depend on relations with that country. Industrial leaders and the financial establishment have already [sounded the alarm](#), fearing such sanctions would be totally counterproductive.

### **China's Silk Road Banquet**

China's new geopolitical power play in Eurasia has few parallels in modern history. The days when the "Little Helmsman" Deng Xiaoping insisted that the country "keep a low profile" on the global stage are long gone. Of course, there are disagreements and conflicting strategies when it comes to managing the country's hot spots: Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang, the South China Sea, competitors India and Japan, and problematic allies like North Korea and Pakistan. And popular unrest in some Beijing-dominated "peripheries" is growing to [incendiary](#) levels.

The country's number one priority remains domestic and focused on carrying out President Xi's economic reforms, while increasing "transparency" and fighting corruption within the ruling Communist Party. A distant second is the question of how to progressively hedge against the Pentagon's "pivot" plans in the region --

via the build-up of a blue-water navy, nuclear submarines, and a technologically advanced air force -- without getting so assertive as to freak out Washington's "China threat"-minded establishment.

Meanwhile, with the U.S. Navy controlling global sea lanes for the foreseeable future, planning for those new Silk Roads across Eurasia is proceeding apace. The end result should [prove](#) a triumph of integrated infrastructure -- roads, high-speed rail, pipelines, ports -- that will connect China to Western Europe and the Mediterranean Sea, the old Roman imperial *Mare Nostrum*, in every imaginable way.

In a reverse Marco Polo-style journey, remixed for the Google world, one key Silk Road branch will go from the former imperial capital Xian to Urumqi in Xinjiang Province, then through Central Asia, Iran, Iraq, and Turkey's Anatolia, ending in Venice. Another will be a maritime Silk Road starting from Fujian province and going through the Malacca strait, the Indian Ocean, Nairobi in Kenya, and finally all the way to the Mediterranean via the Suez canal. Taken together, it's what Beijing refers to as the Silk Road Economic Belt.

China's strategy is to create a network of interconnections among no less than five key regions: Russia (the key bridge between Asia and Europe), the Central Asian "stans," Southwest Asia (with major roles for Iran, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey), the Caucasus, and Eastern Europe (including Belarus, Moldova, and depending upon its stability, Ukraine). And don't forget Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, which could be thought of as Silk Road plus.

Silk Road plus would involve connecting the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic corridor to the China-Pakistan economic corridor, and could offer Beijing privileged access to the Indian Ocean. Once again, a total package -- roads, high-speed rail, pipelines, and fiber optic networks -- would link the region to China.

Xi himself put the India-China connection in a neat

package of images in an op-ed he published in [the Hindu](#) prior to his recent visit to New Delhi. “The combination of the ‘world’s factory’ and the ‘world’s back office,’ ” he wrote, “will produce the most competitive production base and the most attractive consumer market.”

The central node of China’s elaborate planning for the Eurasian future is Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang Province and the site of the largest commercial fair in Central Asia, the China-Eurasia Fair. Since 2000, one of Beijing’s top priorities has been to urbanize that largely desert but oil-rich province and industrialize it, whatever it takes. And what it takes, as Beijing sees it, is the hardcore Sinicization of the region -- with its corollary, the suppression of any possibility of ethnic Uighur dissent. People’s Liberation Army General Li Yazhou has, in these terms, described Central Asia as “the most subtle slice of cake donated by the sky to modern China.”

Most of China’s vision of a new Eurasia tied to Beijing by every form of transport and communication was vividly detailed in “Marching Westwards: The Rebalancing of China’s Geostrategy,” a landmark 2012 essay published by scholar Wang Jisi of the Center of International and Strategic Studies at Beijing University. As a response to such a future set of Eurasian connections, the best the Obama administration has come up with is a version of naval containment from the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea, while sharpening conflicts with and strategic alliances around China from Japan to India. (NATO is, of course, left with the task of containing Russia in Eastern Europe.)

### **An Iron Curtain vs. Silk Roads**

The [\\$400 billion](#) “gas deal of the century,” signed by Putin and the Chinese president last May, laid the groundwork for the building of the Power of Siberia pipeline, already under construction in Yakutsk. It will bring a flood of Russian natural gas onto the Chinese market. It clearly represents just the beginning of a turbocharged, energy-based [strategic](#)

[alliance](#) between the two countries. Meanwhile, German businessmen and industrialists have been noting another emerging reality: as much as the final market for made-in-China products traveling on future new Silk Roads will be Europe, the reverse also applies. In one possible commercial future, China is slated to become Germany's [top trading partner](#) by 2018, surging ahead of both the U.S. and France.

A potential barrier to such developments, welcomed in Washington, is Cold War 2.0, which is already tearing not NATO, but the EU apart. In the EU of this moment, the anti-Russian camp includes Great Britain, Sweden, Poland, Romania, and the Baltic nations. Italy and Hungary, on the other hand, can be counted in the pro-Russian camp, while a still unpredictable Germany is the key to whether the future will hold a new Iron Curtain or "Go East" mindset. For this, Ukraine remains the key. If it is successfully Finlandized (with significant autonomy for its regions), as Moscow has been proposing -- a suggestion that is anathema to Washington -- the Go-East path will remain open. If not, a BMB future will be a dicier proposition.

It should be noted that another vision of the Eurasian economic future is also on the horizon. Washington is attempting to impose a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on Europe and a similar Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) on Asia. Both favor globalizing American corporations and their aim is visibly to impede the ascent of the BRICS economies and the rise of other emerging markets, while solidifying American global economic hegemony.

Two stark facts, carefully noted in Moscow, Beijing, and Berlin, suggest the hardcore geopolitics behind these two "commercial" pacts. The TPP excludes China and the TTIP excludes Russia. They represent, that is, the barely disguised sinews of a future trade/monetary war. On my own recent travels, I have had quality agricultural producers in Spain, Italy, and France repeatedly tell me that TTIP is nothing but an economic version of NATO, the military alliance that China's Xi Jinping calls, perhaps wishfully, an "obsolete

structure.”

There is significant resistance to the TTIP among many EU nations (especially in the Club Med countries of southern Europe), as there is against the TPP among Asian nations (especially Japan and Malaysia). It is this that gives the Chinese and the Russians hope for their new Silk Roads and a new style of trade across the Eurasian heartland backed by a Russian-supported [Eurasian Union](#). To this, key figures in German business and industrial circles, for whom [relations with Russia](#) remain essential, are paying close attention.

After all, Berlin has not shown overwhelming concern for the rest of the crisis-ridden EU (three recessions in five years). Via a much-despised troika -- the European Central Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the European Commission -- Berlin is, for all practical purposes, already at the helm of Europe, thriving, and looking east for more.

Three months ago, German chancellor Angela Merkel [visited Beijing](#). Hardly featured in the news was the political acceleration of a potentially groundbreaking project: an uninterrupted high-speed rail connection between Beijing and Berlin. When finally built, it will prove a transportation and trade magnet for dozens of nations along its route from Asia to Europe. Passing through Moscow, it could become the ultimate Silk Road integrator for Europe and perhaps the ultimate nightmare for Washington.

### **“Losing” Russia**

In a blaze of media attention, the recent NATO summit in Wales yielded only a modest “rapid reaction force” for deployment in any future Ukraine-like situations.

Meanwhile, the expanding Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a possible Asian counterpart to NATO, met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. In Washington and Western Europe essentially no one noticed. They should have. There, China, Russia, and four Central Asian “stans” [agreed](#) to add an impressive set of new members: India, Pakistan, and Iran. The implications

could be far-reaching. After all, India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is now on the brink of [its own version](#) of Silk Road mania. Behind it lies the possibility of a “Chindia” [economic rapprochement](#), which could change the Eurasian geopolitical map. At the same time, Iran is also being woven into the “Chindia” fold.

So the SCO is slowly but surely shaping up as the most important international organization in Asia. It’s already clear that one of its key long-term objectives will be to stop trading in U.S. dollars, while advancing the use of the petroyuan and [petroruble](#) in the energy trade. The U.S., of course, will never be welcomed into the organization.

All of this lies in the future, however. In the present, the Kremlin keeps signaling that it once again wants to start talking with Washington, while Beijing has never wanted to stop. Yet the Obama administration remains myopically embedded in its own version of a zero-sum game, relying on its technological and military might to maintain an advantageous position in Eurasia. Beijing, however, has access to markets and loads of cash, while Moscow has loads of energy. Triangular cooperation between Washington, Beijing, and Moscow would undoubtedly be -- as the Chinese would say -- a win-win-win game, but don’t hold your breath.

Instead, expect China and Russia to deepen their strategic partnership, while pulling in other Eurasian regional powers. Beijing has bet the farm that the U.S./NATO confrontation with Russia over Ukraine will leave Vladimir Putin turning east. At the same time, Moscow is carefully calibrating what its ongoing reorientation toward such an economic powerhouse will mean. Someday, it’s possible that voices of sanity in Washington will be wondering aloud how the U.S. “lost” Russia to China.

In the meantime, think of China as a magnet for a new world order in a future Eurasian century. The same integration process Russia is facing, for instance, seems increasingly to [apply](#) to India and other Eurasian



nations, and possibly sooner or later to a neutral Germany as well. In the endgame of such a process, the U.S. might find itself progressively squeezed out of Eurasia, with the BMB emerging as a game-changer. Place your bets soon. They' ll be called in by 2025.

*Pepe Escobar is the roving correspondent for [Asia Times/Hong Kong](#), an analyst for RT, and a [TomDispatch regular](#). His new book, Empire of Chaos, will be published in November by Nimble Books. Follow him on [Facebook](#).*

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## [Kevin Taylor Salmon people pray for sacred fish to return to historic home](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 05 October 2014 15:08

Northwest tribes urge US and Canada to revise Columbia River Treaty to allow safe passage for salmon crossing dams

October 5, 2014 5:00AM ET

by [Kevin Taylor Aljazeera](#)

KETTLE FALLS, Wash. — Along a rocky shore where his ancestors gathered for

millennia at once thundering but now flooded rapids, Richard Armstrong stepped into the Columbia River to pray.

With eyes closed, Armstrong, a member of the [Okanagan Nation Alliance](#), pounded a rhythm on a small hide drum and prayed and sang in a Salish-language dialect. His prayers urged the U.S. and Canada to renegotiate the Columbia River Treaty, which has cut salmon off from this stretch of water.

For thousands of years, Native people had gathered at these [falls](#) to spear and net the [leaping fish](#). Armstrong is a descendant of the last salmon chief who regulated the bustling fishery.

But since 1942, adult chinook and sockeye salmon returning from the ocean have been blockaded more than 100 miles downstream by [Grand Coulee Dam](#), a high-head hydropower dam with a massive concrete face 551 feet high. It was built with no provision for fish passage.



Since 1942 the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in Washington has blocked adult chinook and sockeye salmon from returning from the ocean. Stephen Saks Photography / Alamy

The Columbia River Treaty, which was negotiated in the 1950s and signed in 1964, aimed to generate hydropower and protect cities like Portland, Oregon, from flooding by building five high-head hydropower dams. But they didn't provide for fish passage, and small bands of Native people in the U.S. and Canada weren't consulted, though they stood to lose a fishery central to their nutrition, economy, religion and culture. Some 2,300 settlers as well as Indians were flooded out of fertile valleys in Canada that now fill and empty like bathtubs by dams built to regulate downstream river flow and light distant cities.

The salmon have been absent here for 72 years — for roughly three human and 15 salmon generations. Is that long enough to seem unchangeable?

“While we've protected Portland from flooding, people forget we've permanently flooded upriver,” said D.R. Michel, executive director of the [Upper Columbia United](#)

[Tribes](#) (UCUT), a coalition of Northwest tribes. Michel said the reservoirs, which can fluctuate up to 40 feet at a time, have permanently displaced thousands of people,

“We’ve swung so far to the other side, where everything is about bottom lines and profit. It’s just a short-sighted way of looking at things,” he added.

“As a society, we really need to talk about the cost of things,” said John Sirois, a former chairman of the [Colville Confederated Tribes](#) who now works for UCUT. “Who’s really being hurt so I can have cheap power and be protected from floods?”

One might think salmon don’t have a prayer to hurdle Grand Coulee or the additional high-head dams (with no fish ladders) that were built after it.

And yet it’s been a summer of prayer up and down the river. In August alone, there were 17 interfaith vigils conducted between Astoria, Oregon, where the Columbia is nine miles wide at its mouth, to Canal Flats, British Columbia, some 1,243 river miles away in the Canadian Rockies, where it bubbles out of the ground.

A common hope expressed at the vigils was that the U.S. and Canada will modify the Columbia River Treaty by adding ecosystem-based function. This is a fancy way to say that dams should be re-engineered for salmon to pass and that water levels be managed to help with migration and to preserve the nests, known as redds, that salmon build in gravelly shallows.

The first chance either party could terminate or change the treaty is in [2024](#), with 10 years’ notice. That 10 years began this month, and since December, both the Bonneville Power Administration and Corps of Engineers and the British Columbia provincial government — the U.S. and Canadian entities involved — have endorsed adding ecosystem-based function. The endorsements came with a variety of caveats — mainly getting salmon past Grand Coulee Dam, which is often thought to be impossible or prohibitively expensive.

“I was a bit surprised,” said Matt Wynne, vice chairman of the Spokane Tribe and current chair of UCUT. But, he said, tribes had begun talking to the Corps of Engineers and BPA about returning salmon stocks as early as 2008.

Wynne, Michel and others say tribes are not relying solely on an opaque, decade-long process through the treaty, but also seek leverage via the federal Power Act and provisions of individual dam relicensing agreements.

When it came to the treaty, Wynne said the corps and BPA suggested the 15 river tribes in the far-flung Columbia River Basin, which reaches from the Canadian Rockies to Nevada via the tributary Snake River, first make a unified statement. It may have seemed reasonable enough, but Wynne and others knew how often the disparate tribes disagreed. To him, it seemed a cynical ploy to pin failure on the tribes.

This time, Wynne said, “The tribes said we’ve got to protect the river, we’ve got to

protect the resource and we came up with a common views [document](#).”

‘Salmon really is one of our sacraments. It goes far deeper than just property or a resource.’

John Sirois

former chairman, Colville Confederated Tribes

Into these undercurrents of politics and history is where Armstrong waded out to pray in what has, since 1942, become known as the Ceremony of Tears. But the mood was different this summer. Rows of people lining the shore behind Armstrong were invited to pick up river rocks off the beach and knock them together, making their own private prayer.

Over the stilled water of Lake Roosevelt, the 165-mile-long reservoir behind Grand Coulee Dam, stretching nearly to Canada, came a staccato sound.

Tok! Tok! Tok!

The steady clacking of rocks in dozens of hands, brown and white, beat time along with small drums. When Armstrong ended his prayer, people were invited to throw the rocks into the water so that their prayers might be heard too.

The clacking, it was said, is the sound salmon hear when a free-running river is sluicing at high flood, knocking rocks along the river bottom.

Despite their blocked passages, the salmon still come — or at least they try to. About 150 miles downriver from the ceremony, at Chief Joseph Dam, constructed below Grand Coulee in 1961, native chinook salmon this summer bumped nose-first into its concrete face.

Randy Friedlander, a tribal member and fisheries biologist for the Colville Confederated Tribes, said it’s almost tragic to watch successive generations of wild chinook batter themselves against this unjumpable obstacle.

“There are still native salmon hitting the face of Chief Joe every year. They’re saying, ‘When are we going to get by this thing?’” Friedlander said.

Though building a fish ladder high as a skyscraper at Grand Coulee appears daunting, Friedlander said engineering solutions are probably simpler than political solutions.

The venerable practice of trap and haul is already an option. For decades, salmon have been netted and transferred into trucks or barges to get around dams. It’s low-tech but cheap.

More complicated systems known as [floating surface collectors](#), or gulpers, have been constructed to get downstream-migrating juvenile salmon past the dams. The

tiny smolts are guided through a complicated network of raceways and tanks with the aid of cranes and cable-guided barges.

While gulpers have dramatically reduced smolt mortality, they can cost tens of millions of dollars.

Late this summer, fish cannons have made bemused headlines from [Gizmodo](#) to [NPR](#). But Vince Bryan III, CEO at Whooshh, said his company's [innovative solution](#) to fish passage is gentle. The "cannons" are flexible tubes originally designed to move freshly picked fruit without bruising. The tubes work almost like pneumatic tubes in old office buildings, with a slight lowering of pressure in front of an object to create steady movement.

"Clearly the fish needed help, and we had this technology we thought was pretty good at moving stuff very gently," Bryan said. As Whooshh has gotten more involved with testing and redesigning its tubes to handle live fish, salmon appreciation has deepened as well.

"The Native nations and the First Nations of Canada, certainly what you hear from them is that salmon is a spiritual thing. It's fundamental to their culture. I think we as humankind have to be looking at it the same way," Bryan said.

Right now, a projected record return of 1.6 million fall chinook salmon are swimming up the Columbia and Snake rivers. Despite billions of dollars spent on fish passage and endangered species protection, Bryan said that's only 10 percent of the historical population.

Friedlander, the Colville Tribes biologist, said he is confident that salmon, which turn red when about to spawn, will spread like scarlet fire into the thousands of miles of tributary habitat and reclaim their place. They will overcome slackwater reservoirs, silt at gravel nesting sites and toxic heavy metals from smelters. "Salmon seem to be very determined," he said.

Still, he conducts a private ritual for this outcome.

When he catches some of the first chinook to bump against Chief Joseph Dam each summer, he drives the 40-odd miles to the upriver side of Grand Coulee, where he cleans the fish and returns their remains to the stretch of river that was once their home.

"An elder explained to me one time we have to respect the salmon and take care of it, return it back to the river where it came from rather than throwing it away," Friedlander said.

"Salmon really is one of our sacraments," said Sirois, the former Colville chairman. "It goes far deeper than just property or a resource."

546 readings

[New Global Declaration](#)  
[“Insufficient” to Tackle](#)  
[Deforestation](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 05 October 2014 15:14

By Carey L. Bironi



**The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has the world's second-largest tropical forest landscape. Here, slash and burn agriculture and charcoal are the main causes of greenhouse gases emissions. Credit: Taylor Toeka Kakala/IPS**

**WASHINGTON, Oct 3 2014 (IPS)** - Heads of state, civil society groups and the leaders of some of the world's largest companies this week urged their peers to sign on to a landmark new global agreement aimed at halting deforestation by 2030, even as others are warning the accord is too lax.

The [New York Declaration on Forests](#) was signed last week by some 150 parties at a United Nations-organised climate summit. Outlining pledges and goals for both the public and private sectors, for the first time the declaration set a global "deadline" for deforestation: to "At least halve the rate of loss of natural forest globally by 2020 and strive to end natural forest loss by 2030."

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**“The 2030 timeline would allow deforestation to continue for a decade and a half. By then the declaration could be self-fulfilling, as there might not be much forest left to save.” --  
Susanne Breitkopf of Greenpeace**

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The declaration offered one of the most concrete outcomes of the U.N. summit, and underscored new global interest in the climate-related potential of conserving the world's forest cover. The agreement's text estimates that achieving the goals set out in the accord could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 8.8 billion tonnes per year by

2030.

Yet since the agreement's unveiling, some groups have voiced stark concerns, particularly around the declaration's extended timeline and weak enforcement mechanisms. Indeed, the agreement is legally binding on neither states nor companies.

"The 2030 timeline would allow deforestation to continue for a decade and a half. By then the declaration could be self-fulfilling, as there might not be much forest left to save," Susanne Breitkopf, a senior political advisor with Greenpeace, told IPS.

"Equally, private companies shouldn't be allowed to continue deforesting and sourcing from deforestation until 2020 – they should stop destructive practices and human rights violations immediately."

On Wednesday, a Nigerian development group similarly called into question the declaration's timeframe.

"The declaration seems to make those who have the capacities for massive destruction of community forests to think that they have up to 2020 to continue destruction unchecked, and unencumbered. This is dangerous," the Rainforest Resource and Development Centre said in a statement.

"Some of these companies have the capabilities to wipe out forests the size of Cross River State of Nigeria in one year. Collectively, they have the capacity to wipe out valuable community forest areas up to the size of India in a few years."

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Instead, the centre says the New York Agreement should have put in place "definite sanctions" starting this year.

### **Powerful alliance**

The declaration was initially endorsed by 32 national governments, though Brazil remains a notable holdout. In addition to halting deforestation, the agreement aims to restore some 350 million hectares of degraded lands by 2030.

The accord was also formally backed by 40 multinational companies and financial firms, and seeks to "help meet" private-sector goals of halting deforestation linked to commodities by the end of the decade. Separately, the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF), consisting of 400 large companies with global sales of three trillion dollars, has pledged to remove deforestation from its supply chains by 2020.

"A powerful alliance of business, governments and civil society has come together to sign the New York Declaration to stop the destruction of natural forests and to restore those that have been degraded," Helen Clark, the administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, said in a [video](#) posted Tuesday.

"To deliver on the declaration, companies and communities are asking governments to show strong leadership in reaching a new climate agreement in Paris next year. So we invite all stakeholders to join us in this effort by signing on to the New York Declaration on Forests."



Clark was joined in this call by the leaders of Norway and Liberia, as well the CEOs of the consumer goods giant Unilever, the palm oil supplier Golden Agri Resources and others. Major civil society voices, including the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) and World Resources Institute (WRI), both U.S.-based organisations, likewise supported the declaration.

WRI, a prominent think tank, has called the declaration “the clearest statement to date by world leaders that forests can be a major force in tackling the climate challenge.” Further, the institute estimates that a restoration of just 150 million hectares of degraded lands could help to feed an additional 200 million people by 2030.

According to U.N. statistics, some 13 million hectares of forest are disappearing, on average, each year. While the importance of those forests is currently receiving new interest in terms of slowing global climate change, forest destruction also has major impact on the economies and survival of local communities.

In many places, illegal forest clearing is closely related to poor governance and corruption. Yet the fact remains that much of today’s deforestation is fuelled by large-scale agricultural production to supply commodities to other countries.

According to [findings](#) published last month by Forest Trends, a watchdog group here, at least half of global deforestation is taking place illegally and in support of commercial agriculture – particularly to supply overseas markets. Overall, some 40 percent of all globally traded palm oil and 14 percent of all beef likely comes from illegally cleared lands, Forest Trends estimates.

### **Years of inaction**

As part of the New York Declaration, five European countries pledged to develop new procurement policies aimed at cutting down on the consumption of products linked to deforestation. In addition, the declaration was backed by a second agreement between three of the world’s largest palm oil companies to help protect forests in Indonesia, a major producer.

“We find it very encouraging that the biggest players in the palm oil industry globally are finally acknowledging their responsibility for the tremendous destruction palm oil expansion has and is causing,” Laurel Sutherland, a communications strategist at the Rainforest Action Network, an advocacy group that is not planning to endorse the New York Declaration, told IPS.

“But so much time has been lost due to inaction that we are now at a point where a 2030 voluntary deadline is simply not sufficient to address the urgency of the problem. The fact is, deforestation rates in Indonesia are continuing to rise, conflicts between companies and communities are escalating, and reports of labour abuses are increasing.”

Greenpeace, too, has publicly declined to back the New York Declaration. The group’s Breitkopf points out that the agreement is weaker than certain existing deforestation accords, and thus could even dampen forward momentum.

“Most governments long ago signed up to the Convention on Biological Diversity,” she says, referring to the 1992 treaty. “That agreement obliges them to halt biodiversity loss and manage forests sustainably by 2020. Now, the New York Declaration threatens to undermine previous commitments.”

Edited by Kitty Stapp

The writer can be reached at [cbiron@ips.org](mailto:cbiron@ips.org)

740 readings

[Arms Trade Treaty Gains Momentum with 50th Ratification](#)



[Peace News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 02 October 2014 04:40

By [Joel Jaeger](#)



State parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) are obligated under international law to assess their exports of conventional weapons to determine whether there is a danger that they will be used to fuel conflict. Credit: Karlos Zurutuza/IPS

UNITED NATIONS, Sep 28 2014 (IPS) - With state support moving at an unprecedented pace, the Arms Trade Treaty will enter into force on Dec. 24, 2014, only 18 months after it was opened for signature.

Eight states – Argentina, the Bahamas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Saint Lucia, Portugal, Senegal and Uruguay – ratified the [Arms Trade Treaty](#) (ATT) at a special event at the United Nations this past Thursday, Sep. 25, pushing the number of states parties up to 53.

As per article 22 of the treaty, the ATT comes into force as a part of international law 90 days after the 50<sup>th</sup> instrument of ratification is deposited.

We are dealing with an instrument that introduces humanitarian considerations into an area that has traditionally been couched in the language of national defence and security, as well as secrecy." -- Paul Holtom, head of the peace, reconciliation and

security team at Coventry University's Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations

According to a statement by the [Control Arms coalition](#), "The ATT is one of the fastest arms agreements to move toward entry into force."

The speed at which the treaty received 50 ratifications "shows tremendous momentum for the ATT and a lot of significant political commitment and will," said Paul Holtom, head of the peace, reconciliation and security team at Coventry University's Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations.

"The challenge now is to translate the political will into action, both in terms of ensuring that States Parties are able to fulfil – and are fulfilling – their obligations under the Treaty," Holtom told IPS in an email.

So what are the requirements under the ATT?

ATT states parties are obligated under international law to assess their exports of conventional weapons to determine whether there is a danger that they will be used to fuel conflict.

Article 6(3) of the treaty forbids states from authorising transfers if they have the knowledge that the arms would be used in the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. Article 7 prohibits transfers if there is an overriding risk of the weapons being used to undermine peace and security or commit a serious violation of international humanitarian or human rights law.

In addition, states parties are required to take a number of measures to prevent diversion of weapons to the illicit market and produce [annual reports](#) of their imports and exports of conventional arms.

The treaty applies to eight categories of conventional arms, ranging from battle tanks to small arms and light weapons.

The successful entry into force of the ATT will be a big win for arms control campaigners and NGOs, who have been fighting for the regulation of the arms trade for more than a decade.

When Control Arms launched a global campaign in 2003, "Mali, Costa Rica and Cambodia were the only three governments who would publically say that they supported talk of the idea of an arms trade treaty," Anna MacDonald, director of the Control Arms secretariat, told IPS.

NGO supporters of the treaty often brought up the fact that the global trade in bananas was more regulated than the trade in weapons.

The organisations in the Control Arms coalition supported the ATT process through "a mix of campaigning, advocacy, pressure on governments" and "proving technical expertise on what actually could be done, how a treaty could look, [and] what

provisions needed to be in it,” MacDonald said.

All of the legwork has paid off, as the treaty will become operational far earlier than many expected.

Today’s 53<sup>rd</sup> ratification is just the start. So far, 121 countries have signed the treaty, and 154 voted in favour of its [adoption](#) in April 2013 in the General Assembly.

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There’s no reason why we would not expect all of those who voted in favour to sign and ultimately to ratify the treaty,” said MacDonald.

Sceptics contend that the worst human rights abusers will not agree to the treaty. For example, Syria was one of three states that voted against the ATT’s adoption in the General Assembly.

However, MacDonald believes that once enough countries join the ATT, the holdouts will face an enormous amount of political pressure to comply as well.

With a sufficient number of states parties, the ATT will “establish a new global standard for arms transfers, which makes it politically very difficult for even countries that have not signed it to ignore its provisions,” she told IPS.

MacDonald cited the Ottawa Convention, which banned anti-personnel landmines, as an example.

Many of the world’s biggest landmine users and exporters have not joined the Ottawa convention, but the use of landmines has fallen anyway because of the political stigma that developed.

Much work remains to be done in the months before Dec. 24 and in the upcoming years as the ATT system evolves.

States will need to create or update transfer control systems and enforcement mechanisms for regulating exports, imports and brokering as well as minimising diversion, according to Holtom.

“There are a lot of issues to be discussed before the Conference of States Parties and it will take several years before we can really see an impact,” he told IPS. “But we need to now make sure that the ATT can be put into effect and States and other key stakeholders work together towards achieving its object and purpose.”

The first conference of states parties will take place in Mexico in 2015.

Participating countries must provide their first report on arms exports and imports by May 31, 2015 and a report on measures that they have taken to implement the treaty by late 2015, Holtom said.

No matter the challenges to come, the simple fact that arms trade control is on the agenda is quite historic.

“We are dealing with an instrument that introduces humanitarian considerations into an area that has traditionally been couched in the language of national defence and security, as well as secrecy,” said Holtom.

On Thursday, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon claimed, “Today we can look ahead with satisfaction to the date of this historic new Treaty’s entry into force.”

“Now we must work for its efficient implementation and seek its universalisation so that the regulation of armaments – as expressed in the Charter of the United Nations – can become a reality once and for all,” he said in a statement delivered by U.N. High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Angela Kane.

*Edited by* [Kanya D’Almeida](#)

Last Updated on Saturday, 11 October 2014 14:23

498 readings

## [“indefensible attack” on Indigenous rights at UN meeting](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 01 October 2014 19:01

by Jenny Uechi



Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation at Peoples' Climate March, ahead of the UN Climate Summit in New York. Photo by Zack Embree.

First Nations groups are expressing outrage at the Canadian government's stance toward Indigenous rights, expressed at a United Nations forum on Indigenous rights.

"It is deeply concerning...that Canada continues to embarrass itself on the world stage," Assembly of First Nations interim [chief Ghislain Picard](#) said. "These actions are not consistent with our much-needed work toward reconciliation between First Nations and the crown."

The Canadian government posted an official statement earlier this week, criticizing the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome document and [voicing disagreement](#) about Indigenous people's rights around consent, which it said could be misconstrued as a veto.

"Free, prior and informed consent, as it is considered in paragraphs 3 and 20 of the WCIP Outcome Document, could be interpreted as providing a veto to Aboriginal groups and in that regard, cannot be reconciled with Canadian law, as it exists," the government statement said.

"Agreeing to paragraph 3 of the Outcome Document would commit Canada to work to integrate FPIC (free, prior and informed consent) in its processes with respect to implementing legislative or administrative measures affecting Aboriginal peoples. This would run counter to Canada's constitution, and if implemented, would risk fettering Parliamentary supremacy."

The government argued that "Canada's position on this issue is well known" and said "we regret that our concerns were not taken into account." It emphasized that Canada "cannot associate itself" with elements in the document relating to First Nations' consent.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who had earlier snubbed the UN Climate Summit while in New York, also [skipped the two-day long UN Indigenous peoples meeting](#). Environment minister Leona Aglukkaq, however, was in attendance.

In response to Canada's objections over the non-binding document on Indigenous rights, high-profile First Nations groups issued a strongly-worded joint statement condemning the federal government's stance:

Indigenous peoples' organizations and human rights groups are outraged that the federal government used a high level United Nations forum on Indigenous rights as an opportunity to continue its unprincipled attack on the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

On Monday, the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples -- a high level plenary of the UN General Assembly in New York -- adopted a consensus statement reaffirming support for the *UN Declaration*.

Canada was the only member state to raise objections.

Chief Perry Bellegarde, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, said, "The World Conference was an opportunity for all states to reaffirm their commitment to working constructively with Indigenous peoples to uphold fundamental human rights standards. Alone among all the UN members, Canada instead chose to use this forum to make another unprincipled attack on those very standards."

The Outcome Document, the product of many months of negotiations between states and Indigenous representatives prior to the World Conference, calls on member states to take "appropriate measures at the national level, including legislative, policy and administrative measures, to achieve the ends of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*."

The Outcome Document also affirms provisions in the *UN Declaration* that decisions potentially affecting the rights of Indigenous peoples should be undertaken only with their free, prior and informed consent.

After the Outcome Document was adopted, Canada filed a two page statement of objections, saying that it could not commit to uphold provisions in the *UN Declaration* that deal with free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) if these provisions were "interpreted as a veto."

The notion that the *Declaration* could be interpreted as conferring an absolute and unilateral veto power has been repeatedly raised by Canada as a justification for its continued opposition to the *Declaration*. This claim, however, has no basis either in the *UN Declaration* or in the wider body of international law.

Like standards of accommodation and consent set out by the Supreme Court of Canada, FPIC in international law is applied in proportion to the potential for harm to the rights of Indigenous peoples and to the strength of these rights. The word

"veto" does not appear in the *UN Declaration*.

"The right of free, prior and informed consent is crucial to us, as self-determining peoples," said Matthew Coon Come, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees. "The government has never explained what it means by 'veto.' Is a 'veto' absolute? If so, then a 'veto' isn't the same thing as 'consent.'"

In international law, human rights are generally relative and not absolute. The right to free, prior and informed consent in the *UN Declaration* is not absolute.

Grand Chief Ed John, First Nations Summit, said, "In the recent decision recognizing Tsilhqot'in title, the Supreme Court itself rejected Canada's incomprehensible position."

In its unanimous decision recognizing Tsilhqot'in ownership of a large part of their traditional lands, the Supreme Court stated in June, "Governments and individuals proposing to use or exploit land, whether before or after a declaration of Aboriginal title, can avoid a charge of infringement or failure to adequately consult by obtaining the consent of the interested Aboriginal group."

National Chief Ghislain Picard, Assembly of First Nations, said, "Canada keeps insisting that Indigenous peoples don't have a say in development on their lands. This position is not consistent with the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, decisions by its own courts, or the goal of reconciliation."

Regional Chief Stan Beardy, Chiefs of Ontario, said, "Either through the social license to operate, which refers to the level of acceptance or approval that a local community provides to development, or a Notice of Assertions as provided by First Nations in Ontario this past summer, First Nations are already exercising a direct say about development on their lands -- whether Canada objects internationally or not."

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, said, "The Outcome Document speaks directly to the pressing human rights concerns of Indigenous Peoples in Canada such as Indigenous Peoples' participation in consent-based decisions regarding resource development, the need to close the gap in access to government services, and the dire need to address violence against Indigenous women. In light of the game-changing Supreme Court of Canada *Tsilhqot'in Nation* decision, Canada should have embraced the Outcome Document rather than be the only State in the United Nations to invent self-serving reasons to object."

Canada's objection to the World Conference Outcome Document contradicts Canada's 2010 statement of endorsement of the *UN Declaration* in which the government said, "We are now confident that Canada can interpret the principles expressed in the *Declaration* in a manner that is consistent with our Constitution and legal framework."

In contrast, Canada told the UN that FPIC provisions in the *Declaration* "run counter to Canada's constitution" and would "negate" Supreme Court mandated policies on



consultation and accommodation.

"It strains credibility to think Canadian officials could actually believe the ridiculous claims they presented to the United Nations," said Michelle Audette, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada. "This kind of bad faith and dishonesty will only further tarnish Canada's reputation and erode Canada's influence on the world stage."

On 1 May 2008, over 100 scholars and experts in Canadian constitutional and international law signed an Open Letter stating that the *Declaration* was "consistent with the Canadian Constitution and Charter ... Government claims to the contrary do a grave disservice to the cause of human rights and to the promotion of harmonious and cooperative relations."

The Outcome Document adopted by the UN General Assembly also calls for "equal access to high-quality education that recognizes the diversity of the culture of indigenous peoples, as well as health, housing, water, sanitation and other economic and social programmes to improve their well-being." Specific measures are urged for Indigenous people with disabilities and to address HIV/AIDS.

In addition, the Outcome Document calls for "measures which will ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous women in decision making processes at all levels and in all areas," as well as intensified efforts to stop violence against Indigenous women.

- Ad hoc coalition on the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

*Statement endorsed by*

Amnesty International Canada

Assembly of First Nations

Canadian Friends Service Committee

Chiefs of Ontario

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations First Nations Summit

Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)

Indigenous World Association

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

Native Women's Association of Canada

Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs

Last Updated on Saturday, 11 October 2014 14:49

755 readings

## [Apocalypse Now, Iraq Edition : Fighting in Iraq Until Hell Freezes Over](#)

[Peace News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 23 September 2014 14:24

By [Peter Van Buren](#)

I wanted to offer a wry chuckle before we headed into the heavy stuff about Iraq, so I tried to start this article with a suitably ironic formulation. You know, a déjà-vu-all-over-again kinda thing. I even thought about telling you how, in 2011, I contacted a noted author to blurb my book, *We Meant Well: How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People*, and he presciently declined, saying sardonically, “So you're gonna be the one to write the last book on failure in Iraq?”

I couldn't do any of that. As someone who cares deeply about this country, I find it beyond belief that Washington has again plunged into the swamp of the Sunni-Shia mess in Iraq. A young soldier now deployed as one of the 1,600 non-boots-on-the-ground there might have been eight years old when the 2003 invasion took place. He probably had to ask his dad about it. After all, less than three years ago, when dad finally came home with his head “[held high](#),” President Obama [assured](#) Americans that “we’re leaving behind a sovereign, stable and self-reliant Iraq.” So what happened in the blink of an eye?

### **The Sons of Iraq**

Sometimes, when I turn on the TV these days, the sense of seeing once again places in Iraq I'd been overwhelms me. After 22 years as a diplomat with the Department of State, I spent 12 long months in Iraq in 2009-2010 as part of the American occupation. My role was to lead two teams in “[reconstructing](#)” the nation. In practice, that meant paying for schools that would never be completed, setting up pastry shops on streets without water or electricity, and conducting endless propaganda events on Washington-generated themes of the week (“small business,” “women's empowerment,” “democracy building.”)

We even organized awkward soccer matches, where American taxpayer money was used to coerce reluctant Sunni teams into facing off against hesitant Shia ones in hopes that, somehow, the chaos created by the American invasion could be ameliorated on the playing field. In an afternoon, we definitively failed to reconcile

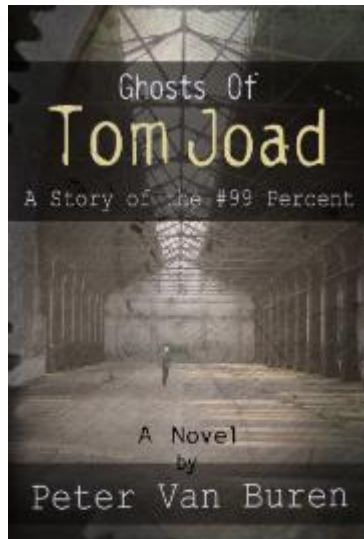
the millennium-old Sunni-Shia divide we had sparked into ethnic-cleansing-style life in 2003-2004, even if the score was carefully stage managed into a tie by the 82nd Airborne soldiers with whom I worked.

In 2006, the U.S. brokered the ascension to power of Prime Minister [Nouri al-Maliki](#), a Shia politician handpicked to unite Iraq. A bright, shining lie of a plan soon followed. Applying vast amounts of money, Washington's emissaries created the [Sahwa, or Sons of Iraq](#), a loose grouping of Sunnis anointed as "moderates" who agreed to temporarily stop killing in return for a promised place at the table in the New(er) Iraq. The "political space" for this was to be created by a massive escalation of the American military effort, which gained a particularly marketable name: the [surge](#).

I was charged with meeting the [Sahwa leaders](#) in my area. My job back then was to try to persuade them to stay on board just a little longer, even as they came to realize that they'd been had. Maliki's Shia government in Baghdad, which was already ignoring American entreaties to be inclusive, was hell-bent on ensuring that there would be no Sunni "sons" in its Iraq.

False alliances and double-crosses were not unfamiliar to the Sunni warlords I engaged with. Often, our talk -- over endless tiny glasses of sweet, sweet tea stirred with white-hot metal spoons -- shifted from the Shia and the Americans to their great-grandfathers' struggle against the British. Revenge unfolds over generations, they assured me, and memories are long in the Middle East, they warned.

When I left in 2010, the year before the American military finally departed, the [truth](#) on the ground should have been clear enough to anyone with the vision to take it in. Iraq had already been tacitly divided into feuding state-lets controlled by Sunnis, Shias, and Kurds. The Baghdad government had turned into a typical, gleeful third-world kleptocracy fueled by American money, but with a particularly nasty twist: they were also a group of autocrats dedicated to persecuting, marginalizing, degrading, and perhaps one day destroying the country's Sunni minority.



## Buy the book

U.S. influence was fading fast, leaving the State Department, a small military contingent, various spooks, and contractors hidden behind the walls of the billion-dollar embassy (the [largest](#) in the world!) that had been built in a [moment of imperial hubris](#). The foreign power with the most influence over events was by then [Iran](#), the country the Bush administration had once been determined to take down alongside Saddam Hussein as part of the Axis of Evil.

### The Grandsons of Iraq

The staggering costs of all this -- [\\$25 billion](#) to train the Iraqi Army, [\\$60 billion](#) for the reconstruction-that-wasn't, [\\$2 trillion](#) for the overall war, almost [4,500](#) Americans dead and more than 32,000 wounded, and an Iraqi death toll of more than [190,000](#) (though some estimates go as [high as a million](#)) -- can now be measured against the results. The nine-year attempt to create an American client state in Iraq failed, tragically and completely. The proof of that is on today's front pages.

According to the crudest possible calculation, we spent blood and got no oil. Instead, America's war of terror resulted in the dissolution of a Middle Eastern post-[Cold War](#) stasis that, curiously enough, had been held together by Iraq's previous autocratic ruler Saddam Hussein. We released a hornet's nest of Islamic fervor, sectarianism, fundamentalism, and pan-nationalism. Islamic terror groups grew [stronger](#) and more [diffuse](#) by the year. That horrible lightning over the Middle East that's left American foreign policy in such an ugly glare will last into our grandchildren's days. There should have been so many futures. Now, there will be so few as the dead accumulate in the ruins of our hubris. That is all that we won.

Under a new president, elected in 2008 in part on his promise to end American military involvement in Iraq, Washington's strategy morphed into the more media-palatable mantra of "no boots on the ground." Instead, backed by aggressive intel and the "surgical" application of drone strikes and other kinds of air power, U.S. covert ops were to link up with the "moderate" elements in Islamic governments or among the rebels opposing them -- depending on whether Washington was opting to

support a thug government or thug fighters.

The results? Chaos in Libya, highlighted by the [flow](#) of advanced weaponry from the arsenals of the dead autocrat Muammar Gaddafi across the Middle East and significant parts of Africa, chaos in Yemen, chaos in Syria, chaos in Somalia, chaos in Kenya, chaos in [South Sudan](#), and, of course, chaos in Iraq.

And then came the Islamic State (IS) and the new “caliphate,” the [child](#) born of a neglectful occupation and an autocratic Shia government out to put the Sunnis in their place once and for all. And suddenly we were heading back into Iraq. What, in August 2014, was initially promoted as a limited humanitarian effort to save the [Yazidis](#), a small religious sect that no one in Washington or anywhere else in this country had previously heard of, quickly morphed into those 1,600 American troops back on the ground in Iraq and American planes in the skies from Kurdistan in the north to [south of Baghdad](#). The Yazidis were either abandoned, or saved, or just not needed anymore. Who knows and who, by then, cared? They had, after all, served their purpose handsomely as the *casus belli* of this war. Their agony at least had a horrific reality, unlike the supposed attack in the [Gulf of Tonkin](#) that propelled a widening war in Vietnam in 1964 or the nonexistent Iraqi [WMDs](#) that were the excuse for the invasion of 2003.

The newest Iraq war features Special Operations “trainers,” air strikes against IS fighters using American weapons [abandoned](#) by the Iraqi Army (now evidently to be [resupplied](#) by Washington), U.S. aircraft taking to the skies from [inside Iraq](#) as well as a carrier in the Persian Gulf and possibly elsewhere, and an air war across the border [into Syria](#).

### **It Takes a Lot of Turning Points To Go In a Circle**

The [truth](#) on the ground these days is tragically familiar: an Iraq even more divided into feuding state-lets; a Baghdad government kleptocracy about to be reinvigorated by free-flowing American money; and a new Shia prime minister being issued the same 2003-2011 to-do list by Washington: mollify the Sunnis, unify Iraq, and make it snappy. The State Department still stays hidden behind the walls of that billion-dollar embassy. More money will be spent to train the [collapsed](#) Iraqi military. Iran [remains](#) the foreign power with the most influence over events.

One odd difference should be noted, however: in the last Iraq war, the Iranians sponsored and directed attacks by Shia militias against American occupation forces (and me); now, its special operatives and combat advisors fight side-by-side with those [same Shia militias](#) under the cover of American air power. You want real boots on the ground? Iranian forces are already there. It’s certainly an example of how politics makes [strange bedfellows](#), but also of what happens when you assemble your “strategy” on the run.

Obama hardly can be blamed for all of this, but he’s done his part to make it worse -- and worse it will surely get as his administration once again assumes ownership of the Sunni-Shia fight. The “new” unity plan that will fail follows the pattern of the one that did fail in 2007: use American military force to create a political space for

“reconciliation” between once-burned, twice-shy Sunnis and a compromise Shia government that American money tries to [nudge](#) into an agreement against Iran's wishes. Perhaps whatever new Sunni organization is pasted together, however briefly, by American representatives should be called the Grandsons of Iraq.

Just to add to the general eeriness factor, the key people in charge of putting Washington's plans into effect are distinctly familiar faces. [Brett McGurk](#), who served in [key Iraq policy positions](#) throughout the Bush and Obama administrations, is again the [point man](#) as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Iraq and Iran. McGurk was once called the “[Maliki whisperer](#)” for his closeness to the former prime minister. The current American [ambassador](#), Robert Stephen Beecroft, was deputy chief of mission, the number two at the Baghdad embassy, back in 2011. Diplomatically, another *faux* coalition of the (remarkably un)willing is being assembled. And the [pundits](#) demanding war in a feverish hysteria in Washington are all familiar names, mostly leftovers from the glory days of the 2003 invasion.

Lloyd Austin, the [general](#) overseeing America's new military effort, oversaw the 2011 retreat. General [John Allen](#), brought out of military retirement to coordinate the new war in the region -- he had recently been a civilian advisor to Secretary of State John [Kerry](#) -- was deputy commander in Iraq's Anbar province during the surge. Also on the U.S. side, the mercenary [security contractors](#) are [back](#), even as President Obama [cites](#), without a hint of irony, the ancient 2002 congressional authorization to invade Iraq he [opposed](#) as candidate Obama as one of his legal justifications for this year's war. The Iranians, too, have the same military commander on the ground in Iraq, [Qassem Suleimani](#), the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps's Quds Force. Small world. [Suleimani](#) also helps direct Hezbollah operations inside Syria.

Even the aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf launching air strikes, the USS *George H.W. Bush*, is fittingly named after the president who first got us deep into Iraq almost a quarter century ago. Just consider that for a moment: we have been in Iraq so long that we now have an aircraft carrier named after the president who launched the adventure.

On a [36-month schedule](#) for “destroying” ISIS, the president is already ceding his war to the next president, as was done to him by George W. Bush. That next president may well be Hillary Clinton, who was secretary of state as Iraq War 2.0 sputtered to its conclusion. Notably, it was her husband whose administration kept the original Iraq War of 1990-1991 alive via no-fly zones and sanctions. Call that a pedigree of sorts when it comes to fighting in Iraq until hell freezes over.

If there is a summary lesson here, perhaps it's that there is evidently no hole that can't be dug deeper. How could it be more obvious, after more than two decades of [empty declarations](#) of victory in Iraq, that genuine "success," however defined, is impossible? The only way to win is not to play. Otherwise, you're just a sucker at the geopolitical equivalent of a carnival ringtoss game with a fist full of quarters to trade for a cheap stuffed animal.

**Apocalypse Then -- And Now**

America's wars in the Middle East exist in a hallucinatory space where reality is of little import, so if you think you heard all this before, between 2003 and 2010, you did. But for those of us of a certain age, the echoes go back much further. I recently joined a discussion on [Dutch television](#) where former Republican Congressman [Pete Hoekstra](#) made a telling slip of the tongue. As we spoke about ISIS, Hoekstra insisted that the U.S. needed to deny them "sanctuary in Cambodia." He quickly corrected himself to say "Syria," but the point was made.

We've been here before, as the failures of American policy and strategy in Vietnam metastasized into war in Cambodia and Laos to deny sanctuary to North Vietnamese forces. As with ISIS, we were told that they were barbarians who sought to impose an evil philosophy across an entire region. They, too, famously needed to be fought "over there" to prevent them from attacking us here. We didn't say "the Homeland" back then, but you get the picture.

As the similarities with Vietnam are telling, so is the difference. When the reality of America's failure in Vietnam finally became so clear that there was no one left to lie to, America's war there ended and the troops came home. They never went back. America is now fighting the Iraq War for the third time, somehow madly expecting different results, while guaranteeing only failure. To paraphrase a young John Kerry, himself back from [Vietnam](#), who'll be the last to die for that endless mistake? It seems as if it will be many years before we know.

*Peter Van Buren blew the whistle on State Department waste and mismanagement during the Iraqi reconstruction in his first book, [We Meant Well: How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People](#). A Tom Dispatch regular, he writes about current events at his blog, [We Meant Well](#). His latest book is [Ghosts of Tom Joad: A Story of the #99Percent](#).*

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Last Updated on Saturday, 11 October 2014 14:59

617 readings

[Why has nothing been done about the 67 Conservative MPs who were involved in the fraudulent in-and-out scheme in the 2006 election](#)



## [Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 19 November 2014 12:28

By Joan Russow, Global Compliance Research Project

Why has nothing been done about the 67 Conservative MPs who were involved in the fraudulent in-and-out scheme in the 2006 election. The scheme transferred the extra 1.3 million dollars that had been raised federally to 67 Ridings and asking them to transfer the funds back to be spent nationally but requiring the MPs to declare that the funds were spent locally. In August 2008, the Parliamentary Committee on Ethics and Access to information was investigating this scheme.

The Conservative Party advised its 67 MPs not to appear. Only two of the 67 MPs did appear; one who had not been elected and the other was an elected MP who declared that this scheme was a creative funding one. Subsequently, subpoenas were issued and the Conservative leadership again advised the MPs not to appear. Harper then declared that Parliament was dysfunctional and asked the Governor General to dissolve parliament and call an election.

1892 readings

## [Conservatives Ignore Subpoenas to appear before Parliamentary Ethics committee](#)

### [Justice News](#)



Thursday, 14 August 2008 11:37



August 14 2008

## **Conservatives Ignore Subpoenas to appear before Parliamentary Ethics Committee**

**PEJ News- Joan Russow** -“ Global Compliance Research Project - August 11-14 2008 - Commentary on Ethics Committee deliberations. The minority Conservative government is being investigated by Elections Canada, for election funding irregularities. Elections Canada claims that federal Conservatives contravened the Elections Act by an-in-and-out money transfer scheme; Elections Canada estimates that \$1.3-million for national advertising was passed through the accounts of at least 67 local candidates in the 2006 election campaign. On August 11-14, Parliamentary Ethics Committee heard witnesses revealing Conservative Party's funding scheme.

**The Conservative Sponsorship Nemesis: Plumping up election expenses to increase rebates, using false spending estimates and potential rebates to secure advance private loans, ignoring Parliamentary committee subpoenas, subsidizing high profile international ad agency... The Conservatives won the last election by defrauding Elections Canada and Canadian citizens.**

**For the 2006 election the Conservative Party funded national ads through RETAIL MEDIA - a subsidiary of WPP whose clients below can be seen at <http://www.wpp.com/wpp/companies/>**

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

During the 2006 election, the Federal Conservative Party transferred funds to individual candidates who immediately returned the funds to the central office. Under the Elections Act, each candidate has a limited amount of money that can be spent on the election, and each candidate that receives over 10% of the vote is eligible for a rebate, from Elections Canada, for 60% of the election expenses.

The scheme involved the money that was transferred from the Central Party to the local candidates to be returned within 24 hours to the Central Party. This money was then registered as an expense by the local candidates, thus plumping up each candidate's expenses and, in the event that the candidate received over 15% of the vote, the candidate would receive an inflated amount of rebate.

On August 11, the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics met to examine " the activities during the 2006 election of the Conservative Party of Canada, in relation to certain election campaign expenses and ethical standards of public office holders". The Conservative members of the Committee continually interrupted the proceedings with a series of unjustified "points of order, demonstrating little respect for the Chair, and interrupted and insulted witnesses. At one point, one of the Conservative members questioned the integrity of a witness. The witness, who was not even one of the 67 candidates cited in the investigation, had testified that the "in-and-out" scheme in his riding involved \$14,000, and that he had received a rebate of \$8000. The Conservative member of the Committee essentially accused the witness of lying, and claimed that the witness had not received the required 15% of the vote and had thus not been eligible for the rebate. It was subsequently pointed out that the witness had received over 15% and the Conservative member was obliged to apologize.

### **CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES OR OFFICIAL AGENTS IGNORE SUBPOENA**

On August 13, Paul Szabo, the Chair of the Parliamentary Ethics Committee reported on the fact that several Conservative Candidates and their agents indicated that they would not appear, and as a result the Chair issued subpoenas on August 1st and the subpoenas were served on August 6. In several cases the subpoenas were ignored. The financial agent of the Hon. Josee Verner indicated that he had been told by the Conservative Party not to appear. He was subsequently served with a subpoena on August 6, and then indicated that he would not be able to appear during the week of August 10.

Pat Martin, from the NDP, indicated that there had to be consequences for the failure to appear after being subpoenaed. He stated that it is an important issue to be discussed at the next session. He pointed out that only 3 of the 26 members who were subpoenaed had actually appeared.

**CONSERVATIVE USED FUTURE POTENTIAL REBATE AS COLLATERAL FOR PRIVATE LOAN** At the August 13 session, Steve Halicki referred to the scheme as being a creative way of funding. About \$50,000 had been transferred into his riding account and then returned. His creative funding resulted in his using the potential \$30,000 rebate from Elections Canada to secure a private loan. This rebate of 60% of his electoral expenses was conditional, of course, on his receiving 10% of the vote. , Thus with this "creative way of funding" resulting in plumped- up election expenses he was able to borrow money from a private lender.

### **CONSERVATIVE MEDIA ARRANGED THROUGH SUBSIDIARY OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AD AGENCY**

David Campbell from Retail Media revealed that Retail Media was a branch business of the International advertising giant WPP - see <http://www.wpp.com/wpp/> It boasts on the website.

WPP at a glance:

WPP is one of the world's largest communications services groups. We are made up of leading companies in:

Advertising; Media Investment Management; Information, Insight & Consultancy; Public Relations & Public Affairs; Branding & Identity; Healthcare

Communications;

Direct, Promotion & Relationship Marketing; Specialist Communications

Facts & Figures;

Number of employees 110,000 (incl. Associates)

Number of offices 2,000+

Number of countries 106

Reported revenues Â£6.1bn (2007)

Reported billings Â£31.7bn (2007)

Market capitalisation Â£7.7bn (end December 2007)

### **CONSERVATIVES HAVE BEEN DUPING AN UNAWARE CITIZENRY**

"Many Canadians are not aware of the provision in the Election Act for candidates with 15% or more of the vote to receive a 60% rebate for advertising expenses, which had previously been 50%. The Conservative scheme of in-and-out funds recorded as local candidate expenses but spent in the national campaign, in violation of the Elections Act, ended up plumping up local expenditures, enabling higher rebates. It is difficult to understand why the devious Conservative practice, which undoubtedly contributed in some way to the election of a minority Conservative government with 33% of the vote, has not been given a higher profile in the media. The Conservative minority government has continuously acted not only as majority government but also as a party above scrutiny. Every voter in Canada needs to watch the live coverage on CPAC of the Parliamentary Ethics Committee's investigation into the Conservative Sponsorship Nemesis. There must be a full investigation into this misappropriation of funds for political gain." (Joan Russow, Comment, Toronto Star, August 12, 2008).

### **CONSERVATIVES MAY BENEFIT FROM THE POTENTIAL DELAY IN HEARING THE CASE**

There is no doubt that the public interest would certainly be served by exposing the potentially fraudulent practice used by the Conservatives in the last election. There is sufficient evidence that this practice occurred and that the practice was condoned by the Conservative Party. One Conservative witness even referred to the scheme as being a creative fund-raising scheme benefiting, in the long range, the Conservative Party. The success of the case against the Conservatives depends on the willingness of the Conservative candidates to be forthright, given that many of them have refused to even honour summons issued by the Parliamentary Committee [ although, presumably, a summons from the Office of the Public Prosecution might not be as easy to disregard].

WITNESSES: Chantal Proulx and Don Beardall from the Office of the Public Prosecution of Canada.

PAT MARTIN from the NDP raised a serious question about the potential that the case before the Office of the Public Prosecution might not even be resolved before the next election (either before, in 2008, or on the fixed election date in 2009), and that the Conservatives could even adopt the same in-and-out funding scheme in the next election. In response to his question, the witnesses from the Office of the Public Prosecutor indicated that there was no guarantee that the case would be heard before the next election.

### **CONSERVATIVES TRANSFERRED NOT JUST FUNDS BUT EXPENSES**

WITNESS. Mark Mayrand, Chief Electoral Officer

In response to questions asked by various opposition members, Mark Mayrand confirmed that the transfer of funds from the Central Campaign to the Riding Associations is permitted. What is not permitted is the transfer of expenses of the local candidates' campaigns.

When asked if he had determined if this practice had occurred with other parties during the 2006 election, Marc Mayrand responded: No.

### **CONSERVATIVES EXCEEDED THEIR NATIONAL SPENDING LIMITS BY TRANSFERRING FUNDS TO THE RIDING ASSOCIATIONS.**

It was pointed out by a Committee member that by passing on expenses to local ridings the Conservative National Election Campaign superseded its national spending limits by 1.3 million. It was also noted that political parties benefit in a number of ways such as issuing tax receipts for donations with tax benefits of up to 76%, paying \$1.75 per vote, and providing rebates of 60% of election expenses for candidates receiving 10% of the vote.

Marc Mayrand indicated that in cases where the expenses were under investigation, rebates had not been made. This point was not clear; it is possible that rebates were made before the investigation was undertaken, and it was not clear whether or not an investigation would result in the reimbursement of the rebate.

### **CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES AND OFFICIAL AGENTS WERE WILLING TO SIGN A FALSE EXPENSE FORM**

Official agents and candidates both sign off and attest that the expenses had occurred in the local campaign and at fair market value. Both the Conservative candidates and their agents, who are under investigation, apparently signed the required documents, even though they knew that the expenses were not incurred locally by their campaigns.

### **CONSERVATIVE PARTY DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS OF FAIR MARKET VALUE**

It was pointed out that in three adjacent ridings in Toronto, the same ads were recorded, by the Conservative candidates, as costing a different amount. The implication of this is that the expenses were accounted for in relation to the range of spending limits for the candidates.

### **CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE NATIONAL ADS WOULD HAVE BENEFITED THE LOCAL CANDIDATES.**

Richard Nadeau, Bloc MP, made the distinction between pooling of resources to collectively benefit the candidates, and the practice of in-and-out National Campaign ads. Marc Mayrand responded that "it must be sure that it benefits the candidates" and that "I am not satisfied that all the expenses claimed were of benefit to the candidate".

### **CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES AND AGENTS WERE NOT APPRISED OF THE REGULATION UNDER THE ELECTIONS ACT**

Ricard Nadeau also raised the issue of the need for proper training of candidates and their agents so that this Conservative practice would never happen again. He proposed that Elections Canada should do this across the country.

Marc Mayrand responded that we hold training sessions regularly throughout the country. He cited the problem of late selection of agents at election time, and that the agents are already overwhelmed. He neglected to mention that there are meetings of representatives of the registered parties at the Election Canada office in Ottawa, and that this issue could be raised at that time and all party riding headquarters apprised of the regulation related to expenses.

### **CONSERVATIVES MIGHT BE EMBROILED IN ALL LEVELS OF TAX EVASION BECAUSE OF THE SCHEME**

Marcel Proulx, from the Bloc raised the issue of discrepancy in provincial taxes and that the taxes were not applied before the assessment of GST. This might indicate a problem with the invoices submitted by Retail Media, the agent acting for the National Conservative Ad Campaign.

### **CONSERVATIVES HAVE SO FAR DRAINED ELECTIONS CANADA (ie CANADIAN TAX PAYERS) OF \$519,000**

It was reported in the Ottawa Citizen that the Court case launched by the Conservatives have cost Elections Canada over 517,000. The Conservatives sued Elections Canada for not returning the rebate from the 2006 election. (see Glen McGregor, Tory tiff costs taxpayers \$517,000 Elections Canada incurs huge bills over court case, investigation into 2006 campaign expenses, Ottawa Citizen, July 22, 2008)

### **CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE CONTINUALLY RAISE ISSUES RELATED TO PROCESS, RATHER THAN RECOGNIZING THAT IT IS CLEAR THAT THE CONSERVATIVES DID ENGAGE IN A**

**WIDESPREAD WAY IN AT LEAST 67 RIDINGS, THAT THIS PRACTICE WAS AGAINST THE ELECTIONS ACT AND THAT THE CONSERVATIVES BENEFITED UNFAIRLY IN THE 2006 ELECTION FROM THIS PRACTICE.**

Last Updated on Wednesday, 19 November 2014 12:38

361 readings

## [Shale Oil Fuels Indigenous Conflict in Argentina](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 19 November 2014 07:47



By Fabiana Frayssinet

**Jorge Nahuel, a spokesman for the Mapuche Confederation of Neuquén, in Argentina's southern Patagonia region, complains that local indigenous communities were not consulted about the production of unconventional oil in their ancestral territories. Credit: Fabiana Frayssinet/IPS**

**CAMPO MARIPE, Argentina, Nov 18 2014 (IPS)** - The boom in unconventional fossil fuels has revived indigenous conflicts in southwest Argentina. Twenty-two Mapuche communities who live on top of Vaca Muerta, the geological formation where the reserves are located, complain that they were not consulted about the use of their ancestral lands, both "above and below ground."

Albino Campo, "logko" or chief of the Campo Maripe Mapuche community, is critical of the term "superficiary" – one to whom a right of surface occupation is granted – which was used in the oil contracts to describe the people living on the land, with whom the oil companies are negotiating.

"We are the owners of the surface, and of what is above and below as well. That is the 'mapu' (earth). It's not hollow below ground; there is another people below," he told IPS.

Nor is it hollow for the oil companies, although the two conceptions are very different.

Three thousand metres below Campo Maripe lies one of the world's biggest reserves of shale gas and oil.

The land that the community used for grazing is now part of the Loma Campana oilfield, operated by the state-run YPF oil company in partnership with U.S. oil giant Chevron.

"More or less 160 wells have been drilled here," Campo said. "When they reach 500 wells, we won't have any land for our animals. They stole what is ours."

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**“The company should respect our constitutionally recognised right to participate in the management of natural resources. Those rights have been completely violated by the oil company’s arrival.” – Mapuche leader Jorge Nahuel**

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Because of the urgent need to boost production, YPF started a year ago to make roads and drill wells in the Campo Campana oilfield in the southern Patagonian province of

Neuquén.

The Mapuche chief and his sister Mabel Campo showed IPS what their lands had turned into, with the intense noise and dust from the trucks continuously going back and forth to and from the oilfield.

They carry machinery, drill pipes and the products used in hydraulic fracturing or fracking, a highly criticised technique in which water, sand and chemicals are injected into the rock at high pressure to fracture the shale and release natural gas and oil trapped in the underground rocks.

“They say fracking and everything aboveground doesn’t pollute...maybe it’ll be a while but we’ll start seeing cancer, skin cancer, because of all the pollution, and we’ll also die of thirst because there won’t be any water to drink,” said Mabel Campo.

YPF argues that it negotiated with the provincial government to open up the oilfield, because it is the government that holds title to the land.

However, “we try to have the best possible relations with any superficiary or pseudo superficiary or occupant, in the areas where we work, Mapuches or not,” YPF-Neuquén’s manager of institutional relations, Federico Calícano, told IPS.

The families of Campo Maripe have not obtained title to their land yet, but they did score one major victory.

After protests that included chaining themselves to oil derricks, they got the provincial government to [recognise them legally as a community](#) in October.

“Registration as a legal entity leaves behind the official stance of denying the Mapuche indigenous identity, and now the consultation process will have to be carried out for any activity that affects the territory,” Micaela Gomiz, with the [Observatory of Human Rights of the Indigenous Peoples of Patagonia](#) (ODHPI), stated in a communiqué released by that organisation.

According to ODHPI, as of 2013 there were 347 Mapuche people charged with “usurpation” and trespassing on land, including 80 lawsuits filed in Neuquén and 60 cases in the neighbouring province of Río Negro.

In the case of Vaca Muerta, Jorge Nahuel, spokesman for the Mapuche Confederation of Neuquén, told IPS that the local indigenous communities were not consulted, as required by International Labour Organisation (ILO) [Convention 169](#) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, which Argentina ratified 25 years ago.

Convention 169 requires prior consultation of local indigenous communities before any project is authorised on their land.

“What the state should do before granting concessions to land is to reach an agreement with the community over whether or not it is willing to accept such an enormous change of lifestyle,” he said.

Furthermore, said Nahuel, “the company should respect our constitutionally recognised right to participate in the management of natural resources. Those rights have been completely violated by the oil company’s arrival.”

The Mapuche leader said similar violations are committed in the soy and mining industries. “Indigenous people are seen as just another element of nature and as such they are trampled on,” he complained.

In this South American country of 42 million, nearly one million people identified themselves as indigenous in the last census, carried out in 2010. Most of them belong to



the Mapuche and Colla communities, and live in Neuquén and two other provinces.

Nahuel noted that of nearly 70 Neuquén indigenous communities, only 10 percent hold legal title to their land.

## Related IPS Articles

- Fracking Fractures Argentina's Energy Development
- Añelo, from Forgotten Town to Capital of Argentina's Shale Fuel Boom
- Vaca Muerta, Argentina's New Development Frontier

"The logic followed by the state is that the weaker the documentation of land tenure, the greater the legal security enjoyed by the company," he said. "It's a perverse logic because what they basically believe is that by keeping us without land titles for decades, it will be easier for the companies to invade our territory."

Some have cast doubt on the real interests of the Mapuche.

Luis Sapag, a lawmaker of the Neuquén Popular Movement, triggered the controversy last year when he remarked that "some of them have been doing good business...YPF didn't go to the Mapuches' land to set up shop....some Mapuches went to put their houses where YPF was operating, to get this movement started."

"Until Loma Campana was developed, there were never any demands or complaints from a Mapuche community," said YPF Neuquén's manager of unconventional resources, Pablo Bizzotto, during a visit by IPS and correspondents from other international news outlets to the oilfield in the southwestern province of Neuquén.

Nahuel compared that reasoning to "the arguments used by the state when it invaded Mapuche territory, saying this was a desert, we got here, and then indigenous people showed up making demands and claims.

"They're using the same logic here – first they raze a territory, and then they say: 'But what is it that you're demanding? We hadn't even seen you people before'," he said.

Nahuel said the production of shale gas and oil, an industry in which Argentina is becoming a global leader, poses "a much greater threat" than the production of conventional fossil fuels, which he said "already left pollution way down in the soil, and among all of the Mapuche families in the area."

"It is an industry that has a major environmental and social – and even worse for us, cultural – impact, because it breaks down community life and destroys the collective relationship that we have with this territory, and has turned us into 'superficiaries' for the industry," Nahuel said.

He added that as the drilling moves ahead, the conflicts will increase.

He said the country's new law on fossil fuels, in effect since Oct. 31, will aggravate the problems because "it serves the corporations by ensuring them the right to produce for 50 years."

The logko, Campo, said: "When YPF pulls out there will be no future left for the Mapuche people. What they are leaving us here is only pollution and death."

Edited by Estrella Gutiérrez/Translated by Stephanie Wildes

976 readings

## [French government will not sign TTIP agreement in 2015](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 17 November 2014 20:13

17/11/2014 - 08:29



The French government does not believe the TTIP negotiations will be concluded by the end of 2015. [Dominik "Dome"/Flickr]

Matthias Fekl, France's Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, has made it clear that France will not support the inclusion of the Investor State Dispute Settlement mechanism (ISDS) in a potential TTIP agreement. The ISDS is a point of heated debate between the EU and the United States. [EurActiv France reports](#).

Europe's fears over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) are not abating, while America is beginning to show signs of impatience. Europe and the United States have reached a standoff in the TTIP negotiations, over the question of the Investor State Dispute Settlement.

This mechanism could give companies the opportunity to take legal action against a state whose legislation has a negative impact on their economic activity.

"France did not want the ISDS to be included in the negotiation mandate," Matthias

Fekl told the French Senate. "We have to preserve the right of the state to set and apply its own standards, to maintain the impartiality of the justice system and to allow the people of France, and the world, to assert their values," he added.

German opposition to the ISDS mechanism is also very strong. The German Minister for Economic Affairs has often expressed his support for the trade deal with the United States, on the condition that it does not include the ISDS.

The disagreement over the ISDS has caused negotiations to stall. "The year 2014 did not see any great advances in the transatlantic agreement," Fekl said during a speech to the French Senate.

In Brussels, the EU's position on the Investor State Dispute Settlement mechanism became clear after the appointment of the new team of EU Commissioners.

In his speech to the European Parliament on 22 October, the new Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said he would not accept any external limitations being placed on the member states' ability to settle their own industrial disputes.

>> **Read:** [Commission mulls TTIP minus investor arbitration](#)

Negotiators from the United States are trying to move the talks forward, despite reluctance from the European Union.

During a visit to the European Parliament's October plenary session in Strasbourg, Anthony Luzzatto Gardner, from the United States' mission to the EU, insisted that the ISDS was an important clause in the TTIP negotiations.

"Our message to the people of Europe is not to remove it from the table, but to conclude the discussion process and to improve it," he said.

### **A bad signal**

"Removing the ISDS from the negotiations would give off a very bad signal. It would clear the way for the removal of other chapters of the negotiations," he added.

The American negotiators are beginning to show frustration at the demonisation of these arbitration tribunals. "Investor State Dispute Settlements have never been, and will not be, a way for businesses to challenge legislation they do not agree with," an American negotiator said in Paris.

>> **Read:** [Commission swamped by 150,000 replies to TTIP consultation](#)

The next cycle of negotiations is due to take place in December.

### **National parliaments remain vigilant**

The European Commission's mandate for the TTIP negotiations was set by the member states, and the American negotiators will have to satisfy not only the Commission, but also the national parliaments of the EU if an agreement is to be

reached.

In France, Matthias Fekl reminded the Senate that the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership was "a mixed agreement". "It is the parliamentarians who will have the last word when the agreement is finalised," he said, adding "I don't think will be any time soon".

329 readings

## [Latin America Moves Towards Decarbonising the Economy](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 17 November 2014 08:51

By [Fabiola Ortiz](#)



A debate on decarbonising development has emerged in Latin America, a region where natural resources, including fossil fuels, play a heavy role in the economy.

Credit: Courtesy of Guilherme/Flickr

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 14 2014 (IPS) - When the advances made towards curbing global warming are analysed in the first 12 days of December in Lima, during the 20th climate conference, Latin America will present some achievements, as well as the many challenges it faces in "decarbonising development".

Experts consulted by IPS said that during the 20th session of the Conference of the

Parties (COP20) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) the region will be able to point to progress in reducing deforestation in the Amazon jungle, especially in the Brazilian portion where forest loss was reduced 80 percent in the last decade, according to official sources.

But they say Latin America's focus should be the "decarbonisation" of the economy, limiting the share of fossil fuels and other sources of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the energy mix, in order to mitigate the impact of climate change, as demanded by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its fifth report, launched Nov. 2.

"We can break with the idea that it is always difficult to reach a consensus in Latin America," the head of [Friends of the Earth Brazil](#), Roberto Smeraldi, told IPS. "There is a diversity of new experiences; the region is a laboratory of learning with respect to climate change."

In his view, new alliances must be created by means of bilateral and regional accords, aimed at strengthening the position of Latin American countries in the negotiations among the parties, both in Lima and along the road that is to lead to a new climate treaty a year later in Paris.

"When tackling climate change, Latin Americans don't have to cling to a narrative based in the past." -- Mario Molina

But he complained that Brazil is not harnessing its comparative advantages in terms of natural resources and great potential for decarbonising its economy and investments, in order to take on a leadership role in the climate negotiations.

"Brazil should be interested in assuming a more aggressive role and pushing for progress [in the talks]. I'm convinced that it can develop a low-carbon economy, even if it becomes a major oil exporter," he argued.

The IPCC advocates a low-carbon economy. Financial flows must be modified to substantially reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the panel says. It is calling, for example, for a 30 billion dollar a year reduction in investment in fossil fuels for electricity worldwide.

The director of the [Climate Reality Project](#)'s Climate Leadership Corps, Mario Molina, said Latin America could feasibly make progress towards decarbonising the economy.

The international organisation, headed by former U.S. vice president Al Gore, held a leadership training on response to climate change Nov. 4-6 in this Brazilian city.

Molina told IPS that the idea that the region's wealth and development depend on the extraction of natural resources, especially fossil fuels, is a myth.

"I have a lot of faith in Latin America," he said. "We have talked about the need to

make reparations for past emissions and the responsibilities of the most developed countries. The truth is that it is the responsibility of all of us. We have to look towards the future and identify ourselves as leaders in sustainability.”

The creation of mechanisms that ensure the transfer of technology and funds for investment in sustainable projects and renewable energies is an alternative for the region, Molina said.



A cloud forest in Costa Rica; curbing deforestation in Latin America is essential to curbing climate emissions. Credit: Germán Miranda/IPS

“When it comes to tackling climate change, Latin Americans don’t have to cling to a narrative based in the past,” he said.

Chile, according to the experts, assumed a vanguard position when it announced the first tax on carbon in South America, in September, aimed at forcing power companies to gradually move to cleaner sources, with the target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 20 percent by 2020, from 2007 levels.

But Smeraldi and Molina said there is still a great deal of pressure from infrastructure projects and companies exploiting natural resources which invade the limits of protected natural areas.

“Chile demonstrated great leadership by setting a price on carbon emissions and we need something similar in the region, on a large scale. At the other end of the spectrum we have Venezuela [with an oil-based economy] and also the case of Ecuador,” Molina said.

“We have to understand that Latin America’s natural resources are on top of the ground: our people, solar power, and wind energy.”

Molina and the other experts interviewed by IPS said one alarming case is that of Ecuador and its plans for large-scale oil drilling in the Amazon region, including the reserves in the Yasuní National Park, an area of nearly 10,000 sq km.

The president of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, argues that the income brought in from that

oil is necessary for poverty reduction and development in the country.

Because of a development model focusing on carbon-based growth, four million hectares in forest cover were lost in South America between 2000 and 2014, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report [“The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010”](#).

Brazil alone lost an average of 2.6 million hectares of green areas per year during that period, despite the decline in deforestation in the Amazon.

The FAO report underscores the essential role played by forests in climate change mitigation. Trees store 289 gigatons of carbon a year around the world, and the Amazon region captures 100 gigatons.

The Climate Reality Project’s Molina acknowledged that despite the efforts made, deforestation remains high in tropical forests, because the regulation of the sustainable use of soil and governance of natural areas are generally pending issues in Latin America, as part of emissions reduction policies.

“The importance of the Amazon rainforest and other tropical jungles is globally recognised, and there is support to preserve them. But we have a lot of work to do,” Molina said.

The executive secretary of the [Climate Observatory](#) in Brazil, Carlos Rittl, pointed out that “there is no regional commitment with regard to forests or to eliminating deforestation, because the countries of the developing South have no mandatory targets for emissions reduction under the UNFCCC.”

But some countries, he noted, have assumed national commitments, like Paraguay, with its zero deforestation plan, or Peru, which created a forestry fund to finance sustainability projects.

Especially significant is the case of Costa Rica, the first country in the world [to set a carbon neutrality target](#): the goal is for the country to fix as much CO<sub>2</sub> as it emits by 2021.

And on Sept. 23, Chile, Colombia, Guyana and Peru signed the New York Declaration on Forests during a U.N. summit on climate change held in New York, which pledged to halt the loss of the world’s natural forests by 2030.

*Edited by Estrella Gutiérrez/Translated by Stephanie Wildes*

830 readings

## [Two Detroits, Separate and Unequal A Journey Across a City Divided](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 16 November 2014 18:22

By [Laura Gottesdiener](#)

[http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175923/tomgram%3A\\_laura\\_gottesdiener%2C\\_a\\_tale\\_of\\_two\\_cities%2C\\_post-bankruptcy/#more](http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175923/tomgram%3A_laura_gottesdiener%2C_a_tale_of_two_cities%2C_post-bankruptcy/#more)

In late October, a few days after local news cameras swarmed Detroit's courthouse to hear closing arguments in the city's historic bankruptcy trial, "Commander" Dale Brown cruised through the stately Detroit neighborhood of Palmer Woods in a Hummer emblazoned with the silver, interlocking-crescent-moon logo of his private security company.

Brown rolled down the window to ask a middle-aged woman walking her dog whether everything was okay (it was), and whether she had seen anything out of the ordinary (she hadn't). Satisfied, he continued on, guided by a futuristic tablet map of the neighborhood's languid streets. These had become even more impenetrable last year when the bankrupt city paid for and constructed a series of traffic barriers on the community's edges. On his right, he pointed out, was the Bishop's Residence, a 30-room Tudor Revival castle originally commissioned by a family of fabulously wealthy automobile pioneers who later sold their company to General Motors.

"This is the part of Detroit that most people are not aware of," Brown told filmmaker Messiah Rhodes and me. And indeed, the turreted neighborhood did look far more like something you would find in Detroit's mostly white suburbs than deep inside the city itself.

Brown is the founder of Threat Management, a private security company hired by the Palmer Woods' neighborhood association to provide 24-hour protection to this elite enclave. He knows the two sides of Detroit more intimately than just about any of its residents. After a stint as an Army paratrooper, he moved to the city's East Side in the mid-1990s and into a neighborhood dubbed "crack alley." There, he started running free security for his neighbors and a few adjacent apartment buildings with only a rifle, a dog, and psychological tricks like heavily pocketed vests, since "pockets represent the unknown." Next, he worked at a nightclub, enforcing such a strict no-beating-women-on-the-dance-floor policy that the joint soon had a regular stiletto-heeled line out the door.

Two decades later, Brown's officers, with their distinctly paramilitary aesthetic, are among the most recognizable of a **burgeoning** number of private security personnel and surveillance systems scattered across



neighborhoods in the former Motor City that people with money have decided are worth protecting.

But the future of the rest of the sprawling city -- once the symbol of American industrialization and working-class power -- remains at best insecure, physically and financially. In the 1940s, President Franklin Roosevelt declared Detroit, then the nation's fourth largest city, the "great arsenal of democracy" for churning out bombers for the Allied powers, as in peacetime it rolled out cars for the consumer economy. Then the auto giants began closing their urban factories and **reopening** their plants in white suburbs. In the same era, the industry, national unions, and the FBI all **cracked down** on the labor organizations founded by radical black workers.

The foreclosure crisis of this century, fueled by racially discriminatory predatory lending, **forced** hundreds of thousands of residents out of the city. The governor's office placed the public school system and then the entire local government under emergency management, **suspending** the democratic process in the "arsenal of democracy." And now, after seven decades of these slow-moving storms, including acts that are almost impossible to see as anything but retribution against the city's predominantly African American population, Detroit is often **viewed** from afar as a cautionary tale, a post-industrial dystopia of vacant buildings and dormant factories.

The truth, however, is more complicated. On the brink of a new, post-bankruptcy beginning, Detroit is really two cities. One is comprised of wealthy enclaves like Palmer Woods linked to a compact, rapidly redeveloping downtown. The other is made up of the rest of the 139-square-mile urban expanse, populated by longtime residents who have fought for decades to survive in an environment that has become increasingly uninhabitable.

In the first Detroit, private security is **common** and the living is relatively safe. In the second, running water has systematically been cut off from at least **27,000 households** this year alone, the latest in a series of government-enacted policies that have made daily life an increasingly desperate battle. Rather than growing closer in the coming post-bankruptcy era, many residents fear that these two Detroits -- already so separate and unequal -- will have increasingly divergent futures.

### **Prophecy Fulfilled**

On November 7th, a federal judge approved the city of Detroit's plan to exit the largest municipal bankruptcy in American history. That

bankruptcy, the need for which was hotly **contested** by residents and leading economists, was only the latest in a series of controversial steps that included Governor Rick Snyder's **imposition** of an unelected emergency manager to oversee the city's finances.

After 16 months of wrangling, city and state officials expressed cautious optimism about the bankruptcy deal, which eliminates more than **\$7 billion** in long-term city debt and includes cuts to the pensions of city workers, **a violation** of the state constitution. Creditors and insurance companies agreed to accept **less than full** repayment of the debts owed by the city, in some cases as little as 14 cents on the dollar. The plan also frees up **\$1.7 billion** for Detroit to reinvest in essential city services like the fire department and the rebuilding of its system of streetlights.

The new debt readjustment plan is not, officials cautioned, the solution to all the city's problems but at least they consider it a good start. For Wayne State law professor Peter Hammer, however, lurking in the bankruptcy plan is a potential future that's far more sinister than anyone is advertising. As Hammer explained, Detroit has become a blueprint for the creation of a "self-acknowledged, self-defined second-class city," one where the state guarantees only the most basic services to most of its inhabitants: "some police," "some fire protection," and "a bulldozer department" to raze abandoned houses, while the remaining essential services will be available only on a private basis for those who can pay.



**Buy the book**

That Detroit is a more than **80%** African American metropolis makes the idea of its rise from bankruptcy with second-class status all the more problematic. As Hammer explains, the

plan for Detroit bears an eerie back-to-the-future resemblance to the famed **Kerner Commission** report of 1968, issued by a presidentially appointed panel in the wake of the urban rebellions that were then sweeping the country. Its findings were that the nation was moving toward **two societies**: black and white, separate and unequal.

“That was viewed as a call to action, as unacceptable in 1968,” comments Hammer. Nearly a half-century later, he adds, it’s portrayed as progress. The vision of a future Detroit as a sprawling second-class black city with a small, wealthy downtown and a few elite neighborhoods surrounded by thriving white suburbs will, he projects, bring the 1968 finding to life. “The truth is, what [bankruptcy] Judge Rhodes will do when he approves the bankruptcy plan of adjustment is ratify that conclusion as prophecy.”

### **Uninhabitable**

On a Friday in mid-October, the evening before two U.N. officials were to begin investigating whether Detroit’s mass water shutoffs constitute a violation of international human rights law, Marian Kramer was rushing around finishing up last-minute preparations. There were out-of-town guests to attend to, children who needed to be picked up from the YWCA, details to confirm for the following morning’s meeting with the lawyers.

Kramer, who has closely cropped gray hair and a stride like the snap of a rubber band, is one of the leaders of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, a union of low-income people. She and co-organizer Maureen Taylor have been fighting water shutoffs since Highland Park, an independent city enclosed by Detroit, first began disconnecting water service in the 1990s. Hers is among a collection of groups -- known as the People’s Water Board Coalition -- that called on the United Nations to pay Detroit a visit.

As Kramer shuttled about in her minivan, she narrated the history of the streets rushing past. Detroit is, after all, a city best understood by driving past its steepled churches, past the barbecue joint that, back when the auto factories were still open, attracted lines around the block, past the cluster of people congregating with candles on a street corner, while all around them, dusk invades the space ceded by decommissioned streetlights.

“Someone got killed over here,” Kramer murmured, surveying the small vigil. “A three-year-old girl got **shot** the other night. Her momma was shot, her father was shot. I don’t know what it is. Every night,

every morning, we wake up and there's pure war here."

As the city government has receded, a lack of services has made parts of Detroit all but uninhabitable. The injustices pile up: the **threat** that Child Protective Services will seize custody of children who are living in waterless homes; the streets upon streets of emptied houses, their roofs caving in, their porches collapsing, their bricks blackened by fire; the all-too-common **violent deaths** in neighborhoods without private security, where residents must rely on a decimated public police force that clocked an average response time of **58 minutes** in 2013; the charade of public school board meetings, where few decisions can be made because the school district is under the control of an unelected emergency manager the board has **voted** three times without success to fire; the **death** of a seven-year-old girl at the hands of a Detroit police officer wielding a submachine gun as his unit was being filmed executing home raids for an A&E; reality TV show; the heartbreak of watching the city being disassembled and sold off as if at an estate sale -- despite the fact that this Detroit has declared it will not die.

Tangela Harris, whose tap was turned off for 11 days last fall, explained that the worst insult wasn't living with two young children in a house without water, but Detroit's **loss of control** over a once-world-class water department, a stipulation of the bankruptcy adjustment plan. "There was pride in the water company," she says. "The one piece of power that black people had in this city is now gone."

Across this Detroit, the grief comes pouring out in town hall meetings and in the booths of diners (known locally as "Coney Islands"). Many here quietly wonder about the purposefulness of it all or, as one resident finally asked the U.N. officials during their visit: "Does this, all that you've heard, meet the legal definition of genocide?"

And yet, despite these injustices and the feeling of bitterness that go with them, each morning this Detroit, too, rises.

### **Point of Origin**

Retired city construction inspector Cheryl LaBash rarely ventures downtown any longer. The last time she did, it was to protest what she sees happening to her city. We sit together in a small park called **Campus Martius**, which allocates about the same amount of square footage to a ritzy restaurant and a seasonal ice skating rink (\$8 for adult admission, \$7 for children) as to green space. LaBash has shoulder-length, white-streaked hair and wears a t-shirt that reads, "Hands Off My Pension." She's also carrying her old hardhat, just as a

memento. She'd worn it during one of her final jobs with the city, supervising a team of construction workers as they tore up the ground right below where we were sitting.

The objective was to move Woodward Avenue, one of the city's main thoroughfares, in order to clear the space to build Campus Martius. During the construction process, LaBash remembers discovering that the survey marker for southeast Michigan -- the point of origin from which the entire region is measured -- lay underneath the new park. That only strengthened her feeling that the transformation of this space from a main public thoroughfare into a privately administered park patrolled by corporately hired security guards was a symbol of the privatization that her city had undergone.

Today, the downtown section of Detroit hums with construction projects and is dotted with surprisingly expensive parking lots. Even as much of the rest of the city is neglected, it is being rapidly transformed. Most of this change is being **driven** by Dan Gilbert, the billionaire founder of Quicken Loans, one of the largest mortgage companies in the United States. In 2010, he **moved** the company's headquarters from the suburb of Livonia, Michigan, to downtown Detroit and brought thousands of his employees into the city center with him.

Gilbert has also taken matters into his own hands when it comes to securing his rapidly expanding downtown empire. He's organized his own **24/7** private security outfit, which patrols his approximately **60** buildings on foot, on **bikes**, and in cars. He's also had hundreds of closed-circuit cameras installed in the area. Gilbert's men monitor the feeds from those cameras (along with the **social media** accounts of residents and community groups) around the clock in the **surveillance center** in the basement of the Gilbert-owned Chase building.

"You feel like you've got into a deep room of the Pentagon," says law professor Hammer on the surveillance room, which he recently toured with his students.

For new downtown residents, the rising levels of security and surveillance are considered a welcome -- if sometimes perplexing -- phenomenon. Patrick Klida, a young lawyer from the suburbs who moved downtown a few years ago, tells of an early morning call he received from Gilbert's men last summer. His car, he was informed, was being broken into.

"The high-def cameras had found someone throwing a rock through

the car window,” he explained. Within minutes, Gilbert’s security monitoring team had run the car’s plates, discovered that it was registered to his mother, located her number, called her at five in the morning, gotten his number, and called him.

To Cheryl LaBash, however, this new private security set-up isn’t just a byproduct of downtown gentrification; it’s yet another threat to Detroit’s crippled democratic process and the ability of its residents to express political dissent. Last February, private security guards stopped LaBash and a handful of other demonstrators from pamphleting and gathering petition signatures inside Campus Martius, which she believes is an encroachment of her First Amendment rights. The legality of the move may soon be contested, since Campus Martius is one of a number of Detroit parks that, while privately administered, is still officially publicly owned. As for why it seemed like the security guards were expecting the group of pamphleteers, one officer explained to LaBash, “a little birdie told us,” an apparent reference to the monitoring of activist Twitter accounts.

As LaBash sees it, the revitalization of the area isn’t part of an effort to revive “Detroit”; it’s a process meant to erase the city’s history and the vast majority of its people, including herself. She ponders the complicated ways in which such processes are so often driven by the few but executed by the many. Gesturing toward the park, she says ruefully, “And I was part of that change.”

## **Collisions**

In a city of less than a million residents, the two Detroits nonetheless seem to collide at every turn.

The night before Halloween, known locally as Angel’s or Devil’s Night, the neighborhood association of East English Village, another of Detroit’s wealthy enclaves, hosted a potluck dinner and organized a volunteer resident security patrol. Setting vacant buildings afire on this night has become something of a grim yearly tradition in the city and a growing danger to neighborhoods that can’t afford their own privatized security forces. Although, unlike poorer areas of the city, this wealthy and well-organized community hasn’t suffered anything worse than a broken window on Devil’s night in years, it wasn’t taking any chances.

Around nine, as residents clustered in association president Bill Barlage’s driveway, drinking hot cocoa and eating chili and bacon-wrapped sweet potatoes, newly elected mayor Mike Duggan arrived.

“Does Joe Biden live here?” Duggan asked jokingly, provoking a wave

of laughter.

The vice president had indeed **visited** Barlage's home during a trip to Detroit on Labor Day weekend because, as Barlage put it, "The mayor wanted to show Biden a solid neighborhood." In Barlage's mind, the community's success can be explained in part by its willingness to invest in private security, raise an active volunteer patrol, and generally keep its residents engaged and active. In addition, Barlage and the association promote continuing close relationships with both the city police department and the mayor's office.

"We watch houses, we log houses," he said.

A few blocks from his house, however, East English Village resident Andrew Cox has had quite a different experience in the neighborhood. For the last two years, he and his fiancée have been living in East English Village in the same way that thousands of poor residents elsewhere in the city have survived the economic turmoil: by occupying a vacant house, fixing it up and paying utilities. Like others in their situation, he and his fiancée were also putting a percentage of their monthly income into a bank account administered by a community group in order to collectively pay costs like property taxes.

A handsome thirty-something with a navy blue cabbie hat cocked at an angle on his head, he said he hadn't found East English Village particularly welcoming. Earlier in the year, he explained, someone broke into the house and destroyed much of the kitchen, removing doors from their hinges and knocking out part of a wall. The break-in happened despite the community's tight-knit watch group or perhaps -- and this was his suspicion -- because of it; because, that is, he and his partner didn't fit the neighborhood's profile and some members wanted to see them go.

Mostly, he was glad that the intruders hadn't taken his great grandmother's King James Bible, which the family had brought up from the South with them decades ago. In the wake of the break-in, he had received an eviction notice, which he wasn't going to fight, since the state had recently **enacted** laws that made squatting a felony.

"I'm not going to jail just to have a roof over my head," he said. "If they want the house so bad, they can have it."

Back at Barlage's place, the mayor was shaking hands and preparing to leave. "Well, looks like the neighborhood is safe," Duggan declared to another round of laughter as he and his men strode down the driveway.

## **Eyes Don't Cry**

That Sunday evening, Marian Kramer's weekend of work was almost over.

The town hall meeting for the visiting U.N. officials had ended after dozens of testimonies on what it meant to live without running water. Although there hadn't been enough time for everyone to speak, people were now filing out of the atrium of a local community college, heading home to prepare for another week.

Some, however, were staying for the buffet of chicken, rice and beans, salad, steamed vegetables, and sheet cake. "Commander" Brown and his wife, also a security officer with Threat Management, were keeping a close eye on the two U.N. officials, accompanying them in line and even to the bathroom.

Finally, after the dinner was over and the guests had been thanked for investigating the water shutoffs, Stevie Wonder's "My Eyes Don't Cry" filled the large room. Dozens of people began heading for a corner that quickly became a makeshift dance floor. Soon, just about everyone fell into step: Maureen Taylor and the U.N. officials, out-of-towners and locals, a public school teacher, a school board member, and a man who had recently parked his wheelchair in the middle of a street to block the water trucks from heading out to turn off some more taps.

Despite the hours of testimonies over that weekend by residents living without water, by mothers fearful of losing their children and careful to conserve every drop of moisture -- "I don't cook rice, beans, anything that would cause evaporation," explained one woman -- a sense of joy and relief, mixed with the heady sweetness of chicken, pulsed through the crowd. One resident broke into a smile as she pivoted in her chair and surveyed the cluster of people calling out the steps and moving together, as if there were no kitchens without running water, no private surveillance cameras, no bankruptcy, no emergency manager, no emergencies at all -- as if, for a moment, there were not two Detroits, separate and unequal, but just one city, hell-bent on survival.

"This is why they can't kill us," she said.

And these words summed up, perhaps more than anything else, the history of this side of Detroit -- and whatever promise may lie in its future.

Laura Gottesdiener is a freelance journalist based in New York City.



The author of *A Dream Foreclosed: Black America and the Fight for a Place to Call Home*, her writing has appeared in *Mother Jones*, *Al Jazeera*, *Guernica*, *Playboy*, *RollingStone.com*, and frequently at [TomDispatch](#). She is currently working with Zuccotti Park Press on a book about climate change and displacement. She's especially grateful to filmmaker [Messiah Rhodes](#) for his collaboration on this article.

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Last Updated on Sunday, 16 November 2014 18:29

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## [Rosebud Sioux Tribe: House Vote in Favor of the Keystone XL an Act of War](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 15 November 2014 14:44

by Wica Agli / [Rosebud Sioux](#)

[Tribe http://earthfirstjournal.org/newswire/2014/11/14/rosebud-sioux-tribe-house-vote-](http://earthfirstjournal.org/newswire/2014/11/14/rosebud-sioux-tribe-house-vote-)

[in-favor-of-the-keystone-xl-an-act-of-war](#)/Rosebud, SD – November 14,



2014

Rosebud Sioux rally in NYC

: In response to today's vote in the U.S. House of Representatives to authorize the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, the Rosebud Sioux Tribal president announced that the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (Sicangu Lakota Oyate) recognizes the authorization of the this pipeline as an act of war.

The tribe has done its part to remain peaceful in its dealing with the United States in this matter, in spite of the fact that the Rosebud Sioux Tribe has yet to be properly consulted on the project, which would cross through tribal land, and the concerns brought to the Department of Interior and to the Department of State have yet to be addressed.

“The House has now signed our death warrants and the death warrants of our children and grandchildren. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe will not allow this pipeline through our lands,” said President Scott of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. “We are outraged at the lack of intergovernmental cooperation. We are a sovereign nation and we are not being treated as such. We will close our reservation borders to Keystone XL. Authorizing Keystone XL is an act of war against our people.”

In February of this year, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and other members of

the Great Sioux Nation adopted tribal resolutions opposing the Keystone XL project.

“The Lakota people have always been stewards of this land,” added President Scott. “We feel it is imperative that we provide safe and responsible alternative energy resources not only to tribal members but to non-tribal members as well. We need to stop focusing and investing in risky fossil fuel projects like TransCanada’s Keystone XL pipeline. We need to start remembering that the earth is our mother and stop polluting her and start taking steps to preserve the land, water, and our grandchildren’s future.”

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe, along with several other South Dakota Tribes, stand together in opposition to risky and dangerous fossil fuel projects like TransCanada’s Keystone XL. The proposed route of TransCanada’s Keystone XL pipeline crosses directly through Great Sioux Nation (Oceti Sakowin) Treaty lands as defined by both the 1851 and 1868 Fort Laramie Treaties and within the current exterior boundaries of the Rosebud Sioux Reservation and Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation

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## [Joan Russow is running for Councillor in Oak Bay](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 30 August 2014 05:59



*photo by Janine Bancroft from the rally*

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**"Why am I running? 25/10/2014**

**I am committed to helping implement the Oak Bay Official Community Plan to reflect social equity and sound environmental and heritage values.**

**I am concerned, however about how some sections might be interpreted and implemented.**

**Such as "There are some challenges related to infill housing in established neighbourhoods. One of these is the potential loss of vegetation and tree canopy associated with additional housing on a**

property." Page 74

**While I have run in a couple of Federal Elections, I have spent most of my political life lobbying for compliance with international law**

**I feel, however, that Oak Bay is at a crossroads:**

**Will Oak Bay chose to amalgamate and lose its character and identity.**

**and rather than protect heritage buildings allow them to be demolished or moved elsewhere?**

**And will densification take precedence over the natural environment?**

**Or will Oak Bay become a "green leader" in integrating ecology, heritage, affordable housing, and a vibrant local economy within existing footprints as much as possible? I will work for the latter vision. And I would support the proposal that the CRD seek the designation of a UN Biosphere Reserve and become worthy of this designation." (Joan Russow" [DrJoanRussow@gmail.com](mailto:DrJoanRussow@gmail.com) )**

**Joan Russow**

**1230 ST Patrick Street**

**She has lived in Oak Bay since 1982**

**Joan is a widow with two sons and two daughters, and six granddaughters and a seventh to arrive in April.**

**She is internationally known for her efforts to achieve peace, and environmental and social justice, through compliance with international law. She feels it is time to curtail her international**

**pursuits and focus on local issues. Her international experience, however, will be invaluable to a Council in need of a deeper understanding of our connections with the world at large.**



*photo by Janine Bancroft from the rally for teachers*

**Joan regrets that she will not be in Oak Bay for the full election period, she returned jet-lagged at 6pm October 23 just before the Oak Bay All Candidates Forum . She had prior obligations to participate in The Hague at a Peace Symposium on the De-legitimization of War, and in Geneva on a panel related to the 20th Anniversary of the Beijing Conference on Women. She can be contacted by e-mail at [DrJoanRussow@gmail.com](mailto:DrJoanRussow@gmail.com) . Marion Cumming ( [marionmcumming@gmail.com](mailto:marionmcumming@gmail.com) ) has agreed to be her official agent.**

*Education*

**Joan has a BA in Art History and studied architecture and art in Rome, Seville and Paris, and an MA in Curriculum Development in Education. Both degrees are from UBC. She developed a method of teaching human rights, linked to peace, social justice and the environment, within a framework of international law. She has a doctorate from University of Victoria in interdisciplinary studies, and for several years, she was a sessional lecturer in Global Issues in Sustainable Development in the Environmental Studies Programme at the University of Victoria. From 1997 to 2001 she was the National Leader of the Green Party of Canada. She has since rejoined the NDP, and values the strong environmental values she has encountered in both parties. At the same time she is aware that cooperation with Council colleagues ought to take precedence over strict political stands.**

*International Experience in brief*

**Joan has represented the Ecological Rights Association at a number of international conferences on the environment. In 1995, she founded the Global Compliance Research project and wrote a 350 page book about obligations incurred, and commitments made by member states of the United Nations. This book was officially distributed in French and English to all state delegations, at the Beijing Conference on Women, to remind governments of their legal agreements. Since 1996, she has participated, on behalf of Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, and an ECOSOC participant at various international conferences.**

**She believes that the most pressing challenges internationally, nationally and locally are (i) that the political will necessary to promote the public trust has given way to vested economic interests to the detriment of the health and welfare of the**

**community and the environment; and (ii) that the presumption that uncontrolled unregulated economic growth is the solution to national and local problems.**

## **ENCOURAGING INCREASED RESPECT FOR CITIZENS**

### **PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS MAKING**

**Years of “consultative” panels, working groups, roundtables etc. before which citizens make well founded submissions and presentations that have fallen on deaf ears have alienated citizens. There must be a meaningful consultation process drawing upon citizens with a range of expertise and experience and occurring within a framework of overarching principles.**

## **COUNTERING IMPACT OF TRADE AGREEMENTS ON LOCAL DECISION MAKING**

**Ever since the MAI (Multiple Agreement on Investments) in 1997, when she lobbied Oak Bay Council to oppose the MAI Joan has opposed the signing and ratifying of trade agreements at the international and federal level, not only because of adverse impacts at the national, regional and local levels, but also because most trade agreements lead to deregulation and violation of international peremptory norms affecting human and ecological rights, (including civil and political rights, social, economic and cultural rights, labour rights, and indigenous rights).**

**According to the Vienna Convention on the law of treaties, a treaty is null and void if it violates international peremptory norms.**



## **IMPLEMENTING THE PARTS OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN THAT ARE REFLECTIVE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND HERITAGE VALUES**

**Oak Bay’s rich heritage ought to be protected, yet diversity promoted. Some neighbourhoods are worthy of consideration as Heritage Conservation Areas. Since Oak Bay is recognized as a mature, built-out community, development ought to be confined as much as possible to existing footprints in order to conserve precious greenspace. To conserve biodiversity, our urban forest should flourish and a stronger tree bylaw be implemented. The 100 year plan for restoration of Bowker Creek can be speeded up. When ageing apartment buildings and condos are replaced, in exchange for the granting of variances, as a community benefit there needs to be a percentage of units categorized as affordable housing. Parking must be addressed in situations where duplexes, triplexes, laneway housing and garden or in-house suites are concerned. Permeable paving ought to be incorporated on some sites, and where adequate parking space does not exist, enforceable covenants precluding vehicle ownership must be signed.**

## **STRENGTHENING OF PESTICIDE REGULATIONS**

**The Oak Bay bylaw on pesticides with the word “generally” creates a loophole. Some of the main common pesticides that are not “generally” allowed for use- contain the following synthetic chemicals**

- **Glphosate as found in products such as Round-up, Sidekick.**
- **2,4-D such as weed n feed , Killlex, etc**
- **Malathion**
- **Carbaryl such as Sevin**
- **Diazinon**

**In addition, pesticides such as the neonicotinoids should be banned because of the proven deleterious impact on the bee**

**population.**

## **PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY**

**Since the 1960s, Joan has been a supporter of organic pesticide-free, agriculture. And she was part of the group that opposed the spraying, of Foray 48B, to kill Gypsy moths because of the impact on human health, the environment and local agriculture. In 1997 when she was leader of the Green Party of Canada she called for the banning of genetically engineered food and crops, along with the instituting of a fair and just transition for farmers and communities into organic agriculture. She participated in a conference organized by Vandana Shiva, and drafted a call for a global ban on genetically engineered crops. She supports the grassroots municipal GE-free campaign, and the resolution that was passed at the AGM of BC municipalities.**

**Joan is a keen supporter of urban agriculture and of proposals to link those who wish to grow edibles with those who have land to share.**

**She supports farmland protection and expansion, and opposes the current weakening of the Agricultural Land Reserve.**

## **PROMOTING A SEWAGE TREATMENT THAT IS ECOLOGICALLY SOUND**

**She has been involved in dealing with sewage issues since the 1970s in Kelowna where she was active in lobbying for tertiary treatment in Okanagan Lake. In the early 1980's, she was part of an Oak Bay Citizen's group lobbying against an inappropriate pumping station and proposing real treatment - tertiary treatment. In the late 1980's, citizens of the CRD were given three choices, one of which was to do nothing, and have**

**faced the consequences ever since. In 1992, she examined all the Rio documents on water, including statements against dumping deleterious substances into the sea, the basis of her strong presentation to the Water District.**

## **SUPPORTING CONSERVATION OF BEACH ECOSYSTEMS**

**There appears to be no mention in the Community Plan of coastal ecosystem preservation.**

## **ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND LOBBYING AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL**

**She attended the Climate Change conferences in Copenhagen. Canada agreed to a reduction of 17 % below 2005 levels of carbon dioxide while the European Union was willing to agree to 30% below 1990 levels. Twenty years after the Rio Conference, Canada along with the US, deleted the Precautionary Principle, and Canada lobbied to remove any commitment to end subsidies to fossil fuel companies. Oak Bay can address this issue from a local perspective as outlined in the Official Community Plan. In addition Oak Bay Council could raise concerns about the federal government's failure to lead the way. in significantly mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. And point out that at the Rio +20, It was the municipalities that were demanding the significant measures that had to be taken to address the urgency of climate change. She is opposed to pipelines from the tar sands and supports the concerns raised at the Union of BC Municipalities AGM.**

## **PROMOTING CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**She actively promotes the legally binding Convention on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage and encourage their implementation federally, provincially and locally. She supports the many proposals in the Official Community plan to preserve natural and cultural heritage. She was concerned by a decision reached at a heritage meeting in 1999. A heritage building was preserved but removed from its location in Oak Bay. She believes that this trend must be addressed because too many heritage buildings have already left the community through relocation and demolition.**

**She supports the proposal, by a number of groups, to apply for the designation, for the CRD, of UN Biosphere Reserve. This would encourage Oak Bay to live up to the expectations in the designaion.**

#### **ADVOCATING THE INCLUSION AND EXPANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND THE ABIDING WITH THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**

#### **SUPPORTING SENIORS RIGHTS AND INTERGENERATIONAL RIGHTS**

**Not only must the senior population be assured of their basic rights of universal health care, housing, food, and social security, but also of their continued relevance and importance in society. There should be more intergenerational cooperative programs where the wealth of knowledge and experience of seniors can be shared. In addition, a specific program linking retired academics with a recording, teaching and publishing experience with students who apply for research funding, could maintain the intellectual relevance of the seniors and assist the students with their careers. This can be carried out with the approval and cooperation of the resourceful Oak Bay Archives.**

#### **PROMOTING HOME SHARE – HOME CARE**

## **PROGRAMME**

**She supports an innovative proposal that could help more seniors remain in their homes. Home Share/Home Care would be a Registry of seniors and others in need of some form of assistance at home. They would provide background information related to their needs and their interests. Companionable tenants with harmonizing interests could live in at an affordable rent. In exchange, they could help fulfill needs related to house and garden maintenance, meal preparation, errands, etc. An Affordable Housing Organization set up by Oak Bay could explore and help implement such an initiative. Home care through family reunification ought also to be encouraged. The empty Easter Seal House on Granite Street ought to provide affordable housig**

## **LAUNCHING A PROPOSAL OF A PROGRAMME OF CARE GIVER EXCHANGE**

**Family unification being granted when sons and daughters living in another contry are willing to come too Cannada to care for their elderly parents and a reciprocal arrangement with other statesw for Canadian sons and daughters are willing to go toother countries to care for their elderly parents.**

## **PROMOTING PUBLIC TRANSIT**

**Because large buses are inefficient on many routes, apart from the ones leading to UVic, smaller demand-responsive buses are needed. Scheduling needs improvement, including evening**

hours.

**She supports many of the recommendations in the Oak Bay Community Plan for ways of moving away from car dependency. She hopes that serious consideration will be given to designating one Sunday a month as voluntary Car-Free Day so citizens of all ages can experience the community without unnecessary cars.**

#### **ADVOCATING CO-EXISTENCE WITH THE DEER**

**Oak Bay should not be a guinea pig. Local citizens have taken many measures to find ways of co-existing with deer and we ought to continue with creative, compassionate measures. The speed limit in deer crossing areas like Cadboro Bay Road and Lansdowne alongside Uplands Golf Course, where most deer fatalities have occurred, should be reduced to 40 miles an hour. More well placed deer crossing signs ought to be erected in vulnerable areas. In the future after all reasonable measures have been taken in Oak Bay, if a deer count warrants deer population reduction, contraception ought to be implemented as a Pilot Project instead of proposals to kill the deer year after year. Oak Bay Council and the CRD should actively seek ways of promoting contraception.**

#### **OPPOSING AMALGAMATION**

**It is quite clear from the experience of Toronto and smaller cities that amalgamation would not benefit Oak Bay. Important services that logically cross borders ought to be shared.**

#### **PROMOTING TRUE SECURITY WHICH INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:**

- **to achieve a state of peace and disarmament through reallocation of military expenses and delegitimization of war**

- to create a global structure that respects the rule of law and the International Court of Justice;
- to enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and ensure the right to development and social justice;
- to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, women's rights civil and political rights, indigenous rights, social and cultural rights – rights to food, rights to housing, rights to safe drinking water and sewage, rights to education and rights to a universally accessible, not for profit health care system.
- to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, the respect for the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, the reduction of our ecological footprint, rejection of the current model of unsustainable consumption

photo by Janine Bancroft from the rally for teachers and

Marion Cumming [marionmcumming@gmail.com](mailto:marionmcumming@gmail.com) is her official Agent

Last Updated on Wednesday, 05 November 2014 08:43

449 readings

[COP20: Coping  
with COP](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 15 December 2014 10:41



Written by Nnmno Bassey

<http://nnimmo.blogspot.ca/2014/12/coping-with-cop.html>



The mass walkout of the 19th Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at Warsaw by civil society groups and movements rekindled the hope that the Voice of the Streets would find a space in the battle to save the planet from the unfolding global burning. The walkout was an expression of disgust at the way the climate negotiations have become little more than an arena for trading in hot air, a carbon stock exchange. The need for deep emissions cut has been clearly shown by science. It is also known that global warming is not a matter of speculation but a reality. The carbon budget has been calculated and the level of emissions to be cut is known. Still, negotiation arenas remain places for fiddling while Rome burns.

It is also known that to put the planet on a course that would keep global average temperature rise at not more than 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels up to 80 per cent of known fossil fuel reserves must be left in the ground. By the way, when we speak of a global average of 2 degrees Celsius for Africa that means 3 degrees. Little wonder Africa is one continent that suffers grave climate change impacts and is still having increasing manifestation of desertification. With the knowledge that fossil fuels must be kept untapped the frenzy for extreme extraction, including by fracturing nature (also known as fracking) continue unabated.

In addition it is known that deforestation and industrial agriculture are major culprits contributing to the literal choking of the planet. Just as citizens are having their lives snuffed out by brutality of the forces paid to defend them, the Earth is screaming: I cannot breathe! Rather than having a rethink, we are hearing of oxymoron like “sustainable intensification.”

With all these knowledge what is happening and what are we hearing from the climate negotiations? Platitudes. Paltry voluntary pledges of money and carbon emissions offsets! The path set by the Kyoto



Protocol underscored equity and justice in tackling global warming. It stipulated binding levels of emissions cut that rich, polluting countries had to make. Assigning commitments based on historical responsibility as well as common but differentiated responsibilities are sensible ways to tackle a phenomenon of quantum is scientifically computed. Earlier negotiations were clear about climate finance and transfer of technology.

The COPs since the 15th session held in Copenhagen in 2009 have become arenas for voluntary commitments. Having countries pledging to make emissions cuts according to what is convenient to them does not indicate and understanding of the emergency situation confronting the planet and all life forms on it. This era of voluntarism does nothing to indicate that there is a carbon budget that has to be dealt with. The height of this new strategy could well be what they term the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). This should suggest to us the serious erosion of multilateralism and the entronement of bilateralism and even an upsurge of unitary actions. This could be why voluntary pledges to a Green Climate Fund that rotates on an axis set in Copenhagen receive applause from some quarters.

Lest we forget, the world took a major wrong fork on the road to tackling global warming at Copenhagen. Subsequent COPs at Cancun, Durban, Doha and Warsaw have built on stipulates of the Copenhagen Accord. We remind ourselves that we cannot get to the right destination using a wrong map no matter how far we may go. It is always good sense to retrace one's steps when we know we had missed it. Lima locks in those steps, as the Eiffel Tower appears on the horizon.

The COP in Lima takes the cake when it comes to showing utter disdain to the urgent cries for justice and equity in the world today. For one, the host nation chose to host the world in a military facility that the locals say is tainted with blood of citizens that were tortured or disappeared there. Entering this facility reminds one that there is indeed a very thin line between freedom and repression. The setting itself is a sterile affair with meetings held under tents in the often-swelting heat that ought to remind negotiators that global warming should not be toyed with.

If the official negotiations are locked in on the path that treats climate change as something over which to make long speeches and then perhaps throw some money at, the mood outside the COP was different.

Although before the COP began there were fears that the mobilisation of citizens would be weak, the reality proved otherwise. Waves upon waves of citizens took to the streets denouncing the inaction at the COP, destruction of territories, human rights abuses and demanding the desired seriousness. Corporate kidnapping of the COP was also strongly denounced with activists marching against a meeting of the extractive sector companies, asking that they unhinge their fangs from the veins of the Earth.

At the Peoples' Summit Against Climate Change (Cumbre De Los Pueblos) held in Parque de la Exposicion, miles away from the Little Pentagon, citizens from all over the world offered real solutions to climate change. They underscored the fact that the dominant global capitalist system is the major driver of the crisis and demanded "system change, not climate change." The demands include an urgent transition from fossil fuels and the support of agro-ecological and peasant agriculture as the assured way of feeding the world and cooling the planet at the same time. At a session on Systemic Alternatives, Pablo Solon stressed the need to get to the root of the problem. "Climate change is not only about greenhouse gases. You cannot limit emissions without cutting extraction," he said. This is exactly why environmental and social movements around the world are saying it is time to stand up and face the sober truth. It is time to say *Yes to Life and No to Mining!*

At an event that saw passionate presentations by indigenous women the team of the Global Greengrants Fund, the International Network of Women's Funds and the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network amplified the need for active resourcing of struggles for women's rights within the climate justice context.

Citizens rose up against Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and other carbon offset mechanisms in all their manifestations. Groups like the No REDD in Africa Network (NRAN), the Global Alliance Against REDD and the Indigenous Environmental Network stressed that REDD was shown to be mostly a way of giving polluters permit to pollute and to displace poor forest dependent communities. Sadly this may end up being one of the major props for the Paris COP in 2015, according to some observers.

For Mary Louise Malig of the Global Forest Coalition, "carbon offset permits are simply permits to harm nature." She also sees the so-called climate-smart agriculture as a backdoor way of "introducing

carbon markets for soils and for using carbon accounting to direct agricultural policies.”

Two days of sitting of the **International Tribunal on the Rights of Nature** revealed from submissions of experts and impacted citizens that the view of Nature as an object for exploitation or merchandise and an apparent ignorance of the spiritual and cultural dimensions of nature are some of the root causes of the planetary crisis. The Tribunal admitted all cases presented and found the governments and corporations guilty as charged.

As we depart from Lima, after the COP’ s official time slot had expired, the negotiators were still huddled in their dens piling up options for Paris in a document that lacks a soul. Three thoughts shared during these past days keep ringing in my mind and we close this piece with them.

“Our relationship with Nature must move from exploitation to respect. We must reject the sacrifice economy where the environment, humans and other species are being sacrificed,” said Francois Houtart. And this one from Vishwas Satgar: “We need to humanise power and subject it to the principles of life.” The third thought came from an indigenous brother from Brazil who said: “ We are a people of culture, our spirituality and nature works in line with nature.”

This last thought inspired me to write this poem:

We Are A People Of Culture

We are a people with culture  
We do not destroy nature  
Solidarity, productivity, respect – those we nurture  
And we are loving by nature

We are a people of culture  
We live at peace with nature  
Our thoughts are intergenerational in structure  
For this we detest actions that break and fracture

Believe or not our future is born mature  
For we incubate and brood over the picture  
Of our desired, dreamed future  
Not surprising we internalize our love for nature

We are a people of culture  
And we live at one with nature  
We will resist your plots to box us into your strictures  
Even though we are so loving by nature

Lima. 13 December 2014

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**Postscript:**

COP20 crawled to an end on Sunday 14 December 2014 with a 5-pages Lima Call for Climate Action. At some point during the negotiations the draft text had up to 50 pages loaded with optional texts. Perhaps the greatest success of the COP could be its ability to trim that down to 5 pages. You would be excused if you think that the trimming cut off some flesh. That would be wrong. 50 pages or 5, the document did not deal with emissions cut based on science, neither did it show any real pathway to avoid catastrophic temperature rise. As Climate Justice advocates declared in a statement signed by groups, including Friends of the Earth International, at the end of the COP: No Justice in Lima Outcome.

Last Updated on Monday, 15 December 2014 14:43

604 readings

[American Torture -- Past, Present, and... Future? Beyond the Senate Torture Report](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 14 December 2014 18:00

By [Rebecca](#)

[Gordon](#) [http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175934/tomgram%3A\\_rebecca\\_gordon%2C\\_the\\_torture\\_wars/#more](http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175934/tomgram%3A_rebecca_gordon%2C_the_torture_wars/#more)

It' s the political story of the week in Washington. At long last, after the endless stalling and foot-shuffling,

the arguments about redaction and [CIA computer hacking](#), the [claims](#) that its release might stoke others out there in the Muslim world to violence and “[throw](#) the C.I.A. to the wolves,” the report -- you know which one -- is out. Or at least, the redacted executive summary of it is available to be read and, as Senator Mark Udall [said](#) before its release, “When this report is declassified, people will abhor what they read. They’ re gonna be disgusted. They’ re gonna be appalled. They’ re gonna be shocked at what we did.”

So now we can [finally consider](#) the partial release of the long-awaited report from the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence about the gruesome CIA interrogation methods used during the Bush administration’ s “Global War on Terror.” But here’ s one important thing to keep in mind: this report addresses only the past practices of a single agency. Its narrow focus encourages us to believe that, whatever the CIA may have once done, that whole sorry torture chapter is now behind us.

In other words, the moment we get to read it, it’ s already time to turn the page. So be shocked, be disgusted, be appalled, but don’ t be fooled. The Senate torture report, so many years and obstacles in the making, should only be the starting point for a discussion, not the final word on U.S. torture. Here’ s why.

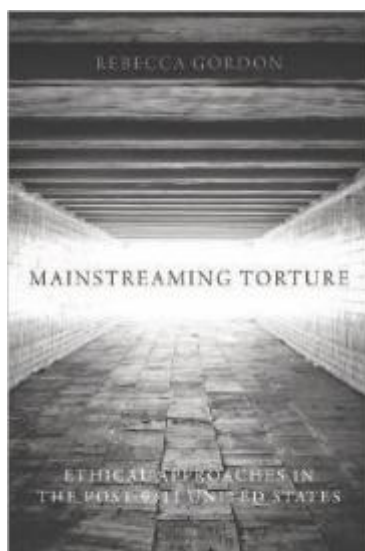
Mainstream coverage of U.S. torture in general, and of this new report in particular, rests on three false assumptions:

1. The most important question is whether torture “worked.”
2. U.S. torture ended when George W. Bush left office.
3. The only kind of torture that really “counts” happens in foreign war zones.

Let’ s look at each of these in order.

False Assumption #1: The only question is “Did it work?”

Maybe torture “worked” on occasion. Probably it didn’t. But it doesn’t matter because torture is illegal under U.S. and international law, and it’s a moral abomination.



## Buy the book

The Senate report’s first finding — and the one that much of a highly predictable debate will focus on — is that the CIA’s “enhanced interrogation techniques” were “ineffective” in identifying the perpetrators of 9/11, producing actionable intelligence, or preventing terrorist attacks. In response, the rhetoric is already flying. The Republicans (except for [Senator John McCain](#)) are [jumping up and down](#) shouting “It *did* work! It *did*!” The president’s own CIA director, John Brennan, has issued his denunciation of the report. While [acknowledging](#) that “the Agency made mistakes,” he, too, insisted that torture “worked.” (A couple of days later, he backtracked, suggesting instead that the answer to this question was actually “[unknowable](#).”) Other former officials of the Agency are [chiming in](#) big time.

In the end, it doesn’t matter whether the CIA’s methods — including waterboarding (which McCain [calls](#) “mock execution” and “an exquisite form of torture”); inflicting week-long sleep deprivation; repeated

beatings; hanging people by their wrists for days, bombarding them with unbearable sound and light or keeping them in total darkness; threatening to sexually abuse their mothers or harm their children; or, in possibly [five cases](#), shoving a tube up someone's rectum and filling it with water (supposedly for "[rectal rehydration](#)") -- were effective. It doesn't matter whether these methods led the Navy Seals to Osama bin Laden. It doesn't matter whether these methods [prevented](#) an al-Qaeda attack on the Library Tower in Los Angeles. It doesn't matter whether they saved American (and only American!) lives. In fact, for those who read the report, the Senate committee is remarkably convincing on a subject about which we already have much information: torture notoriously does not produce useful information. It produces a tangled mess of truths, half-truths, lies, wild invention and confabulation, psychotic ravings, and desperate attempts to say whatever the victim thinks the torturers want to hear.

But none of this matters. Nor does it matter how frightened we are. The situation isn't complicated. We are not allowed to torture people, because we have passed laws against it and signed treaties saying we won't do it. The U.N. Convention Against Torture, which the U.S. signed in 1994, makes it very clear that being afraid of an attack is no excuse for torture. In Article 2, the Convention states, "No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability, or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture." People will always make excuses, but there is no legitimate excuse for torture.

What's at stake here is the kind of country we want to be: Are we a courageous nation ruled by laws or a [nation of cowards](#)?

**False Assumption #2: Torture ended when George W. Bush left office.**

In his statement on the day the report was released, President Obama [tried once again](#) to shove U.S. torture into a box labeled Bad Things We Used to Do. "Rather than another reason to refight old arguments," he said,

“I hope that today’s report can help us leave these techniques where they belong: in the past.”

In fact, institutionalized state torture is not a thing of the past. It has continued under President Obama. Here are some examples:

\*Twice a day in the U.S. prison at Guantánamo, guards forcibly remove hunger strikers from their cells, strap them to a chair, and “feed” them through a tube jammed up the nose and down into the stomach. Here’s how one victim [remembered](#) that experience:

“I will never forget the first time they passed the feeding tube up my nose. I can’t describe how painful it is to be force-fed this way. As it was thrust in, it made me feel like throwing up. I wanted to vomit, but I couldn’t. There was agony in my chest, throat, and stomach. I had never experienced such pain before. I would not wish this cruel punishment upon anyone.”

Force-feeding is no humanitarian act; it is a punishment for nonviolent resistance. It often begins with what officials call “cell extraction” -- as if prisoners were teeth to be pulled out of a jaw. Here’s what happens, [according to Yemini prisoner](#) Moath al-Alwi, who has been at Guantánamo since 2002:

“When I choose to remain in my cell in an act of peaceful protest against the force-feeding, the prison authorities send in a Forced Cell Extraction team: six guards in full riot gear. Those guards are deliberately brutal to punish me for my protest. They pile up on top of me to the point that I feel like my back is about to break. They then carry me out and strap me into the restraint chair, which we hunger strikers call the torture chair.”

Guards use the “torture chair” to restrain the prisoner, says al-Alwi, but also to make the procedure even more painful:

“A new twist to this routine involves the guards restraining me to the chair with my arms cuffed behind my back. The chest strap is then tightened, trapping my arms between my torso and the chair’s backrest. This is done



despite the fact that the torture chair features built-in arm restraints. It is extremely painful to remain in this position.”

At present, a Navy nurse faces [possible dishonorable discharge](#) for refusing to participate in these force feedings, because he believes they are a form of torture.

Why are detainees on hunger strike in the first place? They are using the only nonviolent means available to them to protest their indefinite and illegal detention, which the U.N. Committee Against Torture says is in itself a violation of U.S. duties under the U.N. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment.

\* It wasn't until this December 10th that the U.S. military [finally released](#) its last detainees from the notorious Detention Facility in Parwan on Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. In September 2014, the United States [“quietly released”](#) 14 Pakistanis it had held there for some years -- none of whom was ever accused of any crime. We know nothing about the treatment of those who remained at Bagram, but we do know that, like the detainees at Guantánamo, the men being held there used hunger strikes as their only nonviolent means of resisting their indefinite detention and solitary confinement.

\* In what appears to be a direct contravention of a 2009 [presidential executive order](#) to the CIA to shut down all its “black sites,” or secret interrogation centers around the world, the Agency seems still to be operating at least one of them. Or at least it was two years later when journalist Jeremy Scahill [reported](#) on a secret underground prison in Mogadishu, Somalia, run by the CIA, ostensibly in cooperation with the Somali government's National Security Agency. There, according to Scahill, “U.S. intelligence personnel pay the salaries of intelligence agents and also directly interrogate prisoners.”

Have these intelligence agents used “enhanced interrogation techniques”? We don't know. What we do know, however, was that the place was dark, filthy, and infested with bedbugs and mosquitoes. We know that

prisoners held there had been kidnapped, hooded, and transported by plane in a style familiar to anyone who has followed the [CIA' s methods](#) over the last dozen years.

If that site is still open, either the CIA is operating it with the Obama administration' s knowledge and consent or it is defying the president of the United States. In either case, there was and possibly still is a serious breach of executive power going on.

\* During his confirmation hearings, Obama' s first CIA director, Leon Panetta, [told](#) members of Congress that “if the approved techniques were ‘not sufficient’ to get a detainee to divulge details he was suspected of knowing about an imminent attack, he would ask for ‘additional authority’ to use other methods.”

\* President Obama' s [2009 executive order](#) ending CIA torture still left open a little-discussed torture window. It continued to allow for “extraordinary rendition,” the capture of terror suspects abroad and their shipping to other countries for detention and interrogation. The U.S. [record](#) on this [practice](#) since 9/11 has been a grim history of torture at one remove. True, the order says that no one should be sent to a country in which he or she is likely to be tortured, but the U.S. definition of “likely” differs significantly from that of the [U.N. Convention Against Torture](#). Article 3 of the Convention says no one may be sent to another country if there are “substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture.” The United States insists on a more lenient standard: prohibiting rendition if it is “more likely than not” that torture will take place. In practice, this means relying on the word of the receiving country that no harm will be done (wink, wink).

\* The *U.S. Army Field Manual on Human Intelligence Collector Operations* prohibits many forms of torture. However, a classified “annex” still permits sleep deprivation and sensory deprivation. The U.N. Committee Against Torture flagged this -- among many other concerns -- in its [recent report](#) on U.S. compliance with the

Convention Against Torture.

\* No high civilian officials or military commanders and other personnel were ever prosecuted for the torture they ordered or oversaw, nor of course were the actual CIA torturers. Instead they' re writing their memoirs and [painting pictures](#) of themselves bathing. If their political power makes it impossible to try them here, perhaps the [outrage](#) of the international community can at least make Dick Cheney and George W. Bush outcasts like other discredited former rulers along the lines of Serbia' s [Slobodan Milosovic](#) or Tunisia' s [Zein el-Abidine Ben Ali](#).

Or maybe the United States could actually follow the U.N. Committee Against Torture' s [recommendation](#) and finally sign up for the International Criminal Court.

**False Assumption #3: Torture only counts when it happens in foreign wars.**

This is not true either. Sometimes, torture happens right here in the United States [in police stations](#), immigrant [detention centers](#), and the American jails and prisons that hold [2.3 million people](#).

When the United Nations Committee Against Torture released its [report](#) in November on U.S. compliance with the U.N. Convention against Torture, among the failures the Committee noted were torture and abuse practices in U.S. prisons and immigrant detention facilities. The frequent brutality of U.S. police forces and their [rapid militarization](#) also alarmed the Committee.

Specifically, the Committee pointed to the extensive use of solitary confinement for periods of time longer than two weeks -- the point at which many people start exhibiting [signs of psychosis](#), including having hallucinations, hearing voices, and experiencing paranoia. In my state, California, there are people who have been kept from all human contact for [more than 15 years](#). We are beginning to recognize that the 50,000 to 80,000 people being held in solitary confinement in this country are actually being tortured every day. Furthermore, as the U.N. report emphasizes, some of these

people haven't even been convicted of a crime; they're either being held in pre-trial detention or in immigrant detention centers.

U.S. prisoners also experience [high levels](#) of institutionally sanctioned rape and sexual violence. In fact, prison rape is so common, it's a regular plot device on television police procedurals. Want to keep a "perp" from asking for a lawyer? Threaten to send him to Rikers Island, where who knows what can happen to a pretty guy like him.

### **The Report Is Out. Now What?**

Make no mistake. Getting even this partial and redacted report into public view is a real victory for everyone who hopes to end state torture. But it's just the beginning, not the end of the fight. There's still much work to do.

As a start, someone needs to rein in a CIA whose leadership, past and present, [seems remarkably committed](#) to the effectiveness of torture practices. We need reports like the one the Senate produced about the whole alphabet soup of agencies involved in the "war on terror." We need a full accounting, and full accountability, including prosecutions of those responsible, or perhaps even [official pardons](#) that would at least establish that crimes were committed. We need to end torture in our own jails and prisons.

The Senate torture report could be the opening we need to really make U.S. torture a thing of the past. Let's not waste it!

*Rebecca Gordon is the author of [Mainstreaming Torture: Ethical Approaches in the Post-9/11 United States](#). She teaches in the philosophy department at the University of San Francisco. She is a member of the [War Times/Tiempo de Guerras](#) collective. You can contact her through the Mainstreaming Torture [website](#).*

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[U.S. Faulted for Undermining Torture Convention](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 11 December 2014 09:50

By [Thalif Deen](#)



**Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussein, recently appointed UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, notes that few countries will admit their state apparatus has been practising torture, even when the scars are all too visible on the victims who manage to escape. Credit: UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré**

**UNITED NATIONS, Dec 11 2014 (IPS)** - The timing was inadvertently impeccable as two stinging reports on harsh interrogation techniques – by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the United States and former military regimes in Brazil – were released on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the U.N. Convention Against Torture.

Not surprisingly, U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric was peppered – and metaphorically tortured – with a barrage of non-stop questions on Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's response to the charges.

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"They knew they were outside the lines, they concealed it from their own people, and yet no one will be held accountable." -- Prof. Vijay Prashad

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"The secretary-general believes the prohibition of torture [by the U.N. convention] was absolute and non-negotiable," Dujarric told reporters at Wednesday's noon briefing.

But the questions seemed never ending – even as he refused to be pinned down.

"No, I do not believe the secretary-general had direct communication with anyone in the U.S. administration [after the report was released Tuesday]."

"No, no one is taking the report as gospel. And it is not for the secretary-general to say it is a definitive report," he shot back. "There is an open debate – and this is the start of a process," he added.

The release of the two reports – by a U.S. Senate committee on the CIA's interrogation tactics, and also the systematic human rights violations in Brazil as revealed in a report by the country's National Truth Commission – also coincided with Human Rights Day, which the United Nations commemorates annually on Dec. 10.

"Strange coincidence indeed," Vijay Prashad, professor of international studies at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, told IPS.

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- [Cash-Strapped Human Rights Office at Breaking Point, Says New Chief](#)
- [Torture Victims in El Salvador Speak Out](#)

He said the report by the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee shows they were well aware the revelations "stink".

"There is a very telling section [in the report] where they say that [then U.S.

Secretary of State] Colin Powell must not be informed, because if he is, he would blow his stack,” said Prashad, who has written extensively on international politics and is the author of 15 books.

“They knew they were outside the lines, they concealed it from their own people, and yet no one will be held accountable,” he added.

The United States ratified the 1987 U.N. Convention Against Torture back in October 1994 and Brazil in September 1989.

Responding to the two reports, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Raad Al Hussein, urged the U.N.’s 193 member states to act unequivocally in their effort to stamp out torture.

He said the U.S. report shows torture is still taking place in quite a few of the 156 countries that have ratified the Convention and have domestic legislation making torture illegal.

“To have it so clearly confirmed that it was recently practised as a matter of policy by a country such as the United States is a very stark reminder that we need to do far, far more to stamp it out everywhere,” he continued.

This has been true at the best of times, he added.

It is particularly true during this period of rising international terrorism, when it has shown a tendency to slither back into practice, disguised by euphemisms, even in countries where it is clearly outlawed, said Zeid, a former permanent representative of Jordan to the United Nations.

However, he “warmly welcomed” the publication of the Senate Committee’s summary report on the CIA’s Detention and Interrogation Programme, as well as the report of Brazil’s National Truth Commission which documents the extensive use of torture, among other gross and systematic human rights violations, over a 42-year period, including the 1964-85 military dictatorship.

The Brazilian Commission, which was established in May 2012, investigated the serious human rights violations that occurred between 1946 and 1988 – the period between the last two democratic constitutions in Brazil.

These violations include unlawful imprisonment and torture; sexual violence; executions and subsequent concealing of corpses; and enforced disappearances.

“When practiced massively and systematically against a population, these violations become a crime against humanity,” the report said.

The report on the CIA said terrorist suspects, after the Sep. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, were subjected to sleep deprivation (as long as a week), water-boarding, rectal-hydration, with some prisoners “literally hooked like a dog that had been kenneled.”

The CIA defended its techniques by arguing that its brutal treatment of suspects was aimed at protecting the country from further terrorist attacks.

Zeid said: “Although there are very significant differences between these two exceptionally important reports, not least in their scope and the periods they

cover, I commend the governments of Brazil and the United States for enabling their release.”

Few countries, he pointed out, will admit their state apparatus has been practising torture, and many continue shamelessly to deny it – even when it is well documented by international human rights treaty bodies, and the scars are all too visible on the victims who manage to escape.

“While it will take time to fully analyse the contents of these two landmark reports – and I do not wish to pre-empt that analysis – we can still draw some stark conclusions about the failures to eradicate this serious international crime, for which there should be no statute of limitations and no impunity,” Zeid declared.

He also said one question neither report can answer on its own is how both countries will fulfil their obligation to ensure accountability for the crimes that have been committed.

In all countries, he pointed out, if someone commits murder, they are prosecuted and jailed. If they commit rape or armed robbery, they are prosecuted and jailed.




“If they order, enable or commit torture recognized as a serious international crime they cannot simply be granted impunity because of political expediency.”

When that happens, he said, “we undermine this exceptional Convention, and as a number of U.S. political leaders clearly acknowledged yesterday, we undermine our own claims to be civilized societies rooted in the rule of law.”

*Edited by Kitty Stapp*

*The writer can be contacted at [thalifdeen@aol.com](mailto:thalifdeen@aol.com)*

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[Canada opts not to block international trade in 76 endangered species](#)   

[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 10 December 2014 20:10

Canada expressed reservations at 2013 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

The Canadian Press Posted: Dec 10, 2014 1:30 PM ET Last Updated: Dec 10, 2014



1:30 PM ET



Canada has declined to restrict international trade for 76 endangered plant and animal species, including the manta ray. (David Loh/Reuters)

Canada has declined to restrict international trade for 76 endangered plant and animal species, including the manta ray. (David Loh/Reuters)

Recently released documents indicate the federal government has reservations about restricting international trade in endangered species — more of them than almost any other government on Earth.

The papers show that Canada has opted out of nearly every resolution to protect endangered species taken at last year's meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Delegates from 180 countries voted to extend protections to 76 plant and animal species from soft-shelled turtles to tropical hardwoods.

- [Canada's process to protect endangered species is failing, study finds](#)
- [Belugas should be on endangered species list, government told](#)

Canada, however, filed "reservations" against all those motions, meaning Canadian trade in those species will continue as normal.

"It's unprecedented," said Sheryl Fink of the International Fund for Animal Welfare. "I can't think of any explanation for it.

"I've been told no other country has ever taken such an action."

## 'Technical' reservations, Environment Canada says

The protections were voted on in March 2013 at the last CITES convention in Bangkok. According to a document released earlier this fall, Canada chose to opt out of all but one of the motions that upgraded species protections.

Canada's 76 reservations, all filed in 2013, dwarf those of other nations. Over the entire 39-year history of the treaty, Iceland has filed 22 reservations; Japan 18 and the United Kingdom eight. The United States has filed none.



Canada filed a reservation about protecting the manatee, despite not harvesting the animal. (Carlos Barria/Reuters)

Few of the species Canada declined to protect have significant domestic value. A small East Coast fishery exists for the porbeagle shark, but Canada does not harvest manatees, manta rays or ebony.

Environment Canada spokesman Danny Kingsberry said the reservations are temporary and the protections will eventually come into law.

"Canada, as with many other parties to the convention, requires additional time to make the necessary regulatory changes," he said in an email. "These reservations are technical in nature, not substantive, and were made to allow Canada sufficient time to amend its domestic legislation to reflect the changes."

But the text of the agreement says reservations are "a unilateral statement that (a country) will not be bound by the provisions of the convention relating to trade in a particular species."

As well, Fink said, Canada has previously managed to produce regulations well within a 90-day grace period allowed under the treaty.

"As far as I'm aware, this has never been a problem for Canada," she said. "There is no logical explanation for Canada to place reservations on all of these species, and no

plausible excuse for a 20-month delay in updating our legislation."

The government has also failed to follow through with a promise last August to update its wild animal and plant trade regulations, said the animal welfare fund.

## 'No logical explanation' for 76 reservations

Canada's stance baffles its international partners, said Fink.

There is no logical explanation for Canada to place reservations on all of these species, and no plausible excuse for a 20-month delay in updating our legislation.' - Sheryl Fink, of the International Fund for Animal Welfare

"For Canada to opt out of its obligations under CITES for every single species that was listed, when we don't even have a commercial interest in the species, it has no logical explanation as far as anyone can tell.

"It's something that's been noticed in the international conservation community — why has Canada done this?"

Canada has been fighting a rearguard action at CITES over polar bears. It has been working to stop the organization from further restricting trade in polar bear parts.

Support for Canada's position, however, has been declining.

In 2010, CITES considered banning all trade in polar bear parts and the European Union voted in a single bloc with Canada against it. In 2013, after major European countries including the United Kingdom and Germany said they opposed Canada's polar bear hunt, the EU simply sat on its hands.

Last Updated on Thursday, 11 December 2014 21:07

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[As global environmental delegates gather in Peru for the UN climate talks, five oil spills in the country's Amazon jungle are causing a hidden environmental disaster](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 10 December 2014 16:18

By **[Suzanne Goldenberg](#)** in San Pedro village, Loreto department, Peru

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The Guardian, Tuesday 9 December 2014 15.15 GMT

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/dec/09/the-amazon-oil-spills-overlooked-by-environmental-leaders-in-lima>



A Kukama Indian checks oil spilled from a broken pipeline that has polluted the Marañón River, a major tributary

Barbara Fraser

It is a disaster hidden from the environmental leaders gathered inside the walls of a military compound in Lima on a mission to fight climate change.

Over the last few months - as Peru helped guide the United Nations

climate negotiations - five separate oil spills along a main oil pipeline through the Amazon have spewed thick black clots of crude across jungle and swamp and carpeted local fishing lagoons with dead fish.

Inside the climate summit fortress - as in much of the world - the oil spills in the jungle went largely unnoticed.

But for the indigenous peoples living downstream in clusters of tin-roofed and thatched houses on the banks of the Marañón river, it's been a season of sickness and fear.

The first big breach of the pipeline occurred on 30 June, near a village known as Cuninico. "I never knew what crude oil was, and then suddenly we saw it floating down the river," said Melita Bela Celis, who lives in the village of San Pedro, a Kukama Indian community.

Kukama on the shore of Marañon river affected by oil spill in Amazon rainforest of Peru

Melita Bela Celis lives in San Pedro village, a Kukama Indian community on the shore of Marañón river, where fish have been devastated by the oil spill. Photograph: Suzanne Goldenberg for The Guardian



Melita Bela Celis lives in San Pedro village, a Kukama Indian

community on the shore of Marañón river, where fish have been devastated by the oil spill. Photograph: Suzanne Goldenberg for The Guardian

What came next was a series of illness that struck three of her five children: headaches, nose bleeds, nausea and stomach aches. Bela blames the ailments on exposure to oil in the water and in the fish that are the main staple.

“Everybody in the village got these symptoms,” she said.

On 16 November, the villagers heard of another pipeline breach over the radio, one even closer to their village. A week or so later, Bela’s second-oldest son, Ever, 17, and another villager, Piero Castillo Chanchari, 22, took a canoe into the village’s customary fishing lagoon.

On a good day, the villagers say they can find up to 30 species of fish in the lagoon. But what Bela and Castillo saw on that day left them shaken: a dead capybara (the world’s largest rodent), coated in crude and floating belly-up in the fishing ground that had been the villagers’ main source of food. “You could smell oil, and the leaves on the bank were black,” said Castillo.

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A little further upstream, the dead and dying fish were packed so closely together you could almost walk on them.

“I could never imagine anything like that,” Ever said. “It was scary. I felt sad.”

As host, Peru is eager for success at the climate talks now underway in Lima. Last week, the government pledged to get off oil and generate 60% of its electricity from renewable sources, such as wind and solar power, by 2025.

But the Peruvian government is also aggressively promoting a rapid expansion of oil and gas operations in the Amazon - with devastating consequences for local indigenous peoples and the environment, as well as those very same global efforts to reduce carbon pollution. Illegal logging and forest clearance by oil companies now accounts for about two-thirds of Peru’s carbon pollution, according to researchers from the Carnegie Institute for Science.

Since 30 June, there have been five separate breaks associated with Petroperú's main northern pipeline.

The pipeline, the North Peruvian, runs for more than 850km from San José de Saramuro in Loreto department, cutting across Amazon jungle and the Andean mountains, before emptying into a refinery at Sechura Bay on the Pacific coast.



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Scaffolding holds up a broken section of the oil pipeline. Photograph: Barbara Fraser

Two of the spill sites, at Cuninico and the 20-km point on the pipeline, are only a few miles apart and are clearly visible from the air: large splotches of black amid the expanse of green trees and the brown coils of the Marañón. Nearby, the state-owned oil company has put up blue-tented camps for clean-up workers.

Scaffolding holds a broken section of the oil pipeline.

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Scaffolding holds up a broken section of the oil pipeline.

Photograph: Barbara Fraser

Peruvian officials estimated the first spill at 2,000 barrels. The most recent spill was several times larger, the villagers say.

The company, in a briefing paper prepared for the energy commission on 26 November, called the most recent breach an “assault”, or an act of sabotage.

But indigenous peoples and campaigners reject the charge. They say the Peruvian regulators and the state-owned oil and gas company have not done enough to maintain the pipeline, which dates from the early 1970s.

“The pipeline has been neglected for 40 years. It doesn’t have the capacity but they use it anyway,” said Alfonso López Tejada, leader of the Kukama development association which represents more than 60 communities.

He said this stretch of the pipeline runs beneath the fast flowing waters of the Marañón, making it even more unlikely villagers could successfully attack the structure. “The company doesn’t even want to recognise that this is affecting us,” López said.

Foreign oil companies have been operating - and fouling - this part of the Peruvian Amazon for more than 40 years. At times those activities have directly threatened the lives of indigenous peoples living in the Peruvian Amazon.

Oil companies have cleared forests to build roads and helicopter pads. They have cut down a vast swathe of the Amazon for pipelines and other installations, and they have pumped the hot, muddy, toxic waste directly into the rivers.

The Norwegian government pension fund - the world’s largest - dropped its holding in the Spanish firm, Repsol, on the grounds that the company’s operations in the Amazon posed an unacceptably high risk to isolated indigenous tribes. However, Repsol later sold its holdings in that area of the Amazon.

Since 2008, oil developments have increased at a dramatic pace after Lima offered up 75% of the Peruvian rainforest to oil companies.



The state-owned Petroperú as well as Argentinian, British, Canadian and French firms have all ramped up the hunt for Amazonian oil.

“This is an area which was already devastated by the oil companies and what the Peruvian Government has done is just increase the devastation - increased the exploration, increased the production, increased the devastation in this area of the Amazon,” said Anders Krogh, chief Amazon campaigner for the Norwegian Rainforest Foundation.



Kukama women and children wash in the river in Cuninico. Water, soil and sediments in the Amazon tributary contain heavy metals and other residue from more than four decades of oil production. In all 17 communities tested, the rivers, lakes or wells that provide drinking water were deemed unsafe. Photograph: Barbara Fraser

Kukama women and children doing washing in river in Cuninico

Kukama women and children wash in the river in Cuninico. Water, soil and sediments in the Amazon tributary contain heavy metals and other residue from more than four decades of oil production. In all 17 communities tested, the rivers, lakes or wells that provide drinking water were deemed unsafe. Photograph: Barbara Fraser

The campaign group works closely with the Kukama and other indigenous peoples in the Peruvian Amazon.

In June, the government lowered maximum fines for environmental crimes by 50% to welcome oil and gas investors, and barred the environment ministry from sole authority over nominating nature protection areas.

“These kind of changes in environmental legislation are first and foremost to protect the oil industry and ensure the oil industry can go on as they want - in the run-up to the COP [Conference of the Parties, the Lima climate summit] they do that,” Krogh said.

In recent years, the Peruvian government has declared environmental emergencies in all four headwaters of the Amazon.




For the people of San Pedro and other villages, however, such declarations offer little in the way of consolation. Despite the oil company’s assurances, the villagers don’t trust the fish that were once their livelihood, and they do not see how they can carry on.

“We can’t go on living here,” said Melita Bela Celis. “They say the oil will last for 30 or 40 years. We can’t eat the fish any more, so what will we live on for all those years?”

The Guardian and Norwegian Rainforest shared the travel costs for this report.

Last Updated on Wednesday, 10 December 2014 16:34

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["We invite you to come and defend YOUR rights, OUR rights and those of LIFE on Earth."](#)   

[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 10 December 2014 13:58


**People's Summit in Lima Envisions Bottom-Up Movement for**

## Global Climate Justice

Alternative gathering outside of UN talks brings together civil societies and social movements from across the globe

By [Sarah Lazare, staff writer](#)  
[Common Dreams](#)

Tuesday, December 09, 2014



**Opening night of People's Summit on Climate Change at the Exposition Park of Lima. (Photo: Cumbre de los Pueblos frente al Cambio Climático)**

Social movements and civil societies from around the world are gathered in Lima, Peru this week with an ambitious [goal](#): to "develop an alternative form of development, one that respects the limits and regenerative capacities of Mother Earth and tackles the structural causes of climate change."

The "People's Summit on Climate Change" is hosted by grassroots organizations and networks—including the Workers General Confederation of Peru, Andean Coordinator of Indigenous organizations, and Workers Autonomous Central of Peru.

It constitutes an alternative to the ongoing United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, also in Lima, where government representatives and corporate leaders are holding the latest in a series of UN talks.

"We, the social movements and the progressive forces of civil society are beginning to seriously prepare ourselves for the protracted struggle to defend the people and the planet and create a just transition from the extractive and exploitative economy to a democratic economy that aligns us with the natural processes of the earth," Kali Akuno, from the Mississippi-based organization Cooperation Jackson, told *Common Dreams* from Lima.

"A framework of global expropriation"

According to Akuno, who is attending the alternative summit as part of a Grassroots Global Justice Alliance delegation of U.S. communities on the front-lines of climate change, what is happening within the UN meeting is cynical: "At this moment the states and the transnational corporations are refining a framework of global expropriation that will complete the capitalist consumption of the earth. And they have become so bold as to remove any mention of human rights and protections from the framework."

The UN conference in Lima, which takes place from December 1-12, is being [publicly billed](#) as a gathering to create a draft document that will "lay the foundation for an effective, new, universal climate change agreement in Paris in 2015." The Paris meeting, known as COP21, "will mark a decisive stage in negotiations on the future international agreement on a post-2020 regime, and will, as agreed in Durban, adopt the major outlines of that regime," according to a [statement](#) from the French government.

Akuno is not alone in being disillusioned with the UN process. Critics charge that the Lima meeting, in keeping with past UN talks, has been hijacked by corporations and the interests of wealthy people and nations, and as a result, will fail to deliver the urgent action needed.

Representatives from the fossil fuel industry have been holding private meetings with numerous national delegations, including a closed-door meeting between the Canadian delegation and Chevron and TransCanada, according to a [report](#) from Leehi Yona and Diego Arguedas Ortiz in *Inter Press Service*.

On Monday, activists, including indigenous communities in Colombia, Peru, Canada, and beyond, [shut down](#) a panel at the Conference. The panel—originally titled, "Why Divest from Fossil Fuels When a Future with Low Emission Fossil Energy Use is Already a Reality?"—which was organized by fossil fuel industry lobbyists and featured speakers from the World Coal Association and Shell.

However, People's Summit organizers say the UN conference presents an opening to civil society and social movement groups to set their own vision for global change heading into the Paris meeting.

**As world leaders draft a new climate agreement, those gathered at the alternative summit will "share initiatives, proposals and experiences, as well as define and coordinate our agendas, to bring pressure to bear on the decision makers at COP20, and demand that the official negotiators take account of the world's citizens and peoples," according to [organizers](#).**



**"People from social movements around the world"**

**"It's incredible to see so many people from social movements around the world coming together at this People's Summit on Climate Change," Cindy Wiesner, National Coordinator for Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, told *Common Dreams*.**

**"There are mass movement organizations like La Vía Campesina, broad labor unions like the CUT-Peru (Confederation of Workers of Peru), global feminist movements like the World March of Women, indigenous alliances like Andean Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations (CAOI) and Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN), all putting our heads together in Lima to align our community-led solutions to this climate crisis," Wiesner added.**

**The summit, which takes place from December 8 to 11, is "split into five tracks which all address a piece of climate change from food to rights of Mother Earth to alternative energy and economies," Diana Lopez of the Southwest Workers Union in San Antonio, Texas told *Common Dreams*. "A large percent of the participants are indigenous people from the region. Many understand and speak Spanish but it is not their native language."**

**Lopez shared reflections on the opening day of the gathering:**

**On one level you have global funders making spaces for their grantees to speak about their work. On another there are more academic, technology and policy spaces. And finally there are the organizer**

spaces which are self-organized and are concentrated on front-line experience, movement-building and alignment around solutions.

People seem tired and frustrated talking about policy and what the government should be doing. They don't want to talk about those things anymore, and while it's important to know them and keep track of those policies that will ultimately affect our communities the most, people are passionate about shifting towards a systemic change framework. The pueblos are interested in learning how to integrate new sustainable technology into traditional farming practices while still healing Mother Earth. We are talking about fighting against the extreme corporations that continue to destroy communities while developing an alternative space where our people can thrive and begin the healing of Pachamama.

The message is clear that in order to really create solutions to climate change we must also talk about the disparities among funding, patriarchy within our own movement and the role U.S. plays in the destruction of communities.

The Summit is building towards a December 10th "People's Climate March" through Lima, timed to coincide with the International Day of Human Rights, which marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

An [announcement](#) for the march declares, "[W]e invite you to come and defend YOUR rights, OUR rights and those of LIFE on Earth."

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Link: <http://www.commondreams.org/news/2014/12/09/peoples-summit-lima-envisions-bottom-movement-global-climate-justice>

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[Leap forward for E.U. bill allowing national bans on GM crops](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 09 December 2014 20:09

By

[Tania Rabesandratana](#)

<http://news.sciencemag.org/environment/2014/12/leap-forward-e-u-bill-allowing-national-bans-gm-crops>

4 December 2014 4:15 pm



FLORIS LOOIJESTEIJN/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS (CC BY 2.0)

A march against Monsanto, which produces genetically modified crops, in Amsterdam in 2013.

**BRUSSELS**—A [long-stalled proposal](#) to let individual countries in the European Union ban genetically modified (GM) crops took a major step forward last night,

when representatives of the European Parliament and the bloc's member states agreed on a joint version. The bill is now very close to becoming law: It could come into force in the spring if the whole Parliament and member states formally endorse the proposal in the coming weeks.

Regulatory decisions regarding GM crops are now made at the European level; the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in Parma, Italy, assesses which ones are safe to put on the market. In the past decade, however, divisions between pro- and anti-GM European nations have hindered authorization decisions following EFSA's assessment.

Countries favorable to growing transgenic crops, such as Spain and the United Kingdom, want to unlock approval processes that have been delayed for years and allow more crops onto European fields; the governments of countries like Germany, France, and Austria want to be able to ban products on their territory—even if EFSA deems them safe—without being challenged in court.

The proposal gives the latter group more power to do what they want, whereas the former hopes that the new rules will ease authorization procedures. Frédérique Ries, who negotiated yesterday on behalf of the Parliament's committee in charge of environmental, public health, and food safety (ENVI) issues, says the deal is a “reasoned” solution that will allow the union to make a fresh start on this divisive matter.

“This is not about opposing science and politics ... or about opposing reason and emotion,” says Ries's aide Patrice Audibert, but rather about unlocking an untenable situation and enabling governments to respond to strong public concerns.

The text will “give the democratically elected governments at least the same weight as scientific advice when it comes to important decisions concerning food and environment,” said Vytenis Andriukaitis, the European commissioner in charge of health and food safety, [in a statement today](#).

But neither seed producers nor green groups are convinced. Biotech companies say the basic idea of the bill—an agreement to disagree among member states, at the expense of market harmony—is bad news for industry. “Rejecting modern technologies on non-scientific grounds sets a dangerous precedent for the internal market and sends a negative signal for innovative industries worldwide considering



whether or not to invest and operate in Europe,” said Beat Späth, director for agricultural biotechnology at the industry association EuropaBio here, [in a statement today](#).

Some scientists have echoed this sentiment. "We make a science-based risk assessment [of a product], and if it's safe we use it and if it's unsafe, we don't," Stefan Jansson, a professor of plant cell and molecular biology at Umeå University's Plant Science Centre in Sweden, told *ScienceInsider* when ENVI approved its draft last month. By allowing other grounds for banning a product, "we undermine the scientific basis of the whole system," he added.

Meanwhile, Greenpeace EU, [which had praised the draft approved by ENVI 3 weeks ago](#), says the text has lost substance in the final negotiations. The bill mentions maintaining local biodiversity and ecosystems as reasons that member states could invoke to ban the crops, but Marco Contiero, agriculture policy director at Greenpeace EU here, says the wording is not enough to [withstand legal scrutiny if seed producers challenge a ban in court](#). "It's extremely difficult for a member state to [restrict the free movement of goods in the European Union] if it is not allowed to use public health and environmental motivations" to do so, Contiero says.

Member states will discuss this issue on 10 December; the text will also be put to a vote at the ENVI committee on 15 December and at the European Parliament plenary in January.

**\*Correction, 5 December, 12:17 p.m.:** *This story has been corrected to clarify EFSA's role in the regulatory process.*

Posted in [Environment](#), [Europe](#), [Policy](#)

385 readings

[Roundup Ready in alfalfa exports 'catastrophic'](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 09 December 2014 16:29

Nov. 28th, 2014

Comment on Roundup Ready in alfalfa exports 'catastrophic'

Genetically modified traits in alfalfa have become a hot export issue. China market closed | U.S. exporters blacklisted because of GM presence in the crop

BROMONT, Que. — The discovery of Roundup Ready alfalfa in global hay exports should be on Canadian farmers' radar, says a Canadian hay exporter.

Ed Shaw, who exports forage around the world, including to China, said three American hay exporters have been blacklisted from exporting hay to China, and hundreds of container loads of hay have been turned away after Roundup Ready alfalfa was found in the loads.

"In the export market, it has become a really hot topic item with the Chinese market. The Chinese have zero tolerance for GMO," Shaw said during a discussion about the introduction of Roundup Ready alfalfa in Canada at a recent forage conference. "It's catastrophic."

Forage Genetics International, which has the right to sell Roundup Ready alfalfa in Canada, seeded 11 test plots in Quebec and Ontario this year and is looking to expand its test locations and studies next year.

Roundup Ready alfalfa is registered and allowed to be grown in the United States, but Shaw said U.S. exporters have been blacklisted because of the genetically modified crop.

"They have had three strikes against them and the U.S. is considering totally shutting down the Chinese market until we get something established," he said.

"China has zero tolerance and I mean zero tolerance, not several parts per million but zero tolerance."

Shaw is worried that Canadian hay exporters will be shut out of the market if GM canola seed is found in hay crops.

"I am afraid that if we start testing our alfalfa for zero tolerance, I bet we would fail," he said.

"Now the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) and the Chinese are trying to work on a tolerance level. If you have canola field next to an alfalfa field and get some trash, it's going to check positive on the forage."

Forage Seed Canada president Heather Kerschbaumer said a container load of her farm's timothy hay was rejected because of the discovery of one canola seed in a 25

gram sample destined for Japan three years ago.

“(It) was enough to cause the company we had the contract with to cancel our contract,” she said.

“We lost \$20,000 because of one canola seed.”

It’s a troubling trend for Canadian grass and forage seed growers, who export thousands of tonnes of seed around the world. The discovery of a Roundup Ready alfalfa seed in an alfalfa, timothy, red clover, brome or fescue shipment would put an end to all export markets.

Kerschbaumer said her Golden Acre Seed Co. had nine non-Roundup Ready alfalfa samples tested last year for the presence of Roundup Ready alfalfa, and all tested negative.

“We find alfalfa in 60 to 70 percent of the lots shipped out of the Peace. If it is genetically modified, we would lose all those markets as well.”

Kerschbaumer said she recently visited the Imperial Valley in California, where counties have outlawed the growing of Roundup Ready alfalfa because of their large vegetable production. Alfalfa is used in the rotation with vegetable crops.

Kerschbaumer said she returned from that trip with a glimmer of hope that there are ways to stop Roundup Ready alfalfa from being introduced into Canada, at least in Western Canada.

“They told us if they can’t keep it out of Canada, keep it out of the West,” she said.

“If you can’t keep it out of the West, you should keep it out of Alberta. If you can’t keep it out of Alberta, you should keep it out of the Peace because there will be benefits and bonuses paid on the seed that is produced that is GE free.”

Shaw said the three blacklisted hay producers are from the Imperial Valley. The rules that prohibit the production of Roundup Ready alfalfa don’t stop the hay from being processed in the area.

“What has been processed there has been contaminated. They’re bringing hay in from God knows where. You can’t grow it, but processors can still bring it in.”

Kerschbaumer said Forage Seed Canada wants to raise awareness of the issue and encourage farmers to test their alfalfa seed before it’s planted.

“It’s a big awareness issue,” she said.

“You want the cattle people to be aware not to plant it. They could be unknowingly planting this stuff and contaminating fence lines and ditches, which could contaminated someone’s seed fields.”

[mary.macarthur@producer.com](mailto:mary.macarthur@producer.com)

Last Updated on Tuesday, 16 December 2014 23:03

409 readings

[“Indigenous Peoples Are the Owners of the Land” Say Activists at COP20](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 09 December 2014 09:07

By [Milagros Salazar](#)



**Widows of murdered leaders of the Asháninka community of Alto Tamaya Saweto of Peru and other indigenous rights activists raised their voices in protest at COP20 in Lima, demanding formal title to native lands. Credit: Milagros Salazar/IPS**

**LIMA, Dec 6 2014 (IPS)** - The clamor of indigenous peoples for recognition of their ancestral lands resounded among the delegates of 195 countries at the climate summit taking place in the Peruvian capital. “I want my land...that’s where I live and eat, and it’s where my saintly grandparents lie,” Diana Ríos shouted with rage.

The 21-year-old Asháninka woman is the daughter of Jorge Ríos, an indigenous leader who was killed in September for defending the forests of his community, Alto Tamaya Saweto, in Peru’s Ucayali jungle region.

The families blame his death and the murders of three other native leaders in that area on illegal loggers, and protested Friday at [COP20](#) – the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) – to demand formal title to their land.

The main demand set forth by indigenous activists at COP20 is focused on gaining recognition of their land ownership, and with that the protection of their forests and respect for their ancestral knowledge and collective rights.

In the eight countries that share South America's Amazon jungle, formal collective title is lacking on nearly 100 million hectares of native land, according to the [Coordinator of Indigenous Organisations of the Amazon Basin](#)(COICA).

In Peru, where the widows from the community of Alto Tamaya Saweto came from, there are still 633 native communities without title to their land, according to the non-governmental [Instituto del Bien Común](#) (Institute for the Common Good).

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“[We] indigenous peoples are the owners of the land. However, the State has not respected the traditional way in which we have managed it. Thus, land rights are the only strategy which we have left in order for our territories to be respected.” -- Maasai activist Stanley Kimaren Riami

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The demand for land titles is linked to the implementation of the U.N. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) projects and programmes in developing countries.

In the agreements adopted at COP16, held in Cancun, Mexico in 2010, safeguards were included to avoid social and environmental damage to indigenous territories where REDD projects are being carried out.

In the current 12-day conference in Lima, indigenous organisations are demanding that the states parties include, in the reports on safeguards that they have to present to the UNFCCC, indicators on biodiversity, the health of native peoples, land titling, and ancestral knowledge, among other aspects, Grace Balawag of the Kankanaey people of the Philippines told IPS.

These indicators and others will make it possible to gauge the extent of the participation by native peoples in the mitigation of global warming, said Balawag, the assistant project coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples, Climate Change and Forests Project Partnership under Tebtebba, the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education..

Balawag and other native activists called for indigenous peoples to be included in national forest monitoring systems, because they have proven to be capable of preserving their land, thanks to their ancestral knowledge.

The Alliance, which has been taking part in international conferences on climate change since 2009, includes 17 indigenous organisations from 13 countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia, whose territories are facing a variety of threats.

In some cases, indigenous communities are suffering the impact of extractive activities like mining and oil production, Tarcila Rivera, the spokeswoman for the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas, told IPS.

In others, indigenous people have had to fight illegal activities that jeopardise the way of life of local populations, said Rivera, who is also the president of the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Cultures of Peru (Chirapaq).

A study by the Munden Project that analysed 73,000 concessions for mining, logging, oil and gas drilling, and large-scale agriculture in eight tropical forested countries found that more than 93 percent of these developments were found to involve land inhabited by indigenous peoples and local communities.

The countries considered in the study, which was commissioned by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) and published in October, were Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Indonesia, Liberia, Mozambique, Peru and the Philippines.

These threats are linked to the number of murders of people fighting for the protection of the environment and their land. Between 2002 and 2013, 908 activists were killed around the world, according to the report [Deadly Environment](#) released this year by [Global Witness](#).

Brazil was the country with the most killings (448), followed by Honduras (109) and the Philippines (67).

Although recognition of indigenous territories is a global demand, different methods and strategies are used, said Balawag.

In some countries, like Peru, native peoples are asking for collective land titles, in nations like the Philippines they are demanding the demarcation of recognised ancestral land, and in other cases like Bangladesh they are pressing for the enforcement of agreements signed with governments in territorial disputes.

“If the land is not entitled, if REDD is implemented, how can we receive the benefits? It is related to the benefits and to our own survival. We can even be evicted by our governments and corporations,” said Mrinal Tripura with the Maleya Foundation of Bangladesh.

Tripura told IPS that the government of his country did not recognise the traditional system of indigenous peoples, who do not feel represented in the COP20 talks in Lima.




Similar complaints came from Africa. “[We] indigenous peoples are the owners of the land. However, the State has not respected the traditional way in which we have managed it. Thus, land rights are the only strategy which we have left in order for our territories to be respected,” Maasai activist Stanley Kimaren Riamit, executive director of Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), told IPS.

“Carbon investors are interested that ownership of the territories is clearly stated prior to investing in REDD. Trees grow on land, and that land belongs to someone,” said the Kenyan activist.

This reasoning sounds simple but is an awkward truth for many countries taking part in the COP20 negotiations, which are being held in removable installations set up in the San Borja military complex in Lima, known as “el Pentagonito” (the little Pentagon).

*Edited by Estrella Gutiérrez/Translated by Stephanie Wildes*

298 readings

[Stephen Harper does U-turn on election law gagging advocacy groups](#)   

[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 08 December 2014 12:17

**PM PLEDGED IN 2004 TO REPEAL LEGISLATION THAT LIMITS THIRD-PARTY ADVERTISING**

By Joan Bryden, The Canadian Press Posted: Dec 07, 2014 8:30 PM ET Last Updated: Dec 07, 2014 8:31 PM ET



Prime Minister Stephen Harper, seen voting in Calgary in 2011, has apparently reversed course on one of his loudest stances from the early 2000s: whether the federal government should rein in third-party election advertising. (The Canadian Press)

Stephen Harper used to contend that money does not influence the outcome of elections.

He used to rail against any attempt to limit the amount of money outside advocacy groups could spend during campaigns.

And he used to strenuously object to any attempts to compel those groups to disclose from whom they got their money or how they spent it.

- [Election law changes set for court challenge](#)
- [Law shows Harper's vindictiveness, ex-aide says](#)

That was, of course, before he became prime minister.

Now, Harper heads a party that accuses labour unions of trying to "bully and influence our elections from the outside" and routinely uses the spectre of dastardly union politicking to drum up donations the Conservatives say are urgently needed to ensure victory in next year's election.



Former Liberal cabinet minister Don Boudria, seen in 2005, who was named in a lawsuit by Harper over the Liberals' election gag law, says 'the ironies are all over the place.' (Ryan Remiorz/Canadian Press)

And he heads a government bent on forcing unions to disclose the salaries of their employees and just how they spend the money they collect from members' dues.

Former Liberal cabinet minister Don Boudria stops just short of calling it hypocrisy.

"I think this is a case of that was then, and this is now," said Boudria, who was named in a [court challenge](#) launched by private citizen Stephen Harper in 2000 against the then-Liberal government's so-called "gag law" limiting spending by outside third parties during election campaigns.

"The ironies are all over the place."

**PM backtracks on pledge**

And there's one more irony: since taking power in 2006, Harper has not lifted a finger to repeal the gag law he once fought all the way to the Supreme Court.

"There's been a lot of things that have disappointed me and disillusioned me about Stephen Harper as prime minister, and that's one of the big ones for me," says Gerry Nicholls, Harper's former sidekick at the National Citizens Coalition.

As president of the NCC, Harper saw the gag law as an unconstitutional attempt by Liberals to silence conservative advocacy groups.

"The obvious intent of the gag law is to stifle independent voices at election time. The



government wants to shut out and shut up groups like the NCC," Harper declared the day he launched the court challenge.

- **READ | [Supreme Court's decision in Harper v Canada](#)**

After two lower court victories, Harper eventually **[lost the legal battle](#)** in the Supreme Court. But when he was running to become leader of the Conservative party in 2004, he signed a pledge to repeal the gag law should he ever become prime minister.

Nine years in power later, three of them at the helm of a majority, and the gag law seems confined to the dustbins of Harper's mind. Third parties are still prohibited from spending more than a total of \$150,000 on advertising during a general election, including no more than \$3,000 in any single riding. They must also report details of their advertising expenses to Elections Canada and disclose the donors whose money made the ads possible.

"What philosophically has changed between Stephen Harper in 2014 and Stephen Harper in 2000, when we were going after these laws? I'd really like to know," Nicholls said.

#### **Political self-interest cited**

Nicholls surmises Harper's retreat may be a function of the fact that it would be a hard sell politically to scrap or loosen restrictions on spending during elections. People tend to favour the notion of getting filthy lucre out of the business of politics, notwithstanding the libertarian argument that Harper and the NCC used to make about the free marketplace of ideas and how no amount of money could ever convince people to vote for a bad idea.

More significantly, Nicholls believes Harper has discovered it's in his political self-interest to stifle his own ideological opponents.

"People are all in favour of free speech as long as they agree with the speech. All too often, if they don't like the groups which are speaking out then suddenly, 'Yeah, we've got to pass a law to stop them.' "



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The Conservatives are using Sid Ryan, head of Ontario Federation of Labour, as a bogeyman to boost their fundraising, claiming he wants to 'bully and influence

our elections from the outside.' (Nathan Denette/Canadian Press)

It's no secret the Harper regime doesn't like unions, a number of which have vowed all-out warfare to bring down the Tories.

Although unions are already prohibited from donating to political parties or candidates and are severely restricted, as third parties, in what they can spend on advertising during campaigns, it seems Harper wants to ratchet the restrictions up a notch.

A backbench Conservative MP's private member's bill, strongly backed by the Prime Minister's Office, would force unions to publicly disclose the names and salaries of all employees earning more than \$100,000 and to reveal how much of their time each of those employees spends on political activities, lobbying and other non-labour-relations activities.

Conservatives are clearly banking on such transparency angering dues-paying members and shaming union bosses into curtailing outlays for political activity.

"The union bosses are against it because they don't want people, including their own members, to know how they spend their money," Conservative Senator Bob Runciman, who is sponsoring the bill in the Senate, told the upper house last September.

The bill has been widely denounced as shoddily drafted, unconstitutional and an invasion of privacy. But it has an obvious application to the looming federal election.

As the Conservative Party warned in a recent fundraising email: "Sid Ryan" — head of the Ontario Federation of Labour — "and people like him want to bully and influence our elections from the outside, unaccountably spending all kinds of money to hurt us — without ever running for office.

"We won't let that happen. We're going to take them on and we're going to win."

Maybe so. But given the severe restrictions on union campaign spending compared to the \$20-plus-million the Conservative Party is entitled to spend, Nicholls said it will hardly be a fair fight.

And the old Stephen Harper would have agreed with him.

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Last Updated on Monday, 08 December 2014 12:33

499 readings

[Pipeline threatens beluga whales,  
activists say](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 06 December 2014 09:19

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SEEK INJUNCTION TO STOP PLANNED DRILLING NEAR CACOUNA, QUE.

[CBC News](#) Posted: Aug 29, 2014 9:17 PM ET Last Updated: Aug 29, 2014 9:17 PM ET

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/pipeline-threatens-beluga-whales-activists-say-1.2751200>



our environmental groups are fighting to get a temporary injunction to stop exploratory drilling in the Saint Lawrence River.

They say the TransCanada pipeline project threatens a nursing ground for beluga whales.

Drilling is expected to begin near Cacouna, Que., just northeast of Rivière-du-Loup, on Sept. 2, but lawyers argued in court Friday for an injunction.

Karine Peloffy, an administrator of the Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement, said the main issue is protecting a beluga nursery in the region.

“Specifically this area around Cacouna because it’s shallower so the females feel

more safe feeding their with their newborns than they would where it's deeper," Peloffy said.



There are nurseries of beluga whales in the St. Lawrence River near Cacouna. (Google Maps)

Michel Bélanger, the lawyer representing the four groups, argued in court that Quebec's environment ministry delivered permits to allow work to go ahead based on scientific information the groups say is not sufficient.

"Our experts filed [evidence pertaining] to the risk of the beluga population, and of the lack of scientific opinion of both levels of government [that] approved the works," Peloffy said.

The TransCanada Energy East pipeline project includes converting an existing natural gas pipeline to an oil transportation pipeline.

- [TransCanada moves forward with west-east pipeline](#)
- [Protesters denounce oil pipeline port in Cacouna](#)

The company wants to ship oil from Alberta to refineries in Eastern Canada and put a port in Cacouna to help get it there.

The pipeline will deliver oil to existing refineries in Montreal, Quebec City and Saint John.

Superior Court Justice Claudine Roy is expected to give her decision Tuesday morning.

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## Corrections

- An earlier version of this story referred to exploratory drilling for oil. In fact, the company is doing exploratory drilling to determine the feasibility of a port.

- Sep 23, 2014 4:51 PM ET

2015

964 readings

[NATO Summit 2014 in Wales: NATO must be Disbanded](#)



[Peace News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 04 September 2014 06:05

**By Joan Russow, Global Compliance Research Project**



**Protestors marching through Newport, Wales** *Credit: Ben Birchall/PA Wire*

NATO, must be Disbanded for Contributing to the Scourge of War in violation of the fundamental objective of the Charter of the United Nations and for violating, through its war games, “the prohibition of the provocation of war” affirmed in the international covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

- 1.
- 2.

When Soviet Union ended the Warsaw Pact, there was an understanding with Russia that NATO would not expand. NATO reneged on this understanding.

NATO is a provocative, dangerous institution that has perpetuated the scourge of war, and conflict through both its existence and its guises for military intervention in other states;

The NATO states collectively spend approximately 70% of the current 1.8 trillion global military budget.

\*NATO, through its engaging in numerous military interventions and occupations such as Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan, has contributed to and condoned, rather than prevented the scourge of war in defiance of the principal objective of the Charter of the United Nations;

\*NATO has not abandoned the option of a "first use of nuclear weapons policy", has failed to act on its undertaking under the General Assembly Resolution entitled the Condemnation of Nuclear War A/RES/38/75, 1983 "to condemn the formulation, propounding, dissemination and propaganda of political and military doctrines and concepts intended to provide 'legitimacy' for the first use of nuclear weapons and in general to justify the 'admissibility' of unleashing nuclear war (2, Condemnation of Nuclear War General Assembly Resolution A/RES/38/75, 1983;

\* NATO has been using depleted uranium [the effect of which in part is similar to that of a nuclear weapon], has failed to act on its undertaking to deem "that the use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, ( Resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November, 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December, 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December, 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December, 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December, 1981;

\*NATO, through using depleted uranium, which could be deemed to have the effect of a nuclear weapon, has disregarded the decision of the International Court of Justice that the use or the threat to use nuclear weapons is contrary to International humanitarian law (World Court Project, 1996);

\*NATO has violated the Geneva Protocols on prohibited weapons;

\*NATO has undermined the United Nations through contributing to the failure (i) to discharge obligations under International Conventions, Treaties, and Covenants, (ii) to act through Commitments made under Conference Action Plans and (iii) to fulfill expectations created through General Assembly Resolutions;

\*NATO has condoned the misinterpretation of Article 51 - self-defence- in the Charter of the United Nations in its support for the invasion of a sovereign state, and has used the pretext of "human security" and "humanitarian intervention" and "preemptive/preventive" aggression to justify the invasion and occupation of other states;

\*NATO has continually ignored Chapter VI - Peaceful Resolution of Disputes, of the Charter of the United Nations, and the provision in Chapter VI to take disputes to the International Court of Justice;

\*NATO has failed to act on the commitment made under the Platform of Action of the UN Conference of Women To [Encourage diplomacy, [preventive diplomacy,] negotiation and peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 2, paragraphs 3 and 4] (Art. 147 b., Advance Draft, Platform of Action, UN Conference on Women, May 15);

\*NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the Convention entitled (IV) Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Geneva, 1949) to protect "persons taking no active part in the hostilities;

\* NATO has violated the Convention Against Torture by transferring prisoners to states known to engage in torture.

\* NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to "prohibit any propaganda of war", Article 20, and to "prohibit any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (Article 20 -2);

\* NATO has failed to fulfill the undertaking under the General Assembly Resolution entitled the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Humanity, 1975) to prevent scientific and technological achievements entailing dangers for the civil and political rights of the individual or of the group and for human dignity;

\* NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure respect for the rules of international humanitarian law relevant to the child in armed conflict (Art. 18, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989);

\* NATO campaign has failed to fulfill the expectation under the General Assembly Resolution, entitled "Effects of Atomic Radiation" to prevent harmful effects on present and future generations, resulting from the levels of radiation to which man humans are exposed;

\*NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity to prevent the loss or reduction of biodiversity in a region rich in biodiversity, and has contributed to irreversible environmental devastation;

\*NATO has failed to act on a commitment to eliminate the production of weapons of mass destruction at the United Nations Conference on Humans and the Environment (UNCHE, 1972) [through its continued support for the mining and distribution of uranium both for civil nuclear reactors and for nuclear weapons];

\*NATO has failed to act on its undertaking under numerous UN General Assembly Resolutions such as the General Assembly Resolution in 1981, to reduce the military budget and to reallocate the funds thus saved to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of developing countries;

\*NATO has engaged in war games such as Exercise Trident Fury, which have been a flagrant display of militarism and which flaunt the norm related to the prohibition of the propaganda of war under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. NATO in its actions been in violation of not only the Charter of the United Nations but also conventions such as the Convention for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Convention of Biological Diversity, Convention on the Law, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War ..... In addition NATO governments have ignored commitments made through UN Conference Action plans and General Assembly resolutions.

Never again must NATO or other similar organizations be permitted to engage in the illegal use of force in the guise of international humanitarian intervention.

1999 was the culmination of the Decade Devoted to the Furtherance of International Law. If International law is to be relevant and if the international rule of law is to be respected, the International Court of Justice should investigate NATO continued violation of international law.



Attached is a draft of the documents related to the illegal use of force by NATO

## ILLEGAL USE OF FORCE OF NATO

- NATO which has a “first use of nuclear weapons policy” has failed to act on its undertaking under the General Assembly resolution entitled the Condemnation of Nuclear War A/RES/38/75, 1983 “to condemn the formulation, propounding, dissemination and propaganda of political and military doctrines and concepts intended to provide 'legitimacy' for the first use of nuclear weapons and in general to justify the 'admissibility' of unleashing nuclear war (2 Condemnation of Nuclear War General Assembly Resolution A/RES/38/75, 1983
- NATO, through its first strike policy has failed to act on its undertaking to deem “that the use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, (resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,
- NATO has undermined the United Nations through contributing to the failure (i) to discharge obligations under International Conventions, Treaties, and Covenants, (ii) to act through Commitments made under conference action plans and (iii) to fulfill expectations created through General Assembly Resolutions.
- NATO has failed to discharge its obligation under the Charter of the United Nations to “prevent the scourge of war”
- NATO has failed to act on the commitment made under the Platform of Action of the UN Conference of Women To [Encourage diplomacy, [preventive diplomacy,] negotiation and peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations in particular Article 2, paragraphs 3 and 4] (Art. 147 b., Advance draft, Platform of Action, UN Conference on Women, May 15)
- NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the Convention , entitled (IV) Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Geneva, 1949) to protect “persons taking no active part in the hostilities,
- NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights to “Prohibit any propaganda of war” Article 20 and to “prohibit any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (Article 20 -2)
- NATO has failed to fulfill the undertaking under the General Assembly resolution entitled the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of humanity, 1975) to prevent scientific and technological achievements entailing dangers for the civil and political rights of the individual or of the group and for human dignity
- NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure respect for the rules of international humanitarian law relevant to the child in armed conflict (Art 18, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989)
- NATO has failed to fulfill the expectation under the General Assembly Resolution, entitled “Effects of Atomic Radiation” to prevent harmful effects on present and future generations,

resulting from the levels of radiation to which man humans are is exposed  
Last Updated on Wednesday, 28 January 2015 16:43

590 readings

## [FIPA should be declared null and void for violating international peremptory norms](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 12 September 2014 10:04

**By Joan Russow PhD - Global Compliance Research Project**

**Posted November 1, 2012 [http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=8611:fipa-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8611:fipa-should-be-declared-null-and-void-for-violating-international-norms&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216)**

**revised Tuesday, January 22, 2013**

**The Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPPA), an invest become law IN 2013. FIPPA will increasingly lead to violations of international pe social, cultural and economic rights, labour rights, rights of indigenous peoples, ri**

*Evolving document related to FIPPA and International instruments*

**A.**

### **SOURCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEREMPTORY NORMS**

**Both Canada and China have ratified the Vienna Convention on the Law of treati**

**A treaty is void if, at the time of its conclusion, it conflicts with a perempto is a norm accepted and recognized by the international community of state international law having the same character.**

**FIPPA along with other trade and investment agreements have led and will continue to lead to the erosion of human rights and covenants as well as from commitments from Declarations and Resolutions regarding**

**B**

**COMPLIANCE - INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN “COMMON SECURITY” AND**

**Common security was a concept initiated by Olaf Palme, a former president of Sweden, who defined it as:**

- **to achieve a state of peace, and disarmament; through reallocation of military expenditure;**
- **to create a global structure that respects the rule of law and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;**
- **to enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and ensure that the benefits of development are shared equitably;**
- **to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, right to education and right to universally accessible health care;**
- **to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, the respect for the environment, and the rejection of the model of unsustainable and overconsumptive development.**

**To further Common security, the member states of the United Nations have incurred obligations and created expectations through UN General Assembly resolutions, and declarations.**

**The common security agreements should take priority over trade and investment commitments under Declarations, Resolutions or Conference Action plans.**

**Under WTO monitoring rules if two states have ratified the same Convention, the Convention takes priority (WTO Secretariat, Communication, November 2009, WTO press Conference). For this reason it is essential to have national legislation to ensure compliance. With most international instruments there is a requirement for national legislation to ensure compliance.**

**1**

**DECLARATIONS RECOGNIZING AS COMPULSORY THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT**

**Declarations under Article 35, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court as implemented under Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice. See United Nations, Treaty Series, or the Yearbooks of the Court. State declarations made under Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice. (See paragraph 5 of Article 36 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.)**

**State names which appear in brackets are States having made declarations recognizing the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice; terminated or have since expired. For an explanation thereof, see endnotes at the**

**Canada accepts the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice;**

**2.**

## **INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

**The ICCPR is almost universally ratified and is an important source of international law.**

**Both Canada and the China have signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which permits individuals, who have exhausted all domestic remedies, to file a complaint with the International Human Rights Commission.**

**PART I article 1 of the ICCPR states**

- 1. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising from any economic, social or cultural treaties to which they may be a party.**
- 2. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising from any economic, social or cultural treaties to which they may be a party. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.**
- 3. The States Parties to the present Covenant, including those having responsibility for the territories of peoples to whom the Covenant applies, shall respect that right, in conformity with the above provisions.**

**PART II Article 2 states**

- 1. Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the Covenant without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, or birth.**

**INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

**Article 7.**The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to just and favourable conditions of work, which include, as a minimum:

**(a) Remuneration which provides all workers, as a minimum, with:**

**(i) Fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value with equal pay for equal work;**

**Article 11.** The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right to the highest attainable standard of living and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties shall take appropriate measures, including international co-operation based on free consent, to the maximum of their resources, to realize this right.

**2.** The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of living, including specific programmes, which are needed:

**Canada and China have ratified this Covenant and both have failed to enact the r**

**4.**

**FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)**

**Both Canada and China have signed and ratified the UNFCCC and both have be**

**Under Article 2 of the UNFCCC, states incurred the following obligation:  
"stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere must be**

**The UNFCCC has been universally ratified by all states and is a source of interna  
different government, to comply with the Convention by closing down production  
monitoring rules if two states have ratified the same Convention, the conflict has  
press Conference)**

5.

## **CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 1992**

**Convention. Canada has signed but not ratified the Cartagena protocol on the tra**

**In addition, neither Canada nor China have signed or ratified the Nagoya protoco**

**on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arisin**

**In Article 8j of the Convention on Biological Diversity is the following obligation:**

**To respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of  
diversity**

**and**

**in Article 18 4. of the Convention is the obligation:**

**to encourage and develop methods of cooperation**

**for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and trac**

**Both Canada and China have ratified the convention on biological Diversity. FIPI**

6.

## **UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (1982)**

**While both Canada and China have signed and ratified the Convention on the lav  
Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Co**

7.

## **CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION**

### **BY DUMPING OF WASTES AND OTHER MATTER**

**Both Canada and China have ratified this convention**

**8.**

**THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (RAMSAR, IRAN, 1971) -- CALLED TH**

**Both Canada and China have ratified this convention**

**9**

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION CONVENTIONS**

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION CONVENTIONS WILL BE D  
FIPPA along with other trade and investment agreements have led and will conti  
Organizations Conventions most of which have not been ratified by Canada and C  
the right to collective bargaining ,**

**In addition, the Labour movement nationally and internationally has advocated t  
human health and to the environment, labour will support the sunsetting of the in  
has been violated in the tar sands where China is bidding to take over Nexen.**

**C098 - RIGHT TO ORGANISE AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONVEN**

**Convention concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise  
date instrument (Fundamental Convention).**

*Article 1*

**§ 1. Workers shall enjoy adequate protection against acts of anti-union dis**

**§ 2. Such protection shall apply more particularly in respect of acts calcula**

**§ (a) make the employment of a worker subject to the condition that l**

**§ (b) cause the dismissal of or otherwise prejudice a worker by reason of u  
within working hours.**

**Canada has ratified but China has not.**

## **C111 - DISCRIMINATION (EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION) CONVENTION**

**Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (Fundamental Convention).**

**Article 1** For the purpose of this Convention the term *discrimination* includes--

§ (a) any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation;

§ (b) such other distinction, exclusion or preference which has the effect of nullifying equal opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation, as may be determined by the Member concerned after consultation with representative employers' and workers' organizations.

**Both Canada and China have ratified this convention. It appears that legislation in**

**10**

## **CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**The trade agreements have led and will increasingly lead to the violation of rights of Migrant workers and their families are:**

**Article 25 1. Migrant workers shall enjoy treatment not less favourable than that enjoyed by workers similarly situated in the same undertaking in respect of remuneration and:**

(a) Other conditions of work, that is to say, overtime, hours of work, week-end rest, and other benefits, according to national law and practice, are covered by this term;

(b) Other terms of employment, that is to say, minimum age of employment, security of employment, and other benefits.

**2. It shall not be lawful to derogate in private contracts of employment from the provisions of paragraph 1.**

**3. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that migrant workers and their families are not discriminated against in employment. In particular, employers shall not be relieved of any legal or contractual obligations towards migrant workers and their families.**

**Article 26 1. States Parties recognize the right of migrant workers and members of their families to join or to become members of trade unions and other organizations:**

(a) To take part in meetings and activities of trade unions and of any other organizations, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned;

(b) To join freely any trade union and any such association as aforesaid, subject to the rules of the organization concerned;

(c) To seek the aid and assistance of any trade union and of any such association, subject to the rules of the organization concerned.

**2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of these rights other than those justified on the basis of public order (ordre public) or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.**



**Both Canada and china have failed to ratify this Convention**

## **11DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

**FIPPA will lead to the abandonment of the rights of indigenous peoples. In 1992 e**

**the lands of indigenous people peoples and their communities should be p  
culturally inappropriate (26.3. ii., Agenda 21)**

**Both Canada and China have adopted this declaration. The Harper government,  
provisions have become international peremptory norms, and thus legally bindin**

**In addition, FIPPA will undermine the important norm in the ICCPR, that no pe  
norm.**

**C.**

## **KEY INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES**

**1.**

### **PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**

**In 1992, in the UNCED documents there is the full enunciation of the precauti**

**In the Rio Declaration it is expressed in the following way**

**Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scie  
Declaration, 1992).**

**:**

and in the Framework for a Climate Change Convention it is phrased in a different

3. The Parties should take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the possibility of damage, where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation. In taking such action, account shall be taken of the scientific data, the range of risks, the socio-economic conditions, the scientific, technical and economic feasibility of measures to prevent or minimize the possibility of damage. (Article 3, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992)

And in The Convention on Biological Diversity

In the Convention on Biological Biodiversity, the precautionary principle reads;

where there is a threat of significant reduction or

loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a

While both Canada and China are bound to invoke the precautionary principle, but in the case of genetically engineered food and crops, in China, with different forms of energy production

**China in contrast to Canada, has banned genetically engineered food and crops**

<http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/the-un-general-assembly-institute-a-global-ban-on-genetically-engineered-food-and-crops>

2.

**TRANSBOUNDARY PRINCIPLE NON TRANSFERENCE OF HARM PRINCIPLE**

FIPPA will increasingly result in the violation of the transboundary principle. This transboundary principle arises when a country could be held responsible for the transboundary harm. A version of this principle was included in the Convention on the Law of the Sea, an Environment and Development.

"Principle 2: States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the responsibility to ensure that their environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that their activities within their limits of national jurisdiction do not cause transboundary harm to other States."

**The non-transference of harm principle was adopted in the Rio Declaration**

**Principle 14 States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent those activities and policies which are found to be harmful to human health."**

**D**

**CONCLUSION**

**1**

**INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL NORMS VIOLATED THROUGH INC**

**FIPPA will increasingly lead to deregulation through corporate voluntary compliance agreements. Many governments at all levels are reneging on their commitments to ensure that corporate activities comply with environmental law (Habitat II, 1996). In addition, every state made a commitment to the Habitat II Agenda was adopted by all states and is an important source of peremptory norms.**

**2**

**FIPPA SHOULD BE DECLARED NULL AND VOID AND THE CHARTERS OF**

**These agreements do and will lead to increased violations of international peremptory norms, including human, social, cultural and economic rights, labour rights, rights of indigenous peoples, and the environment.**

**These trade agreements and Public Private Partnerships among Nations should be declared null and void. Violated international peremptory norms must be revoked, and a fair and just trade system must be established.**

**3**

**INSTITUTIONAL COLLUSION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS**

**AND CORPORATIONS**

**We are now living in the wake of negligence from years of institutional collusion and a lack of trust: the violation of human rights, including civil and political rights and labour rights.**

Last Updated on Wednesday, 28 January 2015 11:56

964 readings

## [NATO Summit 2014 in Wales: NATO must be Disbanded](#)



[Peace News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 04 September 2014 06:05

By Joan Russow, Global Compliance Research Project



Protestors marching through Newport, Wales *Credit: Ben Birchall/PA Wire*

1.

NATO, must be Disbanded for Contributing to the Scourge of War in violation of the fundamental objective of the Charter of the United Nations and for violating, through its war games, “the prohibition of the provocation of war” affirmed in the international covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

2.

3.

When Soviet Union ended the Warsaw Pact, there was an understanding with Russia that NATO would not expand. NATO reneged on this understanding.

NATO is a provocative, dangerous institution that has perpetuated the scourge of war, and conflict through both its existence and its guises for military intervention in other states;

The NATO states collectively spend approximately 70% of the current 1.8 trillion global military budget.

\*NATO, through its engaging in numerous military interventions and occupations such as Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan, has contributed to and condoned, rather than prevented the scourge of war in defiance of the principal objective of the Charter of the United Nations;

\*NATO has not abandoned the option of a "first use of nuclear weapons policy", has failed to act on its undertaking under the General Assembly Resolution entitled the Condemnation of Nuclear War A/RES/38/75, 1983 "to condemn the formulation, propounding, dissemination and propaganda of political and military doctrines and concepts intended to provide 'legitimacy' for the first use of nuclear weapons and in general to justify the 'admissibility' of unleashing nuclear war (2, Condemnation of Nuclear War General Assembly Resolution A/RES/38/75, 1983;

\* NATO has been using depleted uranium [the effect of which in part is similar to that of a nuclear weapon], has failed to act on its undertaking to deem "that the use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, ( Resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November, 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December, 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December, 1979,

35/152 D of 12 December, 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December, 1981;

\*NATO, through using depleted uranium, which could be deemed to have the effect of a nuclear weapon, has disregarded the decision of the International Court of Justice that the use or the threat to use nuclear weapons is contrary to International humanitarian law (World Court Project, 1996);

\*NATO has violated the Geneva Protocols on prohibited weapons;

\*NATO has undermined the United Nations through contributing to the failure (i) to discharge obligations under International Conventions, Treaties, and Covenants, (ii) to act through Commitments made under Conference Action Plans and (iii) to fulfill expectations created through General Assembly Resolutions;

\*NATO has condoned the misinterpretation of Article 51 - self-defence- in the Charter of the United Nations in its support for the invasion of a sovereign state, and has used the pretext of "human security" and "humanitarian intervention" and "preemptive/preventive" aggression to justify the invasion and occupation of other states;

\*NATO has continually ignored Chapter VI - Peaceful Resolution of Disputes, of the Charter of the United Nations, and the provision in Chapter VI to take disputes to the International Court of Justice;

\*NATO has failed to act on the commitment made under the Platform of Action of the UN Conference of Women To [Encourage diplomacy, [preventive diplomacy,] negotiation and peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 2, paragraphs 3 and 4] (Art. 147 b., Advance Draft, Platform of Action, UN Conference on Women, May 15);

\*NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the Convention entitled (IV) Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Geneva, 1949) to protect "persons taking no active part in the hostilities;

\* NATO has violated the Convention Against Torture by transferring prisoners to states known to engage in torture.

\* NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to "prohibit any propaganda of war", Article 20, and to "prohibit any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (Article 20 -2);

\* NATO has failed to fulfill the undertaking under the General Assembly Resolution entitled the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Humanity, 1975) to prevent scientific and technological achievements entailing dangers for the civil and political rights of the individual or of the group and for human dignity;

\* NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure respect for the rules of international humanitarian law relevant to the child in armed conflict (Art. 18, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989);

\* NATO campaign has failed to fulfill the expectation under the General Assembly Resolution, entitled "Effects of Atomic Radiation" to prevent harmful effects on present and future generations, resulting from the levels of radiation to which man humans are exposed;

\*NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity to prevent the loss or reduction of biodiversity in a region rich in biodiversity, and has contributed to irreversible environmental devastation;

\*NATO has failed to act on a commitment to eliminate the production of weapons of mass destruction at the United Nations Conference on Humans and the Environment (UNCHE, 1972) [through its continued support for the mining and distribution of uranium both for civil nuclear reactors and for nuclear weapons];

\*NATO has failed to act on its undertaking under numerous UN General Assembly Resolutions such as the General Assembly Resolution in 1981, to reduce the military budget and to reallocate the funds thus saved to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of developing countries;

\*NATO has engaged in war games such as Exercise Trident Fury, which have been a flagrant display of militarism and which flaunt the norm related to the prohibition of the propaganda of war under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. NATO in its actions been in violation of not only the Charter of the United Nations but also conventions such as the Convention for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Convention of Biological Diversity, Convention on the Law, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War ..... In addition NATO governments have ignored commitments made through UN Conference Action plans and General Assembly resolutions.

Never again must NATO or other similar organizations be permitted to engage in the illegal use of force in the guise of international humanitarian intervention.

1999 was the culmination of the Decade Devoted to the Furtherance of International Law. If International law is to be relevant and if the international rule of law is to be respected, the International Court of Justice should investigate NATO continued violation of international law.

Attached is a draft of the documents related to the illegal use of force by NATO

#### ILLEGAL USE OF FORCE OF NATO

- NATO which has a “first use of nuclear weapons policy” has failed to act on its undertaking under the General Assembly resolution entitled the Condemnation of Nuclear War A/RES/38/75, 1983 “to condemn the formulation, propounding, dissemination and propaganda of political and military doctrines and concepts intended to provide 'legitimacy' for the first use of nuclear weapons and in general to justify the 'admissibility' of unleashing nuclear war (2 Condemnation of Nuclear War General Assembly Resolution A/RES/38/75, 1983
- NATO, through its first strike policy has failed to act on its undertaking to deem “that the use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, (resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,
- NATO has undermined the United Nations through contributing to the failure (i) to discharge obligations under International Conventions, Treaties, and Covenants, (ii) to act through Commitments made under conference action plans and (iii) to fulfill expectations created through General Assembly Resolutions.
- NATO has failed to discharge its obligation under the Charter of the United Nations to “prevent the scourge of war”
- NATO has failed to act on the commitment made under the Platform of Action of the UN Conference of Women To [Encourage diplomacy, [preventive diplomacy,] negotiation and peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations in particular Article 2, paragraphs 3 and 4] (Art. 147 b., Advance draft, Platform of Action, UN Conference on

Women, May 15)

- NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the Convention , entitled (IV) Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Geneva, 1949) to protect “persons taking no active part in the hostilities,
- NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights to “Prohibit any propaganda of war” Article 20 and to “prohibit any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (Article 20 -2)
- NATO has failed to fulfill the undertaking under the General Assembly resolution entitled the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of humanity, 1975) to prevent scientific and technological achievements entailing dangers for the civil and political rights of the individual or of the group and for human dignity
- NATO has failed to discharge its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure respect for the rules of international humanitarian law relevant to the child in armed conflict (Art 18, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989)
- NATO has failed to fulfill the expectation under the General Assembly Resolution, entitled “Effects of Atomic Radiation” to prevent harmful effects on present and future generations, resulting from the levels of radiation to which man humans are is exposed

Last Updated on Wednesday, 28 January 2015 16:43

1027 readings

## [21/9/2014 International Day of Peace; CHALLENGING MILITARIZED SECURITY: DELEGITIMIZATION OF WAR](#)



[Peace News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Saturday, 20 September 2014 11:33

**Circulated at the 2014 58 CSW (Commission on the Status of Women to indicate endorsement.**



[info@vowpeace.org](mailto:info@vowpeace.org)

**The enclosed petition was submitted, by Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, to the Chair of the Bureau for the 58<sup>th</sup> session (2014 )**

**During the Commission on the Status of Women the petition received four hundred, half collected here at the meeting and half online ([www.vowpeace.org](http://www.vowpeace.org)).**

**The signatories are from thirty-six countries, and sixty-seven organizations. The NGOs countries represented are: Hungary, Iceland, USA, Canada Uganda, Hong Kong, Sierra Leone, UK, Sudan, Tunisia, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Taiwan, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Bulgaria, Malaysia, Germany, Nepal, Nigeria, Burma, Pakistan, Australia, Greece, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway ,Guatemala, Japan. France, Finland.**

*WE CALL FOR the years of international rhetoric to be translated into action.*

*WE CALL FOR the delegitimization of war. Given the social, economic, ecological, health and psychological consequences of war, under no circumstance or condition is war legal or just.*

*WE CALL FOR the United Nations, to agree that all States will reform their domestic laws and judicial procedures so that they provide effective and meaningful protections for the rights of indigenous women within their jurisdictions, and to take steps, immediately, to ensure the elimination of the direct and indirect impacts that militarization and the development and utilization of nuclear processes/byproducts have on indigenous people, particularly indigenous women and girls\*(using the transfer or capital money no longer being used to fund war) \*note., who are the most severely impacted, as a result of various States intentionally identifying and locating industries related to militarization, nuclear facilities and related waste disposal on their legally protected homelands.*

*WE CALL UPON all governments to help prevent war by invoking the UN charter's chapter VI; the peaceful resolution of disputes.*

*WE CALL FOR the United Nations to promote common security and call upon the*

*member states to sign and ratify international covenants and conventions which embody obligations and commitments related to common security.*

*WE CALL UPON the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to calculate the contribution of militarism to greenhouse gas emissions.*

*WE CALL FOR the disbanding of NATO and the relying on UN Peacekeeping instead*

*WE CALL FOR the conversation, to peaceful purposes, of military bases (including those on foreign soil)*

**TO INDICATE ENDORSEMENT** [info@vowpeace.org](mailto:info@vowpeace.org)

#### **THE PETITION**

**2014 Commission on Status of Women (CSW 58):**

#### **CHALLENGING MILITARIZED SECURITY:**

##### **DELEGITIMIZATION OF WAR**

**Violence against women is and always has been integral to war and all armed conflict. It pervades all forms of militarism. It is likely to endure so long as the institution of war is a legally sanctioned instrument of state, so long as arms are the means to political, economic or ideological ends. To reduce violence against women ; to eliminate its acceptance as a “regrettable consequence” of armed conflict; to exorcize it as a constant of the “real world” requires the abolition of war, the renunciation of armed conflict and the full and equal political empowerment of women as called for by the UN Charter.**

*– Betty Reardon, International Institute on Peace Education*

## **BACKGROUND**

**“Determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war...”**

**(Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations, 1945)**

*For many years the member states of the United Nations incurred obligations and made commitments to reallocate military expenses and to embrace disarmament*

**AWARE THAT the States Members of the United Nations in 1969 called for:**

**The achievement of general and complete disarmament and the channeling of the progressively released resources to be used for economic and social progress for the welfare of people everywhere and in particular for the benefit of developing countries (article 27 (a) XXIV of 11 December 1969 Declaration on Social Welfare, Progress and Development)**

**AWARE AS WELL that the States Members of the United Nations in 1975 made a commitment that “Scientific Technological Progress should be in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of humanity.”**

**RECALLING THAT the States Members of the United Nations In 1976 affirmed:**

**"The waste and misuse of resources in war and armaments should be prevented. All countries should make a firm commitment to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament. Part of the resources thus released should be utilized so as to achieve a better quality of life for humanity and particularly the peoples of developing countries." (II, 12 Habitat 1).**

**COGNIZANT THAT the States Members of the United Nations solemnly proclaimed:**

**“The peoples of our planet have a sacred right to peace.” (1. Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace approved by General Assembly resolution 39/11 of 12 November 1984)**

**RECALLING THAT the States Members of the United Nations in 1984 affirmed:**

**their determination to make further collective efforts aimed at strengthening peace and international security and eliminating the threat of war, and agreed that in order to facilitate the process of disarmament, it was necessary to take measures and pursue policies to strengthen international peace and security and to build confidence among states.**

**(Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace approved by General Assembly resolution 39/11 of 12 November 1984)**

**AWARE THAT** the States Members of the United Nations in 1985 affirmed:

**the first special session devoted to disarmament encompassing all measures thought to be advisable in order to ensure that the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control is realized. This document describes a comprehensive programme of disarmament, including nuclear disarmament; which is important not only for peace but also for the promotion of the economic and social development of all, particularly in the developing countries, through the constructive use of the enormous amount of material and human resources otherwise expended on the arms race. (Para. 13, The Nairobi Forward Looking Strategy, 1985)**

**RECALLING THAT** the Member States of the United Nations in 1985 at Nairobi stated that

**safeguarding world peace and averting a nuclear catastrophe is one of the most important tasks today in which women have an essential role to play, especially by supporting actively the halting of the arms race followed by arms reduction and the attainment of a general and complete disarmament under effective international control... (Para. 25 Nairobi Forward Looking strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1985)**

**NOTING THAT** the Members of States the United Nations in 1986 reaffirmed that:

**there is a close relationship between disarmament and development and that progress in the field of disarmament would considerably promote progress in the field of development and that resources released through disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social development and well-being of all peoples and, in particular, those of the developing countries. (Declaration on the Right to Development, General Assembly resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986)**

**NOTING THAT** the States Members of the United Nations, In 1992, made a commitment

**"to reallocate resources presently committed to military purposes" (Agenda 21, 33.16) UNCED)**

**REMINDED THAT** States Members of the United Nations in 1995 made a commitment

**to ...work actively towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control... (143(f) (i) Beijing Platform) and support negotiations and conclusions, without delay, of a universal and multilateral and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test ban**

**treaty...nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. (143 (f) (ii),Beijing Platform)**

**REMINDING ALSO THAT States Members of the United Nations made a commitment**

**to take positive steps to ensure peace for the advancement of women and, recognizing the leading role that women have played in the peace movement (Art. 28 Beijing Platform) and “to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.” (Art. 29 Beijing Platform). And the important role, for women under UNSC1325, to prevent war.**

**AWARE THAT States Members of the United Nations made a commitment**

**to consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them. (Article 19 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007)**

**AWARE THAT the global annual military budget is 700 years of the UN regular budget or almost 3,000 years of the new UN women’s agency, UN Women THAT true security is NOT "human security" (Iraq 1991), "Humanitarian intervention" (Kosovo, 1999), "Responsibility to Protect", "Pre-emptive/ preventive" attack (Iraq, 2003) (Haiti, 2004, Libya, 2011) or "will to intervene" (Mali, 2013) BUT common security.**

*Common security was a concept initiated by Olof Palme, a former president of Sweden, and has been extended to embody the following objectives:*

- \* to achieve a state of peace, and disarmament; through reallocation of military expenses and**
  - delegitimization of war**
- to create a global structure that respects the rule of law and the International Court of Justice;**
- to enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and ensure the right to development and social justice;**
- to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, women’s rights civil and political rights, indigenous rights, social and cultural rights – right to food, right to**

**housing, right to safe drinking water and sewage, right to education and right to universally accessible not for profit health care system;**

**· to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, the respect for the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, the reduction of the ecological footprint e move away from the current model of unsustainable and excessive overconsumption and from furthering the cult of war**

**Common security through the adherence to the rule of international law will lead to the fulfillment, under Security Council 1325 – of the important role of women, to prevent war. And end the violence against women that is both a result and a tool of war.**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **IN THE LIGHT OF THESE PRECEDENTS AND POSSIBILITIES:**

**WE CALL FOR the years of international rhetoric to be translated into action.**

**WE CALL FOR the delegitimization of war. Given the social, economic, ecological, health and psychological consequences of war, under no circumstance or condition is war legal or just.**

**WE CALL FOR the 1.7 trillion dollars global annual military budget to be reduced by at least 50% and for the savings to be reallocated to promoting true global security**

**WE CALL FOR the United Nations , to agree that all States will reform their domestic laws and judicial procedures so that they provide *effective and meaningful protections* for the rights of indigenous women within their jurisdictions, and to take steps, immediately, to ensure the elimination of the direct and indirect impacts that militarization and the development and utilization of nuclear processes/ byproducts have on indigenous people, particularly indigenous women and girls\*(using the transfer of capital money no longer being used to fund war) \*Note., who *are* the most severely impacted, as a result of various States *intentionally identifying and locating industries related to militarization, nuclear facilities and related waste disposal sites on their legally protected homelands.***

**WE CALL UPON all governments to help prevent war by invoking the UN charter's chapter VI; the peaceful resolution of disputes.**

**WE CALL FOR the United Nations to promote common security and call upon the member states to sign and ratify international covenants and conventions which embody obligations and commitments related to common security.**

**WE CALL UPON the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to**

**calculate the contribution of militarism to greenhouse gas emissions.**

**WE CALL FOR the disbanding of NATO and the relying on UN Peacekeeping instead**

**WE CALL FOR the conversion, to peaceful purposes, of military bases (including those on foreign soil)**

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NAME (Print) Y	SIGNATURE	ORGANIZATION	COUNTR
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**Drafted by *Joan Russow* and *Janis Alton*, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace.  
[www.vowpeace.org](http://www.vowpeace.org)**

**List in process. Please e-mail [drjussow@gmail.com](mailto:drjussow@gmail.com) or [info@vowpeace.org](mailto:info@vowpeace.org) to indicate endorsement.**

Last Updated on Wednesday, 28 January 2015 11:51

1915 readings

[Was Conference of Defence Association's Charitable Status ever investigated?](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 16 September 2014 08:39

by **Joan Russow**

## **Global Compliance Research Project**

**In 2008, I filed a complaint to Revenue Canada about the Conference of Defence Association. After several years of audits of environmental groups, media groups and the left wing think tanks, I am wondering if my 2008 complaint against the charitable status of the Conference of Defence Association was ever investigated.**

### **Conference of Defence Association's Charitable Status Challenged**

**PEJ News - Joan Russow - Global Compliance Research Project - On May 14, 2008 a complaint to Revenue Canada was made to challenge the Canadian Defence Association Institute's (CDAI) charitable status. (Russow)**

**On May 16, 2008, it was revealed that the Conference of Defence Association (CDA) and its charitable front group the Conference of Defence Association Institute had received 500,000 from the "new" Conservative government to legitimize the Federal Government's annual Defence spending, and the government's recently announced Canada First 30 billion anticipated future budget along with the 45 billion retrofit budget.**

**For years the "charitable" Conference of Defence Association has been granted Charitable Status, and has lobbied continuously for an increase in the military budget.**

**[www.PEJ.org](http://www.PEJ.org)**

### **CDA AND CDAI COVENANT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE**

**In the Covenant for the 500,000 grant the CDA and the CDAI are linked in the application.**

**"As a recipient, the CDA, with the support of its charitable wing, the Conference of Defence Association's Institute (CDAI), will promote exchanges on security and defence issues among its membership, decision makers, the media and the broader Canadian public. As a result of these activities, the CDA will educate its members and the broader public on defence issues relevant to Canada."**

**Under this Covenant, to receive the grant the CDA and the CDAI must fulfill the following "charitable" actions:**

**The CDA (or the CDAI) will undertake the following activities in each fiscal year:**

- 1. Provide tangible input into legislative and policy governmental work.**
- 2. Secure a minimum of 24 extended invitations to CDA staff to participate in meetings or briefings.**
- 3. Maintain a minimum of 12 member associations.**
- 4. Maintain a minimum of 17 associate member associations**
- 5. Maintain a minimum overall membership of at least 100,000 members.**
- 6. Attain a minimum of 200 requests for information. i**
- 7. Attain a minimum of 29 media references to the CDA by national or regional journalists**



and reporters.

8. Attain the publication of a minimum of 15 opinion pieces (including op-eds and letters to the editor in national or regional publications).

9. Attain a minimum of 100 requests by media for radio television interviews and materials.

10. Secure a minimum of 25 extended invitations to CDA staff to participate in conferences, seminars, or round tables.

11. Secure the participation of the minimum following target audiences at CDA symposia, seminars or other related events:

.a. General Public/Members of Non-Governmental Organizations: 500

b. Media: 18

c. Members of Parliament Senators: 14

d. Academia: 80

e. Military and Government officials:150

12. Publish at least 4 issues of "On

Track" each year with a distribution of 800 copies per quarter, and at least 1 major study per year with a distribution of 1500 copies, in addition to electronic distribution of all publications to a minimum of 750 targeted recipients.

13. Secure at least 20 submissions from non-CDA staff to "On Track".

## **CDA AND CDAI ADVOCATE INCREASED MILITARISM**

Conference of Defence Association along with its institute has always presented the annual military budget as a percentage of the GDP, usually hovering at around 1% [ which misleads the public into thinking that there is very little spent on the military].

However, if one examines the Canadian Budget, it is clear that the military budget per annum, under the Department of Defence usually amounts to about 10 percent of the total revenue, after the deduction for the interest of the debt, which is available for Federal Government programs.

The Conference of Defence Associations has as one of its members the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries.

A campaign to discourage investment in the Canadian Defence industries was launched in 2003 (see ANNEX), to encourage investors to divest from investments in the defence industries. Undoubtedly more companies with defence contracts have been added as a result of the increased integration between Canada and the US through the Security and Prosperity Partnership Agreement.

In 2008, the Canadian Association of Defence Industries is now called Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries. (CADSI), and undoubtedly is still a member of the "charitable" Conference of Defence Association.

## **2008 RENEWED CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT INVESTMENT IN THE CANADIAN DEFENCE INDUSTRIES.**

Here is the current list of members of the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries:

21onen Consulting Service

3M Canada Company

A.E. Petsche Co. Inc.

**A.E. Petsche Co. Inc.**  
**A.L. Ross Associates**  
**A.U.G. Signals Ltd.**  
**ABB**  
**Abuma Manufacturing Limited**  
**Accenture**  
**Accipiter Radar Technologies Inc., A Sicom Company**  
**Acklands-Grainger Inc.**  
**Acron Capability Engineering Inc.**  
**ACS Advanced Shelters**  
**Active Gear Co. of Canada Limited**  
**ADGA Group**  
**ADIANS**  
**ADT Security Services Inc.**  
**Advance Interactive Systems**  
**Advance Systems Marketing International**  
**Adventure Lights Inc./Quantum Marine Ltd.**  
**Aéro Montréal**  
**AeroInfo Systems, a Boeing Company**  
**Aerospace and Defence Industry Association of Newfoundland and Labrador**  
**Aerospace BizDev Inc.**  
**Aeryon Labs Inc.**  
**Agilent Technologies Canada Inc.**  
**Air Dynamics Co. Ltd.**  
**Airborne Systems Canada Ltd.**  
**AirBoss - Defense**  
**Air-Way Canada**  
**Ajilon Consulting**  
**AKA Information Design**  
**Aker Yards Marine**  
**Albion Group-Canada**  
**Alenia North America - Canada, Co.**  
**Alion Science and Technology**  
**Allen-Vanguard**  
**Allied Wings**  
**Alpha Optics Inc.**  
**ALPHACASTING Inc.**  
**Alt Software Inc.**  
**Alta Electronics Inc.**  
**Always On Ups Systems Inc.**  
**Amazon Cases**  
**AMCAN Technologies Incorporated**  
**AMEC Inc.**  
**Amita Corporation**  
**AML Associates**  
**Amrikart Ressource Cybernétique inc**  
**AMTANK Armor, LLC**  
**Anachemia Canada Inc.**  
**Analytic Systems**  
**Analytical Graphics, Inc.**  
**Aon Explorer**  
**Apex Industries Inc.**  
**APM Diesel**  
**Appendix Sonovision - ITEP**  
**Applanix Corp**  
**AppSpace Solutions**  
**ARKTOS Developments Ltd.**

**Armament Technology Incorporated**  
**Armatec**  
**Arnprior Aerospace Inc**  
**Array Systems Computing Inc.**  
**Arrow/Zeus Electronics**  
**ARTIS**  
**ATCO Frontec Corporation**  
**Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency**  
**Atlantis Systems International Inc.**  
**Atlas Defence Systems**  
**Atlas Polar Co Ltd**  
**Autodesk Canada**  
**AUVSI - Canada**  
**Avcorp Industries Inc.**  
**Aviation Alberta**  
**Avigilon Corporation**  
**Aviya Technologies Inc**  
**Axell Wireless**  
**Axis Prototypes Inc.**  
**BAE SYSTEMS**  
**Bangor Metals Corporation**  
**Barrday Inc.**  
**Base-X Shelters**  
**B-Con Engineering Inc.**  
**Beclawat Manufacturing Inc.**  
**Belden**  
**Bell Helicopter Textron (Canada)**  
**Benchmark Consulting**  
**Bereskin and Parr Intellectual Property Law**  
**BGA Inc. / Avioirel**  
**BGF Industries, Inc.**  
**Biggin & Associates Ltd.**  
**Binks Insurance Brokers Ltd**  
**Biokinetics & Associates Ltd**  
**Bionic Power**  
**BIRDE Marketing Inc.**  
**Black Coral Inc.**  
**Blaney McMurtry LLP**  
**BlueSky Strategy Group**  
**BMP Metals Inc.**  
**BMT Fleet Technology Ltd**  
**BMV Optical Technologies Inc.**  
**Bock Optronics Inc.**  
**Boeing Aerospace**  
**Bombardier**  
**Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.**  
**Borden Ladner Gervais, LLP**  
**Bosik Technologies Ltd.**  
**Brasseur & Associates Incorporated**  
**BreconRidge Corporation**  
**Brent Packaging & Logistics Limited**  
**BRIC Engineered Systems**  
**Brownrigg-Smith Consulting Inc.**  
**Brytech Inc.**  
**Bullard**  
**C&I; Projects Inc.**  
**C4I Consultants Inc.**

**Cadex inc**  
**CADSI**  
**CAE INC.**  
**Calian Ltd.**  
**Calytrix Technologies**  
**Camcor Industries Ltd.**  
**CAMEO Security**  
**Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute**  
**Canadian Airmotive**  
**Canadian Allied Consultants**  
**Canadian Bearings Ltd.**  
**Canadian Bureau of Investigations and Adjustments**  
**Canadian Centre for Unmanned Vehicle Systems**  
**Canadian Commercial Corporation**  
**Canadian Defence Review**  
**Canadian Export Consulting Services**  
**Canadian Helicopters Limited**  
**Canadian Lightsource Inc**  
**Canadian Space Service Ltd.**  
**Canadian Tactical**  
**Canadian Tactical and Operational Medical Solutions**  
**Canberra Co.**  
**CanRep Inc.**  
**Cantec Systems**  
**Cantronic Systems Inc**  
**Captecon Inc.**  
**Carl Zeiss Optronics GmbH**  
**Carmanah Technologies Corp.**  
**Carraigtyr Consulting**  
**Cartel Communication Systems Inc.**  
**CarteNav Solutions**  
**Cascade Aerospace Inc.**  
**CaseBank Technologies Inc.**  
**Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP**  
**C-CORE**  
**CDL Systems Ltd**  
**CE3 Electronics Integrators (Custom Electronic Assemblies)**  
**Celestica International**  
**Centennial Plastic Mfg Inc**  
**Centre for Surface Transportation Technology (CSTT)**  
**Century Circuits Inc.**  
**CFN Consultants**  
**CGI Info. Systems & Mgmt Consultants**  
**Chateau Marketing Consultants Inc.**  
**Chemring Defence**  
**CHIP 9 Machining Ltd**  
**CIBC Commercial Banking**  
**Cimetrix Solutions Inc.**  
**Cintec Canada Ltd**  
**CIRRUS Research Associates Inc.**  
**Cisco Systems Canada**  
**Cleeve Technology Incorporated**  
**Clermark Inc.**  
**CMC Electronics Inc.**  
**CMLabs Simulations Inc.**  
**Cobham Tracking & Locating Ltd.**  
**Collaborative Systems (CoSys) Laboratory**

**Colt Canada Corporation**  
**COM DEV Ltd.**  
**Commissionaires**  
**Composites Atlantic Limited**  
**Compusult**  
**Computer Sciences Canada Inc.**  
**COMSEC Services Inc.**  
**Concept Controls Inc.**  
**Consoltex Inc.**  
**Converteam Canada Inc.**  
**Convoy Logistics Providers**  
**CP Lights Inc.**  
**CRBI**  
**CRD Distribution Inc.**  
**CRIM**  
**CS Canada**  
**C-TECH Ltd.**  
**CTH Instruments Ltd.**  
**CTS (Canadian Technology Systems)**  
**Cubic**  
**Cummins Eastern Canada**  
**Current Corporation**  
**Curtiss-Wright Corporation**  
**C-Vision Limited**  
**CVL Information Solutions Inc.**  
**Daher inc.**  
**Dalhousie University Industry Liaison and Innovation**  
**DAMA Consulting Services Limited**  
**DARAL Group**  
**DASC**  
**Dassault Systemes**  
**DAVWIRE (Defense & Aviation Wiring Inc)**  
**DCNS**  
**Dean W. Walker and Associates**  
**DECA Aviation Engineering Ltd.**  
**Defence Point Pictures (W.B. Robertson Inc.)**  
**DEFSEC Corporation**  
**Deloitte**  
**Department of National Defence**  
**Depro (GVB) Incorporated**  
**Design Fabrication**  
**Design Shelter Inc.**  
**Dessau**  
**DEW Engineering and Development Ltd.**  
**Digiplantec Inc.**  
**Dishon Limited**  
**Doepker Industries Ltd.**  
**Dorval Technologies**  
**DPRA**  
**Draeger Safety Canada Ltd.**  
**Drop Zone Tactical**  
**DRS Technologies Canada**  
**Dueck & Associates**  
**Dumur Industries**  
**Dundee Securities Corporation**  
**Duocom**  
**Dyanalytics Inc.**

**Dycor Special Services Ltd**  
**Dycor Technologies Ltd.**  
**Dynaps Professional Training Programs**  
**E.I. du Pont Canada**  
**E.T.M. Industries Inc.**  
**EADS Canada**  
**Earl Paddock Transportation Inc.**  
**ECI Composites Inc.**  
**Edgewater Computer Systems, Inc.**  
**EDS Canada Inc**  
**Elasto Proxy Inc.**  
**Elbit Systems Ltd.**  
**Elettronica S.p.A.**  
**EMC Corporation of Canada**  
**Emcon Emanation Control Ltd.**  
**e-mec Inc.**  
**EMS SATCOM**  
**EMT Engineering Sales**  
**Ensil Canada Ltd**  
**EODC Engineering, Developing and Licensing, Inc.**  
**EQUATion Technologies**  
**Equinox Protection Inc.**  
**Ergosum Ltd.**  
**ESI Security Technology**  
**ESRI Canada**  
**Eurocopter Canada Limited**  
**Evans Consoles Inc.**  
**E-W Metal Works Inc.**  
**EWA - Canada**  
**EWCS (Electronic Warfare Consulting Services) Inc.**  
**Excel Industries**  
**Exensor Technology**  
**Extrication Technology**  
**Eye Tactical**  
**FALCONMET Engineering and Laboratories Inc.**  
**FedEx Trade Networks Transport & Brokerage (Canada) Inc.**  
**Fellfab Limited**  
**Fidus Systems Inc.**  
**Field Aviation Company Inc.**  
**Fire Monitoring of Canada Inc.**  
**First Air**  
**Fleetway Inc.**  
**FLIR Systems Inc.**  
**Free Force Machining Technology Inc.**  
**FrontLine Magazine**  
**Frontline Robotics**  
**Fujitsu Consulting**  
**Fuze Aerospace**  
**G.T. Machining & Fabricating Ltd**  
**Gallium Visual Systems Inc.**  
**GasTOPS Ltd.**  
**Gausertec Inc**  
**GE Aviation Canada**  
**GE Rolls-Royce Fighter Engine Team, LLP**  
**Genaire Limited**  
**General Dynamics - OTS - Canada**  
**General Dynamics C4 Systems**

**General Dynamics Canada Ltd.**  
**General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada**  
**General Kinetics Engineering Corporation**  
**General Starlight Co., Ltd.**  
**GENTEX**  
**Gladius International**  
**Gladstone Aerospace Consulting Inc.**  
**Global Technology Connections**  
**Globus Precision Inc.**  
**GMA**  
**GMA Cover Corp.**  
**Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP**  
**Grand Canada Engineering Limited**  
**Great Lakes Marine & Industrial**  
**Green Hills Software Inc.**  
**Ground Zero Technology Inc.**  
**Groupe ALTA**  
**GTDS Inc.**  
**Guernsey MacKay Inc.**  
**H & Y Consulting**  
**Hammond Manufacturing Co. Ltd.**  
**Handling Specialty Manufacturing Ltd.**  
**Hardigg Canada ULC**  
**Harris Canada Inc.**  
**Harvan Engineering Ltd**  
**Hazmasters Environmental Equipment Inc.**  
**HD Brown Ent Ltd**  
**Helly Hansen Canada Limited**  
**Hepburn Engineering Inc.**  
**Heroux-Devtek Inc.**  
**Hesco Military Products**  
**Hewlett Packard Canada Ltd.**  
**HFI Pyrotechnics Inc.**  
**Hiab**  
**Highpoint Security Technologies Inc.**  
**Hill and Knowlton Canada Limited**  
**Hillwatch Inc.**  
**Hirsch Precision Inc.**  
**HISS - Highland Integrated Surveillance Systems**  
**Honeywell**  
**Horn IT Solutions Inc.**  
**Howard Smith Consulting**  
**Hudson Supplies Inc.**  
**Humansystems Incorporated**  
**Hy-Drive Technologies Ltd.**  
**Hypernetics Limited**  
**I.T.S. Canada Inc.**  
**IAI North America**  
**IBM Canada Ltd.**  
**ICOM Canada**  
**ICx Radar Systems**  
**IMP Group Ltd., Aerospace Core Group**  
**Impact Cases Inc.**  
**iMPath Networks Inc**  
**ImStrat Corporation**  
**IMT**  
**INAWIRE Inc.**

**Industeel Canada Inc.**  
**Infusion Development**  
**ING Engineering Inc.**  
**Inkas**  
**Inmedius Canada Inc**  
**Innovatia Inc.**  
**INO**  
**Insitu**  
**Insta-Fence**  
**Integrlys**  
**Intelcan Technosystems Inc.**  
**Intelligent Imaging Systems Inc.**  
**IntelliView Technologies Inc.**  
**Intergraph Canada Ltd.**  
**Intermap Technologies**  
**International Bodyguard Academy Inc**  
**International Custom Products**  
**International SOS Canada Inc.**  
**International Thermal Research**  
**Itres Research Limited**  
**ITS Electronics Inc.**  
**J.F. Lehman & Partners**  
**Jacobs & Thompson Inc.**  
**James Kraft Consulting Inc.**  
**Jane's Information Group**  
**Jay Plante & Associates**  
**John Deere Limited**  
**John Muston & Associates Inc.**  
**Jones Brown Inc.**  
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**Jroberts Mfg. Inc.**  
**Juhana Inc.**  
**Kamatics Corporation**  
**KAVMAC Consulting**  
**Kaycom Incorporated**  
**Keigan Systems Inc.**  
**Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc.**  
**Kinetics Drive Solutions**  
**Kirkland Strategies Inc.**  
**Kolder Canada**  
**Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace AS**  
**Kongsberg Maritime**  
**KPMG**  
**KRBetts Consulting**  
**Kunst Solutions Corp.**  
**L&L; Machinery Limited**  
**L-3 Communications**  
**Lansdowne Technologies**  
**Larus Technologies Corporation**  
**Levitt Instruments**  
**Lexi-tech International**  
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**Life Prediction Technologies Inc.**  
**Lincoln Fabrics Ltd.**  
**Lockheed Martin**  
**Logistik Unicorp Inc.**  
**LubeCorp Inc.**



**Luxell Technologies Inc.**  
**Lyster Industries Inc**  
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**MacDonald Consulting**  
**MacDonald, Dettwiler & Associates Ltd.**  
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**Magellan Aerospace Corporation**  
**Magna Advanced Technologies**  
**Magneto-Inductive Systems Limited (MISL)**  
**MAK Technologies, Inc.**  
**MAN Military Vehicle Systems Canada**  
**Mannarino Systems & Software Inc.**  
**Maplesoft Consulting**  
**Marine Industrial Lighting Systems Ltd**  
**Marinvent Corporation**  
**Marshall Aerospace Canada Inc.**  
**Martec**  
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**Matrix Technology Ltd**  
**MAYA**  
**MC Countermeasures Inc.**  
**MC&F; International Consultants**  
**McCarthy Tetrault LLP**  
**MD Charlton Co. Ltd.**  
**MEGADOOR, Inc**  
**Meggitt Training Systems Canada**  
**Mercedes-Benz Canada**  
**Mercer**  
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**MicroPilot Inc**  
**Microsoft Canada**  
**Millennium Marketing Inc.**  
**Mil-Quip Inc.**  
**Milrail Inc.**  
**Miltech Procurement Services Ltd.**  
**Mincom Canada Inc.**  
**Mistral Inc.**  
**MK Defence Ltd.**  
**MMIST**  
**Mobility Lab**  
**Moldex Plastics & Tool Inc.**  
**Mondial Aviation Corp.**  
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**MREL Group of Companies Limited**  
**MuAnalysis Inc.**  
**MultiShred Inc.**  
**Mustang Survival**  
**MXI Security**  
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**Nasittuq Corporation**  
**National Technical Systems**  
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**Neptec Design Group**

**New Brunswick Aerospace and Defence Association**  
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**Nexor**  
**NGRAIN Corporation**  
**Niva Inc.**  
**Norduyn**  
**NORLEANS Technologies Inc.**  
**Norsat International Inc.**  
**Northern Micro**  
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**Ocean Software Canada Ltd**  
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**Oculus Info Inc.**  
**ODIM Spectrum Ltd.**  
**Onboard - Napa Ltd**  
**One Shot Tactical Supply**  
**Onix Technical Services**  
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**Oracle Corporation**  
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**OSI Geospatial Inc.**  
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**Pacific Safety Products Inc.**  
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**Perley-Robertson, Hill & McDougall LLP**  
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**Phoenix 1 International**  
**Pikaia Systems Inc.**  
**PlantCML**  
**Plasticase Inc.**  
**Pleora Technologies**  
**Plexsys International Canada, Inc.**  
**PMC Project Management Centre Inc**  
**Pôle Québec Chaudière-Appalaches**  
**Policy Insights Inc.**  
**Potti Corp.**  
**Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp.**  
**Precimold Inc.**  
**Presagis**  
**Primex Defence Products Ltd.**

**Primex Security Systems Ltd**  
**PRO LASER PLUS LTD.**  
**Production Case Company**  
**Productive Design Services Inc.**  
**Professional Development TSCM Group Inc.**  
**Prolity Corporation**  
**Prologic Systems Ltd**  
**Promaxis Systems Inc.**  
**Protectolite Inc.**  
**Protocase Inc.**  
**Proxy Consulting Inc.**  
**Psion Teklogix**  
**PWM Consulting**  
**QinetiQ**  
**Quanser Inc.**  
**R. Nicholls Distributors Inc.**  
**Racal Acoustics**  
**Range and Bearing Environmental Resource Mapping Corporation**  
**Raytheon Canada Limited**  
**Reaction Target Systems**  
**Real DB Inc.**  
**Recruitall**  
**Reed Exhibitions**  
**Revision Eyewear Inc.**  
**Rheinmetall Canada Inc.**  
**Ridgeway North America Ltd.**  
**Risk Management Partners**  
**RLD Industries Ltd.**  
**Rockwell Collins of Canada**  
**Rohde & Schwarz Canada Inc.**  
**Rolls-Royce North America**  
**R-Theta Thermal Solutions**  
**RTI Claro Inc.**  
**Rutter Inc.**  
**S.A.F.E. Engineering Inc.**  
**S.I.D.O. Ltd**  
**S.M.I**  
**S5 Systems**  
**Saab International Canada Ltd.**  
**Sabic Polymershapes**  
**Sabre Machine Tool Inc.**  
**Sagem Défense Sécurité Canada Inc.**  
**SAIC Canada**  
**SAIT Polytechnic**  
**Salient Manufacturing & Security Products Inc**  
**Samuel E, Schwisberg**  
**Saskatchewan Enterprise & Innovation**  
**Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies**  
**SBC Case Industries**  
**Scepter Corporation**  
**Sciens Industries Inc.**  
**Scientific Microwave Corp.**  
**Scintrex Trace Corp**  
**Securesearch Inc.**  
**SED Systems**  
**SEI Industries Ltd**  
**Seivad Connections Inc**

**Selex Sensors & Airborne Systems**  
**Sennheiser Government Systems (Canada)**  
**Senstar-Stellar Corporation**  
**Shark Marine Technologies Inc.**  
**Shellcast Foundries Inc.**  
**Shipbuilding Association of Canada**  
**SIC Industrial Marking Canada Inc.**  
**Siemens**  
**Siemens PLM Software**  
**Sierra Systems**  
**Sigma Logistics**  
**Signal Technology Associates Inc.**  
**Sikorsky Canada Inc.**  
**SimActive Inc.**  
**Simex Defence Inc.**  
**Simgraph Inc.**  
**SimplexGrinnell**  
**SkyLink Aviation Corporation**  
**SM International**  
**Smiths Detection**  
**SMU Logistics**  
**SNC-Lavalin ProFac**  
**SOCOM SUPPLY**  
**SOFEMA Canada**  
**SolaCom Technologies**  
**Soltam**  
**Solucom Inc.**  
**Soucy International Inc.**  
**Source Engineering**  
**Spacesaver Corp.**  
**Sparton of Canada Ltd.**  
**Spectrum Signal Processing by Vecima**  
**Sprung Instant Structures Ltd**  
**SRCTec Inc.**  
**Standard Aero Limited**  
**Stedfast Inc.**  
**Strategic Defence Solutions Inc.**  
**Strategic Ops Group**  
**Summa Strategies**  
**Summit Insight**  
**Summit Structures**  
**Sun Microsystems of Canada Inc.**  
**Swissway Machining Ltd.**  
**T&H; TOOL AND DESIGN INC.**  
**TACO Communications Inc.**  
**Tactical Solutions Canada Inc.**  
**Tactical Technologies Inc.**  
**Tactix Government Consulting**  
**Talmolder Inc.**  
**TDMG Inc**  
**Team Eagle**  
**Technopôle Defence & Security**  
**Tecmotiv Corporation**  
**Tektronix, Inc.**  
**Telesat Canada**  
**Telops**  
**TELUS**

**Tempo Aerospace Inc.**  
**TeraMach Technologies Inc.**  
**TeraXion Inc**  
**Terragon Environmental Technologies Inc.**  
**Textron Systems**  
**Thales Canada Inc.**  
**The Aeronav Group**  
**The Centre for Manufacturing of Advanced Ceramics and NanoMaterials (CMACN)**  
**The Data Cable Comp Inc.**  
**The Pythian Group**  
**The Shephard Group**  
**The Shooting Edge Inc.**  
**The Wellington Strategy Group Inc.**  
**Thornley Fallis Communications**  
**Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems Canada Inc.**  
**Titan Case Industries**  
**T-lane Transportation and Logistics**  
**Top Aces Inc.**  
**Totalline Transport**  
**Tracan Electronics Corporation**  
**Tricom Technologies Inc.**  
**Trident Protective Services (Canada) Inc.**  
**Tri-Point Hardware Inc.**  
**TSI Solutions LLC**  
**TSL Aerospace Technologies Limited**  
**Tulmar Safety Systems Inc.**  
**Turbomeca Canada Inc.**  
**TWB Designs Inc.**  
**Twin Tooling Inc.**  
**UK Products Canada Inc.**  
**Ultra Electronics Tactical Communication Systems**  
**Ultra Electronics-Maritime Systems**  
**Unique Broadband Systems Ltd.**  
**Unisys Canada Inc.**  
**UVS Canada**  
**Valcom Consulting Group Inc.**  
**Valley Associates Inc.**  
**Vanguard Magazine**  
**VariSystems Inc**  
**Vectronix AG**

**Vestshell Inc.**  
**Viable Power Conversion Technologies**  
**Viking Power Dozer Ltd.**  
**Visiontec**  
**VTN Technologies Inc.**  
**Wasaya Prop Shop**  
**Washington Marine Group**  
**WaVv Business Development Inc.**  
**WCC Refurb Ltd./WCC Offshore**  
**Weatherhaven**  
**Wheeler Accessories / CP Gear**  
**Whites Manufacturing**  
**Wilson Machine**  
**Wyle Laboratories**  
**xwave, A Division of Bell Aliant**  
**Yarde Metals**

**ANNEX:**

**CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT INVESTMENT IN THE CANADIAN DEFENCE INDUSTRIES.**

**January 2003**

**Joan Russow Global Compliance Research Project,**

**Attached is a list of Canadian Defence Industries which are members of the Canadian Defence Industries Association.**

**The Campaign to Prevent Investment in the Canadian Defence Industries was launched January 18, 2003. The purpose of the Campaign is to make citizens aware of the companies that invest in the Defence Industries, and to call upon citizens who invest, as individuals, to withdraw all investments from the Defence Industries, and to urge Investment managers of union, pension, and institutional funds to exercise “due diligence” by redirecting funds away from the Defence Industries.**

**Undoubtedly there are more industries that invest in the Defence Industries; this list is compiled only from those industries that are members of the Canadian Defence Industries Association.**

**Canadian Defence Industries Association (CDIA). ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE ASSOCIATION**

**Abstract Electronics  
ACSION Industries  
Acton International Inc. / Air Boss-Defence  
ADGA Group  
Advanced System Marketing International  
Aerospace & Defence Industries Association of Nova Scotia (ADIANS)  
Agilent Technologies Canada Inc.  
Albion Group-Canada  
Alcatel Canada  
ALPHACASTING Inc.  
Alt Software Inc.  
AMCAN Technologies Incorporated  
AMEC Inc.  
AMS Management Systems Canada Inc.  
Anachemia Canada Inc.  
Apex Industries Inc.  
Appendix Technical Publications Group  
Applanix Corp  
ARINC Inc.  
Armament Technology  
Armet Armoured Vehicles Canada Inc.  
Array Systems Computing Inc.  
Aspen Custom Trailer Ltd.  
ATCO Frontec Corporation  
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency  
Atlantis Systems International  
BAE Systems - IFS  
BAE SYSTEMS Project (Canada) Ltd.  
Barrday Inc.  
Bell Helicopter Textron (Canada)**

**BGA Inc.**  
**Biokinetics and Associates Ltd.**  
**Blastworks Inc.**  
**BMCI Consulting Inc.**  
**Boeing Aerospace**  
**Bombardier Aerospace - Defence Services**  
**Bosik Consultants Limited**  
**Brandt Engineered Products Ltd.**  
**Brandt Packaging & Logistics Limited**  
**Bristol Aerospace Limited**  
**C2 Logistics Inc.**  
**CAE Inc.**  
**Calian Ltd.**  
**Cameo Security**  
**Canadian Commercial Corporation**  
**Canadian Helicopters**  
**Carleton Life Support**  
**Ceramic Protection Corporation**  
**Cesaroni Technology Incorporated**  
**CFN Consultants**  
**CFN Precision Inc.**  
**CGI Info. Systems & Mgmt Consultants**  
**CH2M Hill Canada Limited**  
**CKT Nova Scotia Limited**  
**Clermark Inc.**  
**CMC Electronics Inc.**  
**COM DEV Ltd.**  
**Composites Atlantic Limited**  
**Computer Sciences Canada Inc.**  
**COMSEC Services Inc.**  
**Consoltex**  
**Content Alive**  
**Core Services**  
**Corena USA Inc.**  
**Cray Canada Corp.**  
**C-TECH Ltd.**  
**Department of National Defence**  
**Detroit Diesel of Canada Ltd.**  
**DEVITA Associates**  
**DEW Engineering and Development Limited**  
**DIEHL Canada Ltd.**  
**Diemaco, Logistics and Defence Division, Heroux Devtek Inc.**  
**Dräger Canada Ltd.**  
**DRS Flight Safety & Communications**  
**DuPont Canada Inc.**  
**DY 4 Systems Inc.**  
**Dynamic Engineering Inc.**  
**DynCorp International LLC**  
**E.T.M. Industries Inc.**  
**EADS Canada Inc.**  
**Ebco Industries Ltd. (LMF Div.)**  
**EDS Canada**  
**EMC Corporation**  
**Emcon Emanation Control Ltd.**  
**EMS Technologies Canada Ltd.**  
**Environmental Mapping Canada Ltd.**  
**ESRI Canada**

**Eurosatory (Promosalons Canada/French Trade Exhibitions)**  
**EWA - Canada**  
**Excalibur Systems Limited**  
**Exclusive Analysis**  
**Expro TEC**  
**E-Z-EM Canada Inc.**  
**Fellfab Limited**  
**Fleet Maintenance Facility - Cape Breton**  
**Fleet Maintenance Facility - Cape Scott**  
**Fleetway Inc.**  
**Fuel Cell Technologies Ltd.**  
**Fujitsu Consulting**  
**FXR Aero Inc.**  
**Gallium Software**  
**GasTOPS Ltd.**  
**GE Aircraft Engines Canada**  
**Genaire Limited**  
**General Dynamics Canada Ltd.**  
**General Dynamics Decisions Systems**  
**General Kinetics Engineering Corporation**  
**GENTEX**  
**Giga-tron Associates Limited**  
**GM Defense, General Motors of Canada Limited**  
**GMA Cover Corp.**  
**Government of New Brunswick**  
**Gov't. of Newfoundland & Labrador**  
**GPC Intercon**  
**Grand Canada Engineering**  
**Graphico Edgelit Panels**  
**Greenley & Associates Incorporated**  
**Guernsey MacKay Inc.**  
**Harris Canada Ltd.**  
**Hewlett Packard Canada Ltd.**  
**Highpoint Security Technologies Inc.**  
**Hill and Knowlton Canada Limited**  
**HKAL - Howard Kneen Associates Limited**  
**Honeywell Limited**  
**Humansystems Incorporated**  
**I3Dimensions Inc.**  
**IatroQuest Corporation**  
**IMP Group International Inc.**  
**ImStrat Corporation**  
**IMT CORPORATION**  
**Indal Technologies Inc.**  
**Industry Canada**  
**ING Engineering Inc.**  
**Intelstep Inc.**  
**Intergraph Canada Ltd.**  
**International Custom Products**  
**Irvin Aerospace Canada Limited**  
**IT/Net Consultants Inc.**  
**ITS Electronics Inc.**  
**ITT Industries**  
**ITT Industries, Night Vision**  
**J.A. Jones Services Canada Corp.**  
**K.K. Machine Products Inc.**  
**Kaycom Incorporated**



**Knoch Manufacturing Company Limited**  
**L-3 Communications, Spar Aerospace Limited**  
**Lab 7 Networks Inc.**  
**Lansdowne Technologies Inc.**  
**LearnStream Inc.**  
**Leica Technologies Inc.**  
**Les Aciers ROBOND Inc.**  
**Lexi-tech International**  
**Lincoln Fabrics Ltd.**  
**Lockheed Martin Canada**  
**Logistik Unicorp Inc.**  
**MacDonald, Dettwiler & Associates Ltd.**  
**Maersk Canada Inc.**  
**Martec Ltd.**  
**MaxSys Professionals & Solutions**  
**Med-Eng Systems Inc.**  
**Meghan Colour**  
**Mercedes-Benz Canada**  
**Metcalf and Associates**  
**MFP Financial Services Ltd**  
**MIL Systems**  
**Mission Logistics Inc.**  
**Mitsubishi Canada Limited**  
**Montek Technology Inc.**  
**Motorola Space & Electronics Inc.**  
**MREL Specialty Explosive Products Limited**  
**MSE of Canada Ltd.**  
**Mustang Survival**  
**Mycloe.com**  
**NanoServ Technologies Inc.**  
**Nasittuq Corporation**  
**National Coating Technologies Inc.**  
**Navair Inc.**  
**NBC Team Ltd.**  
**Neptec Design Group**  
**NewTech Instruments Ltd.**  
**Nexia Biotechnologies Inc.**  
**Nicholls Distributors Inc.**  
**NORLEANS Technologies Inc.**  
**Northrop Grumman Canada**  
**NOTRA Inc.**  
**NRC Environmental Simulation Lab**  
**Ocean Group EOD Division**  
**O'Dell Engineering Ltd.**  
**ODIM Spectrum Ltd.**  
**Oerlikon Contraves Inc.**  
**Offshore Systems Ltd.**  
**Orenda Aerospace Corporation**  
**PAE**  
**PAMI**  
**Papp Plastics & Distributing Ltd.**  
**Patlon Aircraft & Industries Limited**  
**Pearson Peacekeeping Centre**  
**Pennant Information Services**  
**Pivotal Power**  
**Plan B Systems Inc.**  
**PointMan Canada Ltd.**

**Policy Insights Inc.**  
**Pratt & Whitney Canada International**  
**Precimold Inc.**  
**Preclarus Inc.**  
**ProMac Manufacturing Ltd.**  
**Promaxis Systems Inc.**  
**Promosalons Canada / French Trade Exhibitions**  
**Punda Mercantile Inc.**  
**Radian Communications Services (Canada) Limited**  
**RAFAEL USA Inc.**  
**Raytheon Canada Limited**  
**Ridgeway North America Ltd.**  
**Risk Management Partners**  
**Robica Forman Tank Ltd.**  
**Rockwell Collins of Canada**  
**?Rockwell International of Canada 10**  
**Rolls Royce North America**  
**Royal Military College of Canada**  
**Saab Tech Canada Ltd.**  
**SAIC Canada**  
**Scepter Corporation**  
**Schreiner Target Services Canada Ltd.**  
**SEI Industries Inc.**  
**Seimac Limited**  
**Senstar-Stellar Corporation**  
**SERCO Facilities Management Inc.**  
**SGI**  
**Shellcast Foundries Inc.**  
**SICO Inc.**  
**Sicom Systems Ltd.**  
**Sierra Tech. Inc.**  
**Sikorsky Canada Inc.**  
**Simsmart Inc.**  
**Simtran Technologies Inc.**  
**SkyLink Aviation Technologies Inc.**  
**SNC Technologies Inc.**  
**Sonoco Ltd.**  
**Soucy International Inc.**  
**Sparton of Canada Ltd.**  
**STA Signal Technology Associates Inc.**  
**Standard Aero**  
**Stedfast Inc.**  
**STR - Speech Technology Research Ltd.**  
**Strategic Evolution**  
**Summit Structures**  
**Sun Microsystems of Canada Inc.**  
**TDM Technical Services**  
**Team Cormorant**  
**TECSULT Eduplus Inc.**  
**Teleflex (Canada) Ltd.**  
**TELEMUS Inc.**  
**Telephonics**  
**Telesat Canada**  
**Thales Elektronik Systeme GMBH**  
**Thales Optronique Canada Inc.**  
**Thales Systems Canada**  
**The Gear Centre Group**

**The HFE Group  
The Shooting Edge Inc.  
The Wellington Strategy Group Inc.  
TIGER-VAC - International Inc.  
Tricom Technologies Inc.  
TSL Aerospace Technologies Ltd.  
Tulmar Safety Systems Inc.  
Ultra Electronics Canada - Maritime Systems  
United Defense  
University of New Brunswick  
Valcom Ltd  
Valley Associates Inc.  
Vantage Point International (VPI)  
Vector Aerospace Corporation  
Viking Power Dozer Ltd.  
W.R. Davis Engineering Limited  
WCC Refurb / Offshore Limited  
Weatherhaven  
Wescam Inc.  
WRC Little and Associates Inc.  
XTECH Explosive Decontamination Inc.  
xwave  
YORTAR Systems Inc.  
Zenon Environmental Systems Inc.**

**Conference of Defence Association's Charitable Status Challenged.**

**Joan Russow (PhD)**

**Global Compliance Research Project**

**On May 14, 2008 a complaint to Revenue Canada was made to challenge the Canadian Defence Association's charitable status. (Russow)**

**On May 16, 2008, it was revealed that the Conference of Defence Association had received 500,000 from the "new" Conservative government to legitimize the Federal Government's annual Defence spending, and the government's recently announced Canada First 30 billion anticipated future budget along with the 45 billion retrofit budget.**

**For years the Conference of Defence Association has been granted Charitable Status, and has lobbied continuously for an increase in the military budget. The Conference of Defence Association also has always presented the annual military budget as a percentage of the GDP, usually hovering at around 1% [ which misleads the public into thinking that there is very little spent on the military].**

**However, if one examines the Canadian Budget, it is clear that the military budget per annum, under the Department of Defence usually amounts to about 10 percent of the total revenue, after the deduction for the interest of the debt, which is available for Federal Government programs.**

**The Conference of Defence Associations has as one of its members the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries.**

**A campaign to discourage investment in the Canadian Defence industries was launched in 2003 (see below), to encourage investors to divest from investments in the defence industries. Undoubtedly more companies with defence contracts have been added as a result of the increased integration between Canada and the US through the Security and Prosperity Partnership Agreement.**

**In 2008, the Canadian Association of Defence Industries is now called Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries. (CADSI), and undoubtedly is still a member of the "charitable" Conference of Defence Association.**

**RENEWED CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT INVESTMENT IN THE CANADIAN DEFENCE INDUSTRIES. Here is the current list of members of the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries:**

**Hi Steven**

**I think your changes to the letter were important. On May 24, I sent in the letter along with the attachment containing the agreement between the DND and CDA/CDAI. I received same-day acknowledgment of the letter from the Charities Division. Why don't you and Steven Shrybman run with this issue from the point of view of the legality of the agreement between DND and CDA/CDAI. The focus of the press release would then be the legal opinion. My name should not be on as a contact because I would be raising other issues. You mentioned that you would not be able to send it out yourself because of the perception of your conflict of interest. Murray Dobbin expressed interest in the issue; perhaps he could send it out along with the legal opinion**

**If you think it is appropriate I will submit the legal opinion to the contact at the Charities division. If not, it could just be in the press release.**

**Joan**

May 24, 2008

Dear Sir/Madame

This letter is to follow up on my oral complaint, filed on May 14, 2008, concerning the compliance of the Conference of Defence Association Institute with the rules government the conduct of charitable organizations as described in the *Income Tax Act* and other regulations.

Subsequently, on May 16, 2008 the following information was brought to my attention through an article in the *Globe and Mail* that the Conference of Defence Associations Institute was under a contract with the Department of National Defence that obligated the charity, in support of the Conference of Defence Association advocacy group, to undertake specified activities in return for \$500,000 in funding to the CDA.

I am concerned that this funding and the terms of the agreement, in effect, requires the organization to endorse controversial federal government policies, such as Canadian Forces' combat operations in Afghanistan and Canada's high level of military spending.

For instance, does the Department of National Defence require the charity "to support government's efforts," as stated in the funding agreement, to achieve public support for the recently announced Canada First \$30 billion anticipated future defence budget along with the \$45 billion retrofit budget?

Would you please add as evidence to my complaint the aforementioned agreement between the CDA/CDAI and the Conservative government?

I look forward to your reply acknowledging receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Russow

Global Compliance Research Project.

Attachment: Agreement between Department of Defence and the CDAI and CDA

CDA 2008-05-13.PDF  
1479K [View as HTML](#) [Download](#)

Reply Forward

**Pat**

**I have rewritten the letter after I read the actual agreement. Please replace the previous letter with this one. This is a more formal letter with Sir/Madame.**

**Joan**

**Dear Sir/Madame**

**This letter is to follow up on my oral complaint, filed on May 14, 2008, concerning the compliance of the Conference of Defence Association Institute with the rules government the conduct of charitable organizations as described in the *Income Tax Act* and other regulations.**

**Subsequently, on May 16, 2008 the following information was brought to my attention through an article in the *Globe and Mail* that the Conference of Defence Associations Institute was under a contract with the Department of National Defence that obligated the charity, in support of the Conference of Defence Association advocacy group, to undertake specified activities in return for \$500,000 in funding to the CDA.**

**I am concerned that this funding and the terms of the agreement, in effect, requires the organization to endorse controversial federal government policies, such as Canadian Forces' combat operations in Afghanistan and Canada's high level of military spending.**

**For instance, does the Department of National Defence require the charity "to support government's efforts," as stated in the funding agreement, to achieve public support for the recently announced Canada First \$30 billion anticipated future defence budget along with the \$45 billion retrofit budget?**

**Would you please add as evidence to my complaint the aforementioned agreement between the CDA/CDAI and the Conservative government?**

**I look forward to your reply acknowledging receipt of this letter.**

**Sincerely,**

**Dr. Joan Russow**

**Global Compliance Research Project.**

Last Updated on Wednesday, 28 January 2015 16:41

865 readings

## [Killing wolves without purpose](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 22 January 2015 11:58

BY John Bennett, the Sierra Club of Canada

I have to report an ongoing travesty.

In the name of protecting Woodland Caribou, the [Alberta Government has killed mor](#) barbaric and senseless.

This is all happening in the name of protecting Woodland Caribou. They call it a “cul

The reality is Woodland Caribou are declining as a result of habitat loss and disruptio

Woodland caribou have already lost at least one-half of their historic range in Canada

---

Related: [Woodland Caribou Backgrounder](#)

---

Today in Alberta, the reality is Woodland Caribou habitat is rapidly being destroyed l

According to a report in the Canadian Journal of Zoology:

*From 2005 to 2012, in a 10,000-square-km treatment area northw  
biologists shot 177 moose and 16 elk to serve as bait. The cam  
of the many collateral casualties of poisoning, including rave.*

According to acclaimed wildlife ecologist Dick Dekker:

*“Habitat fragmentation is the main reason the woodland caribou is in decline. The pi*

Mr. Dekker has studied wolves and their prey species in Jasper National Park since 19

Three years ago we were part of successful campaign to convince the Federal Ministe



You may remember back in 2012, we collected over 3000 signatures in .  
Unfortunately, Alberta didn' t get the message. The indiscriminate s

#### SCAPEGOAT (WOLF) UPDATE

I'm sad to report that [British Columbia has joined the senseless slaughter.](#)

So we are re-launching our **#SaveTheWolves** campaign with a [letter writing action](#) to

Please take a moment and [send your letter](#) today! Perhaps, together, v

We've prepared a [draft letter here](#). It's best to personalize it, emphasizing your own c

Wolves have been the victim of human prejudice and ignorance for too long. It is indi

Both Premiers are active on Twitter so after you've sent [your letter](#), please send them

[@ChristyClarkBC](#)

[@JimPrentice](#)

Thanks for standing up for the wolves.

Sincerely,

John Bennett, National Program Director

Sierra Club Canada Foundation

1510-1 Nicholas Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7

[jb@sierraclub.ca](mailto:jb@sierraclub.ca)

[John on Twitter](#) / [Bennett Blog](#)

1090 readings

[Has the Harper government's \\$15 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia trumped Canada's willingness to be a party to the Arms trade treaty?](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 22 January 2015 10:33

**By Joan Russow, Global Compliance Research Project**



In this 2008 file photo, General Dynamics' Edmonton facility celebrates the delivery of the 100th retrofit LAV III (Light Armoured Vehicle) to the Canadian Forces.

**In April 2014, in the UN General Assembly, Canada, along with 153 states, officially voted in favour of the Arms Trade Treaty; . Many members states of the United Nations have wondered why Canada has neither signed nor ratified the treaty; they did not wonder why Saudi Arabia, abstained in the UNGA, or failed to sign and ratified.**

Currently, 191 states have signed or ratified, Canada and Saudi Arabia have neither signed nor ratified the Arms Trade Treaty

Membership: 130 Signatories, 61 States Parties as of 1 January 2015 —

## **COULD THE HARPER GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO SIGN AND RATIFY BE BECAUSE OF ARTICLE 6 IN THE TREATY MIGHT BE CONTRAVENED ?**

### **Article 6.3 Prohibitions**

\*

3.A State Party shall not authorize any transfer of conventional arms covered under Article 2 (1) or of items covered under Article 3 or Article 4, if it has knowledge at the time of authorization that the arms or items would be used in the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, attacks directed **against civilian objects or civilians protected as such**, or other war crimes as defined by international agreements to which it is a Party.

This article could be contravened by Canada, if Canada sold arms to a state that could be deemed to potentially use these arms to suppress of the civil and political rights of its citizens.

## **THE HARPER GOVERNMENT'S \$15 BILLION ARMS CONTRACT WITH SAUDI ARABIA FOR MILITARY ARMoured VEHICLES**

In July 2014, David Pugliese reported that

Project Ploughshares has obtained official data that for the first time reveals the exact value of recently awarded multiyear contracts for Canada to supply Saudi Arabia with military armoured vehicles, noted Ploughshares researcher Ken Epps.

Information obtained from the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) under an Access to Information request shows that two contracts totalling \$14.8-billion were awarded by the CCC to General Dynamics Land Systems Canada of London, Ontario during the 2013-14 fiscal year.<sup>1</sup>

These contracts are unprecedented in the history of the CCC, a crown corporation in Ottawa that arranges back-to-back contracts between Canadian suppliers and foreign governments. Each contract dwarfs recent CCC awards for military exports to other Canadian-based contractors. Together they comprise the bulk of a \$15.5-billion military contract total awarded by the CCC during FY 2013-14. As illustrated in Figure 1, this total is an order of magnitude greater than equivalent annual totals for the majority of years in this century". (July 24 2014, Ottawa Citizen)

## **CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS VIOLATION IN IN SAUDI ARABIA**



#### Parties and signatories of the ICCPR

■ State party

■ Signatory that has not ratified

■ State party which attempted to withdraw (see [below](#))

■ Non-state party, non-signatory

The obligations in the 1976 ICCPR, because of its almost universal acceptance have become international peremptory norms from which there must not be derogation

#### Article 2

1. Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

. Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes:

2. (a) To ensure that any person whose rights or freedoms as herein recognized are violated shall have an effective remedy, notwithstanding that the violation has been committed by persons acting in an official capacity;

3. (b) To ensure that any person claiming such a remedy shall have his right thereto determined by competent judicial, administrative or legislative authorities, or by any other competent authority provided for by the legal system of the State, and to develop the possibilities of judicial remedy;

4. (c) To ensure that the competent authorities shall enforce such remedies when granted.

#### Article 3

The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights set forth in the present Covenant.

#### Article 7

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment....

#### Article 9

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be

subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.

2. Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him.

3. Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release. It shall not be the general rule that persons awaiting trial shall be detained in custody, but release may be subject to guarantees to appear for trial, at any other stage of the judicial proceedings, and, should occasion arise, for execution of the judgement.

4. Anyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings before a court, in order that that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of his detention and order his release if the detention is not lawful.

5. Anyone who has been the victim of unlawful arrest or detention shall have an enforceable right to compensation.

#### Article 14

1. All persons shall be equal before the courts and tribunals. In the determination of any criminal charge against him, or of his rights and obligations in a suit at law, everyone shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law. The press and the public may be excluded from all or part of a trial for reasons of morals, public order (ordre public) or national security in a democratic society, or when the interest of the private lives of the parties so requires, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice; but any judgement rendered in a criminal case or in a suit at law shall be made public except where the interest of juvenile persons otherwise requires or the proceedings concern matrimonial disputes or the guardianship of children.

#### Article 19

1. Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.

2. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.

#### Article 21

The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

#### Article 22

1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those which are prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on members of the armed forces and of the police in their exercise of this right.

For full text, see

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx> International

## Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

### **VIOLATION OF CANADA'S OWN STATED POLICY OF THE SALE OF ARMS**

**The Harper government should never have entered into an arms sale agreement with Saudi Arabia not only because of potential violations of international civil and political norms but also because of contravention of Canada's own stated national policy;**

**Under Canada's Export Control Handbook "the principal objective of export controls is to ensure that exports of certain goods and technology are consistent with Canada's foreign and defence policies. Among other goals, export controls seek to ensure that exports from Canada: are not used to commit human rights violations";**

**Also Canada claims that the "Export Control List derives from Canada's commitments to like-minded countries which participate in multilateral export control regimes or from Canada's obligations as a signatory to multilateral or bilateral international agreements".**

**"In addition to compliance with the relevant law, the Export and Import Permits Act, exporters of goods and technology that are subject to export controls have a conduct due diligence verifications of actual and potential foreign customers and to provide any relevant information in an export permit application."**

**In Conclusion, the Harper government has been willing to not only ignore international peremptory norms related to the potential violation of civil and political rights but also to disregard its own Export Control handbook in the case of Saudi Arabia, the violation of civil and political rights in And also the Harper government has failed to exercise the due diligence verification on the possibility of these weapons might be transferred elsewhere.**

**The Harper government should not be lured into a sale of arms that would lead to its reluctance to sign and ratify the Arms control Convention, and its contravention of Canada's stated policy. .**

Last Updated on Thursday, 22 January 2015 21:11

214 readings

[CORRECTION/Sustainable Energy Starts  
With the Sun](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 21 January 2015 19:22

By [Malini Shankar](#)



Sunlight pours over a break in canal-top solar panels recently installed over the Vadodara branch of the Sardar Sarovar canal project in Gujarat. Credit: Malini Shankar/IPS

BARODA, India, Jan 19 2015 (IPS) - It began with an experiment to install photovoltaic cells over an irrigation canal that forms part of the Sardar Sarovar canal network – a massive hydel power project across the River Narmada that irrigates some 1.8 million hectares of arable land in the western Indian state of Gujarat.

After a successful pilot project, the Government of Gujarat has now invested some 18.3 million dollars replicating the scheme over a 3.6-km stretch of the irrigation canal in the hopes of generating 10 MW of power.

The project received endorsement from U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon on Jan. 11, as it represents global efforts to move towards a new poverty-eradication framework that will replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the end of this year, putting sustainability at the heart of the global development agenda.

Given that no extra land had to be acquired for installation of the solar power panels, its uniqueness was lauded by the U.N. secretary-general.

“Looking out at the plant, I saw more than glittering panels—I saw the future of India and the future of our world,” Ban said, addressing the media at the site on Jan. 11.

With some 21,600 solar panels running over a length of the Vadodara branch of the



canal, experts say the installation could generate power to the tune of 16.2 million units per annum, since the canal runs right over the Tropic of Cancer and receives bright sunlight for eight months out of the year.

Sceptics worry that without planning, the surplus power could be siphoned off by commercial enterprises unless there are concerted efforts to combine the sustainable energy initiative with poverty eradication.

All across India, stakeholders are taking stock of progress on the MDGs, keeping their eyes on the new era of sustainable development. Many gaps remain in the country's efforts to improve the lives of millions, with water scarcity, lack of sanitation, and sprawling slums pointing to a need for better management of India's human, economic and natural resources.



A view of the transformer, which transmits solar power generated at the canal-top solar power plant. Credit: Malini Shankar/IPS



Such are the typical scenes in every slum area in India. Experts are hopeful that the post-2015 sustainable development agenda will succeed where the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) did not. Credit: Malini Shankar/IPS



Traditional systems of water harvesting and conservation have gained new-found respect in the era of sustainable development. Here, a woman uses her ox to churn a water mill in the north Indian state of Rajasthan. Credit: Malini Shankar/IPS



Indigenous people, like this Soliga woman, all across India are in urgent need of far-reaching sustainable development plans that will improve the lives and livelihoods of forest-dwellers. Credit: Malini Shankar/IPS



A water crisis continues to plague both urban and rural areas across India. As the U.N. gears up to implement a new sustainable development agenda, hopes are running high that gaps in the MDGs will now be filled. Credit: Malini Shankar/IPS



Sunlight pours over a break in canal-top solar panels recently installed over the Vadodara branch of the Sardar Sarovar canal project in Gujarat. Credit: Malini Shankar/IPS



A view of a polluted stream in Bangalore, capital of the southern Indian state of Karnataka, points to an urgent need for better planning and management of the country's scarce water sources. Credit: Malini Shankar/IPS

370 readings

## [Stripping the Life Off BC's Beaches, While Cashing In on Seaweed](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 20 January 2015 22:44

by Andy Sinats

**JANUARY 20, 2015**

REPOSTED FROM <http://gorillaradioblog.blogspot.ca/2015/01/stripping-life-off-bcs->

beaches-while.html



**A year and a half after the BC MoA issued the first licenses for seaweed removal on Vancouver Island, beginning with 5,000 tonnes of Mazaella Japonica at Deep Bay, Bowser, all the seaweed, that herring and sand lance rely upon for spawning, is gone. The beaches are empty.**

**There is no other herring spawning area historically as important on BC coast.**

**Why this "test-fishery" is being conducted exactly here begs the question if the MoA, which regulates aquaculture, simply has it in for wild fish? To take out the bottom of the food-chain, in the chief nursery for forage fish, upon which Chinook salmon and in turn Orcas rely is simply diabolical.**

**In a bizarre twist, Beaver Meadow Farm, an "ecologically-correct," pastured-cattle operation in Comox, has received Salmon-Safe-BC "eco-certification" from the Pacific Salmon Foundation to feed 300 tonnes of seaweed to its cows.**



(typically, in past years, sea-cast wrack, seaweed three feet thick covers these now bare beaches)

**Mazaella Japonica is a red seaweed from which carrageenan is extracted for use in vegan-friendly, non-animal, food thickeners, shampoos, and cosmetics. However, the seaweed is laden with minute micro-organisms that decompose it to provide nutrition and habitat for sand-lance embryos, herring eggs, a part of the web of life that sustains 165 species of birds in Baynes sound and marine organisms. It is extremely animal-unfriendly to remove it for commercial purposes.**

**And for those on a Paleo-diet, to enjoy local pastured beef which is fed on "Salmon-Safe" seaweed extracted at the cost of depleting the forage fish upon which Salmon rely is perverse, though entirely consistent with heedless resource extraction which intentionally defies ecological principles and throws any species, from caribou to wild salmon beneath the profit bus.**

**Along with a moratorium on herring and herring-roe fisheries, both of which undercut the ocean web of life, there has to be an immediate ban on seaweed removal and issuing of further licenses by Ministry of Agriculture.**

Posted by [Chris Cook](#) at [Tuesday, January 20, 2015](#) 

Last Updated on Tuesday, 20 January 2015 23:21

786 readings

# Stephen Harper's re-election strategy struggling to keep up with events



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 20 January 2015 22:02

By Tim Harper The Star

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/01/20/stephen-harpers-re-election-strategy-struggling-to-keep-up-with-events-tim-harper.html>

2015 looked good on paper, but the Conservatives are no longer playing with the stacked deck they had envisioned.

•



Adrian Wyld / THE CANADIAN PRESS file photo

Senior Conservatives scrambled Tuesday to assure that Jason Kenney and Joe Oliver were on the same page and terminology Kenney used on the weekend may have been misinterpreted by some, writes Tim Harper.

OTTAWA—Stephen Harper may still seek to control the message, but so far in 2015, he has been unable to control events.

As he surveyed this election year from afar, he and party strategists thought they had a winning hand.

They may yet, but they will have to play the cards they've been dealt, not the cards they expected to draw.

Harper is steering his re-election bid over a landscape now littered with economic uncertainty, war, stalled pipeline projects, a huge trade deal that is more boast than reality, a chill in relations with our neighbour, and a Liberal leader who stubbornly refuses to go away.

Initially, it must have looked good on paper.

A balanced budget with money to spend on promised tax breaks that were pledged four long years

ago.

Canada as energy superpower, bitumen [flowing to the U.S. Gulf Coast](#) and to West Coast ports for export to Asia.

A signature trade deal with the European Union, the largest trade deal ever signed, creating jobs and markets for Canadian manufacturers.

Instead, the winter is shaping up much differently.

Letting politics, not economic reality, shape budget-making has left the government no room to manoeuvre — re-election took precedence over sound fiscal management.

Finance Minister Joe Oliver looks like he's [merely buying time](#), hoping that a few clicks of his heels will get oil prices up and extricate himself from this box, but in the meantime, the government appeared to be uncharacteristically losing its message control.

When Employment Minister Jason Kenney spoke on weekend political shows of extending an operating spending freeze and exercising restraint without dipping into a \$3 billion contingency fund, a senior government official [popped up in The Canadian Press](#) to counter Harper's most powerful minister, saying there were no cuts planned and the contingency fund could be in play.

The problem with this is that Kenney doesn't go off message.

He spoke for caucus last winter when the income-splitting scheme was in question after some blunt comments about its value by the late finance minister, Jim Flaherty.

A promise is a promise, Kenney said, and some sort of income-splitting plan would be a centerpiece of the 2015 campaign, and it was.

He strategically defended Nigel Wright on the eve of the party's convention in Calgary and the demonizing of the prime minister's former chief of staff was largely halted.

He was the first government member to speak out against Rob Ford during the former Toronto mayor's darkest days and was said to be off message. Except he was right and others in caucus agreed.

Other senior Conservatives scrambled Tuesday to assure that Kenney and Oliver were on the same page and terminology Kenney used on the weekend may have been misinterpreted by some.

Party sources said there is no fight within cabinet and there is broad support for buying time by pushing the budget into April.

But clearly, the Harper government is feeling its way, not taking the confident pre-election strides it had hoped.

Similarly, Harper could not have reasonably foreseen that both the Keystone XL and the Northern Gateway pipelines he and Oliver championed would be on life support heading into an election.

He could not have foreseen the indifference to bilateral issues shown by U.S. President Barack Obama, or the environmental and aboriginal opposition to the Northern Gateway project on the

West Coast.

He did not move the European trade deal quickly enough, although, at any rate, he did not get the domestic bang he sought. Now provincial discontent, [led by Newfoundland](#), threatens to deliver severe damage to a wobbly deal.

Nor could the prime minister have foreseen the rise of the Islamic State.

No prime minister relishes sending Canadians into combat and the risks of such a strategy in an election year are high.

The revelation that Canadian special forces have been involved in a firefight with Islamic State militants has upped the ante of what had been sold as largely risk-free air and advisory effort in northern Iraq.

It has also led to speculation that Harper will agree to a deeper commitment for Canadian forces when, as expected, their mandate is extended in April.

He has laid the groundwork for such a move, but any prime minister seeking re-election would prefer to celebrate past military successes under his leadership, not the unpredictable day-to-day confrontation this could become.

There are suddenly no aces in the prime minister's hand.

If he pulls this one out, it would be a testament to his ability to bluff rather than stack the deck.

*Tim Harper is a national affairs writer. His column appears Monday, Wednesday and Friday. ; document.write( " "); document.write( addy\_text30397 ); document.write( '<\a>' ); //--> Twitter: @nutgraf1*

Last Updated on Tuesday, 20 January 2015 22:25

857 readings

## [Mining firm takes on B.C. environmental group in defamation court battle](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 20 January 2015 15:33

**The offices of Taseko Mines Limited is pictured in Vancouver on Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010.**



**(Darryl Dyck / THE CANADIAN PRESS)**

y Tamsyn Burgmann, The Canadian Press  
Published Monday, January 19, 2015 7:13PM EST  
Last Updated Monday, January 19, 2015 7:27PM EST

**VANCOUVER -- Criticism of a proposed mine by an environmental group and allegations of defamation by the project's owner have landed both parties in British Columbia Supreme Court.**

**Taseko Mines Ltd. (TSX:TKO) launched the lawsuit after the Wilderness Committee made claims during a 2012 public comment period that the New Prosperity mine could destroy Fish Lake.**

**The proposed gold and copper mine, 125 kilometres southwest of Williams Lake, was undergoing a federal environmental assessment when the statements were made.**

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[B.C. upholds environmental certificates for controversial mines](#)

- 

**Taseko lawyer Roger McConchie told court on Monday the company's civil complaint is based on five articles published by the non-profit organization, which were emailed to supporters and posted online starting in January 2012.**

**"You will hear submissions related to corporate entitlement to have its reputation protected by a defamation lawsuit," said McConchie, noting he expects to spend weeks presenting evidence.**

**The material involves libellous descriptions of the proposed project, a letter-writing tool that encouraged re-publication of the organization's claims and statements the company was pursuing a lawsuit with the purpose of silencing public debate, McConchie argued. Some of the statements appeared on Facebook.**

**He said the onus is on the defendant to prove the truth of its statements and that law presumes defamation allegations are false.**

**He said Taseko's argument is not that the Wilderness Committee's statements are unlawful because they are literal or legal innuendo, but because they create meaning that a person without special knowledge would infer.**

"The claims in this case are put forward on the basis of inferential meaning that would be conveyed to the average, ordinary reader as a matter of impression," he said.

John McManus, the chief operating officer of the mine for the past year, was the first witness and said he was part of the management decision to sue the Wilderness Committee.

"We know that taking legal proceedings is a large undertaking, can be time consuming and expensive and outcome uncertain," he said.

"But the severity of what was being done by the Wilderness Committee ... We felt that this particular attack needed to be retracted and apologized for, otherwise these things become part of the public mindset and it becomes a truth and it is not a truth."

Supporters of the advocacy group stood on the downtown courthouse's steps and hoisted banners, displaying slogans such as "The right to speak: More precious than gold," and "Nature can't be silenced."

Joe Foy, the committee's national campaign director, said before the proceedings began that the group's statements outlined damage it perceives the New Prosperity mine would wreak on the environment.

"Our response is (the statements) are fair comment and as an environmental organization, that's what we do," he said.

The lawsuit is an example of a "classic SLAPP suit," he charged, an acronym for strategic lawsuit against public participation.

"We say its main goal is to not only put a chill on our organization, but to send a message to all citizens that if you comment on this project, you could very well likely receive papers in the mail and have to spend considerable time and resources defending yourself."

The federal cabinet refused to grant an environmental certificate during a previous proposal for the project in November 2010, citing adverse environmental impact and the harm it would cause Fish Lake, which is significant to local First Nations.

The company reapplied with a revised plan, but following the public comment period the cabinet again rejected the \$1.5-billion gold and copper mine. The B.C. government, however, has approved the earlier version and last week granted a five-year extension.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, said his organization is puzzled by the targeted lawsuit because the union has made similar and sometimes more vocal public statements about the project.

"We're more known to shoot from the hip," he said. "Why is the Wilderness Committee being singled out?"

Devon Page, executive director of Ecojustice, said his organization believes the lawsuit is aimed at stifling public discourse.

He argued it comes at a time when governments are trying to limit public voice to speed along large projects.

"This case is an opportunity to raise the importance of reintroducing SLAPP legislation in

B.C.," he said.

The same call was made by activists during a series of recent demonstrations against the proposed Trans Mountain oil pipeline expansion through a Vancouver suburb when civil suits against protesters were launched.

Taseko is seeking general and punitive damages, as well as injunctive relief.

696 readings

## [Newfoundland & Labrador withdraws from all 'free trade' negotiations](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 20 January 2015 08:51

By **Brent Patterson**

Brent Patterson's blog <http://canadians.org/blog/newfoundland-labrador-withdraws-all-free-trade-negotiations>

January 20, 2015 - 8:44am

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador took another step today in the escalating feud with the Harper government over the fisheries fund aspect of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).



The provincial government has **announced** that it is "suspending all participation in, and [their] commitment to be bound by the outcomes of any trade agreement currently under negotiation by Canada." According to **letter** from the province to the federal government, this includes the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA), the Canada-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, and all negotiations related to the World Trade Organization.

The provincial government has also now strengthened its resolve to "reconsider its support for CETA". The province's Minister of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development Darin King [says](#), "If we see no activity we'll take the actions we've just described to you here from a trade perspective and we'll pull the plug on CETA and Newfoundland will no longer be a part of the deal."

King and the Minister of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs Keith Hutchings also warned that the province could take its case directly to Europe and that it might take the federal government to court. The province has already visited the embassies of European Union member states in Ottawa to raise their grievances with the Harper government on this matter.

While the provincial government is threatening these actions given its dispute with the Harper government over a \$400 million fisheries fund, we encourage the province to probe deeper into the implications of CETA and other 'free trade' agreements, notably their investor-state dispute settlement provisions. This is a clause that allows a transnational corporation to sue the national government for legislation, including provincial legislation, that protects the environment or public interest but impacts on the future profits of the company.

In this regard we ask the provincial government to remember that the Harper government paid \$130 million to [AbitibiBowater Inc.](#) in 2010 to settle a claim that began when then-Premier Danny Williams "expropriated" the company's water and timber rights after it closed its mill in Grand Falls-Windsor and put 800 people out of work. And to note that a NAFTA tribunal [ruled](#) against Newfoundland and Labrador in 2012 when it required producers in the Hibernia oil field to invest some of their profits back into research and development in the province.

Newfoundland and Labrador will also face millions in increased costs for pharmaceutical drugs given the Harper government agreed to extending patent protection to highly-profitable drug companies under CETA. In 2011, the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association [estimated](#) the cost to Newfoundland and Labrador of this provision would be \$13.2 million a year. Another [study](#) that same year by two of Canada's top academics on pharmaceutical policy put the price tag at \$46 million a year.

While we are pleased by the statements made today by the provincial ministers, we reiterate our [demand](#) of them to hold public consultations to hear what the people of Newfoundland and Labrador have to say about this deal. They would then hear that CETA is a deeply flawed agreement and that it should be scrapped for numerous reasons beyond the fisheries dispute with the federal government. We would also encourage all the Atlantic premiers to go beyond general [statements](#) of support for Newfoundland and Labrador on this matter and consider instead stronger positions in opposition to CETA.

To read our media release on this issue, please click [here](#).

*Further reading*

[Kavanagh calls for provincial hearings on CETA in Newfoundland &](#)

[Labrador \(December 2014 blog\)](#)

[Newfoundland & Labrador premier threatens to withdraw support for](#)

[CETA \(December 2014 blog\)](#)

[If Harper can't be trusted on the fisheries fund, what about pharmaceutical](#)

[drugs?\(December 2014 blog\)](#)

265 readings

## [In the Shadow of Glacial Lakes, Pakistan's Mountain Communities Look to Climate Adaptation](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 19 January 2015 12:02

By [Saleem Shaikh](#) and [Sughra Tunio](#)



A boy grazes his cattle on farmland close to the site of a landslide in northern Pakistan's Bagrot valley. Credit: Saleem Shaikh/IPS

BINDO GOL, Pakistan, Jan 15 2015 (IPS) - Khaliq-ul-Zaman, a farmer from the remote Bindo Gol valley in northern Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, has long lived under the shadow of disaster.

With plenty of fertile land and fresh water, this scenic mountain valley would be an ideal dwelling place – if not for the constant threat of the surrounding glacial lakes bursting their ridges and gushing down the hillside, leaving a trail of destruction behind. manager of a climate mitigation project in northern Pakistan

There was a time when families like Zaman's lived in these distant valleys undisturbed, but hotter temperatures and heavier rains, which experts say are the result of global warming, have turned areas like Bindo Gol into a soup of natural hazards.

Landslides, floods and soil erosion have become increasingly frequent, disrupting channels that carry fresh water from upstream springs into farmlands, and depriving communities of their only source of fresh water.

“Things were becoming very difficult for my family,” Zaman told IPS. “I began to think that farming was no longer viable, and was considering abandoning it and migrating to nearby Chitral [a town about 60 km away] in search of labour.”

He was not alone in his desperation. Azam Mir, an elderly wheat farmer from the Drongagh village in Bindo Gol, recalled a devastating landslide in 2008 that wiped out two of the most ancient water channels in the area, forcing scores of farmers to abandon agriculture and relocate to nearby villages.

“Those who could not migrate out of the village suffered from water-borne diseases and hunger,” he told IPS.

Now, thanks to a public-private sector climate adaptation partnership aimed at reducing the risk of disasters like glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), residents of the northern valleys are gradually regaining their livelihoods and their hopes for a future in the mountains.

### **Bursting at the seams**

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), there were some 2,400 potentially hazardous glacial lakes in the country's remotest mountain valleys in 2010, a number that has now increased to over 3,000.

Chitral district alone is home to 549 glaciers, of which 132 have been declared

‘dangerous’.

Climatologists say that rising temperatures are threatening the delicate ecosystem here, and unless mitigation measures are taken immediately, the lives and livelihoods of millions will continue to be at risk.

One of the most [successful initiatives](#) underway is a four-year, 7.6-million-dollar project backed by the U.N. Adaptation Fund, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the government of Pakistan.

Signed into existence in 2010, its main focus, according to Field Manager Hamid Ahmed Mir, has been protection of lives, livelihoods, existing water channels and the construction of flood control infrastructure including check dams, erosion control structures and gabion walls.



Labourers construct flood-control gabion walls – structures constructed by filling large galvanized steel baskets with rock – in northern Pakistan’s remote Bindo Gol valley. Credit: Saleem Shaikh/IPS

The project has brought tremendous improvements to people here, helping to reduce damage to streams and allowing the sustained flow of water for drinking, sanitation and irrigation purposes in over 12 villages.

“We plan to extend such infrastructure in another 10 villages of the valley, where hundreds of households will benefit from the initiative,” Mir told IPS.

Further afield, in the Bagrot valley of Gilgit, a district in Gilgit-Baltistan province that borders KP, NGOs are rolling out similar programmes.

Zahid Hussain, field officer for the climate adaptation project in Bagrot, told IPS that 16,000 of the valley’s residents are vulnerable to GLOF and flash floods, while existing sanitation and irrigation infrastructure has suffered severe damage over the last years due to inclement weather.

Located some 800 km from Pakistan’s capital, Islamabad, Bagrot is comprised of 10 scattered villages, whose population depends for almost all its needs on streams that bubble forth from the Karakoram Mountains, a sub-range of the Hindu Kush Himalayas and the world’s most heavily glaciated area outside of the Polar Regions.

Residents like Sajid Ali, also a farmer, are pinning all their hopes on infrastructure development that will preserve this vital resource, and protect his community against the onslaught of floods.

An even bigger concern, he told IPS, is the spread of water-borne diseases as floods and landslides leave behind large silt deposits upstream.

### **Preparing for the worst**

Just as risk reduction structures are key to preventing humanitarian crises, so too is building community resilience and awareness among the local population, experts say.

## **Related IPS Articles**

- [Kashmir’s Melting Glaciers May Cut Ice With Sceptics](#)
- [‘Dirty Snow’ Hastens Glacial Melt in Himalayas](#)
- [Are Humans Responsible for the Himalayan Tsunami?](#)

So far, some two million people in the Bindo Gol and Bagrot valleys have benefitted from community mitigation schemes, not only from improved access to clean water, but also from monitoring stations, site maps and communications systems capable of alerting residents to a coming catastrophe.

Khalil Ahmed, national programme manager for the project, told IPS that early warning systems are now in place to inform communities well in advance of outbursts or flooding, giving families plenty of time to evacuate to safer grounds.

While little official data exists on the precise number of people affected by glacial



lake outbursts, Ahmed says, “We can safely say that over 16,000 have been displaced, and remain so even after several months.”

Over the past 17 months alone, Pakistan has experienced seven glacial lake outbursts that not only displaced people, but also wiped out standing crops and ruined irrigation and water networks all throughout the north, according to Ghulam Rasul, a senior climatologist with the PMD in Islamabad.

The situation is only set to worsen, as temperatures rise in the mountainous areas of northern Pakistan and scientists predict more extreme weather in the coming decades, prompting an urgent need for greater preparedness at all levels of society.

Several community-based adaptation initiatives including the construction of over 15 ‘safe havens’ – temporary shelter areas – in the Bindo Gol and Bagrot valleys have already inspired confidence among the local population, while widespread vegetation plantation on the mountain slopes act as a further buffer against landslides and erosion.

Scientists and activists say that replicating similar schemes across the northern regions will prevent unnecessary loss of life and save the government millions of dollars in damages.

*Edited by [Kanya D’Almeida](#)*

617 readings

## [2015 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 19 January 2015 06:47



On Democracynow.org on Martin Luther King day is a phenomenal recording from 1964 just before he received the Nobel Peace award

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Last Updated on Tuesday, 20 January 2015 09:09

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## [A New Era of Hemispheric Cooperation Is Possible](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 19 January 2015 05:32

### OPINION:

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/01/opinion-a-new-era-of-hemispheric-cooperation-is-possible/>

By Luis Almagro Luis Almagro is the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay and a candidate for the Post of Secretary General of the OAS.



**Luis Almagro, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, addresses the opening of the 16th session of the Human Rights Council, in Geneva, Switzerland. Credit: UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré**

**MONTEVIDEO, Jan 18 2015 (IPS)** - Two decades after the first Summit of the Americas, a lot has changed in the continent and it has been for the good. Today, a renewed hemispheric dialogue without exclusions is possible.

Back in the mid-1990s, at the time of the Miami summit, it was the time of imported consensus, models of economic and social development exclusively based on the market and its supposed perfect allocation of resources through the invisible hand.

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Today, all voices count, and if they do not, they will have to. The powerful club of the G8 turned into the G20; still, this is not enough to embrace the new reality of our hemisphere.

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Hidden under a development rationale, the greatest wave of privatisation and deregulation took over the continent. The role of the state was reduced to be a facilitator of a process based on the principle of survival of the fittest. Solidarity, equity and justice were all values from the past and poverty a necessary collateral damage.

However, these values were in the top of the minds of the people of the hemisphere, who turned their backs to these policies and instead during the past 15 years, have forcefully supported the alternatives that combine economic growth with social inclusion, broadening opportunities for all citizens.

Economic growth went hand in hand with social inclusion, adding millions to the middle class – which today accounts for 34 percent of Latin Americans – surpassing the number of poor for the first time in the history.

If this was possible it was because governments added to the invisible hand of the market, the very visible hand of the state.

And this took place within the context of the worst post war global financial crisis that led to an unprecedented recession in the United States and Europe, which the latter still strives to leave behind.

Growth with social equity turned out to be the new regional consensus.

Today, this binds the region together.

Today, conditions are present to set up a more realistic cooperation in the Americas, where all members could partner in equal conditions, from the most powerful to the smallest islands in the Caribbean.

Today, nobody holds the monopoly over what works or does not; neither can anybody impose models because the established truths have crashed against reality. While in the 1990s social exclusion in domestic policies and voice exclusion at the international level were two sides of the same token, this is not any longer acceptable.

## Related IPS Articles

- [OPINION: Cuba and the United States – A New Era?](#)
- [Cuba and United States Now Foment Moderation in the Americas](#)
- [To Fight Inequality, Latin America Needs Transparency...and More](#)

Today, all voices count, and if they do not, they will have to. The powerful club of the G8 turned into the G20; still, this is not enough to embrace the new reality of our hemisphere.

To the existing bodies, the region has added in this past decade the dynamic UNASUR in South America and CELAC in the Americas, thus leaving the OAS as the only place for dialogue among all countries of the Americas, whether large, medium, small, powerful or vulnerable.

But, governmental or inter-governmental actors by themselves are not the only answer to the problems of today's world. Non-state actors of the non-governmental world, the private sector, trade unions and social organisations must be part of the process.

Leaders need to interpret the time in order to generate an agenda for progress, but progress that is tangible for people, for citizens, to whom we are accountable to.

Therefore, in a more uncertain international economic environment, we should focus on maintaining and expanding our social achievements and a new spirit of cooperation in the Americas can be instrumental for that.

The Summit of the Americas in Panama, in April 2015, may be the beginning of this new process of confidence building, where all countries can feel they can benefit from a cooperative agenda. This will be a historical moment because this time there will be no exclusions.

The recent good news on the diplomatic front related to the normalisation of diplomatic ties between the U.S. and Cuba and the participation of Cuba in the Summit represent an additional positive signal. Panama deserves the support of the entire region before and during the Summit.

This will be a great opportunity to strengthen democratic values, the defence of human rights, institutional transparency and individual freedoms together with a practical agenda for cooperation for shared prosperity in the Americas.

Edited by Kitty Stapp

903 readings

## [1998 CRITERIA OF PUBLIC TRUST FOR EVALUATING STATE PERFORMANCE TO REPLACE THE GDP](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 18 January 2015 20:17

By Joan Russow PhD

Global Compliance research Project

### INDICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC TRUST LAW

#### PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

(i) the degree to which a state has acknowledged the urgency of global environmental issues and has had the political will to address these issues

(ii) the degree to which a state has acknowledged that all survival ultimately depends on the integrity of ecosystems including its global form, the biosphere

(iii) the degree to which a state has come to realize that the threats to the

biosphere which sustains all life on this planet have increased in rate, magnitude and scale that inaction is negligent, and that the international community has enough information about the pending state of ecological irreversibility that it must act immediately  
(NGO Earth Charter)

(iv) the degree to which a state has ensured that every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to [human], and to accord other organisms such recognition, [humans] must be guided by a moral code of action (World Charter of nature)

(v) the degree to which a state has acknowledged that the role of humans is to understand and work with the rest of nature, not control, manage, dominate or conquer it, by adopting a biocentric rather than an anthropocentric-human centred- view of society

(vi) ) the degree to which a state has recognized and addressed the real limits to consumption, population and pollution

(vii) the degree to which a state has recognized and adopted the following principles:

- the "precautionary principle"- where there are threats of environmental degradation and of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent the threat (Rio Declaration, 1992)
- the "reverse-onus principle" - the proponent of an intervention into an ecosystem shall be required to demonstrate the safety of the intervention rather than the opponent of the intervention having to demonstrate harm (principle endorsed by Federal Department of Environment).
- the principle of "ecosystem primacy"
- the "anticipatory principle" (Agenda 21, 1992) ,
- the "polluter pay" principle (Rio Declaration, 1992)  
the "compensatory principle",
- the "assessment of environmental costs" principle (Agenda 21, 1992)
- the disaster prevention principle (Habitat II, 1996)
- the ecological footprint reduction principle (Habitat II, 1996)
- the "non-transference of substances or activities that are harmful to human health or the environment" principle - states should prevent the transfer to other states of activities or substances that cause environmental damage or that are harmful to human health (Rio Declaration, 1992)

(viii) the degree to which biodiversity is conserved, and not misconstrued to include "genetic engineering"

(ix) the degree to which over-consumption have been avoided and condemned, and the extent to which citizens have valued the reduction of consumption

(x) the extent to which citizens have lived within the the carrying

capacity of the ecosystem and refrain from contributing to global ecological harm

(xi) the extent to which a state has reaffirmed that humans must acquire the knowledge to maintain and enhance their ability to use natural resources in a manner which ensures the preservation of the species and ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations (World Charter of Nature)

(xii) the degree to which renewable resources have not been used faster than their rate of renewal (MN)

(xiii) the extent to which the use of resources has not led to the extinction of other life forms, or cause cumulative IMPACTS

(xiv) the degree to which a state has been able to integrate ecologically sound practices into policy

(xv) the degree to which there is exclusive public control of parks

(xvi) the degree to which ecological rights have been enshrined in constitution

(xvii) the degree to which harmful substances (TOXIC, HAZARDOUS, ATOMIC) have been banned, eliminated or phased out

(xviii) the degree to which socially equitable and environmentally sound alternatives to energy and transportation have been encouraged, subsidized and promoted

(xix) the degree to which conservation practices have preserved wild stocks of fish, and the degree to which fish farming has been discouraged or banned

(xx) the degree to which the state has rejected ISO 14,000 (through which corporations set their own environmental policy without external standards) and adopted effective mandatory criteria for the protection of the environment

(xxi) the degree to which the state has ensured that corporations including transnational corporations comply with national codes and international law including international environmental law

#### INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

(i) the degree to which environmentally induced health problems have been prevented and if present have been eliminated

(ii) the degree to which maintaining health and preventing health problems has been paramount in both treatment and research

(iii) the degree to which curative medicine has respected natural

environmentally sound remedies

(iv) the degree to which hormone-treated and genetically engineered practices have been banned

#### PROMOTION OF HEALTH

(i) the extent to which universal health care is realized, and two tier system is prohibited

(ii) the degree to which the state has supported preventive medicine

(iii) the degree to which the state has supported alternative medicine

(iv) the degree to which the state has encouraged the use of natural remedies

(v) the degree to which the state has funded research into alternative medicine

(vi) the degree to which admonitory has labeled all non-nutritive substances

(vii) the degree to which reproductive health has been provided for women

(viii) the extent to which generic medicines has been made available

(ix) the extent to which the state has rejected the pharmaceutical control of the Codex Alimentarius

#### PROMOTION OF PUBLICLY FUNDED EDUCATION

(i) the degree to which of public funding for primary and secondary education, has been ensured and the degree to which corporate funding of universities and colleges has been disallowed

(ii) the extent to which college and university education has been accessible and available without cost, and where there are student loans, the degree to which

students have had the option to repay their loans through community service

(iii) the degree to which competitiveness has been reduced within in the school system through interaction rather than evaluation

(iv) the degree to which the particular abilities of each student have been developed rather than all students having had to compete against an arbitrary standard

(v) the extent to which the use of scientific technology has been " in peace and for the benefit of humanity (as agreed in 1975 General Assembly resolution)



#### ENDORISING OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

- (i) the degree to which there has been an equitable distribution of resources
- (ii) the degree to which there has been the provision for sufficient income to meet basic needs, and to provide for socially equitable and environmentally sound employment
- (iii) the degree to which the right to food, shelter, education and universal health care have been guaranteed and assured
- (iv) the degree to which poverty has been eliminated
- (v) the degree to which those on welfare have not treated as second class citizens
- (vi) the degree to which there has been income assistance and a pension plan
- (vii) the degree to which crime has been addressed through social programs rather than through increased incarceration (as agreed in several General Assembly resolutions)

#### ENSURING OF SOCIAL EQUALITY/EQUITY

- (i) the degree to which cooperation has superseded competition
- (ii) the extent to which the political will to promote development in such a way to alter the current unequal conditions and structures that continue and to promote and sustain socially equitable and environmentally-sound development employment has been ensured
- (iii) The degree to which the use of all natural and public resources has been contingent upon payment of the full market rent to the community for their use, including land, mineral resources, forests, fisheries, the electromagnetic spectrum, flight paths, and patents beyond the costs of research and a fair return thereon

#### GUARANTEEING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- (i) the degree to which there has been the absence of discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, form of the family, disabilities, refugee or immigrant migrant workers status, aboriginal ancestry, race, tribe, culture, ethnicity, religion or socio-economic conditions age and other status

(ii) the degree to which there has been affirmative action and equal access to socially equitable and environmentally sound employment

(iii) the extent to which a state has guaranteed the sovereign rights of indigenous peoples, and ensures that interim measures will be in place to prevent the destruction of lands of indigenous peoples during any treaty negotiations

(iv) the degree to which a state has recognized that the lands of indigenous people and their communities should be protected from activities that are environmentally unsound or that the indigenous people concerned consider to be socially and culturally inappropriate (Agenda 21, 16.3. ii)

(v) the extent to which there has been the absence of religious fanaticism and intolerance, xenophobia, extreme nationalism etc.

(vi) the degree to which crime has been addressed through effective education and social programs rather than through increased incarceration (as agreed in several General Assembly resolutions)

#### GUARANTEEING OF SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

(i) the degree to which a state has enshrined and implemented the right to socially equitable and environmentally-sound development which includes the right to food, potable water, universal health care, education and shelter,

(ii) the degree of implementation of the International Covenant of Social, Cultural and Economic rights

(iii) the degree to which there has been sufficiency of income assistance and public pension plans

(iv) the degree of dignity has been accorded to those on social assistance

#### GUARANTEEING OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

(i) the degree to which citizens have had the right to assembly and protest without being arrested and charged as criminals

(ii) the extent to which citizens have protested environmental devastation without being arrested

(iii) the extent to which SLAPP (Strategic Law Suits Against Public Participation) suits against its citizens are proscribed

(iv) the extent to which the necessary legislation has been enacted

to ensure the implementation of International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights right to civil and political rights (security, freedom of speech etc.)

#### PROMOTION OF CULTURE

- (i) the extent to which publicly owned media has been supported
- (ii) the degree to which cultural diversity has been promoted and supported

#### ENDORISING OF PRINCIPLE-BASED ECONOMICS

(xi) the degree to which a state has based its economic system on socially equitable and environmentally sound criteria such as on CPT (Criteria of Public Trust) or Genuine Progress Indicators (GPI) rather than GNP or GDP

(i) the degree to which a state has discarded the SINGLE notion of the Gross Domestic Product, and has supplemented economic assessment public trust criteria

(ii) the degree to which investors invest in socially equitable and environmentally sound development, and citizens have refused to work in socially inequitable and environmentally unsound employment

(iii) the degree to which the state ensures that corporations comply with national statutes and with international law including international environmental law (as agreed at UN Conference on Women, 1995 and Habitat II, 1996)

(iv) the degree to which governments ensure that all corporations including transnational corporations comply with national codes and international law

(v) the degree to which governments are prepared to seek compensation from corporations that have violated human rights, caused environmental degradation, and contributed to conflict and war

(vi) the degree to which a state has refused to press non-industrialized states to undertake dubious loans.

(vii) the degree to which a state has advocated and implemented the forgiveness of existing debt arising out of imposed socially inequitable and environmentally unsound development

(viii) the degree to which loans have been siphoned off to External bank accounts

(ix) the degree to which the right to work in socially equitable and environmentally sound employment has been accommodated

#### PROMOTION OF SOCIALLY EQUITABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND EMPLOYMENT

- (i) the extent to which a state has contributed over .7% of its INCOME to assist socially equitable and environmentally sound employment in other countries
- (ii) the extent to which a state has promoted environmentally sound employment in other countries rather than promoting its own environmentally unsound technology
- (iii) the extent to which a state has opposed structural adjustment programs

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

- (i) the extent to which organic agriculture has been mandated and practiced
- (ii) the extent to which the use of chemical pesticides has been banned and discontinued
- (iii) the degree to which the right to food self sufficiency has been made possible and supported
- (iv) the extent to which agricultural land has been maintained and not developed
- (v) the extent to which a diet dominantly of legumes, leaf vegetables, fruits, and grains has been recognized as an alternative to a meat-based diet.
- (vi) the extent to which the production and sale of genetically engineered food and irradiated food has been prohibited.

#### PROMOTION OF PEACE

- (i) the degree to which support has been given to non-aggressive, peaceful ways to resolve conflict in schools and other institutiois
- (ii) the degree to which support has been given to non-aggressive, peaceful ways to resolve conflict within the state
- (iii) the degree to which support has been given to non-aggressive, peaceful ways to resolve conflict internationally
- (iv) the degree to which the development and production of arms either for domestic use or for sale to other countries has been eliminated
- (v) the degree to which a state respects the rule of law and enforces international and domestic law especially with respect to human rights, environment and peace

(vi) the degree to which the state has reduced or eliminated the military budget and has transferred funds to socially equitable and environmentally sound employment as agreed in the UN General Assembly Resolution 1981,

(vii) the degree to which citizens have been able to be conscientious objectors in time of war

(viii) the degree to which citizens has been able transfer the military proportion of taxes of the budget to socially equitable and environmentally sound development and to the promotion of peace

(ix) the degree to which the state has not involved indirectly or directly in the development of conventional weapons

(x) the degree to which a state has not intervened militarily in another state, or supported military intervention of another state

(xi) the degree to which a state has not transferred to other states substances or activities that are harmful to human health or that cause environmental degradation

(xii) the degree to which a state has not been involved either directly or indirectly in the production of weapons of mass destruction

(xiii) the degree to which a state has supported the discontinuance of all further testing of weapons of mass destruction

(xiv) the degree to which a state prevents the circulation and berthing of nuclear powered vessels

(xv) the degree to which a state endorses a treaty to eliminate the production of weapons of mass destruction

(xvi) the degree to which a state has has not produced or planted land mines

(xvi) the extent to which a state has not been involved ever with the production of land mines,

(xvii) the extent to which a state has promoted the banning of land mines

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RULE OF LAW

(i) the degree to which a state has signed and ratified international conventions, treaties and covenants

(ii) the degree to which a state has enacted the necessary legislation to implemented the international conventions, treaties and covenants it has signed and ratified.

- (iii) the degree to which these laws have been enforced
- (iv) the degree to which a state has acted on commitment under globally adopted conference action plans or platforms of action, and has fulfilled expectations under General Assembly Resolutions
- (v) the degree to which laws have been enforced
- (vi) the degree to which the law has been applied equally to all strata of society
- (vi) the degree to which those who have violated the law including CEOs of Corporations are prosecuted
- (vii) the extent to which a state has refrained from calling for the relaxation of standards in another state for the promotion of economic interests

#### ENDORSEMENT OF PRINCIPLE-BASED DECISION MAKING

- (i) the degree of participatory decision making opportunities for the citizenry
- (ii) the degree to which citizens have been involved in the decision making process from the formulation of the terms of reference
- (iii) the extent to which decision making has been based on a framework of overarching principles rather than on an arena of competing vested economic interests
- (iv) the degree to which decision making bodies have drawn upon varying areas of expertise and experience rather than upon those with a vested economic interest

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EQUITABLE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

- (i) the degree to which true proportional representation has been implemented
- (ii) the degree to which citizens participate in genuine democracy including the accommodation of the rights of small political parties

#### PROVISION OF EQUITABLE BROAD-BASED COMMUNICATION

- (i) the degree to which the media in the state has espond to community concerns rather THAN PROMOTING VESTED ECONOMIC INTERESTS
- (ii) the extent to which the media in the state serves the public trust
- (iii) the extent to which the media has been accessible to ordinary citizens

Principle should rule industry rather than be overruled by industry

GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATE NEGLIGENCE MUST END!

"The current system operates on the principle of providing a dwindling fleet of aging ambulances at the bottom of the cliff; the Criteria of Public Trust (CPT) seek to erect warning signs and fences at the top of the cliff."

see example of 2012 Canadian public trust budget

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10004:2012-canadian-public-trust-budgetredirection-relocation-and-reassignment-of-government-funds&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10004:2012-canadian-public-trust-budgetredirection-relocation-and-reassignment-of-government-funds&catid=75:cjustice-news&Itemid=218)

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[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 08 February 2015 17:43

**Assessment, Review and Evaluation by Glenda Ferris:: January 30, 2015**

Independent Expert Engineering Investigation and Review Panel

**February 2015**

**THE REPORT**

I found the report to be well-written and at the same time quite obstructive. The words and language are easily accessible and the presentation allows all of us to read the obvious contradictory statements. In fact, the Panel Report reads like a Chinese puzzle box; it is filled with dead-ends, hidden levers, false leads and so many contradictory statements that a solution of this puzzle is daunting. There is also the obvious problem of professional engineers commenting upon public policy and regulatory systems. The Panel process and their thinking are transparent; their lines of enquiry are listed. Several aspects of compelling need are revealed:

- The Minister's requirement for a "simple" answer.
- The mining industry's necessity for self-regulation to continue.
- The general public's demand for an "answer"...with an understanding that when experts "answer", that is the end of inquiry.
- That the Panel was compelled, that Panel members had no alternative, except to provide an "answer"; they could have provided a listing of probable causes instead of "certainty".

As a mine-industry person commented to me, "Well, we all want to know what happened." I do not know that the Panel Report has comprehensively investigated evidence to support their opinion regarding "what happened". But the information within their Report reveals that the Panel has provided some examination of alternative failure possibilities.

While the Panel retained the ability to interview employees of Mount Polley Mining Corporation/MPMC, there is little to none of this information and testimony quoted or evident in the report.

Also missing as a complete record, but referred to within sections, is the compliance record of MPMC as regards their Permits. That is, the proofs of legal compliance with the conditions set out within MEM and MoE Permits.



The panel begins by describing their findings (regarding the Dam Design and lacustrine tills) as a possibility that should not be discounted but by the final conclusions, they present their findings as final “proof” with no room for consideration of other contributing factors, even though their own report continues, within brief sentences, to contradict that imperative-single-cause theory.

My interests relate to the incremental and collective failures:

- Failure of the Perimeter Embankment Dam due to Mount Polley Mining Corporation/MPMC willful disregard for Permit compliance, Best Practices of Design and Construction and operation of the facility, and, a complete lack of consideration for the hazards and risks resulting from their decisions.
- Failure of regulatory approach, at every stage of Mine Proposal (1994-95) to Mine Construction and Mine Operation, including episodes of major non-compliance, until the Perimeter Embankment dam collapse.
- Our collective failure to require more stringent regulatory requirements, adequate full-time staff at all levels of Ministry/s’ and the failure to understand the capacity of Mine Development to destroy our lands, our watersheds and our public safety. As a society, we do not seem to consider the repeated “failures” of many mining operations and the loss of our lands to bad practices.

Page 11 of the Panel report, “Factors of Concern” is a very important page. We all should note that this list is not exhaustive but it is inclusive of probable causes and mechanisms of the dam collapse. However, it seems within an apparently fairly short period of time, all lines of intensive inquiry were dropped in favour of “ancient glacial lake” and lacustrine till....that is, dam foundation failure due to glacial tills (clays) named “glaciolacustrine”, a hard, compacted clay.

As an aside, the totally false statements, by Minister Bennett and others that since these till layers “could not be seen” there was no way that regulators could have prevented the dam collapse. This deception has since been revised to words...the foundations tills “were not understood”. But the Report does state that “cause” was “hidden”, since “no one could see” those compacted clays. A ridiculous assertion, since lab held samples of these clay layers since 1994 and earlier.

According to a Knight Piesold report dated March 14, 2005; “Design of the Tailings Storage Facility to Ultimate Elevation”, 2.1.2 Foundation Conditions; “The foundation conditions at the Main Embankment consist of low permeability glacial till material (known inventory collected 1994-95) at surface underlain by fluvial and lacustrine silts up to 20m thick. The foundation conditions of the Perimeter Embankment (the dam that collapsed) consist of low permeability glacial till throughout that is generally in excess of 5m.”

The conditions of foundation tills have been “known” for decades. That said, if the BC government and the Panel really believe that the only factor that caused dam collapse were those lacustrine foundation tills....those same tills exist under the entire

TSF/Tailings Storage Facility at the Mount Polley Mine and its embankment dams. Rational thought would then require that this mine component/TSF be immediately and permanently de-commissioned. The embankments should be re-sloped, a Water Management Plan should be approved with Treatment Plant (and sludge disposal). This does not foreclose Mine operations; they simply need to build a water-recycle pond for their mill and to deposit mine waste into an empty open pit, already available at either Springer or Caribou pits.

If the Panel and BC government do not believe their own report, do not intend to reduce the foundation-tills-hazard described as a “loaded gun” by the Panel...then they will simply continue down the status-quo path of re-construction of the impoundment dams and mine operations continuing at the site. While stating that we cannot, as a society, continue the status-quo; that is exactly what they are doing in relation to the Mount Polley mine site. We should all remember that there are still approximately 44million cubic meters to 54million cubic meters of saturated tailings within the Mount Polley impoundment, and now there is also this winter’s substantial snowpack.

In Executive Summary; Conclusions: The generalized conclusion that “dam design” was the “dominant contribution to the failure” exemplifies the apparent inability of the Panel to state real world conditions. While then referencing the foundation till “un-drained failure”, the statement is made that, “The construction of...a rock-fill zone.....at steep slope.”.....caused the dam collapse. Several times within the report this “steep slope” is mentioned as the cause of the Perimeter Embankment failure, and yet, neither the geotechnical inspections (please note that some reports are being withheld) nor the regulatory assessments which are available, noted that this slope should be either altered or buttressed. The implication is that the displacement mechanism was “weight” with resulting dam failure and collapse; the failure identified by the Panel at foundation level of lacustrine “un-drained” and compacted tills (clay layer).

The Panel also states that a “buttress” construction may also have prevented dam failure. Did MEM/Ministry of Mines staff at any time recommendation or ask the company “to consider”, let alone “Order” that a buttress support be constructed at the Perimeter Embankment?

Page 11 states:

- “Details of filter and transition construction in as-built drawings indicated departure from intended design.” \*please note, at many sections within the report, disclosure remained that MPMC submitted Design, that was then approved by MEM, and then did not construct the approved design to any criteria or standard known, except the as-built drawings that the Panel members accessed to reveal this bad practice.
- “The (Perimeter Embankment) core had been over-topped in one location for a brief period in 2014 (in fact, May 24) resulting in softening and enhanced deformability.”
- “Much of the as-placed filter material failed to meet applicable filter

criteria and requirements for internal stability of its grading.” ....and the downstream slope was really, really steep.

At any point in time, both the company and/or the regulatory agencies could have considered compliance to better standards. At every turn, the dam collapse became “inevitable” because of incremental decisions made over decades at Mount Polley Mine and through the ineffectual approach of non-regulation practices by the Ministry of Mines. While there is no coherent listing of assessment of MPMC management shortcomings, they are well documented within the Panel report.

If all of these Mount Polley Mine bad-practices (and there are many more) that have been documented by the Panel, and now distributed to the public, exist and have existed for years, then the Panel assertion that regulatory requirement could not have prevented the Perimeter Embankment collapses; as a “fact”, it falls apart.

## **DAM DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

Almost throughout the entire Panel Report, they label the MPMC/Mount Polley Mining Corporation Tailings Storage Facility/TSF as “modified centreline construction” It is only on page 55 that we can read an accurate description of “upstream construction”, as in: “Rather than adhering to a “centreline configuration, raise 2 utilized entirely upstream construction. The same conditions prevailed for the Perimeter Embankment....” Now, we must all remember that this past construction is now within the lower levels of the dam/s’ interiors; a layer of non-performance and incompatible construction materials.

Not only were design standards not being met regarding as-built construction, but the design plans were being altered as the impoundment dams rose. For reference please note Will Koop’s report “The Scene of the Crime” on behalf of the BC Tap Water Alliance; [www.bctwa.org](http://www.bctwa.org); December 1, 2014.

“Upstream” and even “modified Centreline” construction depend upon the vertical support of the tailings themselves...far cheaper than using quarry rock. That is why 10meter wide tailings beaches are required and those beach-areas are an absolute necessity for tailings consolidation (drying); that management aspect, even as a regulatory Permit compliance requirement was routinely violated. Surface water should never have been allowed to accumulate next to the dam upstream face. In addition, in the climate and weather pattern of the Mount Polley Dam region, in any case, the tailings may never have dried or consolidated due to precipitation, temperatures and winter conditions.

The 2005 Knight Piesold Report: Design; “Beached tailings, when left to drain and consolidate, form the competent foundation needed for the “modified Centreline” construction of embankments....”

And then, the Panel Report directly states, “The embankments do not rely on tailings mass for stability.” This Panel assertion is refuted by the dam construction and design drawings presented throughout their own report....we can see the payers of tailings

and filter-materials and the incline upstream of the dam itself. Why would Panel members make this statement? Are they merely recounting the construction of the foundation of the Embankment Dam complex? Or, are they misleading all of us?

Dam design modifications and as-built alterations (and additional drain systems) seem to have been a continuous feature of the operational approach at Mount Polley Mine.

Page 57: "...for Stage 3 design using only cyclone sand (see tailings) for the Perimeter Embankment....this was changed in April 2001...using rockfill sourced from a quarry."

The history of design and construction only confirms that dam stability was at risk for many years; that comprehensive inspections and legal requirements could have, at any moment in time, remediated flaws and/or altered the engineering approach to a more robust design.

Instead, page 55: "The intended Zone C (this area is Main Embankment ) mine waste till was not added to the downstream slope and the berm along the toe was not constructed." \*my emphasis. Now the puzzle becomes, why does the Panel mention these issues at all? ...except to reveal that MPMC did not complete dam construction to their own "approved" design standards? Please note that if a stabilizing berm (buttress) had been placed along the Perimeter Embankment dam, downstream face, the dam might not have collapsed, according to Panel findings.

#### Page 53: Mine Construction

- Alterations of dam design
- Narrow chimney drains
- Four relief wells
- Longitudinal drain
- Cyclone sand deposition abandoned
- Water directly in contact with the embankments

#### Page 64: Mine Management

- Buttress not constructed as designed
- Beach deposition and beach maintenance 10m not successful
- Water accumulation against embankments

#### Page 75: Mine Design

- Reduction of compacted core of dam width from 8meters to 5meters.

- Filter materials do not meet stability requirements.

I submit, these practices and non-compliances (and many others documented within the Panel Report) “set the stage for all that followed”.....not a simple misunderstanding regarding the un-drained strength of lacustrine tills under the dams’ foundations

I submit, the over-consolidated lacustrine till layer fractured, we can see the up-turned giant slabs, as a result of the dam collapsing due to bad construction practices, “upstream-incline dam instability” and internal erosion. The Panel has simply confused “cause” with “effect”.

## **WATER**

**Page 72: “For years, dam raising had managed to stay one step ahead of the rising water. But on May 24, 2014, the water caught up.”**

On pages 9 & 10 of the Panel Report, a sequence of events is described in detail, some of the information obtained through testimony of workers, not submission by the company. In addition to a storm events on July 27, a series of events occurs on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The seepage pond alarm system and pumps are triggered, sequentially, from 11pm, to 1am (pond rising sharply) to 1:15am when the power goes out...and discovery of dam breach @ 2:05am. This is a water event....a failure of containment that is reporting to the Seepage Pond and representative of “internal erosion” and/or internal subsidence.

I have already reported upon the many aspects of Water Management and the implications of bad management practice upon dam stability. The water balance/mass balance issues at Mount Polley Mine had been an issue for years, especially since 2006. The company did nothing except to continue to raise the embankment dams. Recommendations were made for Discharge Permits (mine effluent discharge) from the impoundment, and these Permits were actually issued in 2014.

The government regulatory agency and the company knew, since 2006, that the water balance within the impoundment, even with increased Mill throughput, could not be discharged without Treatment. The MPMC did not want to build a Water Treatment Plant that would have enabled them to discharge up to 3million m3 annually, so they spent time “investigating” passive treatment systems, while the impoundment filled with water.

Page 87: “It is not clear to the Panel why it took so long to design and implement a water treatment strategy that would provide for a significant reduction in the amount of surplus water stored in the TSF.” Not only were “beaches” not being maintained to consolidate tailings but the entire impoundment structure was being “raised” to accommodate the water, supernatant accumulations.

Page 61: There are “chronic problems with maintaining the tailings beach.”

The dams at Mount Polley Mine were never designed nor constructed to hold water, page 87: "...the Mount Polley TSF embankments were not designed as water-retaining dam(s)..."

Where are the disconnect and dereliction of duty to social, economic and environmental safety? Why has there been no regulatory requirement imposed upon MPMC for safety? No regulatory use of "ACT" authority and power? No incentive for the MPMC-company to comply with any standard or criteria, or even to provide the capital funding for a water treatment plant?? This is an industrial and regulatory system's failure of incredible scope and scale....and these discredited regulatory approaches combined with industry bad practice will continue because the Panel asserts, Executive Summary iv: "The Panel found that the performance of the Regulator was as expected."

"Expected" by whom? The Panel members reveal deep ideological roots in their commentary. The Panel "answers" become a mechanism for avoiding questions, not communicating information. Engineers are not the group/sector from which we can expect solutions to public policy challenges.

As a society we entrust government as "caretakers" and legislated authorities and guardians of both civil laws and our collective public safety. Government has failed at every stage; now they must describe how improvement in regulatory process and outcomes will be framed. BC lands and watersheds are our collective interests; our interests are not valued by our own government.

Page 138: "By definition, no amount of inspection can discover a hidden flaw." And, "It is not unreasonable to ask whether MEM could have acted sooner and more aggressively in these matters or even intervened in the design process..." Well, that would not have made much of a difference, since MPMC did not construct nor were they required by regulatory authority to construct the dam/s as-built to dam/s-design criteria.

## **REGULATORY OVERSIGHT**

Page 112: Regulatory Oversight: "The MOU clearly places the responsibility for the engineering aspects of the Mount Polley tailings storage facility (TSF), seepage collection ponds and diversions on the shoulders of MEM, while the water quality (and discharges from the Mill to the impoundment) of any discharges is the responsibility of MoE. Two permits are in place for the TSF and associated facilities: Permit M-200 from MEM and Permit 11678 from MoE."

Then how did all of the Panel Report-documented MPMC failings above happen? There has been a massive downsizing of professional engineers within government regulatory agencies. At the same time, the mining industry as a whole and mine companies in particular have also downsized staff. There is now an excessive dependence upon "professional consultants" by both government and industry. What has been the result? There is no institutional memory; no continuity; not even consist

compliance to legal requirement.

How did even the hired help of Knight Piesold or AMEC approve as “safe” the embankment dams at Mount Polley Mine? Is the problem that hired professionals can only make “recommendations” that the company can then ignore? Maybe, but then we should have the safeguards of regulations and regulatory agencies to apply “legal remedy” when the company refuses to address issues that have been identified. The Panel answers that “Observational” approach may have some shortcomings. Well, regulatory agencies could see the water; geotechnical engineers could see the steep slope at the Perimeter Embankment; employees could see seepage-water flowing through the dam at various locations.

How can the Panel write, “The Panel found that inspections of the TSF would not have prevented failure and that regulatory staff are well qualified to perform their responsibilities.”???? The glaring inconsistency and contradictions within this quote represent ideology, not the practical application for the requirements of regulation. In absolute terms, conformity to the ideology of non-regulation is significant either from the Panel assertions or from government Ministers. This approach will simply entrench systems that are already failing to prevent disaster, but to also continue as policy without an opportunity for public examination or government reorganization.

The ideology represented is also about controlling the message; often within simple-minded talking points that are misleading.

What is the role of government?

- To stand in front of microphones and provide cover for industry?
- To leave regulations and law in place, never to be enforced or to be used for control?
- Who speaks for our land, our water, for us?

Minister Bennett stated, as quoted in the Vancouver Sun, “he said he was glad the report confirmed the breach could not have been prevented by government employees doing surface inspections.” This is the worst type of deception; MEM employees could not “see” the steep slope? MEM employees could not “see” the impoundment supernatant? NO, because the hidden, single cause was a layer of lacustrine till, invisible to all but anyone that could access a file, read a diagram or a geotechnical report.

The Minister’s approach of providing “answers” has become a mechanism for avoiding questions, for not communicating information.

And then, also quoted in the Vancouver Sun, Mary Pollack, Minister of Environment, said that the scale of the disaster was tremendous and the every effort was being made to clean up the mess. Note that this is not necessarily a deception, it is not clever enough; this statement is a complete fabrication, bamboozle, hornswoggle. MoE have cleaned up or required to be “cleaned up”..... nothing. \*MoE “Order”-ing the MPMC to stop the Perimeter Embankment discharges AFTER

the dam had failed was some of the most profoundly dishonest posturing I have ever witnessed....and I have seen a lot.

If there is never any social, financial or legal accountability for the destruction of places and of neighbors here in BC, the mining industry and mine companies have no incentive to build and operate mines that provide good outcomes.

How do we come to terms with our collective failures, if they are hidden and labeled as success? Success of regulatory practice falsely claimed in the face of this catastrophic failure. We have to identify systemic issues: lack of communication between ministries, new investigation techniques that will identify hazards and mine company's bad practice. We have to do this now.

I do not understand why gems of real information continually surface within the Panel Report. Nor do I know why these instances of real knowledge and information clash so pervasively with many of the Panel's social-policy statements.

That said, I will give them the last word, Page 137: "The Panel's excavation of the failure surface showed that the crest (Perimeter Embankment Dam) dropped at least 3.3m, which allowed over flow (of supernatant) to begin and breaching (of the dam) to initiate. Had the water level been a metre lower and the tailings beach commensurately wider, this last link might have help until dawn the next morning allowing timely intervention and potentially turning a fatal condition into something survivable."

I will deal with the Panel "recommendations" in another report.

Best to all, Glenda Ferris

Last Updated on Sunday, 08 February 2015 17:48

263 readings

[Mount Polley Mine's Headquarters  
Raided Six Months After Massive  
Spill](#)





[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 08 February 2015 17:20

February 6, 2015

By [Sarah Berman](#)

Hazeltine Creek on the ground. Photo courtesy Kieran Oudshoorn

On February 3, law enforcement raided the headquarters of Imperial Metals, the mining company responsible for a massive mining waste spill in British Columbia's central interior. The search could potentially lead to millions of dollars in fines and even jail time.

By volume Imperial Metals' Mount Polley spill ranks among the largest mining leaks in the world. A tailings pond dam holding back 25 million cubic metres of waste collapsed on August 4, 2014, sending an avalanche of toxic sludge containing lead, mercury, arsenic, and selenium into salmon-bearing waterways.

Six months later, more than 70 officials executed search warrants at Imperial Metals' Mount Polley and Vancouver offices, as well as [the offices of two engineering firms](#) involved in the dam's design and maintenance. Tuesday's search and seizure collected evidence for a joint investigation by RCMP, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and BC's Conservation Officer Services.

Inspector Chris Doyle said the conservation agency is leading the inquiry. "The RCMP is part of the investigative team, and ultimately the team as a whole will submit to provincial and federal Crown Counsel," he

said. It's then up to the crown to press charges.

In the same week, Mount Polley's sister mine Red Chris received a temporary permit to start mining copper and gold despite ongoing [concerns raised by some members of the Tahltan First Nation](#). The Red Chris wastewater pond is designed by AMEC, one of the companies raided by conservation services. AMEC took over as the engineer of record at Mount Polley in 2011, and until recent months was also the engineer of record at Red Chris.

That permit goes against the [findings of an engineering review panel](#), released last week, that recommended new mines move toward "best available technologies" like "dry-stack" or "filtered" tailings rather than sludgy wastewater ponds.

The review found design flaws were the root cause of the Mount Polley disaster. Authors pointed to unstable glacial soil underneath the tailings pond and the dam's steeply sloped walls as contributing factors to the spill. In a press conference last week, review chair Norbert Morgenstern explained that if building on an unstable glacial lake deposit was the "loaded gun," then building up the dam walls at a steep incline "pulled the trigger."

The BC government announced it would require all mines to [determine the stability](#) of "foundation materials" by June 30 to ensure the disaster is not repeated.

The Mount Polley disaster from the sky. Photo via Mining Watch

An [independent review of Red Chris](#), requested by the Tahltan First Nation and paid for by Imperial Metals in October, found there's 90 metres of sandy glacial deposits under the newly-opened mine. "A major design

issue for the tailings impoundments is the high permeability of the foundation soils," reads the report, carried out by the engineering firm Klohn Crippen Berger and released in November 2014.

At the time, the Mount Polley review wasn't yet completed. "Any technical lessons to be learned from Mount Polley cannot be applied to this facility because the forensic investigation into the cause of that failure has not yet been completed," the Red Chris report read.

I asked Morgenstern if he thinks Red Chris is using the "best available technology" his review recommends. He replied: "I have not evaluated anything at Red Chris and I am not able to comment on their design or operations."

Despite his use of a loaded gun metaphor, Morgenstern's review does not aim to demonstrate criminal or civil culpability. The report maintains employees and government mine inspectors did nothing wrong; it concludes there was no way the spill could have been predicted or prevented. Whereas last week's review panel took an unnecessary amount of care not to blame anyone, the conservation services' inquiry has the power to bring about criminal charges and punishment.

Doyle declined to offer details about the investigation's direction, or to specify whether criminal charges would be sought. He added that releasing information could compromise the investigation. "The primary focus is on BC's Environmental Management Act and the federal Fisheries Act," he said, "but it's not limited to those acts."

While these might seem like boring or bureaucratic pieces of legislation, the two acts pack a surprising punch. If a company or individual is found deliberately harming the environment, or through recklessness puts the safety of others at risk, the Environmental Management Act calls for a [maximum fine of \\$3 million, or three years' jail time](#), or both. The Fisheries Act can fine a corporation the size of Imperial Metals up to [\\$6 million for an indictable offense, or two years imprisonment](#), or both.

Fines are usually much lower, of course, but a recent

record-breaking case may hint at what could happen to Imperial Metals in years to come. On December 22, following a three-year investigation, a Montreal-based mining company was [charged \\$7.5 million in fines](#) for environmental violations under the Fisheries Act relating to a much smaller tailings pond breach. Scaling the ruling up to Mount Polley proportions, it would amount to nearly a billion in fines.

Reached while on location at Red Chris, Imperial Metals VP corporate affairs Steve Robertson declined comment on the raid's impact on operations.

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243 readings

## [After Mount Polley: 'This is Indigenous Law'](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 08 February 2015 17:10

Six months after dam breach calamity, First Nation takes the lead on mining regulation.

By [Jerome Turner](#), Yesterday, Ricochet

I

Thursday marked six months since the Imperial Metals-owned Mount Polley mine became the site of the most devastating tailings storage facility disaster in Canadian history, when nearly 2

The spill damaged both Hazeltine Creek and Quesnel Lake, which reside within the traditional territorial boundaries of the Secwepemc Nation.

An official report on why the spill happened from the Mount Polley mine itself was set for release at the end of January, but the B.C. government altered the regulations. Now a report from Mount Polley isn't due until 2017.

Such moves from the provincial government have spurred the Secwepemc, and specifically the Xat'sūll (Soda Creek) First Nation, to take steps to ensure nothing like Mount Polley happens again.

The Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw leadership council, which is composed of four northern Secwepemc bands, finalized a mining policy dated Nov. 19, 2014. Formation of the mining policy began in 2012, but the Mount Polley spill provided the council the motivation to finish it.

"One thing I want to make perfectly clear is this policy isn't a wish-list," said Jacinda Mack, leadership council co-ordinator. "This is prescriptive. This is indigenous law. We did very thorough research and took more than two years to release the final document."

The leadership council had mining experts and lawyers comb through the policy, which is now part of the partnership between mining proponents, the province, and the northern Shuswap. Mining proponents have a definite baseline framework to abide by on Secwepemc territory, Mack added.

"This goes above and beyond anything the B.C. government currently requires from a mining company," Mack said. "We have compiled the best mining practices in the world into one document."

**First Nation claims 'inherent jurisdiction'**

The 54-page policy outlines exactly what the Secwepemc expect to happen within any current or future mine on its more than 53,000 square kilometres of traditional territory.

"The Secwepemc Nation has un-surrendered and un-extinguished title and rights throughout the Secwepemc traditional territory known as Secwepemculecw," the policy reads. "The Secwepemc Nation has the inherent jurisdiction to provide stewardship of Secwepemculecw and to ensure its sustainability and viability for future generations."

B.C.'s Minister of Energy and Mines, Bill Bennett, declined to comment on the policy. A spokesperson told *Ricochet* by email that the "government is reviewing the northern Shuswap's mining policy document" and is "committed to working with First Nations so they can benefit from economic activity in their traditional territories."

"The Province continues to encourage First Nations to be involved in all stages of mineral development, from exploration to operations and reclamation. Acting in partnership is the best way to provide a meaningful role in land and resource management for First Nations, and to provide for benefit-sharing and new economic opportunities. We will work constructively with the Xat'sùll First Nations to develop a shared vision for land and resource use."

A partnership is exactly what the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw leadership council is seeking in the release and implementation of the mining policy, and for that to truly take place, their involvement must become more than an afterthought, Mack said.

"We were never consulted when any mine on our territory was built," she said. "We took that into consideration as well as the calls from the public to ensure the devastation caused by the Mount Polley spill is cleaned and never repeated."

Judith Sayers, a strategic advisor and adjunct professor of business at the University of Victoria, has reviewed the mining policy and stresses the importance of it and similar documents from First Nations across Canada.

"As far as governance goes, it's good for any First Nation to create policy about mining, forestry, tourism or any use of land is necessary to move toward self-sufficiency," said Sayers, who is from the Hupacasath Nation. "If you want to do business with us, this is how we want it done. And you decide if you want to do that or negotiate ways you want it done differently. Of course some companies may be shown the door, but that's business."

'Precedent setting' for other First Nations

Part of the mining policy requires proponents to pay for the leadership council to conduct its own environmental review of any incident or proposal, with the council having the authority to accept or deny applications independent of non-First Nations authorities.

"Proponents have to know who they are attempting to enter into agreements with and policies like this, I think, can only be helpful in setting the table for negotiations," Sayers said. "If all parties were at the table for Prosperity mines [projects proposed on Tsilhqot'in land], it may not have had to go to court three times."

"We understand this is potentially precedent setting," Mack said. "We've had other First Nations calling and asking if they can use our policy. The answer to that is yes. Change the name wherever (North Secwepemc te Qelmuw) appears. The more we put pressure on mining companies and the province the better for everyone."

The Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw leadership council have a representative who

worked with a panel to uncover why the Mount Polley disaster happened.

A glacial deposit, which was not found in testing prior to construction of the tailings enclosure, collapsed 30 to 35 metres below the corner of the tailings storage facility. Plus the slope of the dam and base of the tailings storage facility contributed to engineering failures, according to the report.

Imperial Metals is pushing to reopen Mount Polley, but the leadership council says there is still much to do before that can be considered viable.

In an on-air interview on Jan. 30, following the release of the Mount Polley report, Minister Bennett failed to mention the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw report or the fact that the new mining policy is in effect after being adopted by the leadership council. He did say the province is working with industry representatives to resume production at Mount Polley.

"There remains much work ahead before we are even close to that discussion," Mack said. "We are looking at several years of response and engagement in regards to direct impacts of this disaster. We are in no rush to push ahead and reopen.

"We are in the process of implementing our (council's) mining policy, and anticipate phasing in aspects of the policy in the next several months. I do not have details yet of what that would include, but it is our expectation that once we start implementing policy, we will follow up with the companies and government about compliance/non-compliance and next steps with regard to our title and rights."

Sayers cautioned every First Nation to remember the reason and impact of any industrial business contract.

"These agreements belong to the people, meaning today's generation and future generations, because they have to ensure anything that happens on the land allows traditional use to continue and even improve," she said. "Essentially it's the collective rights of a given community that will be affected by a mine."

Sayers added that, to increase economic certainty in current and future development in the province, lands should be transferred back to their respective people.

"People have to learn how to do business the right way. And on First Nations territory, the right way is increasingly being initiated by aboriginal people based on right and title."

**Read more:** [Aboriginal Affairs](#), [Energy](#),

Last Updated on Sunday, 08 February 2015 17:16

663 readings

## [Election law changes could boost Conservative MPs' campaign tools](#)



[Justice News](#)

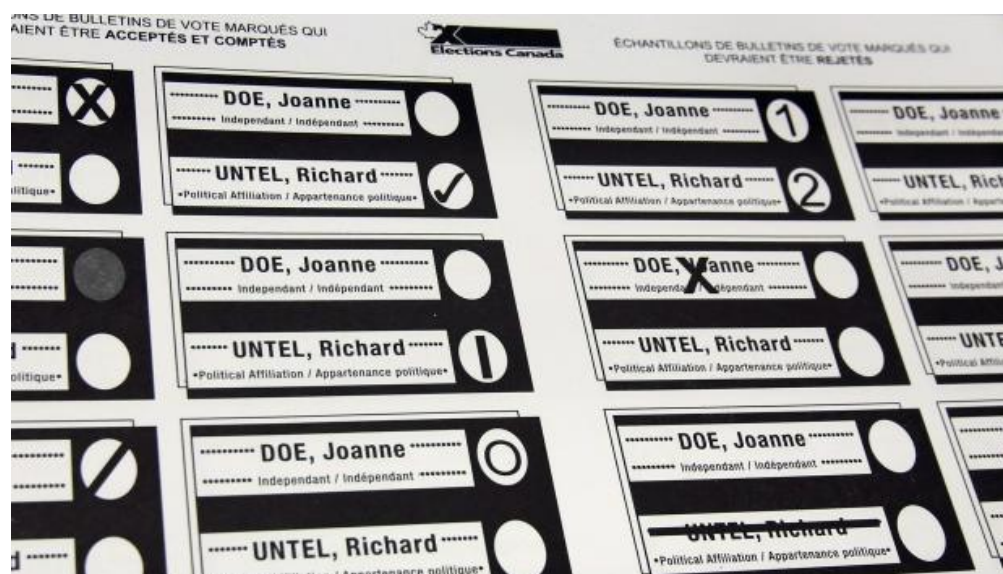
Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 08 February 2015 09:51

Party scrutineers will be free to use smartphones while supervising polls

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/election-law-changes-could-boost-conservative-mps-campaign-tools-1.2860344>

By Kady O'Malley, [CBC News](#) Posted: Dec 09, 2014 2:39 PM ET Last Updated: Dec 09, 2014 2:58 PM ET



Election day scrutineers will soon be free to use mobile phones and tablets to update voter information directly from polling stations, thanks to the changes

brought in by Minister of State for Democratic Reform Pierre Poilievre last spring. (Fred Chartrand/The Canadian Press)

A little-noticed provision in the Conservative government's controversial bid to rewrite Canada's election laws could boost usage of a mobile campaign application



developed by two backbench Conservative MPs.

Under the old law, candidate representatives or scrutineers were prohibited from using any communications device at a voting station during polling hours.

But under changes brought in by Democratic Reform Minister Pierre Poilievre last spring, scrutineers will be free to use smartphones, tablets and other mobile devices while monitoring turnout, provided they don't take photos, record audio or video, prevent an elector from casting a ballot or "violate the secrecy of the vote."

The new rules are set to come into force Dec. 19.

While this change has so far escaped widespread attention, it should come as no surprise that federal political parties are already hard at work brainstorming ways to take advantage of it when Canadians next go to the polls.

Both the New Democrats and the Liberals have been moving towards mobile-friendly, get-out-the-vote tools.

But the change will likely be met with the greatest applause by the makers of ProxiVote, a mobile app that promises to deliver "instant election day status reports for maximum advantage."

## Conservative MPs credited with idea

Last spring, Jennifer Pilzecker, [a former Conservative staffer turned ProxiVote adviser](#), touted the product in a 20-minute webinar posted to YouTube by the Manning Centre, which offers election training to conservative-minded politicians.

"What a couple of Canadian politicians — you may know them, Rod Bruinooge and Rob Clarke — came up with was something to really help on the ground," Pilzecker said.

Bruinooge and Clarke are Conservative MPs, representing Winnipeg South and Desnethé–Missinippi–Churchill River, Sask., respectively.

The video includes an extensive overview of exactly how the app could be used by party representatives monitoring the polls on election day.

"Get out the vote, is, for me, something that I think is going to revolutionize ... elections in a lot of ways, because the information we're getting on election day is real time ... there's no lag time," Pilzecker explained to the virtual audience.

"We can assign scrutineers to the various polls, and we have our bingo sheets, which

correspond to each registered voter."

In the video, she demonstrates how a scrutineer can use the app to check off voters on arrival.

"That information is immediately sent back to campaign headquarters, so you have that information when you're deploying calls — be they robocalls or person calls from the campaign office."

## App only available to 'right-leaning' parties

The software also allows scrutineers to keep track of numbers as the results come in.

"You can add the different parties, and as the votes are coming in, you'll have an idea as to the numbers before a lot of people running against you," she said.



ProxiVote is a mobile app that promises to deliver 'instant election day status reports for maximum advantage.' It was developed by Conservative MPs Rod Bruinooge and Rob Clarke. (ProxiVote website)

She also noted that ProxiVote is already being used in Canada "by a couple of political parties," and said the company is also doing some work with the Republican National Committee in the United States.

"It is only available to right-leaning, conservative ideology groups or parties, as of yet."

In response to a question from a participant, Pilzecker acknowledged that the use of tablets, smartphones and other mobile devices inside polling stations "is a bit of a grey area."

"But even if you can't, you can step outside the door, pull up the single sheet and

mark people as 'voted,' and everything would be transmitted back," she pointed out.

She estimated the app would likely cost \$5,000 per riding.

According to the Manning Centre website, the webinar took place on May 15, one day after the election bill was passed by the House.

The app was purportedly deployed by the Conservative campaign team during [the recent Whitby-Oshawa byelection](#), although at that time, scrutineers would still have been barred from using devices inside polling stations.

## MP's wife listed as company owner

The ProxiVote website doesn't name Bruinooge or Clarke, but simply states that "the team" behind the product "is made up of seasoned campaigners and political strategists who have built this product for helping deliver success on the right."

It also notes the app is owned by Proximity Mobile, "an indigenous company run by aboriginal CEO Chantale Bruinooge." She is married to Rod Bruinooge.

In a financial disclosure statement filed with the ethics commissioner last year, Rod Bruinooge lists his wife as the sole owner of 6317414 Manitoba — the parent company of Proximity Mobile — which he described as a "multi-player gaming company." He lists himself as a director of the company.

- [Rod Bruinooge's disclosure statement](#)
- [Rob Clarke's disclosure statement](#)

In his filing, Clarke states he has a "nominal interest" in 6317414 Manitoba, which he describes as a "game platform company."

Neither Clarke nor Bruinooge responded to interview requests from CBC News, nor did Poilievre.

Conservative Party spokesman Cory Hann told CBC News that ProxiVote is "an internal matter."

"We welcomed the passage of the Fair Elections Act that took steps to modernize the electoral process while making election laws tougher, clearer and easier to follow," he said in an email.

Meanwhile, though the New Democrats weren't willing to share any specific details on their plans to take advantage of the relaxed rules on smartphone and tablet use at polling stations, a party official hinted they were more than ready to take on the Tories on the mobile technology front.

The Liberals also did not respond directly to CBC's request for comment, but the party has already rolled out mobile tools to allow canvassers to send updates while door-knocking, which suggests they, too, will be joining the election day mobile data

arms race next fall.

With files from Laura Payton

674 readings

## [The deficit the Harper government refuses to recognize](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 06 February 2015 18:04

By **[Duncan Cameron](#)** [2] **Rabble**

*Duncan Cameron is the president of rabble.ca and writes a weekly column on politics and current*

<http://rabble.ca/print/columnists/2015/02/deficit-harper-government-refuses-to-recognize>

February 3, 2015

Premiers gathered in Ottawa last week to talk about pressing needs for Canadian infrastructure investment. As the [Council of the Federation meeting](#) [8], chaired by PEI Premier Robert Ghiz, began to address the infrastructure deficit, Federal Finance Minister Joe Oliver emailed a media statement: ".. some premiers appear oblivious to the consequences of the current global instability and the dramatic decline in the price of oil."

In effect Oliver was saying two things. He was acknowledging that the Canadian economy is weakening, and proclaiming this precluded Ottawa making additional money available to meet infrastructure deficits identified by the premiers.

It is no great secret that the Canadian economy is performing poorly -- by just about any measure. The fall in the Canadian dollar from near par with the U.S. dollar to 80

U.S. cents is the most dramatic indication of economic weakness. A falling dollar reduces purchasing power for all Canadians. A weak loonie makes purchasing imported foodstuffs or consumer goods more expensive.

What Oliver does not want to recognize is that spending on public infrastructure is a good way of strengthening a weak Canadian economy. It did not matter that other leaders judged these projects essential to building healthy provincial economies.

This coming week the mayors of 22 large Canadian cities will be meeting in Toronto. The message of the importance of infrastructure investment will be top of the agenda, just as it was for the premiers.

Calgary mayor Naheed Nenshi (recipient of the [2014 World Mayor Award](#) [9]) anticipated the Oliver e-mail outburst. When asked by the Globe about falling crude oil prices being used to curtail government spending on cities. "I suspect that might happen. Its a big mistake" Nenshi replied. The Calgary mayor pointed out that following the financial meltdown in 2007, subsequent stimulus spending put the economy back on track.

Looking at the overall economic picture, the Finance Minister wants Canadians to believe that a balanced federal budget is the measure of economic success. This has been an [objective](#) [10] of the Harper government in 2015, an election year. Joe Oliver explains that a balanced budget allows the government to provide additional tax "relief for Canadian families."

What the Finance Minister has not been explaining to people is how the government is cooking the books to achieve its balanced budget target. One tactic has been reducing current transfers for -- you guessed it -- infrastructure spending.

CCPA economist David Macdonald [showed](#) [11] how the 2013 Federal budget singled out infrastructure spending for austerity treatment.

What the government did was announce an overall increase for upcoming years infrastructure spending, and then pushed 75 per cent of the increases into the never-never land of 2020 and after, while reducing immediate spending on infrastructure spending for cities by \$1 billion for 2014-15.

Another point the Harper Conservative government would rather not debate or discuss is the findings of the Ontario Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk about the massive costs incurred by choosing private public partnership schemes (P3s) for infrastructure spending instead of using open bidding for public procurement. CUPE economist Toby Sanger has [explained](#) [12] how the Ontario financial report arrived at a staggering \$8 billion in extra costs, public money wasted, by pushing P3 projects instead of building through the Ontario public sector.

The promised spending on infrastructure by the Harper Conservatives includes a P3 screen for projects of over \$100 million. Any project over that amount must be done by the inefficient, more expensive, higher probability of corrupt practices P3 method that has been [discredited](#) [13] by study after study, particularly in the U.K. which has wide experience with the process, that does not work.

Canada elects political figures in municipal, provincial, and federal jurisdictions, yet the Harper Cons prefer not to have the financial needs of the three levels of government discussed together in an open forum. Indeed the Prime Minister prefers not to meet with premiers or mayors, except occasionally with favorites, one-on-one.

It is ironic that a government with such a dismal record at recognizing the usefulness of urban transit, transportation, water, and wastewater projects -- particularly at a time of economic slowdown and low interest rates -- would want to talk about itself as a good economic manager.

A great amount of time, opportunity, and money has been wasted waiting for the Harper Cons to get up to speed with other levels of government on physical infrastructure needs that are easily identified. In the meantime, the much-needed agreement over social infrastructure spending on First Nations programmes, child care spaces, social housing, national environmental sanctuaries and parks, amateur sport, culture and recreation facilities, and the like awaits a government with a different mentality, ready to initiate a new direction for Canada.

*Duncan Cameron is the president of rabble.ca and writes a weekly column on politics and current affairs.*

159 readings

## [Federal Court denies BC Hydro' s request to hurry up Site C challenge](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 05 February 2015 16:11

by **Damien Gillis** in [WATER](#)      **February 5, 2015**

<http://commonsensecanadian.ca/federal-court-denies-bc-hydros-request-hurry-site-c-challenge/>



Peace Valley ranchers Ken and Arlene Boon are plaintiffs in several Site C Dam challenges (Damien Gillis)

A federal court judge has denied BC Hydro's motion to rush a legal challenge against the crown corporation's planned Site C Dam project. Hydro sought to expedite the hearing in May in order to keep to its planned construction start this summer – after receiving its provincial and federal environmental certificates late in 2014 – but that's now up in the air.

According to a media advisory from the plaintiff, the Peace Valley Landowners' Association (PVLA), the hearing will likely be scheduled for sometime this summer, depending on the court's availability. Hydro argued that such a delay would cost the utility money, but the judge gave more weight to the plaintiff's need for time to prepare its case.

## Need, financial case for Site C challenged

The case is being brought by lawyer and ex-TD Bank Comptroller Rob Botterell on behalf of many of the landowners in the Peace Valley whose farms would be flooded or disrupted by the dam. Their challenge is built partly on the fact that the Liberal Government [excluded the public's independent energy watchdog, the BC Utilities Commission](#), from reviewing the project. The regulator was built precisely for this purpose: to examine proposed energy projects and plans based on their need and value to taxpayers and ratepayers.

This step, along with the provincial government's decision to [ignore the strong misgivings of the Joint Review Panel](#) surrounding the need and financial case for the project constitute excessive political interference in the plaintiff's view. Noted

Botterell in a media advisory on the eve of the project's approval last year:

Public infrastructure decisions of the size and scope of Site C...require the most thorough public scrutiny. It is simply unacceptable to make such decisions behind closed doors, release limited explanatory information, and conduct public policy by news conference sound bite. For the largest public infrastructure decision in provincial history we deserve better: open, transparent, and unfettered review of Site C's economics by the independent and expert BC Utilities Commission.

## Government ignored its own rules

The PVLA's case is also anchored in the fact that the provincial government violated the very rules that it laid out in the terms of reference for the Site C review. According to the PVLA:

The Ministers relied upon a referral package from the Environmental Assessment Office that declared several key Panel recommendations to be beyond the scope of the Panel's mandate. The PVLA Petition is based on a thorough review of the documents which set the scope of the Panel's mandate, and which reveal that the Panel was not only permitted but **was expressly required to assess the very economic impacts of the Project** that were the subject of the recommendations the Ministers failed to consider. (emphasis added)

They argue the government was not permitted to simply set aside the panel's concerns about project need and cost – which has already increased by nearly a billion dollars from the time of the hearings to the approval announcement, now weighing in at \$9 Billion – by far the most expensive capital project in BC history.

## Four challenges merged

In the federal court's recent ruling on the case, it also decreed that three other plaintiffs bringing similar cases – two Alberta First Nations and BC's Treaty 8 First Nations – present their arguments at the same summer hearing, alongside the PVLA.

Meanwhile, two more legal challenges in BC provincial court have a joint preliminary hearing on February 25. Following that, the PVLA's provincial judicial review petition will begin being heard on April 20, with a similar petition by BC's Treaty 8 First Nations yet to be scheduled.



The PVLA has already [raised close to \\$100,000 for its legal challenges of Site C Dam.](#)

Last Updated on Thursday, 05 February 2015 16:18

320 readings

## [All the Ways Germany Is Less Car-Reliant Than the U.S., in 1 Chart](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 05 February 2015 15:11

**There are rather a lot of ways, as it turns out.**

By [Eric Jaffe @e\\_jaffe](#)

<http://www.citylab.com/commute/2015/02/all-the-ways-germany-is-less-car-reliant-than-the-us-in-1->



[chart/385163/?utm\\_source=SFFB#](#)

Two light rail trains wait for passengers in Stuttgart, Germany. ([James-In-Transit / Flickr](#))

For two Western powers with comparable wealth, democratic governments, legacy car companies, long histories of massive highway investment, and a shared affection for David Hasselhoff, the United States and Germany have followed dramatically different trajectories when it comes to automobile reliance. In the

chart below, we list the various ways the countries diverge on driving trends.

Compared to Americans, Germans own fewer cars, drive them shorter distances and less frequently, and walk and cycle and [ride transit more often](#). They have slimmer waistlines to show for their active transport habits and suffer fewer traffic deaths whether in a car or not. They spend less household income on getting around even as they pay [much more in driving costs](#). They use less energy per person on ground transport, resulting in lower carbon emissions.

So yeah. All the ways.

The data come from a recent comparison of [German and U.S. planning approaches](#) led by transport scholar Ralph Buehler of Virginia Tech. Drilling down to the city level, Buehler and collaborators find more of the same driving trends in an analysis of two large metros from each country: Washington, D.C., and Stuttgart.

Both areas have similar economies, labor markets, core populations (roughly 600,000 people), regional planning organizations that outline local transport policies. Yet Stuttgart comes off as less car-reliant than D.C. on all sorts of measures. We've bulleted some of the highlights:

- **Car-ownership** (per 1,000 people) — D.C.: 744, Stuttgart: 544
- **Share of all trips by car** — D.C.: 81%, Stuttgart: 57%
- **Center city share of all trips by car** — D.C.: 51%, Stuttgart: 44%
- **Suburban share of all trips by car** — D.C.: 70-85%, Stuttgart: 60%
- **Periphery share of all trips by car** — D.C.: 90%, Stuttgart: 70-75%
- **Short trips by car** (<1.25 miles) — DC: ~66%, Stuttgart: <25%

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All the ways.

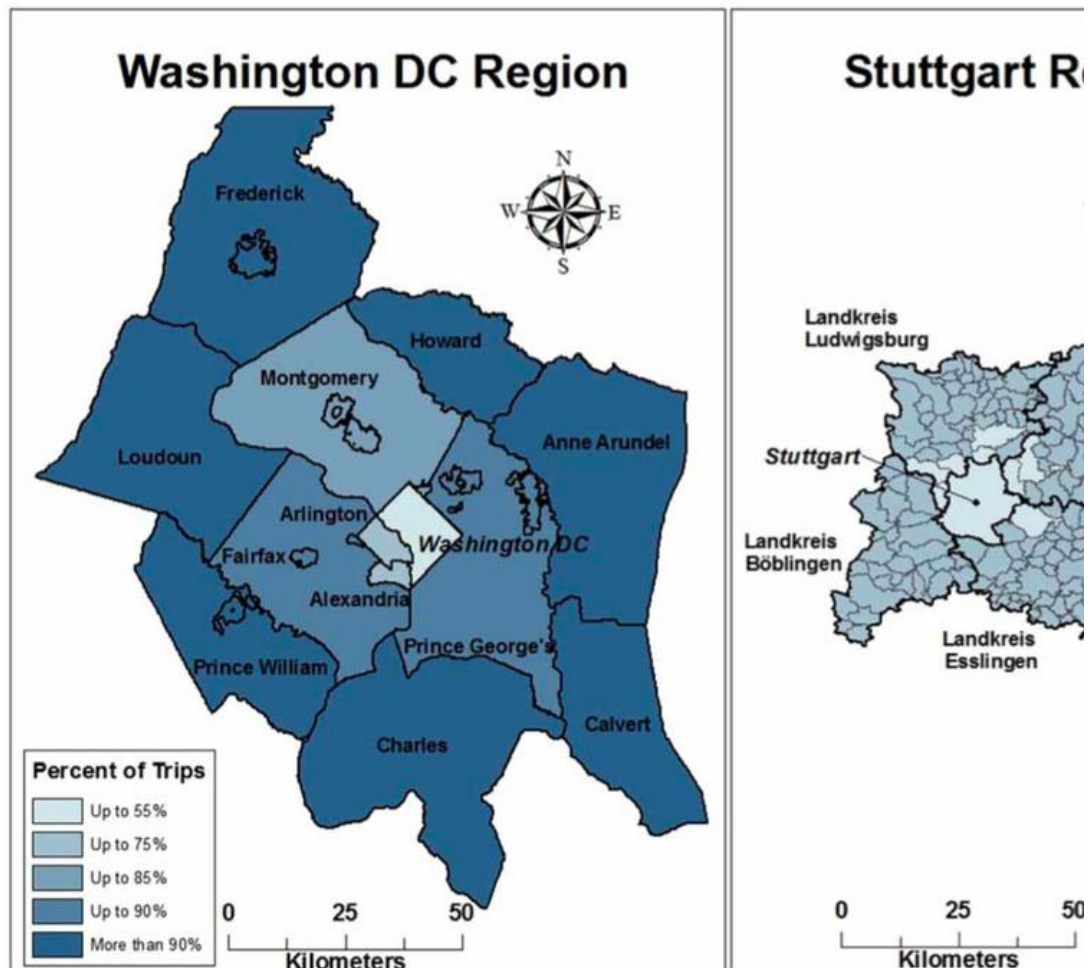
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What's especially notable here is that driving behavior in the remote periphery of Stuttgart is about the same as it is in the suburbs of D.C. To wit: the two most car-dependent suburbs of Stuttgart (Nürtingen and Geislingen) have shares of all trips

by car roughly equivalent to the two least car-dependent suburbs of D.C. (Arlington and Alexandria): roughly 70 to 75 percent in each place. Meanwhile, walking and cycling account for 6 percent of trips in most D.C. suburbs, while in Stuttgart's most car-oriented areas these modes still account for more than a fifth of all travel.

So the suburbs of D.C. are basically as car-oriented as the cow pastures of Stuttgart. The map below lays it out pretty clearly:



Shares of trips by car in jurisdictions of D.C. and Stuttgart. (Buehler et al, 2014, *International Planning Studies*)

National policy differences have clearly driven the driving gap. Germany has a tradition of coordinating transportation and land use efforts toward policy goals that stretch across levels of government, such as reducing sprawl, cutting emissions, and promoting public transit. Its narrow zoning laws are better suited to transit-oriented, mixed-use development, and in recent decades it's made a strong push at the federal level to fund transit initiatives.

The United States, meanwhile, tends to have a more fragmented approach that makes it tough to shift travel behavior at large. Policy goals are largely local in character and as a result can vary dramatically from place to place within a metro area: Arlington, Virginia, has promoted strong TOD, for instance, while nearby

Fairfax County has tended to build parking lots beside rail stations. And while the D.C. metro area has done more than most in the U.S. to integrate fare payment methods across jurisdictions, it's still nowhere near as uniform as Stuttgart.

The suburbs of D.C. are basically as car-oriented as the cow pastures of Stuttgart.

But with all those differences in mind, Buehler and company did identify two localities in each case that have successfully reduced car-dependency in a similar manner: Arlington's Rosslyn–Ballston corridor just outside D.C., and Ostfildern's Scharnhauser Park area in Stuttgart. The researchers point to four development features common to both places:

1. **Planning goals focused on TOD.** Rosslyn-Ballston targeted mixed-use, high-density "bull's eye" development around metro stations. Scharnhauser Park, meanwhile, required all settlement to be within 1,500 feet of the closest rail stop.
2. **Long-range plans.** Arlington had a massive comprehensive plan to guide the way, while Scharnhauser Park followed a master plan for the corridor.
3. **Citizen involvement.** The "Arlington Way" of public participation promotes "inclusive, accessible, respectful, constructive, persistent, and purposeful dialogue." Scharnhauser Park has a two-tiered public process for its land use and construction elements.
4. **Policy coordination.** Rosslyn–Ballston planners encourage car alternatives through public transit, bike-ped facilities, and transport demand management programs. Scharnhauser Park does much of the same, with bike- and car-share facilities near rail stops and reduced car parking for residential and commercial development.

Given all the other planning variables across the two countries, these four matching policy elements might offer something of a universal blueprint to reducing car-dependency. Though it's a blueprint some places need to follow more closely than others.

- Feb 4, 2015
  - Mark Byrnes / CityLab

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## **About the Author**



Eric Jaffe is a senior associate editor at CityLab. He writes about transportation as well as behavior, crime, and history, and has a general interest in the science of city life. He's the author of *A Curious Madness* (2014) and *The King's Best Highway* (2010), and lives in New York.




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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**February 5, 2015**

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The 'review' will only consist of three brief sessions (about 6 hours) and will lik

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"Qualified requests for a reconsideration of a Pest Management Regulatory A  
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Sierra Club Canada Foundation

1510-1 Nicholas Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7

[613-291-6888](tel:613-291-6888)

[jb@sierraclub.ca](mailto:jb@sierraclub.ca)

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## [Canada rejects UN resolution on native rights -](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 05 February 2015 10:01

By [Michael Swan, The Catholic Register](#)

<http://www.catholicregister.org/item/18895-canada-rejects-un-resolution-on-native-rights>

- October 1, 2014

### **The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops may have to re-fight a battle with the federal government over the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

On Sept. 22 Canada became the only country to object to a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly asking countries to do more to achieve aboriginal rights.

The Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development (DFATD) said the UN document — from the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and submitted to the president of the UN General Assembly — “cannot be reconciled with Canadian law, as it exists.”

The Canadian representatives at the UN argued that “free, prior and informed consent” to development that affects

indigenous land — whether mining, logging, hydro-electric dams or others — could be interpreted as a “veto” and is therefore inconsistent with Canada’s Constitution and undermines the supremacy of Parliament.

Canada made the same objections when the UN adopted its Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2010. At that time Canada’s bishops found themselves among many groups urging the federal government to rethink its position.

The government eventually said it supported the UN Declaration as “an aspirational document,” while maintaining its reservations about aboriginal consent for development.

“I’m going to have this put on our agenda for the CCAC (Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council) right now,” Keewatin-Le Pas Archbishop Murray Chatlain told The Catholic Register. The CCAC is a forum consisting of aboriginal people, Church officials and bishops which makes recommendations to the CCCB on aboriginal issues. It meets next on Nov. 22.

Going into the UN high level meeting on indigenous rights, the Holy See was unequivocal about the right of aboriginal people to be consulted about what happens on their land.

The Vatican’s permanent observer to the Holy See, Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, was particularly worried by mining companies allowed to proceed despite indigenous objections.

“These corporations must overcome a specific focus on short-term economic advantage and adopt models of authentic development which do not violate the rights of indigenous peoples and encourage a responsible use of the environment,” said Tomasi in Geneva Sept. 17, just before the meeting in New York.

Violations of the fundamental freedoms of aboriginal communities is the result of “systemic discrimination and exclusion from political and economic power,” said Tomasi.

The Canadian objections are mystifying, said aboriginal rights program director for Kairos Canada Ed Bianchi.

“There have been numerous times when Canada has been asked to explain how these articles in the Declaration (on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) that outline free, prior and informed consent constitute a veto, how they undermine Parliament, how they undermine our Constitution,” said Bianchi. “Canada up

until now has failed to explain what it means by that.”

The ecumenical justice organization Kairos joined with Amnesty International, the Assembly of First Nations, the Quakers and others urging the government to drop its objections and sign the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples outcome document.

“The notion that the Declaration could be interpreted as conferring an absolute and unilateral veto power has been repeatedly raised by Canada as a justification for its continued opposition to the Declaration.

This claim, however, has no basis either in the UN Declaration or in the wider body of international law,” said a statement from the coalition.

In 2008 over 100 scholars and legal experts signed an open letter to the government saying the UN Declaration is “consistent with the Canadian Constitution and Charter.”

As a set of “minimum standards for their survival, dignity and well being” the UN Declaration is essential to more than 370 million indigenous people in 90 countries around the world, said Tomasi, speaking for the Holy See.

“We have in place a constitutionally-entrenched framework that ensures the consultation and accommodation, as appropriate, of aboriginal interests,” a spokesperson for Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt told The Catholic Register in an email. “This framework also balances the interests of non-aboriginal Canadians and it has served as a model for nations around the world.”

For the original source of this article, click here: <http://www.catholicregister.org/item/18895-canada-rejects-un-resolution-on-native-rights>

Last Updated on Thursday, 05 February 2015 10:13

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## [A New “Republic” to Save Chile’s Glaciers](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 05 February 2015 09:50

By [Marianela Jarroud](#)



A display of what the harvest of fruit and vegetables would be like without the water from the glaciers, in the Jan. 23, 2015 Fair Without Glaciers organised by Greenpeace in Santiago's Plaza de la Constitución. Credit: Marianela Jarroud/IPS

SANTIAGO, Feb 4 2015 (IPS) - Chile's more than 3,000 glaciers are one of the largest reserves of freshwater in South America. But they are under constant threat by the mining industry and major infrastructure projects, environmentalists and experts warn.

The lack of legislation to protect them allowed the global environmental watchdog Greenpeace to create the Glacier Republic in March 2014 – a virtual country created on 23,000 sq km of glaciers in the Chilean Andes, which already has over 165,000 citizens and 40 embassies spread around the world.

“The Glacier Republic emerged in response to a need, because the glaciers in this country aren't protected,” the executive director of [Greenpeace Chile](#), Matías Asún, told Tierramérica.

A glacier is a huge mass of ice and snow that forms where snow in the wintertime gathers faster than it melts in the summer and flows slowly over an area of land. Most of the world's freshwater — 69 percent — is locked away in glaciers and ice caps.

“These are strategic reserves of water that contribute in a significant manner during periods of drought and are found not only in the high mountains but also in the south of the country,” Asún explained.

“Many glaciers have been buried and conserve important reserves of water,” he added. “These supply water to the river basins, and not only the most basic human activities but also agriculture and the economy of the country depend on the basins.”

Chile, a mining country whose main source of wealth is copper, has 82 percent of South America’s glaciers, according to Greenpeace. However, most of them have visibly retreated due to the impact of climate change and large-scale mining activities.

Addressing the Chilean legislature in 2014, glaciologist Alexander Brenning, from the University of Waterloo, Ontario said the magnitude of interventions on glaciers in Chile was unparalleled in the world, and urged that the cumulative effects be assessed.

“The experts are emphatic: Chile has one of the worst records in the world in terms of destruction of glaciers,” Asún said. “This is the sad situation that forced us to found the Glacier Republic.”

“Because the glaciers were in no man’s land, we used that legal vacuum to found the Glacier Republic. We took possession of the entire surface area of glaciers in Chile and declared ourselves an independent republic,” he added.

The Glacier Republic, created as an awareness-raising campaign, was founded on the basis of the [Convention on Rights and Duties of States](#), better known as the Montevideo Convention after the city where it was signed in 1933. The first article of the convention establishes four requisites for declaring the creation of a state: a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and the capacity to enter into relations with other states.

The aim of the Glacier Republic is to push for what the citizens describe as a “five-star” law on glaciers, which would guarantee the total protection of Chile’s glaciers.



The El Morado glacier in the Andes mountains in central Chile. Credit: Orlando Ruz/IPS

The activists want protection of the glaciers as a national asset for public use to be introduced in the constitution.

They also argue that the law should establish that “the glaciers represent strategic reserves of water in a solid state,” and that it should include a legal definition of glaciers and descriptions of the different kinds of glaciers and their ecosystems, and specify what kinds of activities are permitted and prohibited in each ecosystem.

In addition, the idea is to establish in the law a grace period and specific timeframe for activities currently carried out in protected or potentially protected areas to adapt to the new law.

In May 2014, lawmakers from the self-described “glacier caucus”, which includes the former student leader and current Communist legislator Camila Vallejo, introduced a draft law in Congress to create a legal framework to protect the country’s glaciers.

The current legislation allows activities like mining or the construction of infrastructure to affect a glacier, if the impact is spelled out in the environmental impact assessment and compensated for in some way.

In August, Congress agreed to try to move towards passage of a new law. But the draft law, which has drawn criticism from different sides, has not yet been approved.

Chilean glaciologist Cedomir Marangunic, who works with different technologies to save and create new glaciers, told Tierramérica that he believes certain well-regulated activities, such as tourism or development projects, can be allowed in the areas of the glaciers, unless prohibiting all human activity is indispensable for the survival of a specific glacier.

But he said glaciers, especially the ones located on privately owned territory, should be in the public domain by law.

Marangunic, a geologist at the University of Chile with a PhD in glaciology from Ohio State University in the U.S., said that although “some mining” hurts glaciers, “the pollution caused by large cities like Santiago or the smoke from the burning of grasslands and forests” also damage them.

But for the Diaguita Community of Huasco Valley in the arid northern region of Atacama, where the Canadian company Barrick Gold’s Pascua Lama gold and silver mine is located, there is no room for doubt.

“Glaciers are the reservoirs of water that we have had for thousands of years. And today, in times of drought, it is the glaciers that keep us alive and supplied with water,” the indigenous community’s spokesman, Sebastián Cruz, told Tierramérica.

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Huasco Valley, in the Atacama desert, the driest in the world, runs across the Andes mountains to the sea and is fed by water from the glaciers, added the representative of the Diaguita native community, who live in that vulnerable ecosystem.

Far from living up to the commitment expressed in the environmental impact study, the Pascua Lama gold mine has destroyed “nearly 99 percent of the Esperanza glacier and the Toro 1 and 2 glaciers,” Cruz said.

The Diaguita community argues that a new law on glaciers must guarantee protection for certain conservation areas and must ban any extractive or mining activities in the glaciers and the surrounding landscape.

Socialist President Michelle Bachelet promised to protect the glaciers, in a May 2014 speech to the nation. But since then she has not referred publicly to the issue. A group of legislators from the governing Nueva Mayoría have backed the draft law.

The citizens of the Glacier Republic promise they won't back down until a strong law on glaciers is passed.

"For the time being, the glaciers belong to the Glacier Republic, and we will be in a dispute with the Chilean state until we see a determined commitment to a real law," Asún said.

*Edited by Estrella Gutiérrez/Translated by Stephanie Wildes*

*This story was originally published by Latin American newspapers that are part of the Tierramérica network.*

661 readings

## [NAFTA environment watchdog won't probe oilsands tailings ponds](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 03 February 2015 19:02

**By Bob Weber, The Canadian Press**

**Wednesday, January 28, 2015 2:30PM EST**

A hydraulic shovel loads a heavy hauler at an oilsands mine north of Fort McMurray, Alta. on June 19, 2003. (Adrian Wyld / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

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The three countries that run the North American Free Trade Agreement's environmental watchdog have voted against an investigation into how Canada oversees Alberta's oilsands.

The unanimous decision by Canada, Mexico and the United States comes despite recommendations from staff at the Commission on Environmental Co-operation. They had concluded there were enough questions about how environmental rules are enforced on oilsands tailings ponds to justify an investigation.

**The commission was created in 1995 to win environmental support for NAFTA by providing a safeguard that the deal wouldn't boost commerce at the expense of clean air, water or land.** Commission staff investigate public complaints that Canada, the United States or Mexico aren't living up to their laws and recommend a "factual record" if they find enough grounds.

**In 2010, a number of individuals and environmental groups filed a complaint with the commission that Canada wasn't upholding its Fisheries Act. They pointed to research that suggests an unknown amount of tailings from the oilsands are seeping into groundwater and damaging fish habitat.**



**Last August, the commission's legal staff decided there was enough supporting evidence to recommend an investigation.**

But Canada did not respond to the allegations. The government pointed to commission rules that say it's not allowed to review any issue currently before the courts and **a man from Fort McMurray, Alta., had filed a legal action that levelled similar criticisms about the tailings ponds.**

That action had been heard in February and the man confirmed to The Canadian Press that he considered the matter closed. The appeal period ended last fall.

Still, Canada argued that commission staff have no independent power to determine whether the case was active or relevant. The government's word should have been enough to block the investigation, it said.

"(Staff) should have proceeded no further in its analysis and terminated the submission."

**However, a statement from the United States suggests that country would be open to reconsidering the request now that the legal action is officially over.**


"Nothing in the (North American Agreement on Environmental Co-operation) would have precluded the submitters from filing another submission on these issues," it said.

**It's the second time in two months environmentalists have lost bids to begin investigations into Canada's activities.**

In December, Canada used a similar argument to team up with Mexico and defeat a motion to look into salmon farms along the British Columbia coast.

Environmental groups and First Nations had accused Canada of violating its own laws by allowing the fish farms, which they said harm wild salmon stocks by spreading parasites.

The commission's internal staff had recommended an investigation be done. But Canada won the vote by arguing the issue was already the subject of a court proceeding in B.C.

[Ecojustice sues Ottawa over refusal to review crop pesticide](#) 

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 16 April 2015 12:35

**Federal government violating own**

# law on pesticides, lawsuit claims

BY Canadian Press Posted: Apr 16, 2015 10:19 AM ET Last Updated: Apr 16, 2015 1:59 PM ET

[http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/ecojustice-sues-ottawa-over-refusal-to-review-crop-pesticide-1.3035520?cmp=rss&utm\\_source=twitterfeed&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/ecojustice-sues-ottawa-over-refusal-to-review-crop-pesticide-1.3035520?cmp=rss&utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter)

A stag stands in a neck-high field of canola north of Cremona, Alta. The fungicide difenoconazole is increasingly used on cereal, oilseed and vegetable crops in Canada. (Jeff McIntosh/Canadian Press)

Environmental groups have revived a lawsuit against the federal government because the Health Department changed its mind about reviewing a pesticide that is banned in Norway but is increasingly common in Canada.

The decision to stop the review of a fungicide used on cereal, oilseed and vegetable crops violates the government's own legislation, said Lara Tessoro, a lawyer for Ecojustice, the firm acting for several groups behind the lawsuit.

"The duty on the government is to assess all the products containing the ingredient."

The lawsuit is over difenoconazole, which is known to be toxic to fish and believed by some scientists to accumulate in increasing amounts in the food chain. The suit was originally filed in 2013 in an attempt to force the government to review 23 different pesticides.

The action was put on hold after Ottawa agreed to the reviews. But the Pest Management Regulatory Agency has now pulled back.

"The special review ... is no longer required," said a letter from the agency to Ecojustice.

Last Updated on Thursday, 16 April 2015 21:19

2775 readings

[The Renewable Revolution Four Reasons Why the Transition From Fossil Fuels to a Green Energy Era Is Gaining Traction](#)

[Earth News](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 16 April 2015 09:34

By [Michael T. Klare](#)

[http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175982/tomgram%3A\\_michael\\_klare%2C\\_is\\_the\\_age\\_of\\_renewable\\_energy\\_already\\_upon\\_us](http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175982/tomgram%3A_michael_klare%2C_is_the_age_of_renewable_energy_already_upon_us)

Consider the extremes of our present climate moment by the numbers. Recently, Michael Greenstone, the Milton Friedman professor of economics at the University of Chicago and the former chief economist of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, did a [little calculating](#). He was curious to find out just how much the planet's temperature might rise if we managed to burn all the fossil fuel reserves that "can be extracted with today's technology." Without beating around the (burning) bush, the answer he came up with was a staggering 16.2 degrees Fahrenheit. To put that in perspective, climate science suggests that unless we keep the temperature rise from the burning of fossil fuels under 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) catastrophic changes are likely to occur, including, as Greenstone points out, the melting of the [Greenland ice sheet](#), which will reshape human life on this planet in grim ways. And even that 3.6-degree mark might be [too high](#). Add in another nearly 13 degrees of warming and you could have the definition of an uninhabitable planet (at least by humans). It should give us all the chills -- or more appropriately, leave us with fever dreams of a future in which humanity was incapable of getting itself together, dealing with entrenched fossil fuel interests, and saving a planet that had for so many tens of thousands of years been the rather habitable home of our species.

On the other hand, look at Spain: as Juan Cole [reported recently](#) at his *Informed Comment* website, that country is now getting almost 70% of its electricity in ways that do not generate carbon dioxide. That's little short of extraordinary. It's possible that somewhere down the line that country could even become "the first net-carbon-zero G-20 state"! As of this March, it received 22.5% of its electricity from wind power (with solar trailing badly behind), 17.5% from hydro power, and 23.8% from nuclear power (which will make some environmentalists uneasy). And the country hopes to almost double its wind power contribution to 40% in the next five years.

In other words, depending on what you care to look at, this planet offers a grim vision of humanity preparing to [scourge](#) and [flood](#) its own home or -- and this is a new development -- a more hopeful one. In that, humanity, under pressure and moving too slowly by half, is nonetheless beginning to reshape our world yet again in unexpected ways, using new technology that is quickly becoming ever cheaper and easier to employ. [TomDispatch energy expert](#) Michael Klare suggests today that while nothing may be settled, damage is clearly being done, and the fossil fuel machine remains deeply entrenched and determined, there are nonetheless unexpected signs that we, like the cavalry of movie fame, may finally be saddling up to ride to our own rescue. This is the sort of news that should stir the blood and soul in all of us. It should leave us thankful for the years of toil in the wilderness by climate activists like those at [350.org](#) who have worked so hard to bring us to awareness of the dangers ahead, and of activists like those in the [fossil fuel divestment movement](#) who want to shake what may be the most profitable industry in history to its core. *Tom*

## < style="font-size: x-large;">The Renewable Revolution

### < style="font-size: medium;">Four Reasons Why the Transition From Fossil Fuels to a Green Energy Era Is Gaining Traction

By [Michael T. Klare](#)

Don't hold your breath, but future historians may look back on 2015 as the year that the renewable energy ascendancy began, the moment when the world started to move decisively away from its reliance on fossil fuels. Those fuels -- oil, natural gas, and coal -- will, of course, continue to dominate the energy landscape for years to come, adding billions of tons of heat-trapping carbon to the atmosphere. For the first time, however, it appears that a shift to renewable energy sources is gaining momentum. If sustained, it will have momentous implications for the world economy -- as profound as the shift from wood to coal or coal to oil in previous centuries.

Global economic growth has, of course, long been powered by an increasing supply of fossil fuels, especially petroleum. Beginning with the United States, countries that succeeded in mastering the extraction and utilization of oil gained immense economic and political power, while countries with huge reserves of oil to exploit and sell, like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, became fabulously wealthy. The giant oil companies that engineered the rise of petroleum made legendary profits, accumulated vast wealth, and grew immensely powerful. Not surprisingly, the oil states and those energy corporations continue to dream of a future in which they will play a dominant role.

"Fossil fuels are our most enduring energy source," [said](#) Ali Al-Naimi, Saudi Arabia's minister of petroleum and mineral resources, in April 2013. "They are the driving force of economic development in the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and for much of the developed and developing world [and] they have the capacity to sustain us well into the future."

But new developments, including a [surprising surge](#) in wind and solar installations, suggest that oil's dominance may not prove as "enduring" as imagined. "Rapidly spreading solar technology could change everything," energy analyst Nick Butler recently [wrote](#) in the *Financial Times*. "There is growing evidence that some fundamental changes are coming that will over time put a question mark over investments in old energy systems."

Normally, transitions from one energy system to another take many decades. According to [Vaclav Smil](#) of the University of Manitoba, the shift from wood to coal and coal to oil each took 50 years. The same length of time, he has argued, will be needed to complete the transition to renewables, which would leave any green energy era in the distant future. "The slow pace of this energy transition is not surprising," he [wrote](#) in *Scientific American*. "In fact, it is expected."

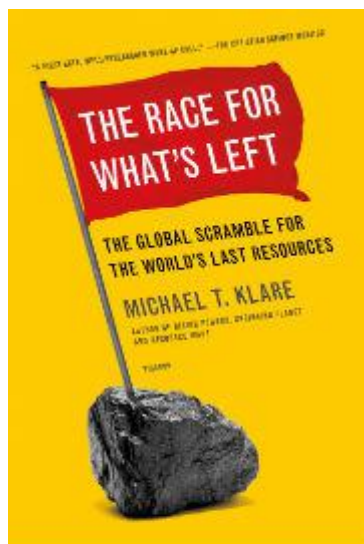
Smil's analysis, however, assumes two things: first, that a business-as-usual environment in which decisions about energy investments will largely be made within the same profit-seeking outlook as in the past will continue to prevail; and second, that it will take decades for renewables to best fossil fuels in terms of cost and practicality. Both assumptions, however, appear increasingly flawed. Concern over climate change is already altering the political and regulatory landscape, while improvements in wind and solar technology are occurring at an extraordinary rate,

rapidly eliminating the price advantage of fossil fuels. “The direction of change is clear,” Butler writes. With the cost of renewable installations falling, solar power has moved “from being a niche supplier to being a major regional competitor [to fossil fuels].”

Experts largely agree that renewables will claim a larger share of the global energy budget in the years ahead. Nevertheless, most mainstream analysts continue to believe that fossil fuels will be the dominant form of energy for decades to come. The U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) typically [predicts](#) that the share of world energy provided by renewables, nuclear, and hydro combined will climb from 17% in 2015 to a mere 22% in 2040 -- hardly change on a scale that would threaten the predominance of fossil fuels. There are, however, four key trends that could speed the transition to renewables in striking ways: the world’s growing determination to put a brake on the advance of climate change; a sea change in China’s stance on growth and the environment; the increasing embrace of green energy in the developing world; and the growing affordability of renewable energy.

### **Taking Climate Change Seriously**

Resistance to progress on climate change is widespread and well entrenched. As Naomi Klein documents in her latest book, [This Changes Everything](#), the major fossil fuel companies have mounted well-financed campaigns for years to sow doubt about the reality of climate change, while politicians, often [in their pay](#), have obstructed efforts to place restraints on carbon emissions. At the same time, many ordinary people have been reluctant to acknowledge what's happening and so consider steps to bring it under control (a phenomenon examined by George Marshall in [Don’t Even Think About It](#)). As the devastating effects of extreme weather, including droughts, floods, and ever more powerful storms, gain greater prominence in everyday life, however, all of this is clearly in flux.



**Buy the book**

Considerable evidence can be assembled to support this assessment, including recent [polling data](#), but perhaps the most impressive indication

of this shift can be found in the carbon-reduction plans major nations are now submitting to U.N. authorities in preparation for a global climate summit to be held this December in Paris. Under a measure [adopted](#) by delegates to the most recent summit, held last December in Lima, Peru, all parties to the [U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) are obliged to submit detailed action plans known as “[intended nationally determined contributions](#)” (INDCs) to the global climate effort. These plans, for the most part, have proven to be impressively tough and ambitious. More important yet, the numbers being offered when it comes to carbon reduction would have been inconceivable only a few years ago.

The U.S. plan, for example, [promises](#) that national carbon emissions will drop 26%-28% below 2005 levels by 2025, which represents a substantial reduction. There are, of course, many obstacles to achieving this goal, most notably the [diehard resistance](#) of Republican legislators with strong ties to the fossil fuel industry. The White House [insists](#), however, that many of the measures included in the INDC can be achieved through executive branch action, including curbs on carbon emissions from coal plants and mandated improvements in the fuel efficiency of cars and trucks.

Other countries have submitted similarly ambitious INDCs. Mexico, for example, has [pledged](#) to cap its carbon emissions by 2026, and to achieve a 22% reduction in greenhouse gas levels by 2030. Its commitment is considered especially significant, since it's the first such pledge by a major developing nation. “Mexico is setting an example for the rest of the world by submitting an INDC that is timely, clear, ambitious, and supported by robust, unconditional policy commitments,” the Obama White House [noted](#) in a congratulatory statement.

No one can predict the outcome of the December climate summit, but few observers expect the measures it may endorse to be tough enough to keep future increases in global temperatures below two degrees Celsius, the [maximum amount](#) most scientists believe the planet can absorb without incurring climate disasters far beyond anything seen to date. Nevertheless, implementation of the INDCs, or even a significant portion of them, would at least produce a significant reduction in fossil fuel consumption and point the way to a different future.

### **A Sea Change in Chinese Energy Behavior**

Of equal importance is China's evident determination to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels -- a critical change in stance, given its projected energy needs in the decades to come. According to the DoE, China's share of world energy consumption is expected to [jump](#) from an already impressive 19% in 2010 to 27% in 2040, with most of its added energy coming from fossil fuels. Should this indeed occur, China would consume another 88 quadrillion British thermal units of such energy over the next 30 years, or 43% of all added fossil fuel consumption worldwide. So any significant moves by China to reduce its reliance on those energy sources, as now being promised by senior government officials, would have an outsized impact on the global energy equation.

China has not yet submitted its INDC, but its plan is expected to incorporate the commitments made by President Xi Jinping in a meeting with President Obama in Beijing last November. Xi [promised](#) to cap China's carbon emissions by 2030 and

increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 20% by that time. He also agreed to work with the U.S. “to make sure international climate change negotiations will reach agreement as scheduled at the Paris conference in 2015.”

Although the Chinese plan allows for continued growth in carbon emissions for another 15 years, it substantially reduces the amount of new energy that will be derived from fossil fuels. According to a White House [statement](#), “It will require China to deploy an additional 800-1,000 gigawatts of nuclear, wind, solar, and other zero-emission generation capacity by 2030 -- more than all the coal-fired power plants that exist in China today.”

It appears, moreover, that Chinese leaders are preparing to move even faster than their pledge would require in transitioning away from fossil fuels. Under pressure from urban residents to reduce punishing levels of smog, the authorities have announced ambitious plans to lessen reliance on coal for electricity generation and rely instead on hydropower, nuclear, wind, and solar power, as well as natural gas. “We will strive for zero-growth in the consumption of coal in key areas of the country,” Premier Li Keqiang [told](#) the National People’s Congress, China’s legislature, this March.

As in the United States, the Chinese leadership will face opposition from entrenched fossil fuel interests, as well as local government structures. However, their evident determination to reduce reliance on oil and coal represents a real change of mood and thinking. It’s likely to result in a far different energy landscape than the one laid out by the Department of Energy and, until recently, most other experts. Despite repeated predictions of ever-increasing coal consumption, for instance, China actually burned [less coal](#) in 2014 than in the previous year, the first such decline in decades. At the same time, it increased its spending on renewable forms of energy by an impressive 33% in 2014, [investing](#) a total of \$83.3 billion -- the most ever spent by a single country in one year -- to a renewable future. If China leads the way globally and such trends continue, the transition from fossil fuels to renewables will occur far sooner than expected.

## **Green Goes Global**

The giant oil companies have long acknowledged that the most advanced countries, led by the U.S., Japan, and Europe, would eventually transition from fossil fuels to renewables, but they continue to insist that developing nations -- eager to expand their economies but too poor to invest in alternative energy -- will continue to rely on fossil fuels in a big way. This outlook led ExxonMobil and other oil firms to make [massive investments](#) in new refineries, pipelines, and other infrastructure aimed at satisfying anticipated demand from the global South. But surprise, surprise: those countries are also showing every sign of turning to renewables in their drive to expand energy output.

The global South’s surprisingly enthusiastic embrace of renewables is impressively documented in [Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2015](#), a recent collaboration between the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management and the U.N. Environment Programme. It reports that the developing countries, excluding China, spent \$30 billion on renewables in 2014, a substantial rise over the previous year.

Together with China, investment in renewables in the developing world totaled nearly as much as that spent by the developed countries that year. Significant increases in spending on renewables were registered by Brazil (for a total of \$7.6 billion), India (\$7.4 billion), and South Africa (\$5.5 billion); investments of \$1 billion or more were posted by Chile, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, and Turkey. Given how little such countries were devoting to a renewable future just a few years ago, consider this a sign of changing times.

No less striking is the degree to which oil-producing countries are beginning to embrace green energy. In January, for example, the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority [awarded](#) a contract to Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power International to build a 200-megawatt, \$330 million solar electricity plant. The deal received widespread attention, as ACWA [promised](#) to deliver electricity from the plant for \$58.50 per megawatt-hour, one-third less than the cost of natural gas-fired generation.

“This is a major breakthrough in the oil-fired Emirates and a clear demonstration of the ongoing global energy transition,” [suggested](#) Mark Lewis of Kepler Cheuvreux, a European financial services company. “We think this is a landmark deal both in terms of the extremely competitive cost at which the project will generate power and the potential for a much greater take-up of renewables in countries that have so far been slow to embrace them.”

### **The Falling Price of Renewables**

As the Dubai deal indicates, price is playing a crucial role in the shift from fossil fuels to renewables. Listen to the apostles of coal and oil and you'd think that poor countries had no choice but to rely on their chosen form of energy because of its low cost compared to other fuels. “There are still hundreds of millions, billions of people living in abject poverty around the world,” [said](#) Rex Tillerson, the CEO and Chairman of ExxonMobil. “They need electricity they can count on, that they can afford... They'd love to burn fossil fuels because their quality of life would rise immeasurably, and their quality of health and the health of their children and their future would rise immeasurably.”

Until recently, this would have been gospel among mainstream energy experts, but the cost of renewables, especially solar power, is dropping so rapidly that, even in a moment when the price of oil has been [halved](#), the news on the horizon couldn't be clearer: fossil fuels are no longer guaranteed a price advantage in delivering energy to developing countries. Among the harbingers of this change: the cost of solar photovoltaic cells (PVs) has [plunged](#) by 75% since 2009 and the cost of electricity generated by solar PVs has fallen globally by 50% since 2010. In other words, solar is now becoming competitive with oil and natural gas, even at their currently depressed prices. “Cost is no longer a reason not to proceed with renewables,” [concluded](#) a report released by the National Bank of Abu Dhabi in March. [Says](#) Lewis of Kepler Cheuvreux: “Over time, as renewable-technology costs continue to come down and economies of scale continue to increase, the relative competitiveness of renewables in the global energy mix will only increase further.”

Keep in mind as well that developing nations have a powerful reason to favor renewables over fossil energy that has nothing to do with price and everything to do



with costs of another sort. As the most recent reports from the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [make clear](#), poor countries in the global South will suffer more (and sooner) from the ravages of climate change than countries in the global North. This is so because these countries are expected to experience some of the sharpest declines in rainfall and so the most droughts, endangering the food supply for hundreds of millions of people. Combine such concerns with the plunging prices of renewable energy, and it appears that the transition away from fossil fuels will occur faster than predicted in the very regions that the oil companies were counting on for their future profits.

## **A New World's A-Coming**

Add up these factors, all relatively unexpected, and one conclusion seems self-evident: we are witnessing the start of a global energy transition that could turn expectations upside down, politically, environmentally, and economically. This transformation won't happen overnight and it will face fierce opposition from powerful and entrenched fossil fuel interests. Even so, it shows every sign of accelerating, which means that while we may be talking decades, the half-century horizon previously offered by experts like Vaclav Smil is probably no longer in the cards. Fossil fuels -- and the companies, politicians, and petro-states they have long enriched -- will lose their dominant status and be overtaken by the purveyors of renewable energy far more quickly than that.

Even with the quickening of investment in green technology, the likelihood that world temperatures will be held at a 2 degrees Celsius rise, that all-important threshold for catastrophic damage, is unfortunately vanishingly small. Which means that our children and grandchildren will live in a distinctly less inviting world. But as the destructive effects of climate change become more pronounced and more embedded in daily life across the planet, the impetus to slow the warming phenomenon will only intensify. This means that the urge to impose strict curbs on fossil fuel consumption and the companies that promote it will grow, too.

We're talking, in other words, about the building of genuine momentum for an energy transition which, in turn, means that the majority of people alive on the planet today will experience the ascendancy of renewables. As with previous energy transitions, this shift is going to produce both winners and losers. Countries and companies that assume early leadership in the development and installation of advanced green technologies are likely to prosper in the years ahead, while those committed to the perpetuation of fossil energy will see their wealth and power decline or disappear. For the planet as a whole, such a transition can't come soon enough.

*Michael T. Klare, a [TomDispatch regular](#), is a professor of peace and world security studies at Hampshire College and the author, most recently, of [The Race for What's Left](#). A documentary movie version of his book *Blood and Oil* is available from the [Media Education Foundation](#).*

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Last Updated on Thursday, 16 April 2015 21:30

599 readings

## [Five Seriously Disturbing B.C. Political Donations](#)



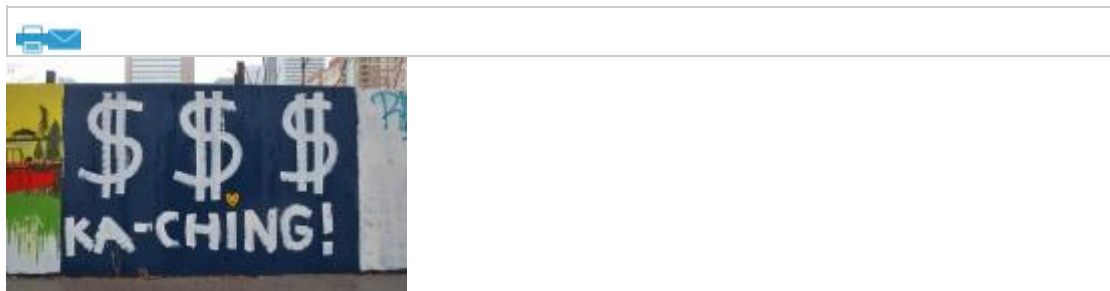
[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 15 April 2015 14:58

BY Emma Ghilchrist

Wed, 2015-04-15 10:06EMMA GILCHRIST



The 2014 [financial reports from B.C.'s political parties](#) are out and my face hurts from all of the eyebrow raising.

Donations to political parties from corporations are banned federally, but here in B.C. — the [wild west of political donations](#) — the corporate cash is free-flowing.

Here are the Top 5 disconcerting revelations from this year's disclosures. (Thanks to [Integrity BC](#) for drawing my attention to many of these.)

**1)** Let's start with the \$40,950 that [accounting firm KPMG](#) gave to the BCLiberals in 2014. KPMG is the company BC Hydro hired to "independently review" the costs of the \$8.8 billion Site C dam. The B.C. government has pointed to the [KPMG report to defend its decision](#) to ignore an expert recommendation to send the project to

the B.C. Utilities Commission for review.

Since 2005, KPMG and its related companies have given \$284,994 to the BC Liberals and \$13,150 to the NDP.

**2)** In the words of [IntegrityBC's Dermod Travis](#) "the 2014 Award for Incredibly Bad Taste in Donations goes to Imperial Metals, owners of the Mount Polley mine."

The mining company donated \$7,150 to the Liberals, including a \$1,500 cheque in October and another for \$250 in November, in the months following the company's enormous [Mount Polley tailings dam failure](#).

"The spill may have been toxic, but Imperial's cash wasn't," Travis quipped.

**3)** Oil and gas transportation companies got in on the action, too, with [Kinder Morgan](#) (\$4,500), TransCanada Pipelines (\$5,600), Coastal GasLink Pipeline (\$12,500) and Enbridge Northern Gateway (\$13,450) all filling up the Liberal's bank account.

Woodfibre LNG, which is proposing a liquefied natural gas export terminal in Howe Sound, gave \$28,000 to the Liberals and \$8,000 to the B.C. NDP. [Woodfibre also spent more than \\$18,000](#) on newspaper and radio ads in Squamish during the November 2014 local election.

**4)** As the high-stakes [Metro Vancouver waste debate](#) raged on last year, BFI Canada gave the Liberals \$91,300 and Belkorp Environmental Services gave \$37,200.

Those companies didn't like Metro Vancouver's garbage plans, so they also [hired lobbyists](#) to pressure the provincial government. According to B.C.'s Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists, Belkorp hired John Les, former MLA for Chilliwack, and BFI hired lobbyist Dimitri Pantazopoulos, who was the Liberals' chief pollster during the 2013 provincial election.

**5)** Perhaps the most bizarre donation of all is one for \$28,750 from the Alberta Newspaper Group to the Liberals.

Alberta Newspaper Group has no papers in B.C., but is run and partially owned by British Columbian David Radler. Yes, that David Radler. The one who went to jail, along with his business partner Conrad Black, after being convicted of defrauding their company Hollinger Inc.

Alberta Newspaper Group is a subsidiary of Glacier Media, which owns the Victoria Times Colonist. Radler was named the [acting publisher of](#)

[the Victoria Times Colonist](#) a year ago.

Radler also runs Continental Newspapers, which publishes the Kelowna Daily Courier and Penticton Herald.

As traditional media players face unprecedented hardships to stay alive, it's a wonder how any newspaper company can afford to scrounge up tens of thousands of dollars to curry political favour.

Sadly, this is far from the first time a B.C. media company has donated to a political party. In 2013, Postmedia — which owns the Vancouver Sun and The Province — donated \$10,000 to the BC Liberals. In 2009, Glacier Media gave \$100,000 to the Liberals. And between 2006 and 2011, [Black Press](#) — which owns more than 70 community newspapers in B.C.— contributed \$5,430 to the BC Liberals.

It's exactly the kind of impropriety that would typically set the press off on a feeding frenzy — alas, the only organizations to escape the news media's often savage scrutiny are the news media themselves.

*Photo: Mary Crandall via [Flickr](#)*

1926 readings

## [Obama Administration Downgrades Supposed Threats Posed by Cuba, Venezuela Ahead of Summit of the Americas](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 09 April 2015 19:21

### ***US Trying to Salvage Summit by Removing Cuba from Terror List, CEPR Co-Director Says***

**For Immediate Release:** April 9, 2015

**Contact:** Dan Beeton, [202-239-1460](tel:202-239-1460)

**Washington, D.C.-** The Obama administration is attempting to “salvage the Summit of the Americas” and avert another summit disaster by removing Cuba from its list of “state sponsors of terrorism,” Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) Co-Director [Mark Weisbrot](#) said today. This latest

sign of a softening of U.S. policy toward Cuba “falls far short” of the change in relations that had been a U.S. goal before the summit: the reopening of embassies. Obama’s announcement [is expected](#) to come as early as tomorrow.

“The Obama administration is hoping to avert [another disastrous summit](#) like in Cartagena, or Bush’s 2005 summit in Mar del Plata, by announcing this widely anticipated move,” Weisbrot said. “It’s pretty minimal, though, withdrawing one insult that everyone saw as ridiculous to begin with.”

In recent days, the Obama administration has also attempted to walk back its [March 9 designation](#) that Venezuela represents an “unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States” in order to enact recent sanctions against Venezuelan officials. Deputy national security advisor Ben Rhodes [explained](#) “the United States does not believe that Venezuela poses some threat to our national security” in an April 7 press briefing, and President Obama [told the EFE news agency](#), “We do not believe that Venezuela poses a threat to the United States, nor does the United States threaten the Venezuelan government.”

“What does it mean for the rule of law in the United States that the U.S. declares a ‘national emergency,’ and names Venezuela as ‘an extraordinary threat to U.S. national security,’ in order to enact sanctions and then the president says that no, actually, ‘we didn’t mean that?’” Weisbrot asked. “They made these declarations because they are required under U.S. law when imposing unilateral sanctions of this type. And the requirement is there for a reason: so that our government does not violate international laws and norms by imposing sanctions when there is no legitimate threat to the United States. These sanctions violate Article 19 and 20 of the OAS charter, and here is the U.S. government lecturing others about the rule of law.

“The Obama administration is clearly feeling pressure from the rest of the region, which has almost unanimously rejected the sanctions and the threatening rhetoric.

“These overtures to Cuba and Venezuela are not going to change anyone’s mind about Washington’s attitude toward the region,” Weisbrot said. “It’s like a half-hearted non-apology from the neighborhood bully after everyone has joined together and stood up to him.”

Both [UNASUR](#) (the Union of South American Nations) and [CELAC](#) (the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, which includes all countries in the hemisphere except the United States and Canada), issued statements before the summit calling on President Obama to rescind the executive order imposing sanctions against Venezuela.

###

Last Updated on Saturday, 11 April 2015 06:54

2529 readings

## [Unasur asks the US to revoke their executive order against Venezuela](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 06 April 2015 16:49

By the **Pressenza**

<http://www.pressenza.com/2015/03/unasur-asks-the-us-to-revoke-their-executive-order-against-venezuela/>

**17.03.2015**

- [ANDES, Agencia pública de noticias del Ecuador y Suramérica](#)



(Image by Carlos Rodríguez/Andes Unasur countries and their 12 chancellors agreed to reject the unilateral measures adopted by the US government against Venezuela.)

**Quito, Mar 16 (Andes).**- Last Saturday, chancellors from the Union of South American Nations (Unasur) confirmed their support to have a national political dialogue in Venezuela and asked the United States to repeal the executive order that declares Venezuela a “threat” to their national security.

Samper stated that all Unasur countries and their 12 chancellors agreed to reject the unilateral measures adopted by the US government against Venezuela and additionally asked to look for dialogue alternatives and the repealing of such measure. “We cannot continue to manage situations with unilateral decisions; unilateral language should not be included in international relations. In a globalized world what should prevail are multilateral rules, mutual agreements, dialogue, confidence; these are the best options,” the group holder said. In each of the statements, chancellors reaffirmed that Venezuela’s internal situation should be solved by democratic mechanisms according to the Venezuelan Constitution and supported the government of Nicolas Maduro. “Unasur member States declare their support to celebrate the next parliament elections, convinced of the importance of maintaining a constitutional order, as well as democracy and the validity of human rights,” the text shows. Unasur reiterated their call to the US government to evaluate and implement dialogue alternatives with the Venezuelan government under the principles of respect to sovereignty and people’s self-determination. Thus, requesting the revoke of the executive order. *Venezuela expects a positive reaction from the US* The Venezuelan foreign minister affirmed that her country expects a positive reaction from the US government and said that it should respect the decision of sovereign states. When asked about the government of Barack Obama’s request to free the supposed political prisoners, Rodriguez insisted that her country asks for respect in their internal affairs. According to the Venezuelan diplomacy leader, this meeting dealt with the possibility to call for a Unasur presidents’ summit to discuss about this topic. Ricardo Patiño, Ecuadorian Foreign minister said the US statement was rejected because it “violates Venezuela’s sovereignty and affects its internal decisions.” Unasur holder also announced an experts meeting to evaluate Venezuela’s needs in terms of provisions and to proceed to send them to the country.

648 readings

## [McCarthyite’ website targets pro-Palestine supporters](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 29 May 2015 11:43

Unidentified group profiling people linked to pro-Palestinian student groups on US campuses to sabotage job prospects. BY [Dalia Hatuqa](#)



People are being threatened for challenging the Israeli narrative in what has been described as a form of McCarthyism [Getty Images]

An unidentified group has launched a website profiling people mainly living in the US who are linked with pro-Palestinian student groups on American campuses, in a bid to sabotage their future job prospects, a move described by one prominent group as "McCarthyite".

Canary Mission, which went live in mid-May, started mainly identifying students and professors by publishing their names and photos, as well as sometimes their universities and majors - at times even linking to their social media profiles.

Fifty-five individuals have been identified, in addition to 12 organisations.

In a video posted on the website, the unknown group says it created the database because "college campuses are filled with anti-Semitic and anti-American radicals ... a few years later, these individuals are applying for jobs within your company".

Although the website goes to great lengths to identify pro-Palestinian activists, it does not reveal its own source of funding nor the group directly behind it.

No names of members, volunteers or donors are listed and only a generic email and an



electronic subscription box are available.

The site only says it is run by students and "concerned citizens" worried about the impact of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

### **BDS movement grows**

The BDS movement is a grassroots-based Palestinian campaign that encourages groups to boycott and divest from Israel so it is pressured to end its occupation of the Palestinian territories, and give equal treatment to its own Palestinian citizens.

The movement issued a statement saying the site was harassing students through repressive tactics.

"Such McCarthyite measures show ... that Israel and its apologists are worried about the impact of the Palestinian-led BDS movement on mainstream opinion," said Mahmoud Nawajaa, the general coordinator of the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC).

Launched almost a decade ago, the BDS movement has been successful in dissuading various artists, financial institutions and companies from dealing with Israel.

"This is also part of an ongoing effort to respond to the growth and success of the BDS movement," said Yousef Munayyer, executive director of the US Campaign to End the Occupation.

"We're seeing it in a number of areas - even through legislation on the state and federal level."

In recent weeks, [Illinois passed legislation](#) that prevents the state's pension fund from investing in companies that boycott Israel.

On a federal level, a "[Boycott Our Enemies, Not Israel Act](#)" was introduced in the House in March.

If passed, it would require government contractors to certify that they are not boycotting Israel.

Munayyer said BDS is a constitutionally protected, nonviolent activity.

"It's very difficult to prevent that. [Canary Mission] can do that by trying to threaten potential job opportunities," he said.

"It needs to be taken a bit more seriously when it crosses the libel and defamation line - legal action needs to be taken.

"But it will go down as another cowardly attempt to stymie a movement that is only growing."

## 'Demonised'

The website also includes videos and quotes by the people it targets, and includes a history of their association with BDS initiatives.

Some have called it "a new form of McCarthyism" that only serves to silence people working for a just cause.

"It's disturbing to see that those who choose to work for a social justice cause are basically being demonised, blacklisted and essentially threatened for espousing a particular belief," said Deanna Othman, a journalist and board member of American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) in Chicago.

US-based student groups, such as Students for Justice in Palestine, have been active in recent years in pushing for BDS measures on campuses.

Many students and professors have called for divestment from businesses that benefit from the Israeli military occupation, but the movement has especially been strong at University of California (UC) campuses, where formal votes took place to ask that endowment funds be removed from companies that deal with the Israeli army.

So far, seven UC student bodies have approved resolutions to support divestment.

Othman said many people, including academics, have been intimidated at their workplace, or fired from their jobs, for challenging the Israeli narrative on conflict-related issues.

"There have been multiple cases of academics who have lost their positions because of their very public stances on Palestine," she said.

"This has become a scare tactic and form of bullying but people are not going to keep quiet to appease such bullies."

Last Updated on Sunday, 31 May 2015 15:35

667 readings

## [Massive support granted to anti salmon farming expansion](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 29 May 2015 07:26



**Friday, May 29, 2015, 01:50 (GMT + 9)**

A [petition](#) against salmon farming industry expansion plans in British Columbia (BC) signed by over 100,000 supporters has been issued to be presented legislature.

According to the media release received by *FIS.com*, this call on the BC government to halt federal government and BC salmon farming industry plans to expand open-net salmon farming in BC waters has received the endorsement through a [letter](#) addressed to Premier Christy Clark of more than one hundred conservation organizations, industry associations, independent business owners and the Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce.

"Despite decades of controversy and recommendations to the contrary from the CAD 37-million Cohen Inquiry, the federal government wants to move ahead with industry expansion plans. However, the B.C. government has the power to curb that growth by withholding approvals for new farm sites and amendments to existing farm tenures that would see them grow in size," the release reads.

For her part, Pacific Coast Wild Salmon Society biologist Alexandra Morton considers the issue has gained renewed attention because of a recent federal court decision that raises concerns about disease impacts on wild fish from this industry and recent reports of outbreaks of sea lice on juvenile wild salmon now migrating past salmon farms on their way out to sea.

"Control of sea lice was the one issue I thought this industry could fix, but apparently not," pointed out the biologist.

"Furthermore, the recent federal court ruling on use of diseased salmon in salmon farms has raised significant questions that need to be answered before this industry can even think of growing," she added.

Meanwhile, [Living Oceans Society](#) executive director Karen Wristen explained that millions of wild juvenile salmon are now migrating through an area that contains the highest density of fish farms on the coast from Campbell River to Port Hardy.

"We are calling on Premier Clark to protect B.C.'s iconic wild salmon from federal recklessness and stop the planned expansion of this industry," claimed Wristen.

Certain NGOs believe that [Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#) (DFO) have been acting without the broad scientific and public consultation needed, permitting farms to triple their production.

Referring to the DFO, [David Suzuki Foundation](#) senior science and policy

advisor John Werring accused the entity of refusing to share information on the current status of sea lice on fish farms in affected areas in order to assess whether existing management strategies are working.

"Their failure to respond on an issue of such immense public importance is simply unacceptable," Werring complained.

Another of the petition supporters, Stan Proboszcz of [Watershed Watch Salmon Society](#) stressed: "Reams of published science already show that open net-pen salmon farming can depress wild salmon stocks, impede their growth and drive populations toward extinction."

"Premier Clark has the power to protect B.C.'s wild salmon from salmon farm expansion. More than 100,000 people are counting on her to do the right thing," he concluded.

#### **Related articles:**

- [Court ruling protects BC wild salmon](#)
- [Land-raised Atlantic salmon makes headway into the market](#)

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1254 readings

## [Delusional Thinking in Washington](#) [The Desperate Plight of a Declining](#) [Superpower](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 28 May 2015 08:57

By [Michael T. Klare](#)

[http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176003/tomgram%3A\\_michael\\_klare%2C\\_superpower\\_in\\_distress/#more](http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176003/tomgram%3A_michael_klare%2C_superpower_in_distress/#more)

Take a look around the world and it's hard not to conclude that the United States is a superpower in decline. Whether in Europe, Asia, or the Middle East, aspiring powers are flexing their muscles, ignoring Washington's dictates, or actively combating them. Russia [refuses](#) to curtail its support for armed separatists in Ukraine; China [refuses](#) to abandon its base-building endeavors in the South China Sea; Saudi Arabia [refuses](#) to endorse the U.S.-brokered nuclear deal with Iran; the Islamic State movement

(ISIS) [refuses](#) to capitulate in the face of U.S. airpower. What is a declining superpower supposed to do in the face of such defiance?

This is no small matter. For decades, being a superpower has been the defining characteristic of American identity. The embrace of global supremacy began after World War II when the United States assumed responsibility for resisting Soviet expansionism around the world; it persisted through the Cold War era and only grew after the implosion of the Soviet Union, when the U.S. assumed sole responsibility for combating a whole new array of international threats. As General Colin Powell [famously exclaimed](#) in the final days of the Soviet era, “We have to put a shingle outside our door saying, ‘Superpower Lives Here,’ no matter what the Soviets do, even if they evacuate from Eastern Europe.”

### **Imperial Overstretch Hits Washington**

Strategically, in the Cold War years, Washington’s power brokers assumed that there would always be two superpowers perpetually battling for world dominance. In the wake of the utterly unexpected Soviet collapse, American strategists began to envision a world of just one, of a “sole superpower” (aka [Rome on the Potomac](#)). In line with this new outlook, the administration of George H.W. Bush soon [adopted](#) a long-range plan intended to preserve that status indefinitely. Known as the Defense Planning Guidance for Fiscal Years 1994-99, it [declared](#): “Our first objective is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival, either on the territory of the former Soviet Union or elsewhere, that poses a threat on the order of that posed formerly by the Soviet Union.”

H.W.’s son, then the governor of Texas, articulated a similar vision of a globally encompassing *Pax Americana* when campaigning for president in 1999. If elected, he [told](#) military cadets at the Citadel in Charleston, his top goal would be “to take advantage of a tremendous opportunity -- given few nations in history -- to extend the current peace into the far realm of the future. A chance to project America’s peaceful influence not just across the world, but across the years.”

For Bush, of course, “extending the peace” would turn out to mean invading Iraq and igniting a devastating regional conflagration that only continues to grow and spread to this day. Even after it began, he did not doubt -- nor (despite the reputed wisdom offered by hindsight) [does he today](#) -- that this was the price that had to be paid for the U.S. to retain its vaunted status as the world’s sole superpower.

The problem, as many mainstream observers now acknowledge, is that such a strategy aimed at perpetuating U.S. global supremacy at all costs was always destined to result in what Yale historian Paul Kennedy, in his classic book [The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers](#), unforgettably termed “imperial overstretch.” As he presciently wrote in that 1987 study, it would arise from a situation in which “the sum total of the United States’ global interests and obligations is... far larger than the country’s power to defend all of them simultaneously.”

Indeed, Washington finds itself in exactly that dilemma today. What’s curious, however, is just how quickly such overstretch engulfed a country that, barely a decade ago, was being hailed as the planet’s first “[hyperpower](#),” a status even more exalted

than superpower. But that was before George W.'s miscalculation in Iraq and other missteps left the U.S. to face a war-ravaged Middle East with an exhausted military and a depleted treasury. At the same time, major and regional powers like China, India, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey have been building up their economic and military capabilities and, recognizing the weakness that accompanies imperial overstretch, are beginning to [challenge](#) U.S. dominance in many areas of the globe. The Obama administration has been trying, in one fashion or another, to respond in all of those areas -- among them Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and the South China Sea -- but without, it turns out, the capacity to prevail in any of them.

Nonetheless, despite a range of setbacks, no one in Washington's power elite -- Senators Rand Paul and Bernie Sanders being the exceptions that prove the rule -- seems to have the slightest urge to abandon the role of sole superpower or even to back off it in any significant way. President Obama, who is clearly [all too aware](#) of the country's strategic limitations, has been typical in his unwillingness to retreat from such a supremacist vision. "The United States is and remains the one indispensable nation," he [told](#) graduating cadets at West Point in May 2014. "That has been true for the century past and it will be true for the century to come."

How, then, to reconcile the reality of superpower overreach and decline with an unbending commitment to global supremacy?

The first of two approaches to this conundrum in Washington might be thought of as a high-wire circus act. It involves the constant juggling of America's capabilities and commitments, with its limited resources (largely of a military nature) being rushed relatively fruitlessly from one place to another in response to unfolding crises, even as attempts are made to avoid yet more and deeper entanglements. This, in practice, has been the strategy pursued by the current administration. Call it the [Obama Doctrine](#).

After concluding, for instance, that China had taken advantage of U.S. entanglement in Iraq and Afghanistan to advance its own strategic interests in Southeast Asia, Obama and his top advisers [decided](#) to downgrade the U.S. presence in the Middle East and free up resources for a more robust one in the western Pacific. Announcing this shift in 2011 -- it would first be called a "pivot to Asia" and then a "rebalancing" there -- the president made no secret of the juggling act involved.

"After a decade in which we fought two wars that cost us dearly, in blood and treasure, the United States is turning our attention to the vast potential of the Asia Pacific region," he [told](#) members of the Australian Parliament that November. "As we end today's wars, I have directed my national security team to make our presence and mission in the Asia Pacific a top priority. As a result, reductions in U.S. defense spending will not -- I repeat, will not -- come at the expense of the Asia Pacific."

Then, of course, the new Islamic State launched its offensive in Iraq in June 2014 and the American-trained army there collapsed with the loss of [four northern cities](#). Videoed beheadings of American hostages followed, along with a looming threat to the U.S.-backed regime in Baghdad. Once again, President Obama found himself pivoting -- this time [sending](#) thousands of U.S. military advisers back to that country, [putting](#) American air power into its skies, and laying the groundwork for

another major conflict there.

Meanwhile, Republican critics of the president, who [claim](#) he's doing too little in a losing effort in Iraq (and Syria), have also taken him to task for [not doing enough](#) to implement the pivot to Asia. In reality, as his juggling act that satisfies no one continues in Iraq and the Pacific, he's had a hard time finding the wherewithal to effectively confront Vladimir Putin in Ukraine, Bashar al-Assad in Syria, the Houthi rebels in Yemen, the various militias fighting for power in fragmenting Libya, and so on.

### **The Party of Utter Denialism**

Clearly, in the face of multiplying threats, juggling has not proven to be a viable strategy. Sooner or later, the "balls" will simply go flying and the whole system will threaten to fall apart. But however risky juggling may prove, it is not nearly as dangerous as the other strategic response to superpower decline in Washington: utter denial.

For those who adhere to this outlook, it's not America's global stature that's eroding, but its will -- that is, its willingness to talk and act tough. If Washington were simply to speak more loudly, so this argument goes, and brandish bigger sticks, all these challenges would simply melt away. Of course, such an approach can only work if you're prepared to back up your threats with actual force, or "[hard power](#)," as some like to call it.

Among the most vocal of those touting this line is [Senator John McCain](#), the chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee and a persistent critic of President Obama. "For five years, Americans have been told that 'the tide of war is receding,' that we can pull back from the world at little cost to our interests and values," he [typically wrote](#) in March 2014 in a *New York Times* op-ed. "This has fed a perception that the United States is weak, and to people like Mr. Putin, weakness is provocative." The only way to prevent aggressive behavior by Russia and other adversaries, he stated, is "to restore the credibility of the United States as a world leader." This means, among other things, arming the Ukrainians and anti-Assad Syrians, bolstering the NATO presence in Eastern Europe, [combating](#) "the larger strategic challenge that Iran poses," and playing a "[more robust](#)" role (think: more "boots" on more ground) in the war against ISIS.

Above all, of course, it means a willingness to employ military force. "When aggressive rulers or violent fanatics threaten our ideals, our interests, our allies, and us," he [declared](#) last November, "what ultimately makes the difference... is the capability, credibility, and global reach of American hard power."

A similar approach -- in some cases [even more bellicose](#) -- is being articulated by the bevy of Republican candidates now in the race for president, Rand Paul again excepted. At a recent "Freedom Summit" in the early primary state of South Carolina, the various contenders sought to out-hard-power each other. Florida Senator Marco Rubio was [loudly cheered](#) for promising to make the U.S. "the strongest military power in the world." Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker received a standing ovation for pledging to further escalate the war on international terrorists: "I want a leader

who is willing to take the fight to them before they take the fight to us.”

In this overheated environment, the 2016 presidential campaign is certain to be dominated by calls for increased military spending, a tougher stance toward Moscow and Beijing, and an expanded military presence in the Middle East. Whatever her personal views, Hillary Clinton, the presumed Democratic candidate, will be forced to demonstrate her backbone by embracing similar positions. In other words, whoever enters the Oval Office in January 2017 will be expected to wield a far bigger stick on a significantly less stable planet. As a result, despite the last decade and a half of [interventionary disasters](#), we’re likely to see an even more interventionist foreign policy with an even greater impulse to use military force.

However initially gratifying such a stance is likely to prove for John McCain and the growing body of war hawks in Congress, it will undoubtedly prove disastrous in practice. Anyone who believes that the clock can now be turned back to 2002, when U.S. strength was at its zenith and the Iraq invasion had not yet depleted American wealth and vigor, is undoubtedly suffering from delusional thinking. China is [far more powerful](#) than it was 13 years ago, Russia has [largely recovered](#) from its post-Cold War slump, Iran has [replaced](#) the U.S. as the dominant foreign actor in Iraq, and other powers have acquired significantly greater freedom of action in an unsettled world. Under these circumstances, aggressive muscle-flexing in Washington is likely to result only in calamity or humiliation.

### **Time to Stop Pretending**

Back, then, to our original question: What is a declining superpower supposed to do in the face of this predicament?

Anywhere but in Washington, the obvious answer would be for it to stop pretending to be what it’s not. The first step in any 12-step imperial-overstretch recovery program would involve accepting the fact that American power is limited and global rule an impossible fantasy. Accepted as well would have to be this obvious reality: like it or not, the U.S. shares the planet with a coterie of other major powers -- none as strong as we are, but none so weak as to be intimidated by the threat of U.S. military intervention. Having absorbed a more realistic assessment of American power, Washington would then have to focus on how exactly to cohabit with such powers -- Russia, China, and Iran among them -- and manage its differences with them without igniting yet more disastrous regional firestorms.

If strategic juggling and massive denial were not so embedded in the political life of this country’s “war capital,” this would not be an impossibly difficult strategy to pursue, as others have suggested. In 2010, for example, Christopher Layne of the George H.W. Bush School at Texas A&M [argued](#) in the *American Conservative* that the U.S. could no longer sustain its global superpower status and, “rather than having this adjustment forced upon it suddenly by a major crisis... should get ahead of the curve by shifting its position in a gradual, orderly fashion.” Layne and others have [spelled out](#) what this might entail: fewer military entanglements abroad, a diminishing urge to [garrison the planet](#), reduced military spending, greater reliance on allies, more funds to use at home in rebuilding the crumbling infrastructure of a



divided society, and a diminished military footprint in the Middle East.

But for any of this to happen, American policymakers would first have to abandon the pretense that the United States remains the sole global superpower -- and that may be too bitter a pill for the present American psyche (and for the political aspirations of certain Republican candidates) to swallow. From such denialism, it's already clear, will only come further ill-conceived military adventures abroad and, sooner or later, under far grimmer circumstances, an American reckoning with reality.

*Michael T. Klare, a [TomDispatch regular](#), is a professor of peace and world security studies at Hampshire College and the author, most recently, of [The Race for What's Left](#). A documentary movie version of his book Blood and Oil is available from the Media Education Foundation. Follow him on Twitter at [@mklare1](#).*

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Last Updated on Sunday, 31 May 2015 15:42

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## [Ottawa aims to keep lid on details of Saudi arms deal](#)



[Peace News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 28 May 2015 06:47



STEVEN CHASE

OTTAWA — The Globe and Mail

Published

Wednesday, May. 27 2015, 3:00 AM EDT

Last updated

Wednesday, May. 27 2015, 3:00 AM EDT

The Canadian government is refusing to make public the assessments it conducts to determine whether Ottawa's \$15-billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia is compatible with foreign policy or poses a risk to the civilian population in a country notorious for human-rights abuses.

The Department of Foreign Affairs argues it must keep deliberations secret regarding this deal – by far the largest export contract ever brokered by Ottawa – citing the need to protect the “commercial confidentiality” of General Dynamics Land Systems Canada, which makes the light armoured vehicles.

Ottawa maintains this despite the fact that Foreign Affairs, by its own stated rules, is required to screen requests to export military goods to countries “whose governments have a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens.” Among other things, it must obtain assurances “there is no reasonable risk that the goods might be used against the civilian population.”

The \$15-billion sale of fighting vehicles to Saudi Arabia, first announced in 2014, represents a big win for the Harper government's efforts to build up Canada's role as a global arms dealer by championing weapons exports. But Ottawa is not going to share its analysis of how this transaction will pass muster with the federal export controls regime.

“Permit applications from third parties are treated in confidence ... this includes analysis conducted during their review,” said Amy Mills, a spokeswoman for Foreign Affairs.

The government is determined to keep a lid on details of this deal, which is coming under increased scrutiny following much-publicized incidents of torture and mistreatment by Saudi authorities. These include the flogging sentence for blogger Raif Badawi, whose family obtained refuge in Canada.

Ottawa, which is the prime contractor in the deal, refuses to say what kind of fighting vehicles it's selling to the Saudis. Canada has underwritten previous arms sales to Riyadh but nothing close to the magnitude of the 2014 deal.

As an example of how light armoured vehicles (LAVs) might enable human-rights abuses, rights activists allege it was Canadian-made fighting vehicles that Saudi Arabia sent into Bahrain in 2011 to help quell a democratic uprising. Asked if it believes the Saudis used made-in-Canada LAVs when they went into Bahrain, the Canadian government doesn't deny this happened. It only says it doesn't believe the vehicles were used to beat back protests.

“Saudi Arabia's support to Bahrain during the violent upheavals in 2011 was under the auspices of the GCC Peninsula Shield” force, said Ms. Mills, referring to a regional military defence pact. “To the best of the government of Canada's knowledge, Saudi troops were stationed to protect key buildings and infrastructure and did not engage in suppression of peaceful protests.”

Foreign Affairs will not even confirm whether a human-rights assessment has yet been conducted for the big LAV deal, again saying it is worried this might affect General

Dynamic Land Systems Canada's commercial interests.

It's already championing subcontracts for the deal, though, which suggests Ottawa has found a way to justify the transaction. Earlier this year, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Lynne Yelich issued a press release congratulating a Saskatoon company for a \$11.7-million deal to supply General Dynamics with parts.

The Conservative government, trying to boost arms sales by Canadian companies overseas as defence budgets are trimmed in the United States and Europe, has nevertheless styled itself as a champion of human rights during its latest term in office. It created an Office of Religious Freedom with an ambassador-level appointment, Andrew Bennett.

This week, however, Foreign Affairs refused The Globe and Mail's request for an interview with Mr. Bennett on the arms sale to Saudi Arabia. "An interview cannot be arranged but please send your questions for Ambassador Bennett and we will have answers prepared," the department said.

Arms-control advocates accuse Ottawa of ducking accountability, saying there's no reason a human-rights assessment can't be released on its own, separate from commercially sensitive information.

"It sounds like an excuse to perpetuate a lack of transparency," said Cesar Jaramillo, with Project Ploughshares, a peace group in Waterloo, Ont., that monitors the arms trade.

He cannot imagine how Ottawa could justify the sale of fighting vehicles to Riyadh given export control rules. "Any reasonable observer would be hard-pressed to imagine how [Saudi Arabia] could get a clean bill from a human-rights perspective," he said. "They are a case study of the type of recipient that should not be eligible to receive military goods."

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[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 28 May 2015 06:31

Dr. Palitha Kohona is former Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the



United Nations.

**COLOMBO, May 26 2015 (IPS)** - As the U.N. enters its 70th year, it is legitimate to ask whether it has been a success so far. Over the years, the media, in particular the Western media, has tended to highlight the U.N.'s failures.

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**Amb. Palitha Kohona. Credit: U.N. Photo/Mark Garten**

The still unfinished business in the Korean Peninsula, the morass that was Congo, the impotency in Vietnam, it's ineffectiveness during much of the cold war, the paralysis in Rwanda, it's inability to bring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to an end, and many such unedifying instances have tended to garner the headlines.

But as Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold so succinctly proclaimed, the U.N. was not created to send humanity to heaven, simply to stop it from going to hell. Likewise, it has been said that if the U.N. did not exist we would have had to invent it.

Given the current global suspicions and rivalries, it is unlikely that we would succeed in creating a U.N. today from scratch. Despite all the criticisms for its failures, it has achieved much in its 70 years of existence. It could be described as the most successful and truly global political organisation ever created.

One of the key goals of the United Nations, created on the ashes of the devastating Second World War, was to prevent another world war. In this it has succeeded. The major powers have not battled each other militarily in the last 70 years. While innumerable regional, bilateral, and internal conflicts and proxy wars have caused millions of deaths and inestimable property damage, a global conflagration has been avoided.

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The end of the Cold War brought hope that the world body would be able to make useful progress on many

fronts. But the rekindling of confrontational attitudes again among the major powers has introduced a new era of uncertainty.

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The U.N. has been described as a private club. Its members decide what the club should do. Although the world at large may have other higher expectations, the U.N. is able to do only what its membership and the Charter would permit it to do. The most effective results are achieved where a consensus is obtained.

The way its constitution (the Charter) is formulated ensures that its powers are strictly constrained. (More about this later). At the same time the rights and privileges of those who won the Second World War are well and truly entrenched in a blatantly undemocratic manner, causing much disenchantment in a world where the political, economic and social power centres have shifted significantly.

Due to the manner it was designed, especially due to the power of veto conferred on the P5 in the Security Council, its freedom of action is limited to situations where the veto wielders agree. The Cold War paralyzed the U.N. substantially hobbling it during those dangerous years of East-West confrontation.

The end of the Cold War brought hope that the world body would be able to make useful progress on many fronts. But the rekindling of confrontational attitudes again among the major powers has introduced a new era of uncertainty.

Similarly, North South relations have always been clouded by suspicions traceable to the colonial experience. This constraint continues to influence attitudes and is not helped by an overbearing, "we know best" approach of the West. The Group of 77, originally intended to be the platform of developing countries on economic and social issues, is no longer 77. Taking in China (a P5 country), it has grown to 134. Not all of its members are poor developing countries.

Similarly, the Non Aligned Movement, originally intended to be the force not aligned to the East or the West, has tended to pull in different directions with no cohesive non aligned focus. Some have dropped out of this group. The growing tendency of the Security Council to adopt decisions binding on all member states on a range of issues that should properly be the responsibility of the General Assembly, has also come in for criticism.

The Security Council, dominated by the P5, has taken upon itself the task of legislating to the entire international community in certain situations, denying the vast majority of Member States any opportunity to influence such law making.

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On the positive side, the human, social and economic rights standards of the world have improved substantially due to the work of the United Nations. From the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the Organisation has progressively adopted a range of multilateral conventions setting standards on civil and political rights, social, economic and cultural rights, women's rights, children's rights, indigenous rights, disabled persons' rights, racial discrimination, etc.

With these globally agreed benchmarks in place, the world is certainly a better place today than it was in 1945. Admittedly, the conclusion of a multilateral treaty or becoming party to a treaty does not per se advance the condition of individual persons. But the very existence of these universally accepted standards, creates the incentive to strive for those higher goals. Some times with a little bit of added pressure.

The U.N. has been mainly responsible for the unprecedented development of the international rule of law. The secretary-general's office is the repository of over 550 multilateral treaties, the vast majority of them negotiated under the auspices of the U.N.. They cover almost every aspect of human interaction, including the environment, the oceans, aviation, trade, human rights, disarmament, terrorism, organised crime, the outer space, shipping, road rules, etc.

The complex network of rules encompassed in these treaties have established standards for the conduct of individual states as never before. The international rule of law thus established, seeps down to national level in many areas influencing the development of the rule of law within countries.

The U.N. and its agencies have been successful in mobilising the international community on various issues of common interest. As the scourge of terrorism surged across borders and became a threat to many countries, the U.N. was able to mobilize states and resources to address this threat.

Expertise was assembled, resources were mobilised, training was provided to countries that needed it, and awareness was raised to a high level. In the absence of the U.N. and its agencies, it is doubtful if these advances could have been achieved. Much more remains to be done.

Similarly, the global response to health threats such as the AIDS pandemic, the swine flu and avian flu threats that had the potential to cause havoc and the more recent Ebola epidemic were countered due to the existence of the U.N. and its agencies. The U.N. has developed an impressive ability to raise awareness rapidly and mobilise member states to respond quickly to threats

of this nature.

The manner that the world body has responded to natural and man made disasters has saved countless lives and alleviated much misery. The U.N.'s ongoing work in the areas of the environment, the oceans and sustainable development will bring further benefits to humankind.

The U.N. has been successful in restoring normalcy to a number of global situations that threatened to continue causing untold violence and misery. Cambodia has emerged as a stable and increasingly prosperous country after a decade of conflict largely as a consequence of the U.N. brokered peace and the subsequent peacekeeping operation.

Timor Leste, after a quarter century of conflict, has established itself as a peaceful member of the international community. The U.N. prodded and cajoled Mozambique and Angola to a new era of peace.

South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy and majority rule was painstakingly facilitated by the U.N. The role of the world organisation in guiding the Former Yugoslavia's successor states to peace, after the initial explosion of violence, was not insignificant. Even the complex legal question of succession was dealt with imaginatively by the world body.

This brings us on to a vital and expanded area of U.N. activity – peacekeeping. Since its first peacekeeping operations on the borders of Israel and between India and Pakistan, its peacekeeping role has expanded substantially, with peacekeepers being given multidimensional mandates.

Today the U.N. is actively engaged in peacekeeping operations in 16 countries. It has over 122,000 staff performing peacekeeping functions, including civilian, police and military personnel, contributed voluntarily by 122 Member States.

The cost of peace keeping exceeds 7.1 billion dollars, making it the costliest segment of U.N. operations. Now, U.N. peacekeepers may be permitted to play an offensive role to defend their mandates, including the protection of civilians.

While there are impressive success stories, peacekeeping related criticisms also abound. The U.N.'s peacekeeping efforts may meet with greater success if their mandates are formulated with better information originating at ground level and following more structured consultations, including with host governments, if the mandates are clearly defined and the peace keeping troops are better briefed, equipped and selected on the basis of experience and training, if operations are regularly reviewed and exit strategies are well defined. Unfortunately, there has been a tendency for some missions to be extended indefinitely.

As the world moves forward there is an increasing clamour to reform the United Nations to reflect contemporary political and economic circumstances. The most difficult challenge will be to reform the Security Council which substantially reflects the power structures of the post World War world. Two of the P5 are Europeans and members of the EU. It is quite likely that two

elected members would also be members of the EU.

At the moment, the WEOG group in the Security Council with New Zealand has six members out of 15. Africa has three of the elected members, Latin America and the Caribbean two and Asia two plus the Permanent seat (China).

This imbalance in the Security Council structure can not be sustained. While an entity that reflects the privileges of the victors of a war concluded 70 years ago may not be modified by another war. But dramatically altered global socio-economic realities might help to introduce change.

Making the international civil service of the U.N. truly effective has been another challenge. Constantly criticised by the major contributors, it has chugged along for 70 years. While intermittent efforts have been made under different SGs to make it more dynamic and responsive to contemporary needs, it is probably the time to approach this task in a comprehensive manner. The Organisation must be able to deliver on its mandates efficiently to the satisfaction of member states.

*By Kitty Stapp*

Last Updated on Thursday, 28 May 2015 06:39

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## [Who funded Harper's rise to power? And other questions about election financing](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 24 May 2015 20:00

BY

**LINDA MCQUAIG** RABBLE

| MAY 20, 2015

As the renowned Republican backroom operator Mark Hanna noted back in the late 19th century, "There are two things that matter in politics. One is money, and I can't remember the other."

Indeed, the fantastically wealthy Koch brothers proved in the recent U.S. congressional vote that organizing billionaires to buy elections is a lot



easier than herding cats.

The Kochs raised \$290 million from America's mega-rich to win control of Congress, and are now raising a further \$889 million in a bid to buy the Oval Office.

Here in Canada, we have tougher rules restricting the role of money in politics. But the Boy Scout aura surrounding our election financing laws appears to have lulled us into a bit of a coma.

With a federal election looming, two pressing questions involving the role of money in Canadian politics are attracting surprisingly little media attention.

The first: who owns Stephen Harper?

This isn't a philosophical enquiry. It's a straightforward question about the identity of the secret donors who paid the bill for Harper's rise to power, first as leader of the Canadian Alliance and then the Conservative party.

Donors contributed more than \$2 million to the prime minister's two leadership bids, but the identities of some of the major donors have never been publicly disclosed, according to Ottawa-based corporate responsibility advocacy group Democracy Watch.

The group notes that there was nothing illegal about the donations under the election laws of the time. But anyone who believes that those secret donors don't have a favoured place in Harper's heart (such as it is) probably also believes that Mike Duffy has always lived in a little cottage in P.E.I.

In the 2002 Canadian Alliance leadership race, Harper disclosed some of his donors but kept secret 10 of the major ones. A list of donors to Harper's Conservative party leadership race two years later was at one point posted on the party's website but has since been removed.

At the time of those races, it was legal for leadership contenders to receive unlimited donations from corporations, including foreign-owned businesses operating in Canada.

"Big business and [its] executives could have given Harper hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations," says Democracy Watch co-founder Duff Conacher, who is currently a visiting professor at the University of Ottawa's School of Political Studies.

Although there's no legal requirement for disclosure, Conacher argues that Harper should divulge the names of his donors for the same reasons of ethics and transparency that he so loudly trumpeted in his first election

campaign.

Shouldn't Canadians know, for instance, if Harper's early leadership bids were significantly bankrolled by, say, the Koch brothers, who are among the largest lease-holders of Alberta's tar sands and therefore have a huge financial stake in preventing Canada from limiting greenhouse gas emissions?

Have Harper's radical policy departures in areas like energy, the environment and the Middle East been unduly influenced by large donors? And if not, why the secrecy?

On another election financing front, there's been little outrage over the fact that the Harper government just eliminated a key law that was aimed at countering the power of Big Money in Canadian politics.

The law -- under which Ottawa paid political parties a small \$2 subsidy for every vote they received -- was widely recognized as by far the most democratic aspect of our election financing framework, since it ensured that every vote cast in a federal election had some impact. Even if someone voted for a party that didn't win, that voter managed to direct a small government subsidy to his or her chosen party. These subsidies added up to millions of dollars and were a key source of political funding, having the effect of giving equal weight to every vote no matter how rich or poor the person casting it.

So, naturally, Harper scrapped it. The next federal election (expected in the spring or fall) will be the first in which this quintessentially democratic aspect of our election financing laws no longer applies.

Of course, poorer folks still have the full legal right to take advantage of other government subsidies in our election financing system -- except that they lack the money necessary to do so.

Individuals making contributions to political parties receive generous government subsidies through the tax system. An individual donating \$400, for example, gets \$300 back in tax savings. But you have to have a spare \$400 in order to play this game.

That's why only 2 per cent of Canadians make political donations. Not surprisingly, most of these contributors are in the upper-income brackets.

So the bulk of the tax subsidies -- which totalled \$20 million in the 2009 election -- go to this wealthier group, which enables them to increase their influence over our elections.

In fact, all aspects of our election financing system involve government subsidies. But only one -- the now-removed pay-per-vote subsidy -- distributed the subsidy in a way that didn't favour the wealthy.

And Harper has also just increased the subsidy for wealthier Canadians by raising the limit on political donations from \$2,400 to \$3,000 a year (\$4,500 in an election year). The new rules also hike the amount

candidates can donate to their own campaigns from \$1,200 to \$5,000, and allow leadership candidates to donate \$25,000 to their own campaigns.

Of course, the wealthy are able to influence the political process in other ways, too, most notably by shaping the public debate through their ownership of the media and by threatening to withdraw their capital from the economy if laws they don't like are enacted.

In the recent U.S. congressional elections, the Koch brothers helped secure the victory of an unlikely band of far-right extremists who control both the House and Senate.

Among some 3 million political ads for both parties, there wasn't a single mention of the issue of income inequality -- either for it or against it, says Sam Pizzigati, editor of a newsletter on inequality at the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies.

The rich have effectively declared that subject -- and the implication that they should face higher taxes -- out of bounds. Given the extraordinary grip of the wealthy on so many aspects of society, why on earth wouldn't we want to hold onto a law that, at least in one small way, gave a homeless person the same political power as a billionaire?

*Linda McQuaig is an author and journalist. She is the NDP candidate for Toronto Centre in the 2015 federal election. This column was first published in **NOW Magazine**.*

Photo: [pmwebphotos/flickr](#)

Last Updated on Sunday, 24 May 2015 20:06

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## [On the gun registry, the Tories think they can break the laws of physics](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 24 May 2015 17:24

**BY ABATHA SOUTHEY**  
**Special** to The Globe and Mail  
Published

Sunday, May. 24 2015, 8:30 AM EDT

In a special report issued last week, federal Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault revealed that, in March, she recommended charges be laid against the RCMP for the withholding and destroying of long-gun registry data that was part of an active access-to-information request.

It seems, in a move that Ms. Legault warned sets a "perilous precedent," the Conservative government responded to her recommendation by rewriting the law so that the offence didn't exist at the time it may or may not have been committed.



**VIDEO**

[Video: Harper welcomes high court's decision on Quebec gun data](#)



**VIDEO**

[Video: Harper blasts 'bureaucratic' efforts to resurrect long gun registry](#)

The new legislation is backdated to when the Ending the Long-gun Registry Act was introduced in Parliament in October, 2011, long before it actually received royal assent. How's that for audacity?

This resulting amendment, which retroactively and sweepingly exempts the long-gun registry from any "request, complaint, investigation, application, judicial review, appeal or other proceeding under the Access to Information Act or the Privacy Act," is now nestled deep inside Bill C-59 – the Economic Action Plan 2015 Act.

It's quite securely nestled, I'd say, as omnibus Bill C-59 is 167 pages long, has the word

"action" in its title (who doesn't like action?) and will be reviewed by the finance committee during just four meetings, for which a total of eight hours has been allotted.

These massive omnibus bills are huge and fast, and now the Conservatives seem to believe that they can travel through time.

"Time travel?" I hear you cry. "But that's not possible!"

I don't think it is, either, but everything suggests that, rebuffed by the Supreme Court on many issues including mandatory minimum sentencing, assisted suicide, the appointment of Justice Marc Nadon, time-served sentencing and, most recently, whether Omar Khadr was a young offender just because he was a young offender, the Conservatives have grown frustrated in their attempts to flout the conventions of the law – and are now attempting to flout the laws of physics.

Welcome to the age of aspirational time-travelling Tories, an era in which Stephen Harper tries to convince us that he's the new Doctor complete with an omnibus TARDIS.

No wonder this government wants to muzzle all the scientists. Scientists are real downers about this break-in-the-space-time-continuum stuff.

I can report (because it seems anything goes in this country) that I have heard from scientists brought in to consult with the Conservative Committee of Temporal Reconfiguration that, for months, the party had interns in a room deep in the bowels of Parliament Hill holding pieces of legislation over their heads and running backward really fast for hours on end.

"It was doubly odd," said my scientist source, "because I mostly study fish populations."

"But I can't talk about my fish research with the media," he added nervously, "it's apparently more secret than the time-travel thing. The only scientist they really want to hear from is Dr. Doom."

Word is, this running-backward approach was deemed too sophisticated by Justice Minister Peter MacKay, who recommended that, instead, the committee draft absolution legislation and then backdate it by rubbing the document with a wet tea bag and singeing the edges with a match.

Prime Minister Harper does not like Mr. MacKay to have matches and was in favour of simply drawing up a Ye Olde Ignoreth the Canadian Constitution Action Act. "We could date the act to 1790 – which is the year Omar Khadr was born, just trust me on this," he is reported to have said. "Also, can we amend the Canada National Parks Act to make it so I played with the Beatles?"

The Conservatives have, of course, been experimenting with achronological marketing techniques for some time now – they lead the field in advertising job programs that don't yet exist.

They're always somewhere else in time; it's like legislative *Fantasy Island* over there. The Harper government is, of course, fixated on the long-gun registry – killing it and the long-form census were token gestures toward preserving the privacy of Canadians, something they have relentlessly attempted to infringe upon in other ways: The Conservatives only want to know if you have a gun or an extra powder room if you mention it in an e-mail.

However, should they be allowed to rewrite history rather than investigate complaints in regard to the long-gun registry, broad new horizons would certainly open up to them and

future Canadian governments.

What's a little "election fraud" when you can simply write up and predate the Money Spent Opposing People Who Stubbornly Refuse To See the Value of a Strong Stable Majority is Technically "Invested" and Not Spent And So It Totally Doesn't Count Act.

Such an act would certainly put a stop to pesky inquiries from any of the independent watchdogs who are entrusted to keep an eye on these things for Canadians – until our parliamentary mad scientists are ready to begin testing their Canadian Economic Action Death Ray.

Last Updated on Sunday, 24 May 2015 17:28

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## [A "Martyr," a Murder, and the Making of a New Afghanistan?](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 24 May 2015 16:52

By [Ann Jones](#)

I went to Kabul, Afghanistan, in March to see old friends. By chance, I arrived the day after a woman had been beaten to death and burned by a mob of young men. The world would soon come to know her name: Farkhunda. The name means "auspicious" or "jubilant." She was killed in the very heart of the Afghan capital, at a popular shrine, the burial place of an unnamed warrior martyred for Islam. Years ago, I worked only a few doors away. I knew the neighborhood well as a crossroads for travelers and traders, a market street beside the Kabul River, busy with peddlers, beggars, drug addicts, thieves, and pigeons. It was always a dodgy neighborhood. Now, it had become a crime scene.

In April, at the end of the traditional 40-day period of mourning for the dead woman, that crime scene became the stage for a [reenactment of the murder](#) by a group of citizens calling themselves the Committee for Justice for Farkhunda, which was pressing the government to arrest and punish the killers. Shortly after the performance, the office of the attorney general [announced formal charges](#) against 49 men: 30 suspected participants in the woman's murder and 19 police officers accused of failing to try to stop it. On May 2nd, a trial [began](#) at the Primary Court, carried live on Afghan television. Farkhunda is now dead and buried, but her story has had staying power. It seems to mark the rise of something not seen in Afghanistan for a very long time: the power of people to renounce violence and peacefully reclaim themselves. This makes it worth recalling just how events unfolded and what messages they might hold for Americans, in particular, who have been fighting so fruitlessly in Afghanistan for 13-plus years.

## **Punched, Kicked, Stomped, Stoned, Crushed, Dragged, and Burned**

On Thursday afternoon, March 19th, Farkhunda visited the Shah-e Du Shamshira shrine. There, about 30 other visitors watched as a few young men began the attack that would end her life. Some of the onlookers took up a cry that summoned yet more: *Allah-u Akbar* ("God is great"). When, less than an hour later, the woman's body was torched, police estimated that the crowd had reached 5,000 to 7,000 people. From the start, onlookers used their mobile phones to take photos or videos, many of which were later posted on Facebook and watched by tens of thousands more throughout the country and eventually the world.

Ashraf Ghani, who had been president of Afghanistan for only six months and had not yet formed a working government, was preparing to spend five days in the United States. During that time, the shocking murder would assume an alarming life of its own, for even in the capital the great mass of illiterate Afghans maintain a word-of-mouth culture in which rumor, gossip, and guesswork travel faster than the speed of social media, and mullahs more often than not have the last word. Before leaving Kabul, Ghani wisely named 10 distinguished Afghans, six men and four women, to [a commission](#) charged with uncovering the facts in the killing. Among them were Islamic and legal scholars, parliamentarians, and specialists in human rights.

He also released a [statement](#) about the case, pitched straight down the middle between the contending voices already speaking out. He assured one side in the developing argument over Farkhunda's death that dispensing justice is the duty of courts, not individuals, who would be "dealt with strongly" for taking the law into their own hands; while, with a nod to the other side, he also condemned "any action that causes disrespect to the Holy Quran and Islamic values." While the president then [cajoled](#) Americans in Washington and New York to support his new regime, the commission in Kabul worked as a single force to retrieve from the stream of accusation and conjecture the hard facts of the death of the woman known only as Farkhunda.

This is what they found: at age 27, she was a very religious woman who had not married but had graduated from high school and devoted herself to religious studies at a private Islamic madrassa, aspiring to become a teacher of Islamic law. She lived at home with her parents, the fourth of their 10 children. That Thursday, she went to the shrine wearing the black abaya of the devout believer, with a black half-veil covering the lower portion of her face. There, she said her prayers and spent some time cleaning the area of the shrine where people pray. After that, she exchanged words with a man who worked as a cleaner at the Shah-e Du Shamshira mosque across the street, while running a little sideline business at the shrine selling *tawiz*, bits of paper bearing handwritten Quranic verses, widely credited with magical properties.

The commissioners could not discover just what Farkhunda and the cleaner Zainuddin had said to each other, but that gap in the story has since been filled in by Farkhunda's family and friends. She evidently expressed to the cleaner her disapproval of his business of peddling un-Islamic amulets to poor, superstitious women. That story serves to explain -- and justify to some -- what the cleaner did

next. While the commissioners found no witnesses to their exchange, the cleaner himself told them that he had shouted out to the people gathered at the shrine: "This woman is an American and she has burned a Quran." Farkhunda turned to people in the courtyard and said in a strong voice heard by many witnesses, "I am not an American and I have not burned a Quran."

Though the accusations were false, they stirred a quick response. As angry young men approached the accused woman, a policeman intervened and with the help of another young man took her to a room within the shrine. That young man then planted himself in front of the door, saying to others, "Leave her alone. Don't do this." (He was roughly the same twenty-something age as those who would kill Farkhunda and seems to have been the only citizen to offer her help that day.)

The policeman wanted to take her to the police station for her safety. Farkhunda insisted on a female escort, but when a policewoman arrived and opened the door to the inner room where she waited, angry men rushed in and dragged her out. Some of them hit her, tearing off the veil that covered her hair and bloodying her face. She fell to the ground but managed to sit up, supporting herself with one arm and raising the other in defense. Photographs of that moment show the legs of a uniformed policeman beside her.

That policeman or others pulled Farkhunda up and dragged her onto a low roof over which she might have escaped the mob. Another policeman, gripping her leg, pushed her from below, but an attacker struck his wrist with a stick, causing him to let go. Farkhunda then slid from the roof and fell to the sidewalk below. One or more of the police fired shots into the air, but it was too late. Menace had turned to frenzy. Some 10 or 12 men beat, punched, kicked, stomped, and stoned Farkhunda to death. One raised a great stone block and threw it down on her head. Later, to excuse himself, he said, "She was already dead."

Then come significant gaps in the photographic record. Farkhunda lay in the middle of the street and a car ran over her. How she was moved from the sidewalk to the street is uncertain. Mysterious, too, is the appearance of the car that crushed her and then in some undetermined but deliberate way dragged her down the street. There, unknown people seized her and threw her over a low wall running beside the river onto the stones of the partially dry riverbed. A man poured gasoline on his scarf and on Farkhunda. He set the scarf alight and dropped it on her body. As the flames roared skyward others in the crowd threw their own scarves and jackets onto the pyre. In their eagerness to stoke the fire, they stifled it. All the while, armed policemen stood in the riverbed and watched Farkhunda burn.

At last, the riot police appeared and took charge. It had been hard to break through the thousands of onlookers crowding both sides of the river and two bridges to see the burning of the woman who was said to have burned a Holy Quran.

### **"Working for the Infidels"**

Within hours, everyone knew that the murder of Farkhunda was nothing like so many other commonplace acts of violence in Kabul. It was not an act of war, nor was it terrorism, nor political assassination. It was not a revenge killing, nor an



honor killing, nor a family murder. In broad daylight, at a popular shrine, a mob of ordinary young men had murdered a young woman unknown to them with their fists and feet and whatever weapons came to hand. While shocked Kabulis struggled to make sense of this, some public figures were quick to tell them what to think.

A number of government officials immediately turned to Facebook to endorse the murder, assuming that if the Quran-burning woman were not actually American, her ideas must have been so. The official spokesman for the Kabul police Hashmat Stanekzai, for instance, [wrote](#) that Farkhunda “thought, like several other unbelievers, that this kind of action and insult will get them U.S. or European citizenship. But before reaching their target, they lost their life.” The Deputy Minister for Culture and Information Simin Ghazal Hasanzada also [approved](#) the execution of a woman “working for the infidels.” Zalmay Zabuli, chief of the complaints commission of the upper house of parliament, posted a picture of Farkhunda with [this message](#): “This is the horrible and hated person who was punished by our Muslim compatriots for her action. Thus, they proved to her masters that Afghans want only Islam and cannot tolerate imperialism, apostasy, and spies.”

The day after the murder, a great many imams and mullahs also endorsed the killing during Friday prayer services in their mosques. One of them, the influential Maulavi Ayaz Niazi of the Wazir Akbar Khan mosque, [warned](#) the government that any attempt to arrest the men who had defended the Quran would lead to an uprising.

The next day, however, when Niazi showed up at Farkhunda’s burial, mourners asked him to leave. Within days, the police department [dismissed](#) its spokesman and, after the Deputy Minister of Culture and Information appeared on television to defend her views, she, too, was [sacked](#). This time, it seemed that the threat of an Islamist uprising in Kabul, a menace that had intimidated government officials for a decade, had hit a wall. This time, the uprising turned out to be on the other side.

## **Facts and Memory**

President Ghani had asked the commission he appointed to consider the murder of Farkhunda from three perspectives: Islamic Sharia law, Afghan law, and Afghan society. The commission itself included three eminent Sharia scholars who instructed their colleagues on the difference between Islam and its Afghan extremist distortions. Under Sharia, they said, a man who repudiates Islam by burning a Quran should be imprisoned for three days and offered a chance each day to repent. If he has not by then returned to the faith, he should be executed. A woman who commits the same crime should also be jailed and offered a similar chance to change her mind. If she refuses, she should not be put to death. Instead, she should be held in prison indefinitely. It followed that those who killed Farkhunda must be held accountable not only because she was innocent of the offense alleged against her, but also because to take her life in the belief that she had burned a Quran was itself a violation of Islamic law.

The question of Afghan law required less erudition. Murder is murder. The police had found no mitigating circumstances at all: no physical evidence of a Quran burning, no witnesses to such an event, no photos, nothing. Working from photographs and tips from citizens, the police quickly detained most of the principal

instigators and assailants, and more than a dozen negligent policemen who stood by and watched the murder unfold. Within 10 days they had arrested almost 50 people. But at least four of the killers were still at large. They were known to be members of a popular body-building club sponsored by a prominent and influential man. This being Afghanistan, such simple facts immediately raised the question of whether the offenders would ever be “found,” or if found charged, or if charged prosecuted, or if prosecuted convicted, or if convicted sent to prison, or if imprisoned actually kept behind bars for the duration of their sentences. The previous Afghan president Hamid Karzai had a habit of ignoring crimes against women and pardoning men inconveniently charged with committing them. Legal procedures under the new president had yet to be tested.



### Buy the book

To place this murder in the context of Afghan society was the hardest task the presidential commission faced. For even after 35 years of war and brutality, few could recall a public event that had elicited as much grief -- as much shame among men, as much anger and fear among women -- as this enthusiastic murder. The victim had been a devout Islamic woman, beyond reproach. Her killers were not bad men, neither criminals nor mercenaries nor drug addicts nor foreign thugs, but ordinary Afghan citizens, as were the thousands who stood by and looked on. Across the country, men and women watched the murder on Facebook and wept. Men and women alike said they could not sleep afterwards, that they had to struggle to hold themselves together, and repeatedly broke down in tears. Few, it seemed, could talk about anything else. In Kabul, young women students left the university to stay at home. Women of any age were scarce on the city's streets. People of all social ranks kept their children and their friends close. They asked themselves a hard question: Is this who we have become?

The Afghan historian and political commentator Helena Malikyar had the answer: yes. In an article for *Al Jazeera*, she [recalled](#) Afghanistan before the long wars: a poor, underdeveloped country to be sure, but characterized by dignity, a code of honor, and an “Islam, heavily influenced by Sufi culture, [that] was moderate and tolerant of the ‘other.’”

“Above all,” she wrote, “the pre-war Afghan leadership always maintained moral authority and used it to implement the rule of law and reforms.” Three decades of war had changed all that, codifying a culture of violence that was passed from one generation to the next. She summed up the disaster of twenty-first-century

Afghanistan this way: “Since the U.S.-led international intervention of 2001, strongmen have thrived tremendously, having become financially rich and politically powerful. Using force and brutality, therefore, pays off. Crime is rampant and goes mostly unpunished. Corruption among the police, prosecutors, and judges has emboldened criminals, and citizens have little faith in the rule of law. The lines between morality and immoral behavior, lawful and illegal acts, and righteous and sinful deeds have blurred to the point that most people are not even aware of their wrongdoings.”

It would be nice to believe that the historian exaggerated, but the clerics and the public officials who reflexively praised the murderous mob illustrated her point perfectly. So, too, did a confused and divided public. Was beating a woman to death in the street the right thing to do? Or not? A male parliamentarian from Herat made a predictable point, if further proof were needed. Farkhunda, he said, should never have gone to the shrine in the first place.

### **The Collective Crisis of Kabul**

Even before the murder, Kabulis were facing a collective identity crisis. It seemed as if they no longer recognized themselves. Over the previous decade, the city had almost tripled in size. It now teemed with displaced people driven into the capital by never-ending combat in the countryside, as well as refugees returning from Pakistan and Iran with new beliefs and behaviors. They brought music and violence from Pakistan, makeup and religiosity from Iran. Television boomed. Especially popular with the non-literate public, it drew viewers in to alluring imported lifestyles: the sexy song-and-dance sagas of Bollywood, the overheated family dramas of Turkish soaps, and the endless high-tech violence of American films.

The city itself had been brutally transformed by “developers” laundering excess cash skimmed from the country’s flourishing [narco trade](#) or copped from [foreign-aid projects](#) or [delivered by](#) the CIA for secret schemes. Until recent years, Kabul had been a collection of distinctive districts differentiated by style and function. In many neighborhoods, high walls had concealed traditional low-lying adobe houses and grass-carpeted gardens of flowering almond and apricot trees. Now, these remnants of that old city are dwarfed by immense, garish, colonnaded [Pakistani palaces](#) and unfinished Persian-Gulf-style [office towers](#) made of glass and wrapped in tattered green tarpaulins (their owners presumably having skipped to Dubai when the aid caravan left town as the international contingent of troops began to draw down). Afghans old enough to remember, like [novelist Rahnaward Zaryab](#), see this new foreign city half-built upon the rubble of the old and mourn the burial of Afghan culture itself.

Many foreign visitors and journalists new to Kabul mistake this development for “progress.” That’s how they commonly describe it in official reports and in the international media. Yet they have only to look around at this disorienting urban chaos to note, as Afghans do, that all those billions of dollars in corrupted foreign aid scarcely touched the city’s poor. Thousands of small boys and girls, who should be in school, still sell phone cards and other items in the streets; old men still push their heavily laden delivery carts amid the traffic, and shabby laborers still wait near the Haji Yacub Mosque for the offer of a day’s work. In the midst of ostentatious ill-

gotten affluence, the poor represent the country's deepest, saddest, most permanent reality. They are timeless reminders to a people who no longer seem to remember who they were or wished to become.

The murder of Farkhunda suddenly opened their eyes. Afghan and foreign commentators who sought to explain the public outcry that followed her death often claimed that a nation already traumatized and deeply depressed by never-ending wars had been retraumatized by the crime. But trauma commonly shuts down the sufferer, numbing the emotions and blunting the compassion that binds us to others. The murder of Farkhunda did just the opposite. People said it cut them like a knife. It made them feel again. Men described their hearts as "bleeding." Women spoke of being "emptied" of tears. They wept for Farkhunda -- and for themselves.

Well before the murder, young women complained that men constantly harassed them in workplaces and in the streets, that men regularly treated them with disdain and contempt. After the murder, some women confronted such men. Others insisted angrily that they were sick with fear. Some even said that the faces of their own fathers and brothers now seemed hateful to them. Men swore that they were overcome with shame, and that they now recognized in the sadistic public murder of Farkhunda the private violence so many Afghan women regularly experience in their homes.

### **A Casket Borne by Women**

On the third day after the murder, Farkhunda was buried in a Kabul cemetery. For the first time in memory, it was not men but women who lifted the casket to their shoulders and carried it to the grave. The [photographs](#) of that procession were reproduced everywhere. The sight was shocking and brave and new.

The following day opened with a hard rain falling through air so dusty the first drops came down as mud. A demonstration was to be held in front of the Supreme Court to demand justice for Farkhunda. I was apprehensive. Six years ago I had taken part in one of the first demonstrations ever held in Kabul on behalf of women. If memory serves, there were no more than 30 of us, protesting the adoption of the Shia Personal Status Law, known in the international press as the "Rape in Marriage Law" for legalizing that crime and many others against Shia women.

A handful of international volunteers and our Afghan colleagues (encased in burqas or wrapped in scarves to conceal their identities), we faced a mob of hundreds of men who shouted obscenities and hurled stones. A cordon of Afghan police encircled and protected us where we stood. I can't recall that we ever even marched anywhere and yet it was a victory of sorts, just to have survived without serious injury. Afghan women in greater numbers have held many other demonstrations since then, marching proudly, faces uncovered, carrying banners announcing their claims to personhood. Yet they marched alone and their lives remained much the same.

This [demonstration for Farkhunda](#) was something new. Thousands of men and women came together to march through unrelenting drizzle. They came individually and in groups, representing all sorts of organizations from Afghan civil society. I

walked with colleagues from an Afghan women's organization that aids survivors of violent abuse. Beside us were a group of university men, scholars of Islamic studies.

Our chants -- more sonorous in Farsi -- resonated: "Farkhunda is our sister," "Justice for Farkhunda," "Don't misuse Islam," "Islam is for humanity, not cruelty," "Stop violence against women," "Silence is a crime." A young man thrust a homemade sign into my hand, a cardboard placard on a stick that said, "Punish the Killers." I carried it until, soaked through (like the Afghans around me, desert dwellers unacquainted with raincoats), it fell apart.

In front of the long iron fence that shields the courthouse, a hundred or more men lined the way, shoulder to shoulder, hard-faced and silent. Most appeared to be ordinary workers, ragged and drenched, yet at attention, and draped in the green scarves of the martyred in homage to the murdered woman. At intervals along the line stood large portraits of Farkhunda, as tall as the men who supported them. In the picture she was wearing the black abaya, but with her face uncovered. She seemed to gaze at the passing thousands chanting her name. She was, that is, a presence at her own parade. We marched for hours past the court and back again, time after time.

Here at last was public evidence of a basic truth that men in suits in Washington, American men for whom "women's rights" is a cynical slogan, seem eternally unable to grasp: behind every Afghan woman asserting her right to study or work or pray where she pleases is a man or men who let her out of the house. Here on the march were like-minded, modern women and men fed up with the militarism and corruption that made war criminals wealthy, fundamentalist mullahs powerful, and ordinary young men dangerous -- young men without education, jobs, the money to acquire a wife, or anything much to do but sadistically slaughter an innocent woman in the name of their god to defend a book they cannot read.

### **Impunity, Change, and a Sister-Martyr**

Upon his return to Kabul, President Ghani condemned the murder of Farkhunda and summoned her family to the palace to [receive](#) his condolences. Afghanistan's Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah [called upon](#) the family in their home and denounced the "heinous crime." The commissioners, too, had visited the family in the course of their investigation and the women had taken Farkhunda's weeping mother in their arms.

This was no ordinary mourning, for the events of the previous 10 days had made plain the true struggle that lay at the heart of Afghan society -- a struggle that, in all these years, Washington had resolutely failed to understand. While the Americans, who had long ago lost sight of al-Qaeda, were still immersed in a civil war against the Islamist extremists of the Taliban (facilitated by Pakistan), they had also maintained in power for more than a decade [their old Islamist extremist pals](#) of the Mujahidin. Those were the warlords of the anti-Soviet struggle of the 1980s whom President Ronald Reagan had famously [hailed](#) as "freedom fighters." All these years, the United States had supported one side against another that was eerily similar in its self-interest, patriarchal privilege, and religious fundamentalism. They had backed

President Hamid Karzai against his “angry brothers,” as he [called them](#), in the Taliban.

Now, with the death of Farkhunda, Kabul’s civil society took to the streets to reveal what the real contest has been all along: a struggle between ultraconservative Islamist mullahs and warlords, clinging not just to faith but to power, and progressive Islamic men and women intent on moving Afghanistan into the modern world. Not the secular world of the West, but a new Afghan world that would reclaim the old prewar values of a peaceful, humane, more equitable and tolerant Islam.

The commission met at the palace to discuss a draft of their findings with President Ghani. While he was away, unimaginable things had occurred in Kabul. Civil society had taken a stand and large numbers of ordinary Kabulis, perhaps even a majority, had stood with it in repudiating the ultraconservative religious and political authorities who had celebrated the murder of Farkhunda. Yet Ghani reminded the commissioners of the risks involved in disturbing the fragile balance of Afghan society -- especially with no government yet in place and bombs exploding all around. What if the presidential commission’s report were to add further heat to the already simmering contest between civil society, with its interest in clean, transparent government, the rule of law, and human rights, and the deeply entrenched power of the ultra-conservative Islamist clerics? Would that provoke a violent confrontation? And in such a showdown, would the seemingly indestructible un-Islamic Islamists win?

Extreme fundamentalist mullahs have threatened the moderate Sufi inclinations of Afghans for a century. In 1929, King Amanullah banned ultraconservative clerics of the Indian Deobandi school from the country, denouncing them as “bad and evil persons” who spread foreign propaganda. But the modernizing king, an early proponent of women’s rights, was forced to abdicate and the ultraconservative mullahs came back. (Currently, the Taliban’s leader, Mullah Omar, though not fully qualified as a mullah, is Afghanistan’s most famous Deobandi.)

In 1959, when King Zahir Shah authorized the unveiling of women, his prime minister, Daoud Khan, took the precaution of throwing all the ultraconservative mullahs into prison, saying he would release them if they could find a passage in the Quran requiring women to be veiled. (They couldn’t.) Many years later, for unrelated reasons, Daoud overthrew the king, only to be overthrown and assassinated himself in a coup that brought communists to power. The result: little more than 20 years after King Zahir Shah came down on the side of modernity, the United States and Saudi Arabia were funding the return from exile in Pakistan of the seven ultraconservative Islamist parties of the mujahidin.

CIA Director William Casey, a conservative Catholic, believed that conservative Islamists would make ideal allies in Cold War combat against the “godless communists” of the Soviet Union. In that way, with the American urge to give the Russians their own “Vietnam,” the Cold War turned hot by proxy in Afghanistan. Thirty-five years later, many of those aging former proxies of the United States still wield power as [members](#) of the Afghan government, as [members of the Taliban](#), and even more forcefully as authorities of a deformed and punitive version of Islam that

has dominated the country's political and social life throughout the American occupation.

But to many Afghans, the national shock of the murder of Farkhunda felt like a turning point. [Frozan Marofi](#), a longtime fighter for women, wrote in the *Guardian* of her newfound hope for her country: "People all over Afghanistan, in Badakhshan, in Herat, in Bamiyan, all are saying the killing of Farkhunda was bad. Even the Taliban have come out to say it was not a good thing." Nader Naderi, formerly a distinguished member of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, agreed. "This is a turning point for civil liberties that is real," he [insisted](#). "It will be difficult to return to the former status quo when only self-proclaimed religious leaders held the high moral ground at the expense of justice and the constitution. If this struggle continues, the outcome will be what the country needs, to make rule of law clear and have religion understood in its place within the context of the law."

At the same time, a thousand Islamist clerics gathered at the site of Farkhunda's murder to [denounce civil society](#) and warn the Ghani government that, if it did not silence the advocates of women's human rights and the rule of law, the clerics would withdraw their support and "bad consequences" would follow. Just how bad might those bad consequences be? Islam, in Afghanistan, is represented by the Ulama, a number of elite scholars such as those President Ghani appointed to the fact-finding commission, and by a much larger group of clerics that includes many illiterate, self-appointed mullahs who may hold extreme and violent un-Islamic views yet identify themselves as Ulama. Such men dominated the meeting.

One mullah proclaimed to the gathering: "I tell Ashraf Ghani and civil society to be heedful... the gun is still in the hand of the mullah. It takes the Ulama only a *fatwa* to take down... this government." Another cleric called for the media to be punished for insulting the Ulama in reporting on Farkhunda's murder. If the insults continued, he warned, "women will be killed more heinously... and many people will be eliminated in a far worse way. Then, nobody will dare raise their voice... If you value your life, shut your mouths."

In the end, this meeting of the "Ulama" issued a statement that directly contradicted the view of the Islamic scholars on the presidential commission: the killing of Farkhunda was justifiable, the statement said, because the killers' "action was based on the *intention* of protecting the Quran and divine rights." The Ulama also commanded the government to adhere to the critical clause in the Constitution affirming that Sharia trumps all other laws. Chief executive officer Abdullah Abdullah hastened to meet with the threatening clerics. (The substance of their conversation was not revealed.)

The next day, when the commission submitted its [final report](#), it included a conciliatory demand: that both the Ulama and civil society activists "condemn concertedly and loudly those irresponsible statements under the name of civil society or spiritual society which are aimed at inciting people to turbulence and instability."

However, the media chose to headline the commission's most important conclusion: Farkhunda was innocent. It seemed a strange lede for a story of cold-blooded

murder, focused as it was on the character of the victim instead of the conduct of the killers. But this was Afghanistan, where “innocent” meant only that Farkhunda definitely had not burned a Quran. What the media did not report was the Sharia experts’ explication of the essential point: that even if a woman does burn a Quran, Islamic law forbids that she be killed. Someone had decided the public would do better without that information. One of the capital’s most popular television stations added its own piece of counter-factual misinformation to its nightly news, reporting a stunning fabrication: that two of the 10 fact-finding commissioners believed the murder of Farkhunda was fully justified.

A few days later, Amnesty International released a [major report](#) on the failure of the Afghan government -- the previous Karzai government -- to protect women and men in public life who were defenders of women’s human rights. During the past decade, such brave women -- provincial officials, television and radio announcers, policewomen, politicians, aid workers, and advocates for women -- had been assassinated, one after another, without either investigation or comment from the Karzai government. Women who survived sometimes lost husbands or children to the assassins. Many such women had been forced to flee the country, while others continued their work, moving from house to house just a step ahead of their stalkers. Most of the dead defenders of women had been murdered by the Taliban, but others had fallen to powerful warlords and ultraconservative vigilantes, both in and out of the government.

In the 50 cases Amnesty International investigated, women under threat of death had repeatedly asked for and been denied the protection the government routinely provided to men in public life. Amnesty International concluded: “This institutionalized indifference on the part of the authorities to the threats, harassment and attacks that women human rights defenders face is a result of weak state structures, particularly within the judiciary and law enforcement and security agencies. It is reinforced by an enduring culture of impunity...”

That “culture of impunity” didn’t materialize from thin air. Nor was it a necessary consequence of the “culture of violence” instilled by the long wars. Rather, it had been cultivated for a decade by a government that simply took no notice of the slaughter of women. Indifference amounted to policy and was implicitly affirmed by the United States in 2011 when Washington’s aid agency, USAID, dropped “gender issues” to the bottom of its list of priorities, while an anonymous State Department spokesman joked about jettisoning aid projects intended to support and defend women. “All those pet rocks in our rucksack,” he [said](#), “were taking us down.”

Within months, President Karzai had signed into law a medieval “[code of conduct](#)” for women, drafted by the Ulama Council, that in its key points directly contradicted the Afghan Constitution, Afghan criminal law, and CEDAW, the international Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, to which Afghanistan (though not the United States) is a signatory. From that moment on, the pace of the assassination of women in public life picked up rapidly, while the incidence of violence against ordinary women increased at an extraordinary rate. In 2014, it jumped by more than 24% percent over the previous year. A culture of impunity had become so ingrained in Afghan life during the last several years that it seemed as if anyone could assassinate a woman, claim credit in public for the hit,



and walk away free, a little taller than before.

Imagine, then, the dismay of Farkhunda's killers when they were arrested for the very sort of thing other men had routinely gotten away with for as long as they could remember. Soon after, the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs raised the dead woman's status to "[Sister-Martyr](#)," officially converting Farkhunda from a symbol of women's rights to a martyr for the cause of Islam. What could it possibly mean that the principal figure in this public battle had been flipped from the secular domain to the religious one? What would her status as a martyr imply for the legal defense of her killers who had set themselves up as defenders of the Holy Quran? Would they be hanged and then, on second thought, hailed as *ghazi*, warrior-martyrs for Islam?

On May 2nd, as the trial of the accused killers [began](#), questions and rumors multiplied, while the arena of contestation shifted from the streets and mosques to a televised court of law. That in itself was a milestone: seemingly a triumph of judicial transparency. Any Afghans with access to a television set could see for themselves the band of handcuffed men packed together in the dock and hear the names of the suspects still in hiding read out in court by order of the presiding judge. Anyone could listen to the questions put to the prisoners in turn and take in the extraordinary answers. The tall man admits he dropped the big rock on Farkhunda's head and says he is sorry. Others are less forthcoming and less repentant. Some say unconvincingly that they were never there at all.

Several years ago, a journalist colleague of mine witnessed in Kabul an impressively orderly criminal trial that proved to have been staged only for his benefit. But this televised trial seemed to be the real thing, hasty and disorderly: an intentional process in what you might call, if you were wondrously optimistic, the rule of law. But the trial was most notable for its speed. Like the crime itself, the trial was a rush to judgment aimed at ending things. The court heard testimony on the first day from 10 men charged with murder, and after only one more day of proceedings judge Safiullah Mojadedi was able to [pronounce sentence](#) on all 30 men charged with taking part in the crime. He sentenced four of the men to hang, including the *tawiz* peddler who had accused Farkhunda and an official in the Afghan intelligence service who had boasted on Facebook of taking part in the killing. He sentenced eight other defendants to 16 years in prison, though everyone knows that long sentences are usually dramatically reduced on appeal and shorter terms can be bought. He acquitted 18 defendants variously charged with assault, murder, and inciting violence. He separated and postponed the cases of the 19 police officers charged with neglect of duty. At least four of the principal killers, photographed in the act of murder, remain at large.

Predictably, the judgment satisfied no one. Too light for some, too heavy for others, and too fast to be fair. But it coincided perfectly with a prediction heard often in Kabul well before the trial began: they'll hang a few and let most of them go. This was not the first time a controversial case was settled not on the evidence, but on the relative power of the contenders, giving something to both sides and justice to neither. You want rule of law? You've got it.

Well, maybe not quite. And that certainly won't be the end of the story. When Afghans bury their dead, they put a stone on the grave so that an occupant who tries

to rise will bump into it and be reminded to keep still. But that Farkhunda, the Sister-Martyr, she will not stay put.

*Ann Jones has worked with women's organizations in Afghanistan periodically since 2002. She is the author of [Kabul in Winter: Life Without Peace in Afghanistan](#) and most recently [They Were Soldiers: How the Wounded Return from America's Wars -- the Untold Story](#), a Dispatch Books original. She lives in Oslo, Norway.*

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Last Updated on Sunday, 24 May 2015 21:54

670 readings

## [Alaskan Concerns Escalate As British Columbia Government Gives Red Chris Mine Final Operating Permit](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 17 June 2015 22:38

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By [Heather Hardcastle](#) Jun 17, 2015. JUNEAU, ALASKA



Last week's ill-conceived decision by the British Columbia government to issue a final operating permit for Red Chris mine disregards concerns from Alaskans whose clean water, fisheries, tourism, jobs, and traditional ways of life are threatened. Red Chris is owned by Imperial Metals, the same company responsible for the Mount Polley mine disaster last summer, one of Canada's worst environmental catastrophes. Red Chris is one of several

B.C. mines proposed for the transboundary region straddling Alaska that have raised the public's ire.

B.C. issuing Red Chris its final permits on June 12 is the latest sign **Canada is ignoring its obligations under the Boundary Waters Treaty, an international treaty that guards against water pollution by either the U.S. or Canada.** Under the treaty, the United States, including Alaska, should play an equal role in evaluating the full range of potential impacts of B.C. mine projects, like Red Chris, in watersheds shared by both countries. B.C. should also agree to assume an equal share of the risks posed by transboundary mines through a legally-binding mechanism that ensures Alaska is appropriately compensated for impacts related to pollution reaching Alaskan waters.

Downstream from the Southeast Alaska communities of Wrangell and nearby Petersburg, in the headwaters of the transboundary Stikine River, Red Chris has the potential to unleash acid mine drainage, heavy metals and other pollutants that will drain into Southeast Alaska's pristine waters. These waters produce more salmon than any other region of the world, as well as support multi-billion dollar fishing and tourism industries, and indigenous cultures of the region.

According to Salmon Beyond Borders and the United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group, it is reckless for B.C. to permit a new mine with the same type of tailings technology that failed so catastrophically at Mount Polley in August 2014. Red Chris' permits make clear that B.C. is disregarding the recommendations from the independent panel review of the Mount Polley failure. One of the panel's top recommendations was that new mines stop using tailings dams and move to more modern waste treatment methods like dry-stacking. Canada's full-speed-ahead approach to transboundary mining is why Alaskans need prompt, swift and strong action from the U.S. State Department to ensure Canada honors its obligations under the Boundary Waters Treaty and doesn't harm Alaska's

water, fisheries, culture and jobs.

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“It’s astonishing to me how B.C. is dead set on getting these transboundary mines operating at all costs—even when their own experts say that current mining technology will fail. As I’ve said before, the B.C. government is ignoring the rights and concerns of those of us who live in Southeast Alaska. This is not okay and we will continue to fight,” says Rob Sanderson Jr., Co-chair of the United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group.

Alaskans, including Alaska’s congressional delegation, have been calling for U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to activate the International Joint Commission (IJC) to review the multitude of mine developments in the transboundary region and how they could impact Alaska’s downstream waters. Today’s news that Red Chris is open for business should be a loud wake-up call for Sec. Kerry that the time to get the IJC involved is now.

Last Updated on Wednesday, 17 June 2015 22:45

1225 readings

## [ENCYCLICAL LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 18 June 2015 08:39



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[Francis Encyclicals](#)

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ENCYCLICAL LETTER  
**LAUDATO SI'**  
OF THE HOLY FATHER

## FRANCIS ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

1. “*LAUDATO SI, mi’ Signore*” – “*Praise be to you, my Lord*”. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs”.[\[1\]](#)

2. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (*Rom 8:22*). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. *Gen2:7*); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

*Nothing in this world is indifferent to us*

3. More than fifty years ago, with the world teetering on the brink of nuclear crisis, [Pope Saint John XXIII](#) wrote an [Encyclical](#) which not only rejected war but offered a proposal for peace. He addressed his message [Pacem in Terris](#) to the entire “Catholic world” and indeed “to all men and women of good will”. Now, faced as we are with global environmental deterioration, I wish to address every person living on this planet. In my Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#), I wrote to all the members of the Church with the aim of encouraging ongoing missionary renewal. In this Encyclical, I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home.

4. In 1971, eight years after [Pacem in Terris](#), [Blessed Pope Paul VI](#) referred to the ecological concern as “a tragic consequence” of unchecked human activity: “Due to an ill-considered exploitation of nature, humanity runs the risk of destroying it and becoming in turn a victim of this degradation”.[\[2\]](#) He spoke in similar terms to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations about the potential for an “ecological catastrophe under the effective explosion of industrial civilization”, and stressed “the urgent need for a radical change in the conduct of

humanity”, inasmuch as “the most extraordinary scientific advances, the most amazing technical abilities, the most astonishing economic growth, unless they are accompanied by authentic social and moral progress, will definitively turn against man”.[\[3\]](#)

5. [Saint John Paul II](#) became increasingly concerned about this issue. In [his first Encyclical](#) he warned that human beings frequently seem “to see no other meaning in their natural environment than what serves for immediate use and consumption”.[\[4\]](#) Subsequently, he would call for a global ecological *conversion*.[\[5\]](#) At the same time, he noted that little effort had been made to “safeguard the moral conditions for an authentic *human ecology*”.[\[6\]](#) The destruction of the human environment is extremely serious, not only because God has entrusted the world to us men and women, but because human life is itself a gift which must be defended from various forms of debasement. Every effort to protect and improve our world entails profound changes in “lifestyles, models of production and consumption, and the established structures of power which today govern societies”.[\[7\]](#) Authentic human development has a moral character. It presumes full respect for the human person, but it must also be concerned for the world around us and “take into account the nature of each being and of its mutual connection in an ordered system”.[\[8\]](#) Accordingly, our human ability to transform reality must proceed in line with God’s original gift of all that is.[\[9\]](#)

6. My predecessor [Benedict XVI](#) likewise proposed “eliminating the structural causes of the dysfunctions of the world economy and correcting models of growth which have proved incapable of ensuring respect for the environment”.[\[10\]](#) He observed that the world cannot be analyzed by isolating only one of its aspects, since “the book of nature is one and indivisible”, and includes the environment, life, sexuality, the family, social relations, and so forth. It follows that “the deterioration of nature is closely connected to the culture which shapes human coexistence”.[\[11\]](#) Pope Benedict asked us to recognize that the natural environment has been gravely damaged by our irresponsible behaviour. The social environment has also suffered damage. Both are ultimately due to the same evil: the notion that there are no indisputable truths to guide our lives, and hence human freedom is limitless. We have forgotten that “man is not only a freedom which he creates for himself. Man does not create himself. He is spirit and will, but also nature”.[\[12\]](#) With paternal concern, Benedict urged us to realize that creation is harmed “where we ourselves have the final word, where everything is simply our property and we use it for ourselves alone. The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognize any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves”.[\[13\]](#)

*United by the same concern*

7. These statements of the Popes echo the reflections of numerous scientists, philosophers, theologians and civic groups, all of which have enriched the Church's thinking on these questions. Outside the Catholic Church, other Churches and Christian communities – and other religions as well – have expressed deep concern and offered valuable reflections on issues which all of us find disturbing. To give just one striking example, I would mention the statements made by the beloved Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, with whom we share the hope of full ecclesial communion.

8. Patriarch Bartholomew has spoken in particular of the need for each of us to repent of the ways we have harmed the planet, for “inasmuch as we all generate small ecological damage”, we are called to acknowledge “our contribution, smaller or greater, to the disfigurement and destruction of creation”.<sup>[14]</sup> He has repeatedly stated this firmly and persuasively, challenging us to acknowledge our sins against creation: “For human beings... to destroy the biological diversity of God's creation; for human beings to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the earth of its natural forests or destroying its wetlands; for human beings to contaminate the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life – these are sins”.<sup>[15]</sup> For “to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God”.<sup>[16]</sup>

9. At the same time, Bartholomew has drawn attention to the ethical and spiritual roots of environmental problems, which require that we look for solutions not only in technology but in a change of humanity; otherwise we would be dealing merely with symptoms. He asks us to replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with a spirit of sharing, an asceticism which “entails learning to give, and not simply to give up. It is a way of loving, of moving gradually away from what I want to what God's world needs. It is liberation from fear, greed and compulsion”.<sup>[17]</sup> As Christians, we are also called “to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbours on a global scale. It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God's creation, in the last speck of dust of our planet”.<sup>[18]</sup>

*Saint Francis of Assisi*

10. I do not want to write this Encyclical without turning to that attractive and compelling figure, whose name I took as my guide and inspiration when I was elected Bishop of Rome. I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and

authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.

11. Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and take us to the heart of what it is to be human. Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them "to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason".<sup>[19]</sup> His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists. His disciple Saint Bonaventure tells us that, "from a reflection on the primary source of all things, filled with even more abundant piety, he would call creatures, no matter how small, by the name of 'brother' or 'sister'".<sup>[20]</sup> Such a conviction cannot be written off as naive romanticism, for it affects the choices which determine our behaviour. If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled.

12. What is more, Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. "Through the greatness and the beauty of creatures one comes to know by analogy their maker" (*Wis* 13:5); indeed, "his eternal power and divinity have been made known through his works since the creation of the world" (*Rom* 1:20). For this reason, Francis asked that part of the friary garden always be left untouched, so that wild flowers and herbs could grow there, and those who saw them could raise their minds to God, the Creator of such beauty.<sup>[21]</sup> Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.

*My appeal*



13. The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Here I want to recognize, encourage and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home which we share. Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world's poorest. Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.

14. I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. The worldwide ecological movement has already made considerable progress and led to the establishment of numerous organizations committed to raising awareness of these challenges. Regrettably, many efforts to seek concrete solutions to the environmental crisis have proved ineffective, not only because of powerful opposition but also because of a more general lack of interest. Obstructionist attitudes, even on the part of believers, can range from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technical solutions. We require a new and universal solidarity. As the bishops of Southern Africa have stated: "Everyone's talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God's creation". [\[22\]](#) All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.

15. It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter, which is now added to the body of the Church's social teaching, can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face. I will begin by briefly reviewing several aspects of the present ecological crisis, with the aim of drawing on the results of the best scientific research available today, letting them touch us deeply and provide a concrete foundation for the ethical and spiritual itinerary that follows. I will then consider some principles drawn from the Judaeo-Christian tradition which can render our commitment to the environment more coherent. I will then attempt to get to the roots of the present situation, so as to consider not only its symptoms but also its deepest causes. This will help to provide an approach to ecology which respects our unique place as human beings in this world and our relationship to our surroundings. In light of this reflection, I will advance some broader proposals for dialogue and action which would involve each of us as individuals, and also affect international policy. Finally, convinced as I am that change is impossible without motivation and a process of education, I will offer some inspired guidelines for

human development to be found in the treasure of Christian spiritual experience.

16. Although each chapter will have its own subject and specific approach, it will also take up and re-examine important questions previously dealt with. This is particularly the case with a number of themes which will reappear as the Encyclical unfolds. As examples, I will point to the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology, the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress, the value proper to each creature, the human meaning of ecology, the need for forthright and honest debate, the serious responsibility of international and local policy, the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle. These questions will not be dealt with once and for all, but reframed and enriched again and again.

## CHAPTER ONE

### WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR COMMON HOME

17. Theological and philosophical reflections on the situation of humanity and the world can sound tiresome and abstract, unless they are grounded in a fresh analysis of our present situation, which is in many ways unprecedented in the history of humanity. So, before considering how faith brings new incentives and requirements with regard to the world of which we are a part, I will briefly turn to what is happening to our common home.

18. The continued acceleration of changes affecting humanity and the planet is coupled today with a more intensified pace of life and work which might be called “rapidification”. Although change is part of the working of complex systems, the speed with which human activity has developed contrasts with the naturally slow pace of biological evolution. Moreover, the goals of this rapid and constant change are not necessarily geared to the common good or to integral and sustainable human development. Change is something desirable, yet it becomes a source of anxiety when it causes harm to the world and to the quality of life of much of humanity.

19. Following a period of irrational confidence in progress and human abilities, some sectors of society are now adopting a more critical approach. We see

increasing sensitivity to the environment and the need to protect nature, along with a growing concern, both genuine and distressing, for what is happening to our planet. Let us review, however cursorily, those questions which are troubling us today and which we can no longer sweep under the carpet. Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.

## **I. POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

### *Pollution, waste and the throwaway culture*

20. Some forms of pollution are part of people's daily experience. Exposure to atmospheric pollutants produces a broad spectrum of health hazards, especially for the poor, and causes millions of premature deaths. People take sick, for example, from breathing high levels of smoke from fuels used in cooking or heating. There is also pollution that affects everyone, caused by transport, industrial fumes, substances which contribute to the acidification of soil and water, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and agrottoxins in general. Technology, which, linked to business interests, is presented as the only way of solving these problems, in fact proves incapable of seeing the mysterious network of relations between things and so sometimes solves one problem only to create others.

21. Account must also be taken of the pollution produced by residue, including dangerous waste present in different areas. Each year hundreds of millions of tons of waste are generated, much of it non-biodegradable, highly toxic and radioactive, from homes and businesses, from construction and demolition sites, from clinical, electronic and industrial sources. The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish. Industrial waste and chemical products utilized in cities and agricultural areas can lead to bioaccumulation in the organisms of the local population, even when levels of toxins in those places are low. Frequently no measures are taken until after people's health has been irreversibly affected.

22. These problems are closely linked to a throwaway culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish. To cite one example, most of the paper we produce is thrown away and not recycled. It is hard for us to accept that the way natural ecosystems work is exemplary: plants synthesize nutrients which feed herbivores; these in turn become food for carnivores, which produce significant quantities of organic waste which give rise to new generations of plants. But our industrial system, at the end of its cycle of production and consumption,

has not developed the capacity to absorb and reuse waste and by-products. We have not yet managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations, while limiting as much as possible the use of non-renewable resources, moderating their consumption, maximizing their efficient use, reusing and recycling them. A serious consideration of this issue would be one way of counteracting the throwaway culture which affects the entire planet, but it must be said that only limited progress has been made in this regard.

### *Climate as a common good*

23. The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase of extreme weather events, even if a scientifically determinable cause cannot be assigned to each particular phenomenon. Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. It is true that there are other factors (such as volcanic activity, variations in the earth's orbit and axis, the solar cycle), yet a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides and others) released mainly as a result of human activity. Concentrated in the atmosphere, these gases do not allow the warmth of the sun's rays reflected by the earth to be dispersed in space. The problem is aggravated by a model of development based on the intensive use of fossil fuels, which is at the heart of the worldwide energy system. Another determining factor has been an increase in changed uses of the soil, principally deforestation for agricultural purposes.

24. Warming has effects on the carbon cycle. It creates a vicious circle which aggravates the situation even more, affecting the availability of essential resources like drinking water, energy and agricultural production in warmer regions, and leading to the extinction of part of the planet's biodiversity. The melting in the polar ice caps and in high altitude plains can lead to the dangerous release of methane gas, while the decomposition of frozen organic material can further increase the emission of carbon dioxide. Things are made worse by the loss of tropical forests which would otherwise help to mitigate climate change. Carbon dioxide pollution increases the acidification of the oceans and compromises the marine food chain. If present trends continue, this century may well witness extraordinary climate change and an unprecedented destruction of ecosystems, with serious consequences for all of us. A rise in the sea level, for example, can create extremely serious situations, if we consider that a quarter of the world's

population lives on the coast or nearby, and that the majority of our megacities are situated in coastal areas.

25. Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades. Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystemic services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry. They have no other financial activities or resources which can enable them to adapt to climate change or to face natural disasters, and their access to social services and protection is very limited. For example, changes in climate, to which animals and plants cannot adapt, lead them to migrate; this in turn affects the livelihood of the poor, who are then forced to leave their homes, with great uncertainty for their future and that of their children. There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever. Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering, which is even now taking place throughout our world. Our lack of response to these tragedies involving our brothers and sisters points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow men and women upon which all civil society is founded.

26. Many of those who possess more resources and economic or political power seem mostly to be concerned with masking the problems or concealing their symptoms, simply making efforts to reduce some of the negative impacts of climate change. However, many of these symptoms indicate that such effects will continue to worsen if we continue with current models of production and consumption. There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced, for example, substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy. Worldwide there is minimal access to clean and renewable energy. There is still a need to develop adequate storage technologies. Some countries have made considerable progress, although it is far from constituting a significant proportion. Investments have also been made in means of production and transportation which consume less energy and require fewer raw materials, as well as in methods of construction and renovating buildings which improve their energy efficiency. But these good practices are still far from widespread.

## II. THE ISSUE OF WATER

27. Other indicators of the present situation have to do with the depletion of natural resources. We all know that it is not possible to sustain the present level of consumption in developed countries and wealthier sectors of society, where the habit of wasting and discarding has reached unprecedented levels. The exploitation of the planet has already exceeded acceptable limits and we still have not solved the problem of poverty.

28. Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences in the short and long term. Large cities dependent on significant supplies of water have experienced periods of shortage, and at critical moments these have not always been administered with sufficient oversight and impartiality. Water poverty especially affects Africa where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts which impede agricultural production. Some countries have areas rich in water while others endure drastic scarcity.

29. One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances. Dysentery and cholera, linked to inadequate hygiene and water supplies, are a significant cause of suffering and of infant mortality. Underground water sources in many places are threatened by the pollution produced in certain mining, farming and industrial activities, especially in countries lacking adequate regulation or controls. It is not only a question of industrial waste. Detergents and chemical products, commonly used in many places of the world, continue to pour into our rivers, lakes and seas.

30. Even as the quality of available water is constantly diminishing, in some places there is a growing tendency, despite its scarcity, to privatize this resource, turning it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market. Yet *access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights*. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because *they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity*. This debt can be paid partly by an increase in funding to provide clean water and sanitary services among the poor. But water continues to be wasted, not only in the developed world but also in developing countries which possess it in abundance.

This shows that the problem of water is partly an educational and cultural issue, since there is little awareness of the seriousness of such behaviour within a context of great inequality.

31. Greater scarcity of water will lead to an increase in the cost of food and the various products which depend on its use. Some studies warn that an acute water shortage may occur within a few decades unless urgent action is taken. The environmental repercussions could affect billions of people; it is also conceivable that the control of water by large multinational businesses may become a major source of conflict in this century. [\[23\]](#)

### **III. LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY**

32. The earth's resources are also being plundered because of short-sighted approaches to the economy, commerce and production. The loss of forests and woodlands entails the loss of species which may constitute extremely important resources in the future, not only for food but also for curing disease and other uses. Different species contain genes which could be key resources in years ahead for meeting human needs and regulating environmental problems.

33. It is not enough, however, to think of different species merely as potential "resources" to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they have value in themselves. Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost for ever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.

34. It may well disturb us to learn of the extinction of mammals or birds, since they are more visible. But the good functioning of ecosystems also requires fungi, algae, worms, insects, reptiles and an innumerable variety of microorganisms. Some less numerous species, although generally unseen, nonetheless play a critical role in maintaining the equilibrium of a particular place. Human beings must intervene when a geosystem reaches a critical state. But nowadays, such intervention in nature has become more and more frequent. As a consequence, serious problems arise, leading to further interventions; human activity becomes ubiquitous, with all the risks which this entails. Often a vicious circle results, as human intervention to resolve a problem further aggravates the situation. For example, many birds and insects which disappear due to synthetic agrotoxins are

helpful for agriculture: their disappearance will have to be compensated for by yet other techniques which may well prove harmful. We must be grateful for the praiseworthy efforts being made by scientists and engineers dedicated to finding solutions to man-made problems. But a sober look at our world shows that the degree of human intervention, often in the service of business interests and consumerism, is actually making our earth less rich and beautiful, ever more limited and grey, even as technological advances and consumer goods continue to abound limitlessly. We seem to think that we can substitute an irreplaceable and irretrievable beauty with something which we have created ourselves.

35. In assessing the environmental impact of any project, concern is usually shown for its effects on soil, water and air, yet few careful studies are made of its impact on biodiversity, as if the loss of species or animals and plant groups were of little importance. Highways, new plantations, the fencing-off of certain areas, the damming of water sources, and similar developments, crowd out natural habitats and, at times, break them up in such a way that animal populations can no longer migrate or roam freely. As a result, some species face extinction. Alternatives exist which at least lessen the impact of these projects, like the creation of biological corridors, but few countries demonstrate such concern and foresight. Frequently, when certain species are exploited commercially, little attention is paid to studying their reproductive patterns in order to prevent their depletion and the consequent imbalance of the ecosystem.

36. Caring for ecosystems demands far-sightedness, since no one looking for quick and easy profit is truly interested in their preservation. But the cost of the damage caused by such selfish lack of concern is much greater than the economic benefits to be obtained. Where certain species are destroyed or seriously harmed, the values involved are incalculable. We can be silent witnesses to terrible injustices if we think that we can obtain significant benefits by making the rest of humanity, present and future, pay the extremely high costs of environmental deterioration.

37. Some countries have made significant progress in establishing sanctuaries on land and in the oceans where any human intervention is prohibited which might modify their features or alter their original structures. In the protection of biodiversity, specialists insist on the need for particular attention to be shown to areas richer both in the number of species and in endemic, rare or less protected species. Certain places need greater protection because of their immense importance for the global ecosystem, or because they represent important water reserves and thus safeguard other forms of life.

38. Let us mention, for example, those richly biodiverse lungs of our planet which are the Amazon and the Congo basins, or the great aquifers and glaciers. We know



how important these are for the entire earth and for the future of humanity. The ecosystems of tropical forests possess an enormously complex biodiversity which is almost impossible to appreciate fully, yet when these forests are burned down or levelled for purposes of cultivation, within the space of a few years countless species are lost and the areas frequently become arid wastelands. A delicate balance has to be maintained when speaking about these places, for we cannot overlook the huge global economic interests which, under the guise of protecting them, can undermine the sovereignty of individual nations. In fact, there are “proposals to internationalize the Amazon, which only serve the economic interests of transnational corporations”.[24] We cannot fail to praise the commitment of international agencies and civil society organizations which draw public attention to these issues and offer critical cooperation, employing legitimate means of pressure, to ensure that each government carries out its proper and inalienable responsibility to preserve its country’s environment and natural resources, without capitulating to spurious local or international interests.

39. The replacement of virgin forest with plantations of trees, usually monocultures, is rarely adequately analyzed. Yet this can seriously compromise a biodiversity which the new species being introduced does not accommodate. Similarly, wetlands converted into cultivated land lose the enormous biodiversity which they formerly hosted. In some coastal areas the disappearance of ecosystems sustained by mangrove swamps is a source of serious concern.

40. Oceans not only contain the bulk of our planet’s water supply, but also most of the immense variety of living creatures, many of them still unknown to us and threatened for various reasons. What is more, marine life in rivers, lakes, seas and oceans, which feeds a great part of the world’s population, is affected by uncontrolled fishing, leading to a drastic depletion of certain species. Selective forms of fishing which discard much of what they collect continue unabated. Particularly threatened are marine organisms which we tend to overlook, like some forms of plankton; they represent a significant element in the ocean food chain, and species used for our food ultimately depend on them.

41. In tropical and subtropical seas, we find coral reefs comparable to the great forests on dry land, for they shelter approximately a million species, including fish, crabs, molluscs, sponges and algae. Many of the world’s coral reefs are already barren or in a state of constant decline. “Who turned the wonderworld of the seas into underwater cemeteries bereft of colour and life?”[25] This phenomenon is due largely to pollution which reaches the sea as the result of deforestation, agricultural monocultures, industrial waste and destructive fishing methods, especially those using cyanide and dynamite. It is aggravated by the rise in temperature of the oceans. All of this helps us to see that every intervention in nature can have consequences which are not immediately evident, and that certain ways of exploiting resources prove costly in terms of degradation which ultimately reaches

the ocean bed itself.

42. Greater investment needs to be made in research aimed at understanding more fully the functioning of ecosystems and adequately analyzing the different variables associated with any significant modification of the environment. Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. Each area is responsible for the care of this family. This will require undertaking a careful inventory of the species which it hosts, with a view to developing programmes and strategies of protection with particular care for safeguarding species heading towards extinction.

#### **IV. DECLINE IN THE QUALITY OF HUMAN LIFE AND THE BREAKDOWN OF SOCIETY**

43. Human beings too are creatures of this world, enjoying a right to life and happiness, and endowed with unique dignity. So we cannot fail to consider the effects on people's lives of environmental deterioration, current models of development and the throwaway culture.

44. Nowadays, for example, we are conscious of the disproportionate and unruly growth of many cities, which have become unhealthy to live in, not only because of pollution caused by toxic emissions but also as a result of urban chaos, poor transportation, and visual pollution and noise. Many cities are huge, inefficient structures, excessively wasteful of energy and water. Neighbourhoods, even those recently built, are congested, chaotic and lacking in sufficient green space. We were not meant to be inundated by cement, asphalt, glass and metal, and deprived of physical contact with nature.

45. In some places, rural and urban alike, the privatization of certain spaces has restricted people's access to places of particular beauty. In others, "ecological" neighbourhoods have been created which are closed to outsiders in order to ensure an artificial tranquillity. Frequently, we find beautiful and carefully manicured green spaces in so-called "safer" areas of cities, but not in the more hidden areas where the disposable of society live.

46. The social dimensions of global change include the effects of technological innovations on employment, social exclusion, an inequitable distribution and

consumption of energy and other services, social breakdown, increased violence and a rise in new forms of social aggression, drug trafficking, growing drug use by young people, and the loss of identity. These are signs that the growth of the past two centuries has not always led to an integral development and an improvement in the quality of life. Some of these signs are also symptomatic of real social decline, the silent rupture of the bonds of integration and social cohesion.

47. Furthermore, when media and the digital world become omnipresent, their influence can stop people from learning how to live wisely, to think deeply and to love generously. In this context, the great sages of the past run the risk of going unheard amid the noise and distractions of an information overload. Efforts need to be made to help these media become sources of new cultural progress for humanity and not a threat to our deepest riches. True wisdom, as the fruit of self-examination, dialogue and generous encounter between persons, is not acquired by a mere accumulation of data which eventually leads to overload and confusion, a sort of mental pollution. Real relationships with others, with all the challenges they entail, now tend to be replaced by a type of internet communication which enables us to choose or eliminate relationships at whim, thus giving rise to a new type of contrived emotion which has more to do with devices and displays than with other people and with nature. Today's media do enable us to communicate and to share our knowledge and affections. Yet at times they also shield us from direct contact with the pain, the fears and the joys of others and the complexity of their personal experiences. For this reason, we should be concerned that, alongside the exciting possibilities offered by these media, a deep and melancholic dissatisfaction with interpersonal relations, or a harmful sense of isolation, can also arise.

## V. GLOBAL INEQUALITY

48. The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: "Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest".<sup>[26]</sup> For example, the depletion of fishing reserves especially hurts small fishing communities without the means to replace those resources; water pollution particularly affects the poor who cannot buy bottled water; and rises in the sea level mainly affect impoverished coastal populations who have nowhere else to go. The impact of present imbalances is also seen in the premature death of many of the poor, in conflicts sparked by the shortage of resources, and in any number of other problems which are insufficiently represented on global agendas.<sup>[27]</sup>

49. It needs to be said that, generally speaking, there is little in the way of clear awareness of problems which especially affect the excluded. Yet they are the majority of the planet's population, billions of people. These days, they are mentioned in international political and economic discussions, but one often has the impression that their problems are brought up as an afterthought, a question which gets added almost out of duty or in a tangential way, if not treated merely as collateral damage. Indeed, when all is said and done, they frequently remain at the bottom of the pile. This is due partly to the fact that many professionals, opinion makers, communications media and centres of power, being located in affluent urban areas, are far removed from the poor, with little direct contact with their problems. They live and reason from the comfortable position of a high level of development and a quality of life well beyond the reach of the majority of the world's population. This lack of physical contact and encounter, encouraged at times by the disintegration of our cities, can lead to a numbing of conscience and to tendentious analyses which neglect parts of reality. At times this attitude exists side by side with a "green" rhetoric. Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach *always* becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear *both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor*.

50. Instead of resolving the problems of the poor and thinking of how the world can be different, some can only propose a reduction in the birth rate. At times, developing countries face forms of international pressure which make economic assistance contingent on certain policies of "reproductive health". Yet "while it is true that an unequal distribution of the population and of available resources creates obstacles to development and a sustainable use of the environment, it must nonetheless be recognized that demographic growth is fully compatible with an integral and shared development".<sup>[28]</sup> To blame population growth instead of extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the issues. It is an attempt to legitimize the present model of distribution, where a minority believes that it has the right to consume in a way which can never be universalized, since the planet could not even contain the waste products of such consumption. Besides, we know that approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and "whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor".<sup>[29]</sup> Still, attention needs to be paid to imbalances in population density, on both national and global levels, since a rise in consumption would lead to complex regional situations, as a result of the interplay between problems linked to environmental pollution, transport, waste treatment, loss of resources and quality of life.

51. Inequity affects not only individuals but entire countries; it compels us to consider an ethics of international relations. A true "ecological debt" exists, particularly between the global north and south, connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment, and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time. The export of raw materials to satisfy markets in the industrialized north has caused harm locally, as

for example in mercury pollution in gold mining or sulphur dioxide pollution in copper mining. There is a pressing need to calculate the use of environmental space throughout the world for depositing gas residues which have been accumulating for two centuries and have created a situation which currently affects all the countries of the world. The warming caused by huge consumption on the part of some rich countries has repercussions on the poorest areas of the world, especially Africa, where a rise in temperature, together with drought, has proved devastating for farming. There is also the damage caused by the export of solid waste and toxic liquids to developing countries, and by the pollution produced by companies which operate in less developed countries in ways they could never do at home, in the countries in which they raise their capital: "We note that often the businesses which operate this way are multinationals. They do here what they would never do in developed countries or the so-called first world. Generally, after ceasing their activity and withdrawing, they leave behind great human and environmental liabilities such as unemployment, abandoned towns, the depletion of natural reserves, deforestation, the impoverishment of agriculture and local stock breeding, open pits, riven hills, polluted rivers and a handful of social works which are no longer sustainable".[\[30\]](#)

52. The foreign debt of poor countries has become a way of controlling them, yet this is not the case where ecological debt is concerned. In different ways, developing countries, where the most important reserves of the biosphere are found, continue to fuel the development of richer countries at the cost of their own present and future. The land of the southern poor is rich and mostly unpolluted, yet access to ownership of goods and resources for meeting vital needs is inhibited by a system of commercial relations and ownership which is structurally perverse. The developed countries ought to help pay this debt by significantly limiting their consumption of non-renewable energy and by assisting poorer countries to support policies and programmes of sustainable development. The poorest areas and countries are less capable of adopting new models for reducing environmental impact because they lack the wherewithal to develop the necessary processes and to cover their costs. We must continue to be aware that, regarding climate change, there are *differentiated responsibilities*. As the United States bishops have said, greater attention must be given to "the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests".[\[31\]](#) We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference.

## **VI. WEAK RESPONSES**

53. These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course. Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. Yet we are

called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness. The problem is that we still lack the culture needed to confront this crisis. We lack leadership capable of striking out on new paths and meeting the needs of the present with concern for all and without prejudice towards coming generations. The establishment of a legal framework which can set clear boundaries and ensure the protection of ecosystems has become indispensable; otherwise, the new power structures based on the techno-economic paradigm may overwhelm not only our politics but also freedom and justice.

54. It is remarkable how weak international political responses have been. The failure of global summits on the environment make it plain that our politics are subject to technology and finance. There are too many special interests, and economic interests easily end up trumping the common good and manipulating information so that their own plans will not be affected. The *Aparecida Document* urges that “the interests of economic groups which irrationally demolish sources of life should not prevail in dealing with natural resources”.<sup>[32]</sup> The alliance between the economy and technology ends up sidelining anything unrelated to its immediate interests. Consequently the most one can expect is superficial rhetoric, sporadic acts of philanthropy and perfunctory expressions of concern for the environment, whereas any genuine attempt by groups within society to introduce change is viewed as a nuisance based on romantic illusions or an obstacle to be circumvented.

55. Some countries are gradually making significant progress, developing more effective controls and working to combat corruption. People may well have a growing ecological sensitivity but it has not succeeded in changing their harmful habits of consumption which, rather than decreasing, appear to be growing all the more. A simple example is the increasing use and power of air-conditioning. The markets, which immediately benefit from sales, stimulate ever greater demand. An outsider looking at our world would be amazed at such behaviour, which at times appears self-destructive.

56. In the meantime, economic powers continue to justify the current global system where priority tends to be given to speculation and the pursuit of financial gain, which fail to take the context into account, let alone the effects on human dignity and the natural environment. Here we see how environmental deterioration and human and ethical degradation are closely linked. Many people will deny doing anything wrong because distractions constantly dull our consciousness of just how limited and finite our world really is. As a result, “whatever is fragile, like the environment, is defenceless before the interests of a deified market, which become the only rule”.<sup>[33]</sup>

57. It is foreseeable that, once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars, albeit under the guise of noble claims. War always does grave harm to the environment and to the cultural riches of peoples, risks which are magnified when one considers nuclear arms and biological weapons. “Despite the international agreements which prohibit chemical, bacteriological and biological warfare, the fact is that laboratory research continues to develop new offensive weapons capable of altering the balance of nature”.<sup>[34]</sup> Politics must pay greater attention to foreseeing new conflicts and addressing the causes which can lead to them. But powerful financial interests prove most resistant to this effort, and political planning tends to lack breadth of vision. What would induce anyone, at this stage, to hold on to power only to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so?

58. In some countries, there are positive examples of environmental improvement: rivers, polluted for decades, have been cleaned up; native woodlands have been restored; landscapes have been beautified thanks to environmental renewal projects; beautiful buildings have been erected; advances have been made in the production of non-polluting energy and in the improvement of public transportation. These achievements do not solve global problems, but they do show that men and women are still capable of intervening positively. For all our limitations, gestures of generosity, solidarity and care cannot but well up within us, since we were made for love.

59. At the same time we can note the rise of a false or superficial ecology which bolsters complacency and a cheerful recklessness. As often occurs in periods of deep crisis which require bold decisions, we are tempted to think that what is happening is not entirely clear. Superficially, apart from a few obvious signs of pollution and deterioration, things do not look that serious, and the planet could continue as it is for some time. Such evasiveness serves as a licence to carrying on with our present lifestyles and models of production and consumption. This is the way human beings contrive to feed their self-destructive vices: trying not to see them, trying not to acknowledge them, delaying the important decisions and pretending that nothing will happen.

## **VII. A VARIETY OF OPINIONS**

60. Finally, we need to acknowledge that different approaches and lines of thought have emerged regarding this situation and its possible solutions. At one extreme, we find those who doggedly uphold the myth of progress and tell us that ecological problems will solve themselves simply with the application of new technology and without any need for ethical considerations or deep change. At the other extreme are those who view men and women and all their interventions as no more than a

threat, jeopardizing the global ecosystem, and consequently the presence of human beings on the planet should be reduced and all forms of intervention prohibited. Viable future scenarios will have to be generated between these extremes, since there is no one path to a solution. This makes a variety of proposals possible, all capable of entering into dialogue with a view to developing comprehensive solutions.

61. On many concrete questions, the Church has no reason to offer a definitive opinion; she knows that honest debate must be encouraged among experts, while respecting divergent views. But we need only take a frank look at the facts to see that our common home is falling into serious disrepair. Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems. Still, we can see signs that things are now reaching a breaking point, due to the rapid pace of change and degradation; these are evident in large-scale natural disasters as well as social and even financial crises, for the world's problems cannot be analyzed or explained in isolation. There are regions now at high risk and, aside from all doomsday predictions, the present world system is certainly unsustainable from a number of points of view, for we have stopped thinking about the goals of human activity. "If we scan the regions of our planet, we immediately see that humanity has disappointed God's expectations".[\[35\]](#)

## CHAPTER TWO

### THE GOSPEL OF CREATION

62. Why should this document, addressed to all people of good will, include a chapter dealing with the convictions of believers? I am well aware that in the areas of politics and philosophy there are those who firmly reject the idea of a Creator, or consider it irrelevant, and consequently dismiss as irrational the rich contribution which religions can make towards an integral ecology and the full development of humanity. Others view religions simply as a subculture to be tolerated. Nonetheless, science and religion, with their distinctive approaches to understanding reality, can enter into an intense dialogue fruitful for both.

#### I. THE LIGHT OFFERED BY FAITH

63. Given the complexity of the ecological crisis and its multiple causes, we need to realize that the solutions will not emerge from just one way of interpreting and transforming reality. Respect must also be shown for the various cultural riches of



different peoples, their art and poetry, their interior life and spirituality. If we are truly concerned to develop an ecology capable of remedying the damage we have done, no branch of the sciences and no form of wisdom can be left out, and that includes religion and the language particular to it. The Catholic Church is open to dialogue with philosophical thought; this has enabled her to produce various syntheses between faith and reason. The development of the Church's social teaching represents such a synthesis with regard to social issues; this teaching is called to be enriched by taking up new challenges.

64. Furthermore, although this Encyclical welcomes dialogue with everyone so that together we can seek paths of liberation, I would like from the outset to show how faith convictions can offer Christians, and some other believers as well, ample motivation to care for nature and for the most vulnerable of their brothers and sisters. If the simple fact of being human moves people to care for the environment of which they are a part, Christians in their turn "realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith".<sup>[36]</sup> It is good for humanity and the world at large when we believers better recognize the ecological commitments which stem from our convictions.

## II. THE WISDOM OF THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNTS

65. Without repeating the entire theology of creation, we can ask what the great biblical narratives say about the relationship of human beings with the world. In the first creation account in the Book of Genesis, God's plan includes creating humanity. After the creation of man and woman, "God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was *very good*" (*Gen* 1:31). The Bible teaches that every man and woman is created out of love and made in God's image and likeness (cf. *Gen* 1:26). This shows us the immense dignity of each person, "who is not just something, but someone. He is capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons".<sup>[37]</sup> Saint John Paul II stated that the special love of the Creator for each human being "confers upon him or her an infinite dignity".<sup>[38]</sup> Those who are committed to defending human dignity can find in the Christian faith the deepest reasons for this commitment. How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles! The Creator can say to each one of us: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you" (*Jer* 1:5). We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason "each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary".<sup>[39]</sup>

66. The creation accounts in the book of Genesis contain, in their own symbolic

and narrative language, profound teachings about human existence and its historical reality. They suggest that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself. According to the Bible, these three vital relationships have been broken, both outwardly and within us. This rupture is sin. The harmony between the Creator, humanity and creation as a whole was disrupted by our presuming to take the place of God and refusing to acknowledge our creaturely limitations. This in turn distorted our mandate to “have dominion” over the earth (cf. *Gen 1:28*), to “till it and keep it” (*Gen 2:15*). As a result, the originally harmonious relationship between human beings and nature became conflictual (cf. *Gen 3:17-19*). It is significant that the harmony which Saint Francis of Assisi experienced with all creatures was seen as a healing of that rupture. Saint Bonaventure held that, through universal reconciliation with every creature, Saint Francis in some way returned to the state of original innocence.<sup>[40]</sup> This is a far cry from our situation today, where sin is manifest in all its destructive power in wars, the various forms of violence and abuse, the abandonment of the most vulnerable, and attacks on nature.

67. We are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us. This allows us to respond to the charge that Judaeo-Christian thinking, on the basis of the Genesis account which grants man “dominion” over the earth (cf. *Gen 1:28*), has encouraged the unbridled exploitation of nature by painting him as domineering and destructive by nature. This is not a correct interpretation of the Bible as understood by the Church. Although it is true that we Christians have at times incorrectly interpreted the Scriptures, nowadays we must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God’s image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures. The biblical texts are to be read in their context, with an appropriate hermeneutic, recognizing that they tell us to “till and keep” the garden of the world (cf. *Gen 2:15*). “Tilling” refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while “keeping” means caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving. This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. “The earth is the Lord’s” (*Ps 24:1*); to him belongs “the earth with all that is within it” (*Dt 10:14*). Thus God rejects every claim to absolute ownership: “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with me” (*Lev 25:23*).

68. This responsibility for God’s earth means that human beings, endowed with intelligence, must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world, for “he commanded and they were created; and he established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds and he set a law which cannot pass away” (*Ps 148:5b-6*). The laws found in the Bible dwell on relationships, not only among individuals but also with other living beings. “You shall not see your brother’s donkey or his ox fallen down by the way and withhold

your help... If you chance to come upon a bird's nest in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs and the mother sitting upon the young or upon the eggs; you shall not take the mother with the young" (*Dt*22:4, 6). Along these same lines, rest on the seventh day is meant not only for human beings, but also so "that your ox and your donkey may have rest" (*Ex* 23:12). Clearly, the Bible has no place for a tyrannical anthropocentrism unconcerned for other creatures.

69. Together with our obligation to use the earth's goods responsibly, we are called to recognize that other living beings have a value of their own in God's eyes: "by their mere existence they bless him and give him glory",<sup>[41]</sup> and indeed, "the Lord rejoices in all his works" (*Ps* 104:31). By virtue of our unique dignity and our gift of intelligence, we are called to respect creation and its inherent laws, for "the Lord by wisdom founded the earth" (*Prov* 3:19). In our time, the Church does not simply state that other creatures are completely subordinated to the good of human beings, as if they have no worth in themselves and can be treated as we wish. The German bishops have taught that, where other creatures are concerned, "we can speak of the priority of *being* over that of *being useful*".<sup>[42]</sup> The Catechism clearly and forcefully criticizes a distorted anthropocentrism: "Each creature possesses its own particular goodness and perfection... Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray of God's infinite wisdom and goodness. Man must therefore respect the particular goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things".<sup>[43]</sup>

70. In the story of Cain and Abel, we see how envy led Cain to commit the ultimate injustice against his brother, which in turn ruptured the relationship between Cain and God, and between Cain and the earth from which he was banished. This is seen clearly in the dramatic exchange between God and Cain. God asks: "Where is Abel your brother?" Cain answers that he does not know, and God persists: "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground" (*Gen* 4:9-11). Disregard for the duty to cultivate and maintain a proper relationship with my neighbour, for whose care and custody I am responsible, ruins my relationship with my own self, with others, with God and with the earth. When all these relationships are neglected, when justice no longer dwells in the land, the Bible tells us that life itself is endangered. We see this in the story of Noah, where God threatens to do away with humanity because of its constant failure to fulfil the requirements of justice and peace: "I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the earth is filled with violence through them" (*Gen* 6:13). These ancient stories, full of symbolism, bear witness to a conviction which we today share, that everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others.

71. Although "the wickedness of man was great in the earth" (*Gen* 6:5) and the

Lord “was sorry that he had made man on the earth” (*Gen 6:6*), nonetheless, through Noah, who remained innocent and just, God decided to open a path of salvation. In this way he gave humanity the chance of a new beginning. All it takes is one good person to restore hope! The biblical tradition clearly shows that this renewal entails recovering and respecting the rhythms inscribed in nature by the hand of the Creator. We see this, for example, in the law of the Sabbath. On the seventh day, God rested from all his work. He commanded Israel to set aside each seventh day as a day of rest, a *Sabbath*, (cf. *Gen 2:2-3; Ex 16:23; 20:10*). Similarly, every seven years, a sabbatical year was set aside for Israel, a complete rest for the land (cf. *Lev 25:1-4*), when sowing was forbidden and one reaped only what was necessary to live on and to feed one’s household (cf. *Lev 25:4-6*). Finally, after seven weeks of years, which is to say forty-nine years, the Jubilee was celebrated as a year of general forgiveness and “liberty throughout the land for all its inhabitants” (cf. *Lev 25:10*). This law came about as an attempt to ensure balance and fairness in their relationships with others and with the land on which they lived and worked. At the same time, it was an acknowledgment that the gift of the earth with its fruits belongs to everyone. Those who tilled and kept the land were obliged to share its fruits, especially with the poor, with widows, orphans and foreigners in their midst: “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field to its very border, neither shall you gather the gleanings after the harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner” (*Lev 19:9-10*).

72. The Psalms frequently exhort us to praise God the Creator, “who spread out the earth on the waters, for his steadfast love endures for ever” (*Ps 136:6*). They also invite other creatures to join us in this praise: “Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created” (*Ps 148:3-5*). We do not only exist by God’s mighty power; we also live with him and beside him. This is why we adore him.

73. The writings of the prophets invite us to find renewed strength in times of trial by contemplating the all-powerful God who created the universe. Yet God’s infinite power does not lead us to flee his fatherly tenderness, because in him affection and strength are joined. Indeed, all sound spirituality entails both welcoming divine love and adoration, confident in the Lord because of his infinite power. In the Bible, the God who liberates and saves is the same God who created the universe, and these two divine ways of acting are intimately and inseparably connected: “Ah Lord God! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you... You brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders” (*Jer 32:17, 21*). “The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless” (*Is 40:28b-29*).

74. The experience of the Babylonian captivity provoked a spiritual crisis which led to deeper faith in God. Now his creative omnipotence was given pride of place in order to exhort the people to regain their hope in the midst of their wretched predicament. Centuries later, in another age of trial and persecution, when the Roman Empire was seeking to impose absolute dominion, the faithful would once again find consolation and hope in a growing trust in the all-powerful God: “Great and wonderful are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways!” (*Rev* 15:3). The God who created the universe out of nothing can also intervene in this world and overcome every form of evil. Injustice is not invincible.

75. A spirituality which forgets God as all-powerful and Creator is not acceptable. That is how we end up worshipping earthly powers, or ourselves usurping the place of God, even to the point of claiming an unlimited right to trample his creation underfoot. The best way to restore men and women to their rightful place, putting an end to their claim to absolute dominion over the earth, is to speak once more of the figure of a Father who creates and who alone owns the world. Otherwise, human beings will always try to impose their own laws and interests on reality.

### III. THE MYSTERY OF THE UNIVERSE

76. In the Judaeo-Christian tradition, the word “creation” has a broader meaning than “nature”, for it has to do with God’s loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance. Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion.

77. “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made” (*Ps* 33:6). This tells us that the world came about as the result of a decision, not from chaos or chance, and this exalts it all the more. The creating word expresses a free choice. The universe did not emerge as the result of arbitrary omnipotence, a show of force or a desire for self-assertion. Creation is of the order of love. God’s love is the fundamental moving force in all created things: “For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made; for you would not have made anything if you had hated it” (*Wis* 11:24). Every creature is thus the object of the Father’s tenderness, who gives it its place in the world. Even the fleeting life of the least of beings is the object of his love, and in its few seconds of existence, God enfolds it with his affection. Saint Basil the Great described the Creator as “goodness without measure”,<sup>[44]</sup> while Dante Alighieri spoke of “the love which moves the sun and the stars”.<sup>[45]</sup> Consequently, we can ascend from created things “to the

greatness of God and to his loving mercy”.[\[46\]](#)

78. At the same time, Judaeo-Christian thought demythologized nature. While continuing to admire its grandeur and immensity, it no longer saw nature as divine. In doing so, it emphasizes all the more our human responsibility for nature. This rediscovery of nature can never be at the cost of the freedom and responsibility of human beings who, as part of the world, have the duty to cultivate their abilities in order to protect it and develop its potential. If we acknowledge the value and the fragility of nature and, at the same time, our God-given abilities, we can finally leave behind the modern myth of unlimited material progress. A fragile world, entrusted by God to human care, challenges us to devise intelligent ways of directing, developing and limiting our power.

79. In this universe, shaped by open and intercommunicating systems, we can discern countless forms of relationship and participation. This leads us to think of the whole as open to God’s transcendence, within which it develops. Faith allows us to interpret the meaning and the mysterious beauty of what is unfolding. We are free to apply our intelligence towards things evolving positively, or towards adding new ills, new causes of suffering and real setbacks. This is what makes for the excitement and drama of human history, in which freedom, growth, salvation and love can blossom, or lead towards decadence and mutual destruction. The work of the Church seeks not only to remind everyone of the duty to care for nature, but at the same time “she must above all protect mankind from self-destruction”.[\[47\]](#)

80. Yet God, who wishes to work with us and who counts on our cooperation, can also bring good out of the evil we have done. “The Holy Spirit can be said to possess an infinite creativity, proper to the divine mind, which knows how to loosen the knots of human affairs, including the most complex and inscrutable”.[\[48\]](#) Creating a world in need of development, God in some way sought to limit himself in such a way that many of the things we think of as evils, dangers or sources of suffering, are in reality part of the pains of childbirth which he uses to draw us into the act of cooperation with the Creator.[\[49\]](#) God is intimately present to each being, without impinging on the autonomy of his creature, and this gives rise to the rightful autonomy of earthly affairs.[\[50\]](#) His divine presence, which ensures the subsistence and growth of each being, “continues the work of creation”.[\[51\]](#) The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge: “Nature is nothing other than a certain kind of art, namely God’s art, impressed upon things, whereby those things are moved to a determinate end. It is as if a shipbuilder were able to give timbers the wherewithal to move themselves to take the form of a ship”.[\[52\]](#)

81. Human beings, even if we postulate a process of evolution, also possess a uniqueness which cannot be fully explained by the evolution of other open systems. Each of us has his or her own personal identity and is capable of entering into dialogue with others and with God himself. Our capacity to reason, to develop arguments, to be inventive, to interpret reality and to create art, along with other not yet discovered capacities, are signs of a uniqueness which transcends the spheres of physics and biology. The sheer novelty involved in the emergence of a personal being within a material universe presupposes a direct action of God and a particular call to life and to relationship on the part of a “Thou” who addresses himself to another “thou”. The biblical accounts of creation invite us to see each human being as a subject who can never be reduced to the status of an object.

82. Yet it would also be mistaken to view other living beings as mere objects subjected to arbitrary human domination. When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This vision of “might is right” has engendered immense inequality, injustice and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, since resources end up in the hands of the first comer or the most powerful: the winner takes all. Completely at odds with this model are the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus. As he said of the powers of his own age: “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant” (*Mt 20:25-26*).

83. The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, which has already been attained by the risen Christ, the measure of the maturity of all things.[\[53\]](#) Here we can add yet another argument for rejecting every tyrannical and irresponsible domination of human beings over other creatures. The ultimate purpose of other creatures is not to be found in us. Rather, all creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things. Human beings, endowed with intelligence and love, and drawn by the fullness of Christ, are called to lead all creatures back to their Creator.

#### **IV. THE MESSAGE OF EACH CREATURE IN THE HARMONY OF CREATION**

84. Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. The history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places which take on an intensely personal meaning; we all remember places, and revisiting those memories does us much good. Anyone who has grown up in the hills or used to sit by the spring to drink, or played outdoors in the neighbourhood square; going back

to these places is a chance to recover something of their true selves.

85. God has written a precious book, “whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe”.<sup>[54]</sup> The Canadian bishops rightly pointed out that no creature is excluded from this manifestation of God: “From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine”.<sup>[55]</sup> The bishops of Japan, for their part, made a thought-provoking observation: “To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God’s love and hope”.<sup>[56]</sup> This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since “for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice”.<sup>[57]</sup> We can say that “alongside revelation properly so-called, contained in sacred Scripture, there is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night”.<sup>[58]</sup> Paying attention to this manifestation, we learn to see ourselves in relation to all other creatures: “I express myself in expressing the world; in my effort to decipher the sacredness of the world, I explore my own”.<sup>[59]</sup>

86. The universe as a whole, in all its manifold relationships, shows forth the inexhaustible riches of God. Saint Thomas Aquinas wisely noted that multiplicity and variety “come from the intention of the first agent” who willed that “what was wanting to one in the representation of the divine goodness might be supplied by another”,<sup>[60]</sup> inasmuch as God’s goodness “could not be represented fittingly by any one creature”.<sup>[61]</sup> Hence we need to grasp the variety of things in their multiple relationships.<sup>[62]</sup> We understand better the importance and meaning of each creature if we contemplate it within the entirety of God’s plan. As the Catechism teaches: “God wills the interdependence of creatures. The sun and the moon, the cedar and the little flower, the eagle and the sparrow: the spectacle of their countless diversities and inequalities tells us that no creature is self-sufficient. Creatures exist only in dependence on each other, to complete each other, in the service of each other”.<sup>[63]</sup>

87. When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them. This sentiment finds magnificent expression in the hymn of Saint Francis of Assisi:

Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
who is the day and through whom you give us light.  
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;  
and bears a likeness of you, Most High.  
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,



in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.  
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind,  
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather  
through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.  
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.  
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom you light the night,  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong”.[\[64\]](#)

88. The bishops of Brazil have pointed out that nature as a whole not only manifests God but is also a locus of his presence. The Spirit of life dwells in every living creature and calls us to enter into relationship with him.[\[65\]](#) Discovering this presence leads us to cultivate the “ecological virtues”.[\[66\]](#) This is not to forget that there is an infinite distance between God and the things of this world, which do not possess his fullness. Otherwise, we would not be doing the creatures themselves any good either, for we would be failing to acknowledge their right and proper place. We would end up unduly demanding of them something which they, in their smallness, cannot give us.

## V. A UNIVERSAL COMMUNION

89. The created things of this world are not free of ownership: “For they are yours, O Lord, who love the living” (*Wis* 11:26). This is the basis of our conviction that, as part of the universe, called into being by one Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect. Here I would reiterate that “God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement”.[\[67\]](#)

90. This is not to put all living beings on the same level nor to deprive human beings of their unique worth and the tremendous responsibility it entails. Nor does it imply a divinization of the earth which would prevent us from working on it and protecting it in its fragility. Such notions would end up creating new imbalances which would deflect us from the reality which challenges us.[\[68\]](#) At times we see an obsession with denying any pre-eminence to the human person; more zeal is shown in protecting other species than in defending the dignity which all human beings share in equal measure. Certainly, we should be concerned lest other living beings be treated irresponsibly. But we should be particularly indignant at the enormous inequalities in our midst, whereby we continue to tolerate some considering themselves more worthy than others. We fail to see that some are

mired in desperate and degrading poverty, with no way out, while others have not the faintest idea of what to do with their possessions, vainly showing off their supposed superiority and leaving behind them so much waste which, if it were the case everywhere, would destroy the planet. In practice, we continue to tolerate that some consider themselves more human than others, as if they had been born with greater rights.

91. A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings. It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being deemed unwanted. This compromises the very meaning of our struggle for the sake of the environment. It is no coincidence that, in the canticle in which Saint Francis praises God for his creatures, he goes on to say: “Praised be you my Lord, through those who give pardon for your love”. Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.

92. Moreover, when our hearts are authentically open to universal communion, this sense of fraternity excludes nothing and no one. It follows that our indifference or cruelty towards fellow creatures of this world sooner or later affects the treatment we mete out to other human beings. We have only one heart, and the same wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationships with other people. Every act of cruelty towards any creature is “contrary to human dignity”.<sup>[69]</sup> We can hardly consider ourselves to be fully loving if we disregard any aspect of reality: “Peace, justice and the preservation of creation are three absolutely interconnected themes, which cannot be separated and treated individually without once again falling into reductionism”.<sup>[70]</sup> Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth.

## **VI. THE COMMON DESTINATION OF GOODS**

93. Whether believers or not, we are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone. Hence every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged. The principle of the subordination of private property to the

universal destination of goods, and thus the right of everyone to their use, is a golden rule of social conduct and “the first principle of the whole ethical and social order”.<sup>[71]</sup> The Christian tradition has never recognized the right to private property as absolute or inviolable, and has stressed the social purpose of all forms of private property. Saint John Paul II forcefully reaffirmed this teaching, stating that “God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, *without excluding or favouring anyone*”.<sup>[72]</sup> These are strong words. He noted that “a type of development which did not respect and promote human rights – personal and social, economic and political, including the rights of nations and of peoples – would not be really worthy of man”.<sup>[73]</sup> He clearly explained that “the Church does indeed defend the legitimate right to private property, but she also teaches no less clearly that there is always a social mortgage on all private property, in order that goods may serve the general purpose that God gave them”.<sup>[74]</sup> Consequently, he maintained, “it is not in accord with God’s plan that this gift be used in such a way that its benefits favour only a few”.<sup>[75]</sup> This calls into serious question the unjust habits of a part of humanity.<sup>[76]</sup>

94. The rich and the poor have equal dignity, for “the Lord is the maker of them all” (*Prov* 22:2). “He himself made both small and great” (*Wis* 6:7), and “he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good” (*Mt* 5:45). This has practical consequences, such as those pointed out by the bishops of Paraguay: “Every *campesino* has a natural right to possess a reasonable allotment of land where he can establish his home, work for subsistence of his family and a secure life. This right must be guaranteed so that its exercise is not illusory but real. That means that apart from the ownership of property, rural people must have access to means of technical education, credit, insurance, and markets”.<sup>[77]</sup>

95. The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. If we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all. If we do not, we burden our consciences with the weight of having denied the existence of others. That is why the New Zealand bishops asked what the commandment “Thou shall not kill” means when “twenty percent of the world’s population consumes resources at a rate that robs the poor nations and future generations of what they need to survive”.<sup>[78]</sup>

## VII. THE GAZE OF JESUS

96. Jesus took up the biblical faith in God the Creator, emphasizing a fundamental truth: God is Father (cf. *Mt* 11:25). In talking with his disciples, Jesus would invite them to recognize the paternal relationship God has with all his creatures. With moving tenderness he would remind them that each one of them is important in God’s eyes: “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is

forgotten before God” (*Lk* 12:6). “Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them” (*Mt* 6:26).

97. The Lord was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder. As he made his way throughout the land, he often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father, and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things: “Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest” (*Jn* 4:35). “The kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but once it has grown, it is the greatest of plants” (*Mt* 13:31-32).

98. Jesus lived in full harmony with creation, and others were amazed: “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?” (*Mt* 8:27). His appearance was not that of an ascetic set apart from the world, nor of an enemy to the pleasant things of life. Of himself he said: “The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard!’” (*Mt* 11:19). He was far removed from philosophies which despised the body, matter and the things of the world. Such unhealthy dualisms, nonetheless, left a mark on certain Christian thinkers in the course of history and disfigured the Gospel. Jesus worked with his hands, in daily contact with the matter created by God, to which he gave form by his craftsmanship. It is striking that most of his life was dedicated to this task in a simple life which awakened no admiration at all: “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?” (*Mk* 6:3). In this way he sanctified human labour and endowed it with a special significance for our development. As Saint John Paul II taught, “by enduring the toil of work in union with Christ crucified for us, man in a way collaborates with the Son of God for the redemption of humanity”.<sup>[79]</sup>

99. In the Christian understanding of the world, the destiny of all creation is bound up with the mystery of Christ, present from the beginning: “All things have been created through him and for him” (*Col* 1:16).<sup>[80]</sup> The prologue of the Gospel of John (1:1-18) reveals Christ’s creative work as the Divine Word (*Logos*). But then, unexpectedly, the prologue goes on to say that this same Word “became flesh” (*Jn* 1:14). One Person of the Trinity entered into the created cosmos, throwing in his lot with it, even to the cross. From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole, without thereby impinging on its autonomy.

100. The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout creation by his universal Lordship: “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things,

whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross” (*Col 1:19-20*). This leads us to direct our gaze to the end of time, when the Son will deliver all things to the Father, so that “God may be everything to every one” (*1 Cor 15:28*). Thus, the creatures of this world no longer appear to us under merely natural guise because the risen One is mysteriously holding them to himself and directing them towards fullness as their end. The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence.

## CHAPTER THREE

### THE HUMAN ROOTS OF THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

101. It would hardly be helpful to describe symptoms without acknowledging the human origins of the ecological crisis. A certain way of understanding human life and activity has gone awry, to the serious detriment of the world around us. Should we not pause and consider this? At this stage, I propose that we focus on the dominant technocratic paradigm and the place of human beings and of human action in the world.

#### I. TECHNOLOGY: CREATIVITY AND POWER

102. Humanity has entered a new era in which our technical prowess has brought us to a crossroads. We are the beneficiaries of two centuries of enormous waves of change: steam engines, railways, the telegraph, electricity, automobiles, aeroplanes, chemical industries, modern medicine, information technology and, more recently, the digital revolution, robotics, biotechnologies and nanotechnologies. It is right to rejoice in these advances and to be excited by the immense possibilities which they continue to open up before us, for “science and technology are wonderful products of a God-given human creativity”.<sup>[81]</sup> The modification of nature for useful purposes has distinguished the human family from the beginning; technology itself “expresses the inner tension that impels man gradually to overcome material limitations”.<sup>[82]</sup> Technology has remedied countless evils which used to harm and limit human beings. How can we not feel gratitude and appreciation for this progress, especially in the fields of medicine, engineering and communications? How could we not acknowledge the work of many scientists and engineers who have provided alternatives to make development sustainable?

103. Technoscience, when well directed, can produce important means of improving the quality of human life, from useful domestic appliances to great transportation systems, bridges, buildings and public spaces. It can also produce art and enable men and women immersed in the material world to “leap” into the world of beauty. Who can deny the beauty of an aircraft or a skyscraper? Valuable works of art and music now make use of new technologies. So, in the beauty intended by the one who uses new technical instruments and in the contemplation of such beauty, a quantum leap occurs, resulting in a fulfilment which is uniquely human.

104. Yet it must also be recognized that nuclear energy, biotechnology, information technology, knowledge of our DNA, and many other abilities which we have acquired, have given us tremendous power. More precisely, they have given those with the knowledge, and especially the economic resources to use them, an impressive dominance over the whole of humanity and the entire world. Never has humanity had such power over itself, yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely, particularly when we consider how it is currently being used. We need but think of the nuclear bombs dropped in the middle of the twentieth century, or the array of technology which Nazism, Communism and other totalitarian regimes have employed to kill millions of people, to say nothing of the increasingly deadly arsenal of weapons available for modern warfare. In whose hands does all this power lie, or will it eventually end up? It is extremely risky for a small part of humanity to have it.

105. There is a tendency to believe that every increase in power means “an increase of ‘progress’ itself”, an advance in “security, usefulness, welfare and vigour; ...an assimilation of new values into the stream of culture”,[\[83\]](#) as if reality, goodness and truth automatically flow from technological and economic power as such. The fact is that “contemporary man has not been trained to use power well”,[\[84\]](#) because our immense technological development has not been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience. Each age tends to have only a meagre awareness of its own limitations. It is possible that we do not grasp the gravity of the challenges now before us. “The risk is growing day by day that man will not use his power as he should”; in effect, “power is never considered in terms of the responsibility of choice which is inherent in freedom” since its “only norms are taken from alleged necessity, from either utility or security”.[\[85\]](#) But human beings are not completely autonomous. Our freedom fades when it is handed over to the blind forces of the unconscious, of immediate needs, of self-interest, and of violence. In this sense, we stand naked and exposed in the face of our ever-increasing power, lacking the wherewithal to control it. We have certain superficial mechanisms, but we cannot claim to have a sound ethics, a culture and spirituality genuinely capable of setting limits and teaching clear-minded self-restraint.

## II. THE GLOBALIZATION OF THE TECHNOCRATIC PARADIGM

106. The basic problem goes even deeper: it is the way that humanity has taken up technology and its development *according to an undifferentiated and one-dimensional paradigm*. This paradigm exalts the concept of a subject who, using logical and rational procedures, progressively approaches and gains control over an external object. This subject makes every effort to establish the scientific and experimental method, which in itself is already a technique of possession, mastery and transformation. It is as if the subject were to find itself in the presence of something formless, completely open to manipulation. Men and women have constantly intervened in nature, but for a long time this meant being in tune with and respecting the possibilities offered by the things themselves. It was a matter of receiving what nature itself allowed, as if from its own hand. Now, by contrast, we are the ones to lay our hands on things, attempting to extract everything possible from them while frequently ignoring or forgetting the reality in front of us. Human beings and material objects no longer extend a friendly hand to one another; the relationship has become confrontational. This has made it easy to accept the idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology. It is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry beyond every limit. It is the false notion that "an infinite quantity of energy and resources are available, that it is possible to renew them quickly, and that the negative effects of the exploitation of the natural order can be easily absorbed".[\[86\]](#)

107. It can be said that many problems of today's world stem from the tendency, at times unconscious, to make the method and aims of science and technology an epistemological paradigm which shapes the lives of individuals and the workings of society. The effects of imposing this model on reality as a whole, human and social, are seen in the deterioration of the environment, but this is just one sign of a reductionism which affects every aspect of human and social life. We have to accept that technological products are not neutral, for they create a framework which ends up conditioning lifestyles and shaping social possibilities along the lines dictated by the interests of certain powerful groups. Decisions which may seem purely instrumental are in reality decisions about the kind of society we want to build.

108. The idea of promoting a different cultural paradigm and employing technology as a mere instrument is nowadays inconceivable. The technological paradigm has become so dominant that it would be difficult to do without its resources and even more difficult to utilize them without being dominated by their internal logic. It has become countercultural to choose a lifestyle whose goals are even partly independent of technology, of its costs and its power to globalize and make us all the same. Technology tends to absorb everything into its ironclad logic, and those who are surrounded with technology "know full well that it moves

forward in the final analysis neither for profit nor for the well-being of the human race”, that “in the most radical sense of the term power is its motive – a lordship over all”.[\[87\]](#) As a result, “man seizes hold of the naked elements of both nature and human nature”.[\[88\]](#) Our capacity to make decisions, a more genuine freedom and the space for each one’s alternative creativity are diminished.

109. The technocratic paradigm also tends to dominate economic and political life. The economy accepts every advance in technology with a view to profit, without concern for its potentially negative impact on human beings. Finance overwhelms the real economy. The lessons of the global financial crisis have not been assimilated, and we are learning all too slowly the lessons of environmental deterioration. Some circles maintain that current economics and technology will solve all environmental problems, and argue, in popular and non-technical terms, that the problems of global hunger and poverty will be resolved simply by market growth. They are less concerned with certain economic theories which today scarcely anybody dares defend, than with their actual operation in the functioning of the economy. They may not affirm such theories with words, but nonetheless support them with their deeds by showing no interest in more balanced levels of production, a better distribution of wealth, concern for the environment and the rights of future generations. Their behaviour shows that for them maximizing profits is enough. Yet by itself the market cannot guarantee integral human development and social inclusion.[\[89\]](#) At the same time, we have “a sort of ‘superdevelopment’ of a wasteful and consumerist kind which forms an unacceptable contrast with the ongoing situations of dehumanizing deprivation”,[\[90\]](#) while we are all too slow in developing economic institutions and social initiatives which can give the poor regular access to basic resources. We fail to see the deepest roots of our present failures, which have to do with the direction, goals, meaning and social implications of technological and economic growth.

110. The specialization which belongs to technology makes it difficult to see the larger picture. The fragmentation of knowledge proves helpful for concrete applications, and yet it often leads to a loss of appreciation for the whole, for the relationships between things, and for the broader horizon, which then becomes irrelevant. This very fact makes it hard to find adequate ways of solving the more complex problems of today’s world, particularly those regarding the environment and the poor; these problems cannot be dealt with from a single perspective or from a single set of interests. A science which would offer solutions to the great issues would necessarily have to take into account the data generated by other fields of knowledge, including philosophy and social ethics; but this is a difficult habit to acquire today. Nor are there genuine ethical horizons to which one can appeal. Life gradually becomes a surrender to situations conditioned by technology, itself viewed as the principal key to the meaning of existence. In the concrete situation confronting us, there are a number of symptoms which point to what is wrong, such as environmental degradation, anxiety, a loss of the purpose of life and of community living. Once more we see that “realities are more important than ideas”.[\[91\]](#)



111. Ecological culture cannot be reduced to a series of urgent and partial responses to the immediate problems of pollution, environmental decay and the depletion of natural resources. There needs to be a distinctive way of looking at things, a way of thinking, policies, an educational programme, a lifestyle and a spirituality which together generate resistance to the assault of the technocratic paradigm. Otherwise, even the best ecological initiatives can find themselves caught up in the same globalized logic. To seek only a technical remedy to each environmental problem which comes up is to separate what is in reality interconnected and to mask the true and deepest problems of the global system.

112. Yet we can once more broaden our vision. We have the freedom needed to limit and direct technology; we can put it at the service of another type of progress, one which is healthier, more human, more social, more integral. Liberation from the dominant technocratic paradigm does in fact happen sometimes, for example, when cooperatives of small producers adopt less polluting means of production, and opt for a non-consumerist model of life, recreation and community. Or when technology is directed primarily to resolving people's concrete problems, truly helping them live with more dignity and less suffering. Or indeed when the desire to create and contemplate beauty manages to overcome reductionism through a kind of salvation which occurs in beauty and in those who behold it. An authentic humanity, calling for a new synthesis, seems to dwell in the midst of our technological culture, almost unnoticed, like a mist seeping gently beneath a closed door. Will the promise last, in spite of everything, with all that is authentic rising up in stubborn resistance?

113. There is also the fact that people no longer seem to believe in a happy future; they no longer have blind trust in a better tomorrow based on the present state of the world and our technical abilities. There is a growing awareness that scientific and technological progress cannot be equated with the progress of humanity and history, a growing sense that the way to a better future lies elsewhere. This is not to reject the possibilities which technology continues to offer us. But humanity has changed profoundly, and the accumulation of constant novelties exalts a superficiality which pulls us in one direction. It becomes difficult to pause and recover depth in life. If architecture reflects the spirit of an age, our megastructures and drab apartment blocks express the spirit of globalized technology, where a constant flood of new products coexists with a tedious monotony. Let us refuse to resign ourselves to this, and continue to wonder about the purpose and meaning of everything. Otherwise we would simply legitimate the present situation and need new forms of escapism to help us endure the emptiness.

114. All of this shows the urgent need for us to move forward in a bold cultural revolution. Science and technology are not neutral; from the beginning to the end

of a process, various intentions and possibilities are in play and can take on distinct shapes. Nobody is suggesting a return to the Stone Age, but we do need to slow down and look at reality in a different way, to appropriate the positive and sustainable progress which has been made, but also to recover the values and the great goals swept away by our unrestrained delusions of grandeur.

### **III. THE CRISIS AND EFFECTS OF MODERN ANTHROPOCENTRISM**

115. Modern anthropocentrism has paradoxically ended up prizing technical thought over reality, since “the technological mind sees nature as an insensate order, as a cold body of facts, as a mere ‘given’, as an object of utility, as raw material to be hammered into useful shape; it views the cosmos similarly as a mere ‘space’ into which objects can be thrown with complete indifference”.<sup>[92]</sup> The intrinsic dignity of the world is thus compromised. When human beings fail to find their true place in this world, they misunderstand themselves and end up acting against themselves: “Not only has God given the earth to man, who must use it with respect for the original good purpose for which it was given, but, man too is God’s gift to man. He must therefore respect the natural and moral structure with which he has been endowed”.<sup>[93]</sup>

116. Modernity has been marked by an excessive anthropocentrism which today, under another guise, continues to stand in the way of shared understanding and of any effort to strengthen social bonds. The time has come to pay renewed attention to reality and the limits it imposes; this in turn is the condition for a more sound and fruitful development of individuals and society. An inadequate presentation of Christian anthropology gave rise to a wrong understanding of the relationship between human beings and the world. Often, what was handed on was a Promethean vision of mastery over the world, which gave the impression that the protection of nature was something that only the faint-hearted cared about. Instead, our “dominion” over the universe should be understood more properly in the sense of responsible stewardship.<sup>[94]</sup>

117. Neglecting to monitor the harm done to nature and the environmental impact of our decisions is only the most striking sign of a disregard for the message contained in the structures of nature itself. When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities – to offer just a few examples – it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected. Once the human being declares independence from reality and behaves with absolute dominion, the very foundations of our life begin to crumble, for “instead of carrying out his role as a cooperator with God in the work of creation, man sets himself up in place of God and thus ends up provoking a

rebellion on the part of nature”.[\[95\]](#)

118. This situation has led to a constant schizophrenia, wherein a technocracy which sees no intrinsic value in lesser beings coexists with the other extreme, which sees no special value in human beings. But one cannot prescind from humanity. There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself. There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology. When the human person is considered as simply one being among others, the product of chance or physical determinism, then “our overall sense of responsibility wanes”.[\[96\]](#) A misguided anthropocentrism need not necessarily yield to “biocentrism”, for that would entail adding yet another imbalance, failing to solve present problems and adding new ones. Human beings cannot be expected to feel responsibility for the world unless, at the same time, their unique capacities of knowledge, will, freedom and responsibility are recognized and valued.

119. Nor must the critique of a misguided anthropocentrism underestimate the importance of interpersonal relations. If the present ecological crisis is one small sign of the ethical, cultural and spiritual crisis of modernity, we cannot presume to heal our relationship with nature and the environment without healing all fundamental human relationships. Christian thought sees human beings as possessing a particular dignity above other creatures; it thus inculcates esteem for each person and respect for others. Our openness to others, each of whom is a “thou” capable of knowing, loving and entering into dialogue, remains the source of our nobility as human persons. A correct relationship with the created world demands that we not weaken this social dimension of openness to others, much less the transcendent dimension of our openness to the “Thou” of God. Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God. Otherwise, it would be nothing more than romantic individualism dressed up in ecological garb, locking us into a stifling immanence.

120. Since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion. How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties? “If personal and social sensitivity towards the acceptance of the new life is lost, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away”.[\[97\]](#)

121. We need to develop a new synthesis capable of overcoming the false arguments of recent centuries. Christianity, in fidelity to its own identity and the rich deposit of truth which it has received from Jesus Christ, continues to reflect on these issues in fruitful dialogue with changing historical situations. In doing so, it

reveals its eternal newness.[\[98\]](#)

### *Practical relativism*

122. A misguided anthropocentrism leads to a misguided lifestyle. In the Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#), I noted that the practical relativism typical of our age is “even more dangerous than doctrinal relativism”.[\[99\]](#) When human beings place themselves at the centre, they give absolute priority to immediate convenience and all else becomes relative. Hence we should not be surprised to find, in conjunction with the omnipresent technocratic paradigm and the cult of unlimited human power, the rise of a relativism which sees everything as irrelevant unless it serves one’s own immediate interests. There is a logic in all this whereby different attitudes can feed on one another, leading to environmental degradation and social decay.

123. The culture of relativism is the same disorder which drives one person to take advantage of another, to treat others as mere objects, imposing forced labour on them or enslaving them to pay their debts. The same kind of thinking leads to the sexual exploitation of children and abandonment of the elderly who no longer serve our interests. It is also the mindset of those who say: Let us allow the invisible forces of the market to regulate the economy, and consider their impact on society and nature as collateral damage. In the absence of objective truths or sound principles other than the satisfaction of our own desires and immediate needs, what limits can be placed on human trafficking, organized crime, the drug trade, commerce in blood diamonds and the fur of endangered species? Is it not the same relativistic logic which justifies buying the organs of the poor for resale or use in experimentation, or eliminating children because they are not what their parents wanted? This same “use and throw away” logic generates so much waste, because of the disordered desire to consume more than what is really necessary. We should not think that political efforts or the force of law will be sufficient to prevent actions which affect the environment because, when the culture itself is corrupt and objective truth and universally valid principles are no longer upheld, then laws can only be seen as arbitrary impositions or obstacles to be avoided.

### *The need to protect employment*

124. Any approach to an integral ecology, which by definition does not exclude human beings, needs to take account of the value of labour, as Saint John Paul II wisely noted in his Encyclical [Laborem Exercens](#). According to the biblical account of creation, God placed man and woman in the garden he had created

(cf. *Gen 2:15*) not only to preserve it (“keep”) but also to make it fruitful (“till”). Labourers and craftsmen thus “maintain the fabric of the world” (*Sir 38:34*). Developing the created world in a prudent way is the best way of caring for it, as this means that we ourselves become the instrument used by God to bring out the potential which he himself inscribed in things: “The Lord created medicines out of the earth, and a sensible man will not despise them” (*Sir 38:4*).

125. If we reflect on the proper relationship between human beings and the world around us, we see the need for a correct understanding of work; if we talk about the relationship between human beings and things, the question arises as to the meaning and purpose of all human activity. This has to do not only with manual or agricultural labour but with any activity involving a modification of existing reality, from producing a social report to the design of a technological development. Underlying every form of work is a concept of the relationship which we can and must have with what is other than ourselves. Together with the awe-filled contemplation of creation which we find in Saint Francis of Assisi, the Christian spiritual tradition has also developed a rich and balanced understanding of the meaning of work, as, for example, in the life of Blessed Charles de Foucauld and his followers.

126. We can also look to the great tradition of monasticism. Originally, it was a kind of flight from the world, an escape from the decadence of the cities. The monks sought the desert, convinced that it was the best place for encountering the presence of God. Later, Saint Benedict of Norcia proposed that his monks live in community, combining prayer and spiritual reading with manual labour (*ora et labora*). Seeing manual labour as spiritually meaningful proved revolutionary. Personal growth and sanctification came to be sought in the interplay of recollection and work. This way of experiencing work makes us more protective and respectful of the environment; it imbues our relationship to the world with a healthy sobriety.

127. We are convinced that “man is the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life”.<sup>[100]</sup> Nonetheless, once our human capacity for contemplation and reverence is impaired, it becomes easy for the meaning of work to be misunderstood.<sup>[101]</sup> We need to remember that men and women have “the capacity to improve their lot, to further their moral growth and to develop their spiritual endowments”.<sup>[102]</sup> Work should be the setting for this rich personal growth, where many aspects of life enter into play: creativity, planning for the future, developing our talents, living out our values, relating to others, giving glory to God. It follows that, in the reality of today’s global society, it is essential that “we continue to prioritize the goal of access to steady employment for everyone”,<sup>[103]</sup> no matter the limited interests of business and dubious economic reasoning.

128. We were created with a vocation to work. The goal should not be that technological progress increasingly replace human work, for this would be detrimental to humanity. Work is a necessity, part of the meaning of life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfilment. Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work. Yet the orientation of the economy has favoured a kind of technological progress in which the costs of production are reduced by laying off workers and replacing them with machines. This is yet another way in which we can end up working against ourselves. The loss of jobs also has a negative impact on the economy “through the progressive erosion of social capital: the network of relationships of trust, dependability, and respect for rules, all of which are indispensable for any form of civil coexistence”.<sup>[104]</sup> In other words, “human costs always include economic costs, and economic dysfunctions always involve human costs”.<sup>[105]</sup> To stop investing in people, in order to gain greater short-term financial gain, is bad business for society.

129. In order to continue providing employment, it is imperative to promote an economy which favours productive diversity and business creativity. For example, there is a great variety of small-scale food production systems which feed the greater part of the world’s peoples, using a modest amount of land and producing less waste, be it in small agricultural parcels, in orchards and gardens, hunting and wild harvesting or local fishing. Economies of scale, especially in the agricultural sector, end up forcing smallholders to sell their land or to abandon their traditional crops. Their attempts to move to other, more diversified, means of production prove fruitless because of the difficulty of linkage with regional and global markets, or because the infrastructure for sales and transport is geared to larger businesses. Civil authorities have the right and duty to adopt clear and firm measures in support of small producers and differentiated production. To ensure economic freedom from which all can effectively benefit, restraints occasionally have to be imposed on those possessing greater resources and financial power. To claim economic freedom while real conditions bar many people from actual access to it, and while possibilities for employment continue to shrink, is to practise a doublespeak which brings politics into disrepute. Business is a noble vocation, directed to producing wealth and improving our world. It can be a fruitful source of prosperity for the areas in which it operates, especially if it sees the creation of jobs as an essential part of its service to the common good.

### *New biological technologies*

130. In the philosophical and theological vision of the human being and of creation which I have presented, it is clear that the human person, endowed with reason and

knowledge, is not an external factor to be excluded. While human intervention on plants and animals is permissible when it pertains to the necessities of human life, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that experimentation on animals is morally acceptable only “if it remains within reasonable limits [and] contributes to caring for or saving human lives”.<sup>[106]</sup> The *Catechism* firmly states that human power has limits and that “it is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer or die needlessly”.<sup>[107]</sup> All such use and experimentation “requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation”.<sup>[108]</sup>

131. Here I would recall the balanced position of Saint John Paul II, who stressed the benefits of scientific and technological progress as evidence of “the nobility of the human vocation to participate responsibly in God’s creative action”, while also noting that “we cannot interfere in one area of the ecosystem without paying due attention to the consequences of such interference in other areas”.<sup>[109]</sup> He made it clear that the Church values the benefits which result “from the study and applications of molecular biology, supplemented by other disciplines such as genetics, and its technological application in agriculture and industry”.<sup>[110]</sup> But he also pointed out that this should not lead to “indiscriminate genetic manipulation”<sup>[111]</sup> which ignores the negative effects of such interventions. Human creativity cannot be suppressed. If an artist cannot be stopped from using his or her creativity, neither should those who possess particular gifts for the advancement of science and technology be prevented from using their God-given talents for the service of others. We need constantly to rethink the goals, effects, overall context and ethical limits of this human activity, which is a form of power involving considerable risks.

132. This, then, is the correct framework for any reflection concerning human intervention on plants and animals, which at present includes genetic manipulation by biotechnology for the sake of exploiting the potential present in material reality. The respect owed by faith to reason calls for close attention to what the biological sciences, through research uninfluenced by economic interests, can teach us about biological structures, their possibilities and their mutations. Any legitimate intervention will act on nature only in order “to favour its development in its own line, that of creation, as intended by God”.<sup>[112]</sup>

133. It is difficult to make a general judgement about genetic modification (GM), whether vegetable or animal, medical or agricultural, since these vary greatly among themselves and call for specific considerations. The risks involved are not always due to the techniques used, but rather to their improper or excessive application. Genetic mutations, in fact, have often been, and continue to be, caused by nature itself. Nor are mutations caused by human intervention a modern phenomenon. The domestication of animals, the crossbreeding of species and other older and universally accepted practices can be mentioned as examples. We need but recall that scientific developments in GM cereals began with the observation of

natural bacteria which spontaneously modified plant genomes. In nature, however, this process is slow and cannot be compared to the fast pace induced by contemporary technological advances, even when the latter build upon several centuries of scientific progress.

134. Although no conclusive proof exists that GM cereals may be harmful to human beings, and in some regions their use has brought about economic growth which has helped to resolve problems, there remain a number of significant difficulties which should not be underestimated. In many places, following the introduction of these crops, productive land is concentrated in the hands of a few owners due to “the progressive disappearance of small producers, who, as a consequence of the loss of the exploited lands, are obliged to withdraw from direct production”.<sup>[113]</sup> The most vulnerable of these become temporary labourers, and many rural workers end up moving to poverty-stricken urban areas. The expansion of these crops has the effect of destroying the complex network of ecosystems, diminishing the diversity of production and affecting regional economies, now and in the future. In various countries, we see an expansion of oligopolies for the production of cereals and other products needed for their cultivation. This dependency would be aggravated were the production of infertile seeds to be considered; the effect would be to force farmers to purchase them from larger producers.

135. Certainly, these issues require constant attention and a concern for their ethical implications. A broad, responsible scientific and social debate needs to take place, one capable of considering all the available information and of calling things by their name. It sometimes happens that complete information is not put on the table; a selection is made on the basis of particular interests, be they politico-economic or ideological. This makes it difficult to reach a balanced and prudent judgement on different questions, one which takes into account all the pertinent variables. Discussions are needed in which all those directly or indirectly affected (farmers, consumers, civil authorities, scientists, seed producers, people living near fumigated fields, and others) can make known their problems and concerns, and have access to adequate and reliable information in order to make decisions for the common good, present and future. This is a complex environmental issue; it calls for a comprehensive approach which would require, at the very least, greater efforts to finance various lines of independent, interdisciplinary research capable of shedding new light on the problem.

136. On the other hand, it is troubling that, when some ecological movements defend the integrity of the environment, rightly demanding that certain limits be imposed on scientific research, they sometimes fail to apply those same principles to human life. There is a tendency to justify transgressing all boundaries when



experimentation is carried out on living human embryos. We forget that the inalienable worth of a human being transcends his or her degree of development. In the same way, when technology disregards the great ethical principles, it ends up considering any practice whatsoever as licit. As we have seen in this chapter, a technology severed from ethics will not easily be able to limit its own power.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

137. Since everything is closely interrelated, and today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis, I suggest that we now consider some elements of an *integral ecology*, one which clearly respects its human and social dimensions.

#### I. ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ECOLOGY

138. Ecology studies the relationship between living organisms and the environment in which they develop. This necessarily entails reflection and debate about the conditions required for the life and survival of society, and the honesty needed to question certain models of development, production and consumption. It cannot be emphasized enough how everything is interconnected. Time and space are not independent of one another, and not even atoms or subatomic particles can be considered in isolation. Just as the different aspects of the planet – physical, chemical and biological – are interrelated, so too living species are part of a network which we will never fully explore and understand. A good part of our genetic code is shared by many living beings. It follows that the fragmentation of knowledge and the isolation of bits of information can actually become a form of ignorance, unless they are integrated into a broader vision of reality.

139. When we speak of the “environment”, what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. Recognizing the reasons why a given area is polluted requires a study of the workings of society, its economy, its behaviour patterns, and the ways it grasps reality. Given the scale of change, it is no longer possible to find a specific, discrete answer for each part of the problem. It is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems. We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental

and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.

140. Due to the number and variety of factors to be taken into account when determining the environmental impact of a concrete undertaking, it is essential to give researchers their due role, to facilitate their interaction, and to ensure broad academic freedom. Ongoing research should also give us a better understanding of how different creatures relate to one another in making up the larger units which today we term “ecosystems”. We take these systems into account not only to determine how best to use them, but also because they have an intrinsic value independent of their usefulness. Each organism, as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself; the same is true of the harmonious ensemble of organisms existing in a defined space and functioning as a system. Although we are often not aware of it, we depend on these larger systems for our own existence. We need only recall how ecosystems interact in dispersing carbon dioxide, purifying water, controlling illnesses and epidemics, forming soil, breaking down waste, and in many other ways which we overlook or simply do not know about. Once they become conscious of this, many people realize that we live and act on the basis of a reality which has previously been given to us, which precedes our existence and our abilities. So, when we speak of “sustainable use”, consideration must always be given to each ecosystem’s regenerative ability in its different areas and aspects.

141. Economic growth, for its part, tends to produce predictable reactions and a certain standardization with the aim of simplifying procedures and reducing costs. This suggests the need for an “economic ecology” capable of appealing to a broader vision of reality. The protection of the environment is in fact “an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it”.<sup>[114]</sup> We urgently need a humanism capable of bringing together the different fields of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral and integrating vision. Today, the analysis of environmental problems cannot be separated from the analysis of human, family, work-related and urban contexts, nor from how individuals relate to themselves, which leads in turn to how they relate to others and to the environment. There is an interrelation between ecosystems and between the various spheres of social interaction, demonstrating yet again that “the whole is greater than the part”.<sup>[115]</sup>

142. If everything is related, then the health of a society’s institutions has consequences for the environment and the quality of human life. “Every violation of solidarity and civic friendship harms the environment”.<sup>[116]</sup> In this sense, social ecology is necessarily institutional, and gradually extends to the whole of society, from the primary social group, the family, to the wider local, national and international communities. Within each social stratum, and between them,

institutions develop to regulate human relationships. Anything which weakens those institutions has negative consequences, such as injustice, violence and loss of freedom. A number of countries have a relatively low level of institutional effectiveness, which results in greater problems for their people while benefiting those who profit from this situation. Whether in the administration of the state, the various levels of civil society, or relationships between individuals themselves, lack of respect for the law is becoming more common. Laws may be well framed yet remain a dead letter. Can we hope, then, that in such cases, legislation and regulations dealing with the environment will really prove effective? We know, for example, that countries which have clear legislation about the protection of forests continue to keep silent as they watch laws repeatedly being broken. Moreover, what takes place in any one area can have a direct or indirect influence on other areas. Thus, for example, drug use in affluent societies creates a continual and growing demand for products imported from poorer regions, where behaviour is corrupted, lives are destroyed, and the environment continues to deteriorate.

## II. CULTURAL ECOLOGY

143. Together with the patrimony of nature, there is also an historic, artistic and cultural patrimony which is likewise under threat. This patrimony is a part of the shared identity of each place and a foundation upon which to build a habitable city. It is not a matter of tearing down and building new cities, supposedly more respectful of the environment yet not always more attractive to live in. Rather, there is a need to incorporate the history, culture and architecture of each place, thus preserving its original identity. Ecology, then, also involves protecting the cultural treasures of humanity in the broadest sense. More specifically, it calls for greater attention to local cultures when studying environmental problems, favouring a dialogue between scientific-technical language and the language of the people. Culture is more than what we have inherited from the past; it is also, and above all, a living, dynamic and participatory present reality, which cannot be excluded as we rethink the relationship between human beings and the environment.

144. A consumerist vision of human beings, encouraged by the mechanisms of today's globalized economy, has a levelling effect on cultures, diminishing the immense variety which is the heritage of all humanity. Attempts to resolve all problems through uniform regulations or technical interventions can lead to overlooking the complexities of local problems which demand the active participation of all members of the community. New processes taking shape cannot always fit into frameworks imported from outside; they need to be based in the local culture itself. As life and the world are dynamic realities, so our care for the world must also be flexible and dynamic. Merely technical solutions run the risk of addressing symptoms and not the more serious underlying problems. There is a need to respect the rights of peoples and cultures, and to appreciate that the

development of a social group presupposes an historical process which takes place within a cultural context and demands the constant and active involvement of local people *from within their proper culture*. Nor can the notion of the quality of life be imposed from without, for quality of life must be understood within the world of symbols and customs proper to each human group.

145. Many intensive forms of environmental exploitation and degradation not only exhaust the resources which provide local communities with their livelihood, but also undo the social structures which, for a long time, shaped cultural identity and their sense of the meaning of life and community. The disappearance of a culture can be just as serious, or even more serious, than the disappearance of a species of plant or animal. The imposition of a dominant lifestyle linked to a single form of production can be just as harmful as the altering of ecosystems.

146. In this sense, it is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others, but should be the principal dialogue partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed. For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values. When they remain on their land, they themselves care for it best. Nevertheless, in various parts of the world, pressure is being put on them to abandon their homelands to make room for agricultural or mining projects which are undertaken without regard for the degradation of nature and culture.

### **III. ECOLOGY OF DAILY LIFE**

147. Authentic development includes efforts to bring about an integral improvement in the quality of human life, and this entails considering the setting in which people live their lives. These settings influence the way we think, feel and act. In our rooms, our homes, our workplaces and neighbourhoods, we use our environment as a way of expressing our identity. We make every effort to adapt to our environment, but when it is disorderly, chaotic or saturated with noise and ugliness, such overstimulation makes it difficult to find ourselves integrated and happy.

148. An admirable creativity and generosity is shown by persons and groups who respond to environmental limitations by alleviating the adverse effects of their surroundings and learning to orient their lives amid disorder and uncertainty. For example, in some places, where the façades of buildings are derelict, people show great care for the interior of their homes, or find contentment in the kindness and friendliness of others. A wholesome social life can light up a seemingly

undesirable environment. At times a commendable human ecology is practised by the poor despite numerous hardships. The feeling of asphyxiation brought on by densely populated residential areas is countered if close and warm relationships develop, if communities are created, if the limitations of the environment are compensated for in the interior of each person who feels held within a network of solidarity and belonging. In this way, any place can turn from being a hell on earth into the setting for a dignified life.

149. The extreme poverty experienced in areas lacking harmony, open spaces or potential for integration, can lead to incidents of brutality and to exploitation by criminal organizations. In the unstable neighbourhoods of mega-cities, the daily experience of overcrowding and social anonymity can create a sense of uprootedness which spawns antisocial behaviour and violence. Nonetheless, I wish to insist that love always proves more powerful. Many people in these conditions are able to weave bonds of belonging and togetherness which convert overcrowding into an experience of community in which the walls of the ego are torn down and the barriers of selfishness overcome. This experience of a communitarian salvation often generates creative ideas for the improvement of a building or a neighbourhood.[\[117\]](#)

150. Given the interrelationship between living space and human behaviour, those who design buildings, neighbourhoods, public spaces and cities, ought to draw on the various disciplines which help us to understand people's thought processes, symbolic language and ways of acting. It is not enough to seek the beauty of design. More precious still is the service we offer to another kind of beauty: people's quality of life, their adaptation to the environment, encounter and mutual assistance. Here too, we see how important it is that urban planning always take into consideration the views of those who will live in these areas.

151. There is also a need to protect those common areas, visual landmarks and urban landscapes which increase our sense of belonging, of rootedness, of "feeling at home" within a city which includes us and brings us together. It is important that the different parts of a city be well integrated and that those who live there have a sense of the whole, rather than being confined to one neighbourhood and failing to see the larger city as space which they share with others. Interventions which affect the urban or rural landscape should take into account how various elements combine to form a whole which is perceived by its inhabitants as a coherent and meaningful framework for their lives. Others will then no longer be seen as strangers, but as part of a "we" which all of us are working to create. For this same reason, in both urban and rural settings, it is helpful to set aside some places which can be preserved and protected from constant changes brought by human intervention.

152. Lack of housing is a grave problem in many parts of the world, both in rural areas and in large cities, since state budgets usually cover only a small portion of the demand. Not only the poor, but many other members of society as well, find it difficult to own a home. Having a home has much to do with a sense of personal dignity and the growth of families. This is a major issue for human ecology. In some places, where makeshift shanty towns have sprung up, this will mean developing those neighbourhoods rather than razing or displacing them. When the poor live in unsanitary slums or in dangerous tenements, “in cases where it is necessary to relocate them, in order not to heap suffering upon suffering, adequate information needs to be given beforehand, with choices of decent housing offered, and the people directly involved must be part of the process”.<sup>[118]</sup> At the same time, creativity should be shown in integrating rundown neighbourhoods into a welcoming city: “How beautiful those cities which overcome paralyzing mistrust, integrate those who are different and make this very integration a new factor of development! How attractive are those cities which, even in their architectural design, are full of spaces which connect, relate and favour the recognition of others!”<sup>[119]</sup>

153. The quality of life in cities has much to do with systems of transport, which are often a source of much suffering for those who use them. Many cars, used by one or more people, circulate in cities, causing traffic congestion, raising the level of pollution, and consuming enormous quantities of non-renewable energy. This makes it necessary to build more roads and parking areas which spoil the urban landscape. Many specialists agree on the need to give priority to public transportation. Yet some measures needed will not prove easily acceptable to society unless substantial improvements are made in the systems themselves, which in many cities force people to put up with undignified conditions due to crowding, inconvenience, infrequent service and lack of safety.

154. Respect for our dignity as human beings often jars with the chaotic realities that people have to endure in city life. Yet this should not make us overlook the abandonment and neglect also experienced by some rural populations which lack access to essential services and where some workers are reduced to conditions of servitude, without rights or even the hope of a more dignified life.

155. Human ecology also implies another profound reality: the relationship between human life and the moral law, which is inscribed in our nature and is necessary for the creation of a more dignified environment. Pope Benedict XVI spoke of an “ecology of man”, based on the fact that “man too has a nature that he must respect and that he cannot manipulate at will”.<sup>[120]</sup> It is enough to recognize that our body itself establishes us in a direct relationship with the environment and with other living beings. The acceptance of our bodies as God’s gift is vital for

welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father and our common home, whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation. Learning to accept our body, to care for it and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology. Also, valuing one's own body in its femininity or masculinity is necessary if I am going to be able to recognize myself in an encounter with someone who is different. In this way we can joyfully accept the specific gifts of another man or woman, the work of God the Creator, and find mutual enrichment. It is not a healthy attitude which would seek "to cancel out sexual difference because it no longer knows how to confront it".[\[121\]](#)

#### **IV. THE PRINCIPLE OF THE COMMON GOOD**

156. Human ecology is inseparable from the notion of the common good, a central and unifying principle of social ethics. The common good is "the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment".[\[122\]](#)

157. Underlying the principle of the common good is respect for the human person as such, endowed with basic and inalienable rights ordered to his or her integral development. It has also to do with the overall welfare of society and the development of a variety of intermediate groups, applying the principle of subsidiarity. Outstanding among those groups is the family, as the basic cell of society. Finally, the common good calls for social peace, the stability and security provided by a certain order which cannot be achieved without particular concern for distributive justice; whenever this is violated, violence always ensues. Society as a whole, and the state in particular, are obliged to defend and promote the common good.

158. In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, the principle of the common good immediately becomes, logically and inevitably, a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters. This option entails recognizing the implications of the universal destination of the world's goods, but, as I mentioned in the Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#),[\[123\]](#) it demands before all else an appreciation of the immense dignity of the poor in the light of our deepest convictions as believers. We need only look around us to see that, today, this option is in fact an ethical imperative essential for effectively attaining the common good.

## V. JUSTICE BETWEEN THE GENERATIONS

159. The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. The global economic crises have made painfully obvious the detrimental effects of disregarding our common destiny, which cannot exclude those who come after us. We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us. The Portuguese bishops have called upon us to acknowledge this obligation of justice: “The environment is part of a logic of receptivity. It is on loan to each generation, which must then hand it on to the next”.<sup>[124]</sup> An integral ecology is marked by this broader vision.

160. What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? This question not only concerns the environment in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal. When we ask ourselves what kind of world we want to leave behind, we think in the first place of its general direction, its meaning and its values. Unless we struggle with these deeper issues, I do not believe that our concern for ecology will produce significant results. But if these issues are courageously faced, we are led inexorably to ask other pointed questions: What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us? It is no longer enough, then, simply to state that we should be concerned for future generations. We need to see that what is at stake is our own dignity. Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us. The issue is one which dramatically affects us, for it has to do with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn.

161. Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now. We need to reflect on our accountability before those who will have to endure the dire consequences.



162. Our difficulty in taking up this challenge seriously has much to do with an ethical and cultural decline which has accompanied the deterioration of the environment. Men and women of our postmodern world run the risk of rampant individualism, and many problems of society are connected with today's self-centred culture of instant gratification. We see this in the crisis of family and social ties and the difficulties of recognizing the other. Parents can be prone to impulsive and wasteful consumption, which then affects their children who find it increasingly difficult to acquire a home of their own and build a family. Furthermore, our inability to think seriously about future generations is linked to our inability to broaden the scope of our present interests and to give consideration to those who remain excluded from development. Let us not only keep the poor of the future in mind, but also today's poor, whose life on this earth is brief and who cannot keep on waiting. Hence, "in addition to a fairer sense of intergenerational solidarity there is also an urgent moral need for a renewed sense of intragenerational solidarity".[\[125\]](#)

## CHAPTER FIVE

### LINES OF APPROACH AND ACTION

163. So far I have attempted to take stock of our present situation, pointing to the cracks in the planet that we inhabit as well as to the profoundly human causes of environmental degradation. Although the contemplation of this reality in itself has already shown the need for a change of direction and other courses of action, now we shall try to outline the major paths of dialogue which can help us escape the spiral of self-destruction which currently engulfs us.

#### I. DIALOGUE ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

164. Beginning in the middle of the last century and overcoming many difficulties, there has been a growing conviction that our planet is a homeland and that humanity is one people living in a common home. An interdependent world not only makes us more conscious of the negative effects of certain lifestyles and models of production and consumption which affect us all; more importantly, it motivates us to ensure that solutions are proposed from a global perspective, and not simply to defend the interests of a few countries. Interdependence obliges us to think of *one world with a common plan*. Yet the same ingenuity which has brought about enormous technological progress has so far proved incapable of finding effective ways of dealing with grave environmental and social problems

worldwide. A global consensus is essential for confronting the deeper problems, which cannot be resolved by unilateral actions on the part of individual countries. Such a consensus could lead, for example, to planning a sustainable and diversified agriculture, developing renewable and less polluting forms of energy, encouraging a more efficient use of energy, promoting a better management of marine and forest resources, and ensuring universal access to drinking water.

165. We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels – especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas – needs to be progressively replaced without delay. Until greater progress is made in developing widely accessible sources of renewable energy, it is legitimate to choose the lesser of two evils or to find short-term solutions. But the international community has still not reached adequate agreements about the responsibility for paying the costs of this energy transition. In recent decades, environmental issues have given rise to considerable public debate and have elicited a variety of committed and generous civic responses. Politics and business have been slow to react in a way commensurate with the urgency of the challenges facing our world. Although the post-industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history, nonetheless there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities.

166. Worldwide, the ecological movement has made significant advances, thanks also to the efforts of many organizations of civil society. It is impossible here to mention them all, or to review the history of their contributions. But thanks to their efforts, environmental questions have increasingly found a place on public agendas and encouraged more far-sighted approaches. This notwithstanding, recent World Summits on the environment have not lived up to expectations because, due to lack of political will, they were unable to reach truly meaningful and effective global agreements on the environment.

167. The 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro is worth mentioning. It proclaimed that “human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development”.<sup>[126]</sup> Echoing the 1972 Stockholm Declaration, it enshrined international cooperation to care for the ecosystem of the entire earth, the obligation of those who cause pollution to assume its costs, and the duty to assess the environmental impact of given projects and works. It set the goal of limiting greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere, in an effort to reverse the trend of global warming. It also drew up an agenda with an action plan and a convention on biodiversity, and stated principles regarding forests. Although the summit was a real step forward, and prophetic for its time, its accords have been poorly implemented, due to the lack of suitable mechanisms for oversight, periodic review and penalties in cases of non-compliance. The principles which it proclaimed still

await an efficient and flexible means of practical implementation.

168. Among positive experiences in this regard, we might mention, for example, the Basel Convention on hazardous wastes, with its system of reporting, standards and controls. There is also the binding Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, which includes on-site visits for verifying effective compliance. Thanks to the Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer and its implementation through the Montreal Protocol and amendments, the problem of the layer's thinning seems to have entered a phase of resolution.

169. As far as the protection of biodiversity and issues related to desertification are concerned, progress has been far less significant. With regard to climate change, the advances have been regrettably few. Reducing greenhouse gases requires honesty, courage and responsibility, above all on the part of those countries which are more powerful and pollute the most. The Conference of the United Nations on Sustainable Development, "Rio+20" (Rio de Janeiro 2012), issued a wide-ranging but ineffectual outcome document. International negotiations cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the global common good. Those who will have to suffer the consequences of what we are trying to hide will not forget this failure of conscience and responsibility. Even as this Encyclical was being prepared, the debate was intensifying. We believers cannot fail to ask God for a positive outcome to the present discussions, so that future generations will not have to suffer the effects of our ill-advised delays.

170. Some strategies for lowering pollutant gas emissions call for the internationalization of environmental costs, which would risk imposing on countries with fewer resources burdensome commitments to reducing emissions comparable to those of the more industrialized countries. Imposing such measures penalizes those countries most in need of development. A further injustice is perpetrated under the guise of protecting the environment. Here also, the poor end up paying the price. Furthermore, since the effects of climate change will be felt for a long time to come, even if stringent measures are taken now, some countries with scarce resources will require assistance in adapting to the effects already being produced, which affect their economies. In this context, there is a need for common and differentiated responsibilities. As the bishops of Bolivia have stated, "the countries which have benefited from a high degree of industrialization, at the cost of enormous emissions of greenhouse gases, have a greater responsibility for providing a solution to the problems they have caused".[\[127\]](#)

171. The strategy of buying and selling "carbon credits" can lead to a new form of

speculation which would not help reduce the emission of polluting gases worldwide. This system seems to provide a quick and easy solution under the guise of a certain commitment to the environment, but in no way does it allow for the radical change which present circumstances require. Rather, it may simply become a ploy which permits maintaining the excessive consumption of some countries and sectors.

172. For poor countries, the priorities must be to eliminate extreme poverty and to promote the social development of their people. At the same time, they need to acknowledge the scandalous level of consumption in some privileged sectors of their population and to combat corruption more effectively. They are likewise bound to develop less polluting forms of energy production, but to do so they require the help of countries which have experienced great growth at the cost of the ongoing pollution of the planet. Taking advantage of abundant solar energy will require the establishment of mechanisms and subsidies which allow developing countries access to technology transfer, technical assistance and financial resources, but in a way which respects their concrete situations, since “the compatibility of [infrastructures] with the context for which they have been designed is not always adequately assessed”.<sup>[128]</sup> The costs of this would be low, compared to the risks of climate change. In any event, these are primarily ethical decisions, rooted in solidarity between all peoples.

173. Enforceable international agreements are urgently needed, since local authorities are not always capable of effective intervention. Relations between states must be respectful of each other’s sovereignty, but must also lay down mutually agreed means of averting regional disasters which would eventually affect everyone. Global regulatory norms are needed to impose obligations and prevent unacceptable actions, for example, when powerful companies dump contaminated waste or offshore polluting industries in other countries.

174. Let us also mention the system of governance of the oceans. International and regional conventions do exist, but fragmentation and the lack of strict mechanisms of regulation, control and penalization end up undermining these efforts. The growing problem of marine waste and the protection of the open seas represent particular challenges. What is needed, in effect, is an agreement on systems of governance for the whole range of so-called “global commons”.

175. The same mindset which stands in the way of making radical decisions to reverse the trend of global warming also stands in the way of achieving the goal of eliminating poverty. A more responsible overall approach is needed to deal with both problems: the reduction of pollution and the development of poorer countries and regions. The twenty-first century, while maintaining systems of governance

inherited from the past, is witnessing a weakening of the power of nation states, chiefly because the economic and financial sectors, being transnational, tends to prevail over the political. Given this situation, it is essential to devise stronger and more efficiently organized international institutions, with functionaries who are appointed fairly by agreement among national governments, and empowered to impose sanctions. As Benedict XVI has affirmed in continuity with the social teaching of the Church: “To manage the global economy; to revive economies hit by the crisis; to avoid any deterioration of the present crisis and the greater imbalances that would result; to bring about integral and timely disarmament, food security and peace; to guarantee the protection of the environment and to regulate migration: for all this, there is urgent need of a true world political authority, as my predecessor Blessed John XXIII indicated some years ago”.<sup>[129]</sup> Diplomacy also takes on new importance in the work of developing international strategies which can anticipate serious problems affecting us all.

## II. DIALOGUE FOR NEW NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLICIES

176. There are not just winners and losers among countries, but within poorer countries themselves. Hence different responsibilities need to be identified. Questions related to the environment and economic development can no longer be approached only from the standpoint of differences between countries; they also call for greater attention to policies on the national and local levels.

177. Given the real potential for a misuse of human abilities, individual states can no longer ignore their responsibility for planning, coordination, oversight and enforcement within their respective borders. How can a society plan and protect its future amid constantly developing technological innovations? One authoritative source of oversight and coordination is the law, which lays down rules for admissible conduct in the light of the common good. The limits which a healthy, mature and sovereign society must impose are those related to foresight and security, regulatory norms, timely enforcement, the elimination of corruption, effective responses to undesired side-effects of production processes, and appropriate intervention where potential or uncertain risks are involved. There is a growing jurisprudence dealing with the reduction of pollution by business activities. But political and institutional frameworks do not exist simply to avoid bad practice, but also to promote best practice, to stimulate creativity in seeking new solutions and to encourage individual or group initiatives.

178. A politics concerned with immediate results, supported by consumerist sectors of the population, is driven to produce short-term growth. In response to electoral interests, governments are reluctant to upset the public with measures which could affect the level of consumption or create risks for foreign investment.

The myopia of power politics delays the inclusion of a far-sighted environmental agenda within the overall agenda of governments. Thus we forget that “time is greater than space”,<sup>[130]</sup> that we are always more effective when we generate processes rather than holding on to positions of power. True statecraft is manifest when, in difficult times, we uphold high principles and think of the long-term common good. Political powers do not find it easy to assume this duty in the work of nation-building.

179. In some places, cooperatives are being developed to exploit renewable sources of energy which ensure local self-sufficiency and even the sale of surplus energy. This simple example shows that, while the existing world order proves powerless to assume its responsibilities, local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instil a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land. They are also concerned about what they will eventually leave to their children and grandchildren. These values are deeply rooted in indigenous peoples. Because the enforcement of laws is at times inadequate due to corruption, public pressure has to be exerted in order to bring about decisive political action. Society, through non-governmental organizations and intermediate groups, must put pressure on governments to develop more rigorous regulations, procedures and controls. Unless citizens control political power – national, regional and municipal – it will not be possible to control damage to the environment. Local legislation can be more effective, too, if agreements exist between neighbouring communities to support the same environmental policies.

180. There are no uniform recipes, because each country or region has its own problems and limitations. It is also true that political realism may call for transitional measures and technologies, so long as these are accompanied by the gradual framing and acceptance of binding commitments. At the same time, on the national and local levels, much still needs to be done, such as promoting ways of conserving energy. These would include favouring forms of industrial production with maximum energy efficiency and diminished use of raw materials, removing from the market products which are less energy efficient or more polluting, improving transport systems, and encouraging the construction and repair of buildings aimed at reducing their energy consumption and levels of pollution. Political activity on the local level could also be directed to modifying consumption, developing an economy of waste disposal and recycling, protecting certain species and planning a diversified agriculture and the rotation of crops. Agriculture in poorer regions can be improved through investment in rural infrastructures, a better organization of local or national markets, systems of irrigation, and the development of techniques of sustainable agriculture. New forms of cooperation and community organization can be encouraged in order to defend the interests of small producers and preserve local ecosystems from destruction. Truly, much can be done!

181. Here, continuity is essential, because policies related to climate change and environmental protection cannot be altered with every change of government. Results take time and demand immediate outlays which may not produce tangible effects within any one government's term. That is why, in the absence of pressure from the public and from civic institutions, political authorities will always be reluctant to intervene, all the more when urgent needs must be met. To take up these responsibilities and the costs they entail, politicians will inevitably clash with the mindset of short-term gain and results which dominates present-day economics and politics. But if they are courageous, they will attest to their God-given dignity and leave behind a testimony of selfless responsibility. A healthy politics is sorely needed, capable of reforming and coordinating institutions, promoting best practices and overcoming undue pressure and bureaucratic inertia. It should be added, though, that even the best mechanisms can break down when there are no worthy goals and values, or a genuine and profound humanism to serve as the basis of a noble and generous society.

### **III. DIALOGUE AND TRANSPARENCY IN DECISION-MAKING**

182. An assessment of the environmental impact of business ventures and projects demands transparent political processes involving a free exchange of views. On the other hand, the forms of corruption which conceal the actual environmental impact of a given project, in exchange for favours, usually produce specious agreements which fail to inform adequately and to allow for full debate.

183. Environmental impact assessment should not come after the drawing up of a business proposition or the proposal of a particular policy, plan or programme. It should be part of the process from the beginning, and be carried out in a way which is interdisciplinary, transparent and free of all economic or political pressure. It should be linked to a study of working conditions and possible effects on people's physical and mental health, on the local economy and on public safety. Economic returns can thus be forecast more realistically, taking into account potential scenarios and the eventual need for further investment to correct possible undesired effects. A consensus should always be reached between the different stakeholders, who can offer a variety of approaches, solutions and alternatives. The local population should have a special place at the table; they are concerned about their own future and that of their children, and can consider goals transcending immediate economic interest. We need to stop thinking in terms of "interventions" to save the environment in favour of policies developed and debated by all interested parties. The participation of the latter also entails being fully informed about such projects and their different risks and possibilities; this includes not just preliminary decisions but also various follow-up activities and continued monitoring. Honesty and truth are needed in scientific and political discussions;

these should not be limited to the issue of whether or not a particular project is permitted by law.

184. In the face of possible risks to the environment which may affect the common good now and in the future, decisions must be made “based on a comparison of the risks and benefits foreseen for the various possible alternatives”.[131] This is especially the case when a project may lead to a greater use of natural resources, higher levels of emission or discharge, an increase of refuse, or significant changes to the landscape, the habitats of protected species or public spaces. Some projects, if insufficiently studied, can profoundly affect the quality of life of an area due to very different factors such as unforeseen noise pollution, the shrinking of visual horizons, the loss of cultural values, or the effects of nuclear energy use. The culture of consumerism, which prioritizes short-term gain and private interest, can make it easy to rubber-stamp authorizations or to conceal information.

185. In any discussion about a proposed venture, a number of questions need to be asked in order to discern whether or not it will contribute to genuine integral development. What will it accomplish? Why? Where? When? How? For whom? What are the risks? What are the costs? Who will pay those costs and how? In this discernment, some questions must have higher priority. For example, we know that water is a scarce and indispensable resource and a fundamental right which conditions the exercise of other human rights. This indisputable fact overrides any other assessment of environmental impact on a region.

186. The Rio Declaration of 1992 states that “where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a pretext for postponing cost-effective measures”[132] which prevent environmental degradation. This precautionary principle makes it possible to protect those who are most vulnerable and whose ability to defend their interests and to assemble incontrovertible evidence is limited. If objective information suggests that serious and irreversible damage may result, a project should be halted or modified, even in the absence of indisputable proof. Here the burden of proof is effectively reversed, since in such cases objective and conclusive demonstrations will have to be brought forward to demonstrate that the proposed activity will not cause serious harm to the environment or to those who inhabit it.

187. This does not mean being opposed to any technological innovations which can bring about an improvement in the quality of life. But it does mean that profit cannot be the sole criterion to be taken into account, and that, when significant new information comes to light, a reassessment should be made, with the involvement of all interested parties. The outcome may be a decision not to



proceed with a given project, to modify it or to consider alternative proposals.

188. There are certain environmental issues where it is not easy to achieve a broad consensus. Here I would state once more that the Church does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics. But I am concerned to encourage an honest and open debate so that particular interests or ideologies will not prejudice the common good.

#### **IV. POLITICS AND ECONOMY IN DIALOGUE FOR HUMAN FULFILMENT**

189. Politics must not be subject to the economy, nor should the economy be subject to the dictates of an efficiency-driven paradigm of technocracy. Today, in view of the common good, there is urgent need for politics and economics to enter into a frank dialogue in the service of life, especially human life. Saving banks at any cost, making the public pay the price, foregoing a firm commitment to reviewing and reforming the entire system, only reaffirms the absolute power of a financial system, a power which has no future and will only give rise to new crises after a slow, costly and only apparent recovery. The financial crisis of 2007-08 provided an opportunity to develop a new economy, more attentive to ethical principles, and new ways of regulating speculative financial practices and virtual wealth. But the response to the crisis did not include rethinking the outdated criteria which continue to rule the world. Production is not always rational, and is usually tied to economic variables which assign to products a value that does not necessarily correspond to their real worth. This frequently leads to an overproduction of some commodities, with unnecessary impact on the environment and with negative results on regional economies.<sup>[133]</sup> The financial bubble also tends to be a productive bubble. The problem of the real economy is not confronted with vigour, yet it is the real economy which makes diversification and improvement in production possible, helps companies to function well, and enables small and medium businesses to develop and create employment.

190. Here too, it should always be kept in mind that “environmental protection cannot be assured solely on the basis of financial calculations of costs and benefits. The environment is one of those goods that cannot be adequately safeguarded or promoted by market forces”.<sup>[134]</sup> Once more, we need to reject a magical conception of the market, which would suggest that problems can be solved simply by an increase in the profits of companies or individuals. Is it realistic to hope that those who are obsessed with maximizing profits will stop to reflect on the environmental damage which they will leave behind for future generations? Where profits alone count, there can be no thinking about the rhythms of nature, its phases of decay and regeneration, or the complexity of ecosystems which may be gravely

upset by human intervention. Moreover, biodiversity is considered at most a deposit of economic resources available for exploitation, with no serious thought for the real value of things, their significance for persons and cultures, or the concerns and needs of the poor.

191. Whenever these questions are raised, some react by accusing others of irrationally attempting to stand in the way of progress and human development. But we need to grow in the conviction that a decrease in the pace of production and consumption can at times give rise to another form of progress and development. Efforts to promote a sustainable use of natural resources are not a waste of money, but rather an investment capable of providing other economic benefits in the medium term. If we look at the larger picture, we can see that more diversified and innovative forms of production which impact less on the environment can prove very profitable. It is a matter of openness to different possibilities which do not involve stifling human creativity and its ideals of progress, but rather directing that energy along new channels.

192. For example, a path of productive development, which is more creative and better directed, could correct the present disparity between excessive technological investment in consumption and insufficient investment in resolving urgent problems facing the human family. It could generate intelligent and profitable ways of reusing, revamping and recycling, and it could also improve the energy efficiency of cities. Productive diversification offers the fullest possibilities to human ingenuity to create and innovate, while at the same time protecting the environment and creating more sources of employment. Such creativity would be a worthy expression of our most noble human qualities, for we would be striving intelligently, boldly and responsibly to promote a sustainable and equitable development within the context of a broader concept of quality of life. On the other hand, to find ever new ways of despoiling nature, purely for the sake of new consumer items and quick profit, would be, in human terms, less worthy and creative, and more superficial.

193. In any event, if in some cases sustainable development were to involve new forms of growth, then in other cases, given the insatiable and irresponsible growth produced over many decades, we need also to think of containing growth by setting some reasonable limits and even retracing our steps before it is too late. We know how unsustainable is the behaviour of those who constantly consume and destroy, while others are not yet able to live in a way worthy of their human dignity. That is why the time has come to accept decreased growth in some parts of the world, in order to provide resources for other places to experience healthy growth. Benedict XVI has said that “technologically advanced societies must be prepared to encourage more sober lifestyles, while reducing their energy consumption and improving its efficiency”.[\[135\]](#)

194. For new models of progress to arise, there is a need to change “models of global development”;[\[136\]](#) this will entail a responsible reflection on “the meaning of the economy and its goals with an eye to correcting its malfunctions and misapplications”.[\[137\]](#) It is not enough to balance, in the medium term, the protection of nature with financial gain, or the preservation of the environment with progress. Halfway measures simply delay the inevitable disaster. Put simply, it is a matter of redefining our notion of progress. A technological and economic development which does not leave in its wake a better world and an integrally higher quality of life cannot be considered progress. Frequently, in fact, people’s quality of life actually diminishes – by the deterioration of the environment, the low quality of food or the depletion of resources – in the midst of economic growth. In this context, talk of sustainable growth usually becomes a way of distracting attention and offering excuses. It absorbs the language and values of ecology into the categories of finance and technocracy, and the social and environmental responsibility of businesses often gets reduced to a series of marketing and image-enhancing measures.

195. The principle of the maximization of profits, frequently isolated from other considerations, reflects a misunderstanding of the very concept of the economy. As long as production is increased, little concern is given to whether it is at the cost of future resources or the health of the environment; as long as the clearing of a forest increases production, no one calculates the losses entailed in the desertification of the land, the harm done to biodiversity or the increased pollution. In a word, businesses profit by calculating and paying only a fraction of the costs involved. Yet only when “the economic and social costs of using up shared environmental resources are recognized with transparency and fully borne by those who incur them, not by other peoples or future generations”,[\[138\]](#) can those actions be considered ethical. An instrumental way of reasoning, which provides a purely static analysis of realities in the service of present needs, is at work whether resources are allocated by the market or by state central planning.

196. What happens with politics? Let us keep in mind the principle of subsidiarity, which grants freedom to develop the capabilities present at every level of society, while also demanding a greater sense of responsibility for the common good from those who wield greater power. Today, it is the case that some economic sectors exercise more power than states themselves. But economics without politics cannot be justified, since this would make it impossible to favour other ways of handling the various aspects of the present crisis. The mindset which leaves no room for sincere concern for the environment is the same mindset which lacks concern for the inclusion of the most vulnerable members of society. For “the current model, with its emphasis on success and self-reliance, does not appear to favour an investment in efforts to help the slow, the weak or the less talented to find opportunities in life”.[\[139\]](#)

197. What is needed is a politics which is far-sighted and capable of a new, integral and interdisciplinary approach to handling the different aspects of the crisis. Often, politics itself is responsible for the disrepute in which it is held, on account of corruption and the failure to enact sound public policies. If in a given region the state does not carry out its responsibilities, some business groups can come forward in the guise of benefactors, wield real power, and consider themselves exempt from certain rules, to the point of tolerating different forms of organized crime, human trafficking, the drug trade and violence, all of which become very difficult to eradicate. If politics shows itself incapable of breaking such a perverse logic, and remains caught up in inconsequential discussions, we will continue to avoid facing the major problems of humanity. A strategy for real change calls for rethinking processes in their entirety, for it is not enough to include a few superficial ecological considerations while failing to question the logic which underlies present-day culture. A healthy politics needs to be able to take up this challenge.

198. Politics and the economy tend to blame each other when it comes to poverty and environmental degradation. It is to be hoped that they can acknowledge their own mistakes and find forms of interaction directed to the common good. While some are concerned only with financial gain, and others with holding on to or increasing their power, what we are left with are conflicts or spurious agreements where the last thing either party is concerned about is caring for the environment and protecting those who are most vulnerable. Here too, we see how true it is that “unity is greater than conflict”.[\[140\]](#)

## V. RELIGIONS IN DIALOGUE WITH SCIENCE

199. It cannot be maintained that empirical science provides a complete explanation of life, the interplay of all creatures and the whole of reality. This would be to breach the limits imposed by its own methodology. If we reason only within the confines of the latter, little room would be left for aesthetic sensibility, poetry, or even reason’s ability to grasp the ultimate meaning and purpose of things.[\[141\]](#) I would add that “religious classics can prove meaningful in every age; they have an enduring power to open new horizons... Is it reasonable and enlightened to dismiss certain writings simply because they arose in the context of religious belief?”[\[142\]](#) It would be quite simplistic to think that ethical principles present themselves purely in the abstract, detached from any context. Nor does the fact that they may be couched in religious language detract from their value in public debate. The ethical principles capable of being apprehended by reason can always reappear in different guise and find expression in a variety of languages, including religious language.

200. Any technical solution which science claims to offer will be powerless to solve the serious problems of our world if humanity loses its compass, if we lose sight of the great motivations which make it possible for us to live in harmony, to make sacrifices and to treat others well. Believers themselves must constantly feel challenged to live in a way consonant with their faith and not to contradict it by their actions. They need to be encouraged to be ever open to God's grace and to draw constantly from their deepest convictions about love, justice and peace. If a mistaken understanding of our own principles has at times led us to justify mistreating nature, to exercise tyranny over creation, to engage in war, injustice and acts of violence, we believers should acknowledge that by so doing we were not faithful to the treasures of wisdom which we have been called to protect and preserve. Cultural limitations in different eras often affected the perception of these ethical and spiritual treasures, yet by constantly returning to their sources, religions will be better equipped to respond to today's needs.

201. The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity. Dialogue among the various sciences is likewise needed, since each can tend to become enclosed in its own language, while specialization leads to a certain isolation and the absolutization of its own field of knowledge. This prevents us from confronting environmental problems effectively. An open and respectful dialogue is also needed between the various ecological movements, among which ideological conflicts are not infrequently encountered. The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good, embarking on a path of dialogue which demands patience, self-discipline and generosity, always keeping in mind that "realities are greater than ideas".[\[143\]](#)

## CHAPTER SIX

### **ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND SPIRITUALITY**

202. Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life. A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal.

## I. TOWARDS A NEW LIFESTYLE

203. Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending. Compulsive consumerism is one example of how the techno-economic paradigm affects individuals. Romano Guardini had already foreseen this: “The gadgets and technics forced upon him by the patterns of machine production and of abstract planning mass man accepts quite simply; they are the forms of life itself. To either a greater or lesser degree mass man is convinced that his conformity is both reasonable and just”.[\[144\]](#) This paradigm leads people to believe that they are free as long as they have the supposed freedom to consume. But those really free are the minority who wield economic and financial power. Amid this confusion, postmodern humanity has not yet achieved a new self-awareness capable of offering guidance and direction, and this lack of identity is a source of anxiety. We have too many means and only a few insubstantial ends.

204. The current global situation engenders a feeling of instability and uncertainty, which in turn becomes “a seedbed for collective selfishness”.[\[145\]](#) When people become self-centred and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person’s heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. It becomes almost impossible to accept the limits imposed by reality. In this horizon, a genuine sense of the common good also disappears. As these attitudes become more widespread, social norms are respected only to the extent that they do not clash with personal needs. So our concern cannot be limited merely to the threat of extreme weather events, but must also extend to the catastrophic consequences of social unrest. Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction.

205. Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning. We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom. No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. I appeal to everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours. No one has the right to take it from us.

206. A change in lifestyle could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic and social power. This is what consumer movements accomplish by boycotting certain products. They prove successful in changing the way businesses operate, forcing them to consider their environmental footprint and their patterns of production. When social pressure affects their earnings, businesses clearly have to find ways to produce differently. This shows us the great need for a sense of social responsibility on the part of consumers. “Purchasing is always a

moral – and not simply economic – act”.[\[146\]](#) Today, in a word, “the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle”.[\[147\]](#)

207. The Earth Charter asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start, but we have not as yet developed a universal awareness needed to achieve this. Here, I would echo that courageous challenge: “As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning... Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life”.[\[148\]](#)

208. We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other. Unless we do this, other creatures will not be recognized for their true worth; we are unconcerned about caring for things for the sake of others; we fail to set limits on ourselves in order to avoid the suffering of others or the deterioration of our surroundings. Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society.

## **II. EDUCATING FOR THE COVENANT BETWEEN HUMANITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

209. An awareness of the gravity of today’s cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits. Many people know that our current progress and the mere amassing of things and pleasures are not enough to give meaning and joy to the human heart, yet they feel unable to give up what the market sets before them. In those countries which should be making the greatest changes in consumer habits, young people have a new ecological sensitivity and a generous spirit, and some of them are making admirable efforts to protect the environment. At the same time, they have grown up in a milieu of extreme consumerism and affluence which makes it difficult to develop other habits. We are faced with an educational challenge.

210. Environmental education has broadened its goals. Whereas in the beginning it was mainly centred on scientific information, consciousness-raising and the prevention of environmental risks, it tends now to include a critique of the “myths” of a modernity grounded in a utilitarian mindset (individualism, unlimited progress, competition, consumerism, the unregulated market). It seeks also to

restore the various levels of ecological equilibrium, establishing harmony within ourselves, with others, with nature and other living creatures, and with God. Environmental education should facilitate making the leap towards the transcendent which gives ecological ethics its deepest meaning. It needs educators capable of developing an ethics of ecology, and helping people, through effective pedagogy, to grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care.

211. Yet this education, aimed at creating an “ecological citizenship”, is at times limited to providing information, and fails to instil good habits. The existence of laws and regulations is insufficient in the long run to curb bad conduct, even when effective means of enforcement are present. If the laws are to bring about significant, long-lasting effects, the majority of the members of society must be adequately motivated to accept them, and personally transformed to respond. Only by cultivating sound virtues will people be able to make a selfless ecological commitment. A person who could afford to spend and consume more but regularly uses less heating and wears warmer clothes, shows the kind of convictions and attitudes which help to protect the environment. There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle. Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices. All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity.

212. We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread. Furthermore, such actions can restore our sense of self-esteem; they can enable us to live more fully and to feel that life on earth is worthwhile.

213. Ecological education can take place in a variety of settings: at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis and elsewhere. Good education plants seeds when we are young, and these continue to bear fruit throughout life. Here, though, I would stress the great importance of the family, which is “the place in which life – the gift of God – can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth. In the face of the so-called culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life”.<sup>[149]</sup> In the family we first learn how to show love and respect for life; we are taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for the local ecosystem and care for all creatures. In the family we receive



an integral education, which enables us to grow harmoniously in personal maturity. In the family we learn to ask without demanding, to say “thank you” as an expression of genuine gratitude for what we have been given, to control our aggressivity and greed, and to ask forgiveness when we have caused harm. These simple gestures of heartfelt courtesy help to create a culture of shared life and respect for our surroundings.

214. Political institutions and various other social groups are also entrusted with helping to raise people’s awareness. So too is the Church. All Christian communities have an important role to play in ecological education. It is my hope that our seminaries and houses of formation will provide an education in responsible simplicity of life, in grateful contemplation of God’s world, and in concern for the needs of the poor and the protection of the environment. Because the stakes are so high, we need institutions empowered to impose penalties for damage inflicted on the environment. But we also need the personal qualities of self-control and willingness to learn from one another.

215. In this regard, “the relationship between a good aesthetic education and the maintenance of a healthy environment cannot be overlooked”.<sup>[150]</sup> By learning to see and appreciate beauty, we learn to reject self-interested pragmatism. If someone has not learned to stop and admire something beautiful, we should not be surprised if he or she treats everything as an object to be used and abused without scruple. If we want to bring about deep change, we need to realize that certain mindsets really do influence our behaviour. Our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature. Otherwise, the paradigm of consumerism will continue to advance, with the help of the media and the highly effective workings of the market.

### **III. ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION**

216. The rich heritage of Christian spirituality, the fruit of twenty centuries of personal and communal experience, has a precious contribution to make to the renewal of humanity. Here, I would like to offer Christians a few suggestions for an ecological spirituality grounded in the convictions of our faith, since the teachings of the Gospel have direct consequences for our way of thinking, feeling and living. More than in ideas or concepts as such, I am interested in how such a spirituality can motivate us to a more passionate concern for the protection of our world. A commitment this lofty cannot be sustained by doctrine alone, without a spirituality capable of inspiring us, without an “interior impulse which encourages, motivates, nourishes and gives meaning to our individual and communal activity”.<sup>[151]</sup> Admittedly, Christians have not always appropriated and developed the spiritual treasures bestowed by God upon the Church, where the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but

lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us.

217. “The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast”.[\[152\]](#) For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an “ecological conversion”, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.

218. In calling to mind the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change. The Australian bishops spoke of the importance of such conversion for achieving reconciliation with creation: “To achieve such reconciliation, we must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God’s creation through our actions and our failure to act. We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart”.[\[153\]](#)

219. Nevertheless, self-improvement on the part of individuals will not by itself remedy the extremely complex situation facing our world today. Isolated individuals can lose their ability and freedom to escape the utilitarian mindset, and end up prey to an unethical consumerism bereft of social or ecological awareness. Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds. This task “will make such tremendous demands of man that he could never achieve it by individual initiative or even by the united effort of men bred in an individualistic way. The work of dominating the world calls for a union of skills and a unity of achievement that can only grow from quite a different attitude”.[\[154\]](#) The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion.

220. This conversion calls for a number of attitudes which together foster a spirit of generous care, full of tenderness. First, it entails gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God’s loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works: “Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing... and your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (*Mt 6:3-4*). It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal

communion. As believers, we do not look at the world from without but from within, conscious of the bonds with which the Father has linked us to all beings. By developing our individual, God-given capacities, an ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world's problems and in offering ourselves to God "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable" (*Rom 12:1*). We do not understand our superiority as a reason for personal glory or irresponsible dominion, but rather as a different capacity which, in its turn, entails a serious responsibility stemming from our faith.

221. Various convictions of our faith, developed at the beginning of this Encyclical can help us to enrich the meaning of this conversion. These include the awareness that each creature reflects something of God and has a message to convey to us, and the security that Christ has taken unto himself this material world and now, risen, is intimately present to each being, surrounding it with his affection and penetrating it with his light. Then too, there is the recognition that God created the world, writing into it an order and a dynamism that human beings have no right to ignore. We read in the Gospel that Jesus says of the birds of the air that "not one of them is forgotten before God" (*Lk 12:6*). How then can we possibly mistreat them or cause them harm? I ask all Christians to recognize and to live fully this dimension of their conversion. May the power and the light of the grace we have received also be evident in our relationship to other creatures and to the world around us. In this way, we will help nurture that sublime fraternity with all creation which Saint Francis of Assisi so radiantly embodied.

#### **IV. JOY AND PEACE**

222. Christian spirituality proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption. We need to take up an ancient lesson, found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the conviction that "less is more". A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment. To be serenely present to each reality, however small it may be, opens us to much greater horizons of understanding and personal fulfilment. Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack. This implies avoiding the dynamic of dominion and the mere accumulation of pleasures.

223. Such sobriety, when lived freely and consciously, is liberating. It is not a lesser life or one lived with less intensity. On the contrary, it is a way of living life to the full. In reality, those who enjoy more and live better each moment are those who have given up dipping here and there, always on the look-out for what they do

not have. They experience what it means to appreciate each person and each thing, learning familiarity with the simplest things and how to enjoy them. So they are able to shed unsatisfied needs, reducing their obsessiveness and weariness. Even living on little, they can live a lot, above all when they cultivate other pleasures and find satisfaction in fraternal encounters, in service, in developing their gifts, in music and art, in contact with nature, in prayer. Happiness means knowing how to limit some needs which only diminish us, and being open to the many different possibilities which life can offer.

224. Sobriety and humility were not favourably regarded in the last century. And yet, when there is a general breakdown in the exercise of a certain virtue in personal and social life, it ends up causing a number of imbalances, including environmental ones. That is why it is no longer enough to speak only of the integrity of ecosystems. We have to dare to speak of the integrity of human life, of the need to promote and unify all the great values. Once we lose our humility, and become enthralled with the possibility of limitless mastery over everything, we inevitably end up harming society and the environment. It is not easy to promote this kind of healthy humility or happy sobriety when we consider ourselves autonomous, when we exclude God from our lives or replace him with our own ego, and think that our subjective feelings can define what is right and what is wrong.

225. On the other hand, no one can cultivate a sober and satisfying life without being at peace with him or herself. An adequate understanding of spirituality consists in filling out what we mean by peace, which is much more than the absence of war. Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life. Nature is filled with words of love, but how can we listen to them amid constant noise, interminable and nerve-wracking distractions, or the cult of appearances? Many people today sense a profound imbalance which drives them to frenetic activity and makes them feel busy, in a constant hurry which in turn leads them to ride rough-shod over everything around them. This too affects how they treat the environment. An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us, whose presence “must not be contrived but found, uncovered”.[\[155\]](#)

226. We are speaking of an attitude of the heart, one which approaches life with serene attentiveness, which is capable of being fully present to someone without thinking of what comes next, which accepts each moment as a gift from God to be lived to the full. Jesus taught us this attitude when he invited us to contemplate the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, or when seeing the rich young man and knowing his restlessness, “he looked at him with love” (*Mk* 10:21). He was

completely present to everyone and to everything, and in this way he showed us the way to overcome that unhealthy anxiety which makes us superficial, aggressive and compulsive consumers.

227. One expression of this attitude is when we stop and give thanks to God before and after meals. I ask all believers to return to this beautiful and meaningful custom. That moment of blessing, however brief, reminds us of our dependence on God for life; it strengthens our feeling of gratitude for the gifts of creation; it acknowledges those who by their labours provide us with these goods; and it reaffirms our solidarity with those in greatest need.

## **V. CIVIC AND POLITICAL LOVE**

228. Care for nature is part of a lifestyle which includes the capacity for living together and communion. Jesus reminded us that we have God as our common Father and that this makes us brothers and sisters. Fraternal love can only be gratuitous; it can never be a means of repaying others for what they have done or will do for us. That is why it is possible to love our enemies. This same gratuitousness inspires us to love and accept the wind, the sun and the clouds, even though we cannot control them. In this sense, we can speak of a “universal fraternity”.

229. We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it. We have had enough of immorality and the mockery of ethics, goodness, faith and honesty. It is time to acknowledge that light-hearted superficiality has done us no good. When the foundations of social life are corroded, what ensues are battles over conflicting interests, new forms of violence and brutality, and obstacles to the growth of a genuine culture of care for the environment.

230. Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness. In the end, a world of exacerbated consumption is at the same time a world which mistreats life in all its forms.

231. Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions

of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also “macro-relationships, social, economic and political ones”.<sup>[156]</sup> That is why the Church set before the world the ideal of a “civilization of love”.<sup>[157]</sup> Social love is the key to authentic development: “In order to make society more human, more worthy of the human person, love in social life – political, economic and cultural – must be given renewed value, becoming the constant and highest norm for all activity”.<sup>[158]</sup> In this framework, along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a “culture of care” which permeates all of society. When we feel that God is calling us to intervene with others in these social dynamics, we should realize that this too is part of our spirituality, which is an exercise of charity and, as such, matures and sanctifies us.

232. Not everyone is called to engage directly in political life. Society is also enriched by a countless array of organizations which work to promote the common good and to defend the environment, whether natural or urban. Some, for example, show concern for a public place (a building, a fountain, an abandoned monument, a landscape, a square), and strive to protect, restore, improve or beautify it as something belonging to everyone. Around these community actions, relationships develop or are recovered and a new social fabric emerges. Thus, a community can break out of the indifference induced by consumerism. These actions cultivate a shared identity, with a story which can be remembered and handed on. In this way, the world, and the quality of life of the poorest, are cared for, with a sense of solidarity which is at the same time aware that we live in a common home which God has entrusted to us. These community actions, when they express self-giving love, can also become intense spiritual experiences.

## **VI. SACRAMENTAL SIGNS AND THE CELEBRATION OF REST**

233. The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face.<sup>[159]</sup> The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things. Saint Bonaventure teaches us that “contemplation deepens the more we feel the working of God’s grace within our hearts, and the better we learn to encounter God in creatures outside ourselves”.<sup>[160]</sup>

234. Saint John of the Cross taught that all the goodness present in the realities and experiences of this world “is present in God eminently and infinitely, or more properly, in each of these sublime realities is God”.<sup>[161]</sup> This is not because the finite things of this world are really divine, but because the mystic experiences the intimate connection between God and all beings, and thus feels that “all things are God”.<sup>[162]</sup> Standing awestruck before a mountain, he or she cannot separate this experience from God, and perceives that the interior awe being lived has to be

entrusted to the Lord: “Mountains have heights and they are plentiful, vast, beautiful, graceful, bright and fragrant. These mountains are what my Beloved is to me. Lonely valleys are quiet, pleasant, cool, shady and flowing with fresh water; in the variety of their groves and in the sweet song of the birds, they afford abundant recreation and delight to the senses, and in their solitude and silence, they refresh us and give rest. These valleys are what my Beloved is to me”.[\[163\]](#)

235. The Sacraments are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of mediating supernatural life. Through our worship of God, we are invited to embrace the world on a different plane. Water, oil, fire and colours are taken up in all their symbolic power and incorporated in our act of praise. The hand that blesses is an instrument of God’s love and a reflection of the closeness of Jesus Christ, who came to accompany us on the journey of life. Water poured over the body of a child in Baptism is a sign of new life. Encountering God does not mean fleeing from this world or turning our back on nature. This is especially clear in the spirituality of the Christian East. “Beauty, which in the East is one of the best loved names expressing the divine harmony and the model of humanity transfigured, appears everywhere: in the shape of a church, in the sounds, in the colours, in the lights, in the scents”.[\[164\]](#) For Christians, all the creatures of the material universe find their true meaning in the incarnate Word, for the Son of God has incorporated in his person part of the material world, planting in it a seed of definitive transformation. “Christianity does not reject matter. Rather, bodiliness is considered in all its value in the liturgical act, whereby the human body is disclosed in its inner nature as a temple of the Holy Spirit and is united with the Lord Jesus, who himself took a body for the world’s salvation”.[\[165\]](#)

236. It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation. Grace, which tends to manifest itself tangibly, found unsurpassable expression when God himself became man and gave himself as food for his creatures. The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours. In the Eucharist, fullness is already achieved; it is the living centre of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life. Joined to the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God. Indeed the Eucharist is itself an act of cosmic love: “Yes, cosmic! Because even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world”.[\[166\]](#) The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. The world which came forth from God’s hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist, “creation is projected towards divinization, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator himself”.[\[167\]](#) Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation.

237. On Sunday, our participation in the Eucharist has special importance. Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world. Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, the “first day” of the new creation, whose first fruits are the Lord’s risen humanity, the pledge of the final transfiguration of all created reality. It also proclaims “man’s eternal rest in God”.<sup>[168]</sup> In this way, Christian spirituality incorporates the value of relaxation and festivity. We tend to demean contemplative rest as something unproductive and unnecessary, but this is to do away with the very thing which is most important about work: its meaning. We are called to include in our work a dimension of receptivity and gratuity, which is quite different from mere inactivity. Rather, it is another way of working, which forms part of our very essence. It protects human action from becoming empty activism; it also prevents that unfettered greed and sense of isolation which make us seek personal gain to the detriment of all else. The law of weekly rest forbade work on the seventh day, “so that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your maidservant, and the stranger, may be refreshed” (*Ex* 23:12). Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest, centred on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor.

## VII. THE TRINITY AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CREATURES

238. The Father is the ultimate source of everything, the loving and self-communicating foundation of all that exists. The Son, his reflection, through whom all things were created, united himself to this earth when he was formed in the womb of Mary. The Spirit, infinite bond of love, is intimately present at the very heart of the universe, inspiring and bringing new pathways. The world was created by the three Persons acting as a single divine principle, but each one of them performed this common work in accordance with his own personal property. Consequently, “when we contemplate with wonder the universe in all its grandeur and beauty, we must praise the whole Trinity”.<sup>[169]</sup>

239. For Christians, believing in one God who is trinitarian communion suggests that the Trinity has left its mark on all creation. Saint Bonaventure went so far as to say that human beings, before sin, were able to see how each creature “testifies that God is three”. The reflection of the Trinity was there to be recognized in nature “when that book was open to man and our eyes had not yet become darkened”.<sup>[170]</sup> The Franciscan saint teaches us that *each creature bears in itself a specifically Trinitarian structure*, so real that it could be readily contemplated if only the human gaze were not so partial, dark and fragile. In this way, he points out to us the challenge of trying to read reality in a Trinitarian key.



240. The divine Persons are subsistent relations, and the world, created according to the divine model, is a web of relationships. Creatures tend towards God, and in turn it is proper to every living being to tend towards other things, so that throughout the universe we can find any number of constant and secretly interwoven relationships.<sup>[171]</sup> This leads us not only to marvel at the manifold connections existing among creatures, but also to discover a key to our own fulfilment. The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures. In this way, they make their own that trinitarian dynamism which God imprinted in them when they were created. Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity.

## VIII. QUEEN OF ALL CREATION

241. Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power. Completely transfigured, she now lives with Jesus, and all creatures sing of her fairness. She is the Woman, “clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars” (*Rev* 12:1). Carried up into heaven, she is the Mother and Queen of all creation. In her glorified body, together with the Risen Christ, part of creation has reached the fullness of its beauty. She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart (cf. *Lk* 2:19,51), and now understands the meaning of all things. Hence, we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom.

242. At her side in the Holy Family of Nazareth, stands the figure of Saint Joseph. Through his work and generous presence, he cared for and defended Mary and Jesus, delivering them from the violence of the unjust by bringing them to Egypt. The Gospel presents Joseph as a just man, hard-working and strong. But he also shows great tenderness, which is not a mark of the weak but of those who are genuinely strong, fully aware of reality and ready to love and serve in humility. That is why he was proclaimed custodian of the universal Church. He too can teach us how to show care; he can inspire us to work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us.

## IX. BEYOND THE SUN

243. At the end, we will find ourselves face to face with the infinite beauty of God (cf. *1 Cor* 13:12), and be able to read with admiration and happiness the mystery of the universe, which with us will share in unending plenitude. Even now we are

journeying towards the sabbath of eternity, the new Jerusalem, towards our common home in heaven. Jesus says: “I make all things new” (*Rev 21:5*). Eternal life will be a shared experience of awe, in which each creature, resplendently transfigured, will take its rightful place and have something to give those poor men and women who will have been liberated once and for all.

244. In the meantime, we come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God, for “if the world has a beginning and if it has been created, we must enquire who gave it this beginning, and who was its Creator”.[\[172\]](#) Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.

245. God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. *Praise be to him!*

\* \* \* \* \*

246. At the conclusion of this lengthy reflection which has been both joyful and troubling, I propose that we offer two prayers. The first we can share with all who believe in a God who is the all-powerful Creator, while in the other we Christians ask for inspiration to take up the commitment to creation set before us by the Gospel of Jesus.

*A prayer for our earth*

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.  
Touch the hearts  
of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace.

*A Christian prayer in union with creation*

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.  
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.  
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,  
through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,  
you became part of this earth,  
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.  
Today you are alive in every creature  
in your risen glory.  
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light  
you guide this world towards the Father's love  
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.  
You also dwell in our hearts  
and you inspire us to do what is good.  
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you  
in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.  
Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.

Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined  
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.  
Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,  
and care for this world in which we live.  
The poor and the earth are crying out.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you!  
Amen.

*Given in Rome at Saint Peter's on 24 May, the Solemnity of Pentecost, in the year  
2015, the third of my Pontificate.*

### **Franciscus**

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[1] *Canticle of the Creatures*, in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, vol. 1, New York-London-Manila, 1999, 113-114.

[2] Apostolic Letter [Octogesima Adveniens](#) (14 May 1971), 21: AAS 63 (1971), 416-417.

[3] [Address to FAO on the 25th Anniversary of its Institution](#) (16 November 1970), 4: AAS 62 (1970), 833.

[4] Encyclical Letter [Redemptor Hominis](#) (4 March 1979), 15: AAS 71 (1979), 287.

[5] Cf. [Catechesis](#) (17 January 2001), 4: *Insegnamenti* 41/1 (2001), 179.

[6] Encyclical Letter [Centesimus Annus](#) (1 May 1991), 38: AAS 83 (1991), 841.

- [7] [Ibid.](#), 58: AAS 83 (1991), p. 863.
- [8] JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter [Sollicitudo Rei Socialis](#) (30 December 1987), 34: AAS 80 (1988), 559.
- [9] Cf. ID., Encyclical Letter [Centesimus Annus](#) (1 May 1991), 37: AAS 83 (1991), 840.
- [10] [Address to the Diplomatic Corps Accredited to the Holy See](#) (8 January 2007): AAS 99 (2007), 73.
- [11] Encyclical Letter [Caritas in Veritate](#) (29 June 2009), 51: AAS 101 (2009), 687.
- [12] [Address to the Bundestag](#), Berlin (22 September 2011): AAS 103 (2011), 664.
- [13] [Address to the Clergy of the Diocese of Bolzano-Bressanone](#) (6 August 2008): AAS 100 (2008), 634.
- [14] *Message for the Day of Prayer for the Protection of Creation* (1 September 2012).
- [15] *Address in Santa Barbara, California* (8 November 1997); cf. JOHN CHRYSOAVGIS, *On Earth as in Heaven: Ecological Vision and Initiatives of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew*, Bronx, New York, 2012.
- [16] [Ibid.](#)
- [17] *Lecture at the Monastery of Utstein, Norway* (23 June 2003).
- [18] “Global Responsibility and Ecological Sustainability”, Closing Remarks, Halki Summit I, Istanbul (20 June 2012).
- [19] THOMAS OF CELANO, *The Life of Saint Francis*, I, 29, 81: in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, vol. 1, New York-London-Manila, 1999, 251.
- [20] *The Major Legend of Saint Francis*, VIII, 6, in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, vol. 2, New York-London-Manila, 2000, 590.
- [21] Cf. THOMAS OF CELANO, *The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul*, II, 124, 165, in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, vol. 2, New York-London-Manila, 2000, 354.
- [22] SOUTHERN AFRICAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS’ CONFERENCE, *Pastoral Statement on the Environmental Crisis* (5 September 1999).
- [23] Cf. [Greeting to the Staff of FAO](#) (20 November 2014): AAS 106 (2014), 985.
- [24] FIFTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND

- CARIBBEAN BISHOPS, *Aparecida Document* (29 June 2007), 86.
- [25] CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES, Pastoral Letter *What is Happening to our Beautiful Land?* (29 January 1988).
- [26] BOLIVIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, Pastoral Letter on the Environment and Human Development in Bolivia *El universo, don de Dios para la vida* (23 March 2012), 17.
- [27] Cf. GERMAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, Commission for Social Issues, *Der Klimawandel: Brennpunkt globaler, intergenerationeller und ökologischer Gerechtigkeit* (September 2006), 28-30.
- [28] PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church](#), 483.
- [29] [Catechesis](#) (5 June 2013): *Insegnamenti* 1/1 (2013), 280.
- [30] BISHOPS OF THE PATAGONIA-COMAHUE REGION (ARGENTINA), *Christmas Message* (December 2009), 2.
- [31] UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good* (15 June 2001).
- [32] FIFTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN BISHOPS, *Aparecida Document* (29 June 2007), 471.
- [33] Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (24 November 2013), 56: AAS 105 (2013), 1043.
- [34] JOHN PAUL II, [Message for the 1990 World Day of Peace](#), 12: AAS 82 (1990), 154.
- [35] ID., [Catechesis](#) (17 January 2001), 3: *Insegnamenti* 24/1 (2001), 178.
- [36] JOHN PAUL II, [Message for the 1990 World Day of Peace](#), 15: AAS 82 (1990), 156.
- [37] *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 357.
- [38] *Angelus* in Osnabrück (Germany) with the disabled, 16 November 1980: *Insegnamenti* 3/2 (1980), 1232.
- [39] BENEDICT XVI, [Homily for the Solemn Inauguration of the Petrine Ministry](#) (24 April 2005): AAS 97 (2005), 711.
- [40] Cf. BONAVENTURE, *The Major Legend of Saint Francis*, VIII, 1, in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, vol. 2, New York-London-Manila, 2000,

586.

[41] *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2416.

[42] GERMAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, *Zukunft der Schöpfung – Zukunft der Menschheit. Einklärung der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz zu Fragen der Umwelt und der Energieversorgung*, (1980), II, 2.

[43] *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 339.

[44] *Hom. in Hexaemeron*, I, 2, 10: PG 29, 9.

[45] *The Divine Comedy, Paradiso, Canto XXXIII*, 145.

[46] BENEDICT XVI, [Catechesis](#) (9 November 2005), 3: *Insegnamenti* 1 (2005), 768.

[47] ID., Encyclical Letter [Caritas in Veritate](#) (29 June 2009), 51: AAS 101 (2009), 687.

[48] JOHN PAUL II, *Catechesis* (24 April 1991), 6: *Insegnamenti* 14 (1991), 856.

[49] The Catechism explains that God wished to create a world which is “journeying towards its ultimate perfection”, and that this implies the presence of imperfection and physical evil; cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 310.

[50] Cf. SECOND VATICAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World [Gaudium et Spes](#), 36.

[51] THOMAS AQUINAS, *Summa Theologiae*, I, q. 104, art. 1 ad 4.

[52] ID., *In octo libros Physicorum Aristotelis expositio*, Lib. II, lectio 14.

[53] Against this horizon we can set the contribution of Fr Teilhard de Chardin; cf. PAUL VI, *Address in a Chemical and Pharmaceutical Plant* (24 February 1966): *Insegnamenti* 4 (1966), 992-993; JOHN PAUL II, [Letter to the Reverend George Coyne](#) (1 June 1988): *Insegnamenti* 11/2 (1988), 1715; BENEDICT XVI, [Homily for the Celebration of Vespers in Aosta](#) (24 July 2009): *Insegnamenti* 5/2 (2009), 60.

[54] JOHN PAUL II, [Catechesis](#) (30 January 2002), 6: *Insegnamenti* 25/1 (2002), 140.

[55] CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION, Pastoral Letter *You Love All that Exists... All Things are Yours, God, Lover of Life*” (4 October 2003), 1.

[56] CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF JAPAN, *Reverence for Life. A Message for the Twenty-First Century* (1 January 2000), 89.

- [57] JOHN PAUL II, [Catechesis](#) (26 January 2000), 5: *Insegnamenti* 23/1 (2000), 123.
- [58] ID., [Catechesis](#) (2 August 2000), 3: *Insegnamenti* 23/2 (2000), 112.
- [59] PAUL RICOEUR, *Philosophie de la Volonté, t. II: Finitude et Culpabilité*, Paris, 2009, 216.
- [60] *Summa Theologiae*, I, q. 47, art. 1.
- [61] Ibid.
- [62] Cf. *ibid.*, art. 2, ad 1; art. 3.
- [63] *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 340.
- [64] *Canticle of the Creatures*, in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, New York-London-Manila, 1999, 113-114.
- [65] Cf. NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE BISHOPS OF BRAZIL, *A Igreja e a Questão Ecológica*, 1992, 53-54.
- [66] Ibid., 61.
- [67] Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (24 November 2013), 215: AAS 105 (2013), 1109.
- [68] Cf. BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter [Caritas in Veritate](#) (29 June 2009), 14: AAS 101 (2009), 650.
- [69] *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2418.
- [70] CONFERENCE OF DOMINICAN BISHOPS, Pastoral Letter *Sobre la relación del hombre con la naturaleza* (21 January 1987).
- [71] JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter [Laborem Exercens](#) (14 September 1981), 19: AAS 73 (1981), 626.
- [72] Encyclical Letter [Centesimus Annus](#) (1 May 1991), 31: AAS 83 (1991), 831.
- [73] Encyclical Letter [Sollicitudo Rei Socialis](#) (30 December 1987), 33: AAS 80 (1988), 557.
- [74] *Address to Indigenous and Rural People*, Cuilapán, Mexico (29 January 1979), 6: AAS 71 (1979), 209.
- [75] *Homily at Mass for Farmers*, Recife, Brazil (7 July 1980): AAS 72 (1980): AAS 72 (1980), 926.



- [76] Cf. [Message for the 1990 World Day of Peace](#), 8: AAS 82 (1990), 152.
- [77] PARAGUAYAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, Pastoral Letter *El campesino paraguayo y la tierra* (12 June 1983), 2, 4, d.
- [78] NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE, *Statement on Environmental Issues* (1 September 2006).
- [79] Encyclical Letter [Laborem Exercens](#) (14 September 1981), 27: AAS 73 (1981), 645.
- [80] Hence Saint Justin could speak of “seeds of the Word” in the world; cf. *II Apologia* 8, 1-2; 13, 3-6: PG 6, 457-458, 467.
- [81] JOHN PAUL II, [Address to Scientists and Representatives of the United Nations University](#), Hiroshima (25 February 1981), 3: AAS 73 (1981), 422.
- [82] BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter [Caritas in Veritate](#) (29 June 2009), 69: AAS 101 (2009), 702.
- [83] ROMANO GUARDINI, *Das Ende der Neuzeit*, 9th ed., Würzburg, 1965, 87 (English: *The End of the Modern World*, Wilmington, 1998, 82).
- [84] Ibid.
- [85] Ibid., 87-88 (*The End of the Modern World*, 83).
- [86] PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church](#), 462.
- [87] ROMANO GUARDINI, *Das Ende der Neuzeit*, 63-64 (*The End of the Modern World*, 56).
- [88] Ibid., 64 (*The End of the Modern World*, 56).
- [89] Cf. BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter [Caritas in Veritate](#) (29 June 2009), 35: AAS 101 (2009), 671.
- [90] Ibid., 22: p. 657.
- [91] Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (24 November 2013), 231: AAS 105 (2013), 1114.
- [92] ROMANO GUARDINI, *Das Ende der Neuzeit*, 63 (*The End of the Modern World*, 55).
- [93] JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter [Centesimus Annus](#) (1 May 1991), 38: AAS 83 (1991), 841.
- [94] Cf. *Love for Creation. An Asian Response to the Ecological Crisis*,

Declaration of the Colloquium sponsored by the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (Tagatay, 31 January-5 February 1993), 3.3.2.

[95] JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter [Centesimus Annus](#) (1 May 1991), 37: AAS 83 (1991), 840.

[96] BENEDICT XVI, [Message for the 2010 World Day of Peace](#), 2: AAS 102 (2010), 41.

[97] ID., Encyclical Letter [Caritas in Veritate](#) (29 June 2009), 28: AAS 101 (2009), 663.

[98] Cf. VINCENT OF LERINS, *Commonitorium Primum*, ch. 23: PL 50, 688: "Ut annis scilicet consolidetur, dilatetur tempore, sublimetur aetate".

[99] No. 80: AAS 105 (2013), 1053.

[100] SECOND VATICAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World [Gaudium et Spes](#), 63.

[101] Cf. JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter [Centesimus Annus](#) (1 May 1991), 37: AAS 83 (1991), 840.

[102] PAUL VI, Encyclical Letter [Populorum Progressio](#) (26 March 1967), 34: AAS 59 (1967), 274.

[103] BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter [Caritas in Veritate](#) (29 June 2009), 32: AAS 101 (2009), 666.

[104] Ibid.

[105] Ibid.

[106] *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2417.

[107] Ibid., 2418.

[108] Ibid., 2415.

[109] [Message for the 1990 World Day of Peace](#), 6: AAS 82 (1990), 150.

[110] *Address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences* (3 October 1981), 3: *Insegnamenti* 4/2 (1981), 333.

[111] [Message for the 1990 World Day of Peace](#), 7: AAS 82 (1990), 151.

[112] JOHN PAUL II, [Address to the 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the World Medical Association](#) (29 October 1983), 6: AAS 76 (1984), 394.

[113] EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR PASTORAL CONCERNS IN

ARGENTINA, *Una tierra para todos* (June 2005), 19.

[114] *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* (14 June 1992), Principle 4.

[115] Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (24 November 2013), 237: AAS 105 (2013), 1116.

[116] BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter [Caritas in Veritate](#) (29 June 2009), 51: AAS 101 (2009), 687.

[117] Some authors have emphasized the values frequently found, for example, in the *villas*, *chabolas* or *favelas* of Latin America: cf. JUAN CARLOS SCANNONE, S.J., “La irrupción del pobre y la lógica de la gratuidad”, in JUAN CARLOS SCANNONE and MARCELO PERINE (eds.), *Irrupción del pobre y quehacer filosófico. Hacia una nueva racionalidad*, Buenos Aires, 1993, 225-230.

[118] PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church](#), 482.

[119] Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (24 November 2013), 210: AAS 105 (2013), 1107.

[120] [Address to the German Bundestag](#), Berlin (22 September 2011): AAS 103 (2011), 668.

[121] [Catechesis](#) (15 April 2015): *L'Osservatore Romano*, 16 April 2015, p. 8.

[122] SECOND VATICAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World [Gaudium et Spes](#), 26.

[123] Cf. Nos. 186-201: AAS 105 (2013), 1098-1105.

[124] PORTUGUESE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, Pastoral Letter *Responsabilidade Solidária pelo Bem Comum* (15 September 2003), 20.

[125] BENEDICT XVI, [Message for the 2010 World Day of Peace](#), 8: AAS 102 (2010), 45.

[126] *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* (14 June 1992), Principle 1.

[127] BOLIVIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, Pastoral Letter on the Environment and Human Development in Bolivia *El universo, don de Dios para la vida* (March 2012), 86.

[128] PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, *Energy, Justice and Peace*, IV, 1, Vatican City (2014), 53.

[129] BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter [Caritas in Veritate](#) (29 June 2009), 67:

AAS 101 (2009).

[130] Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (24 November 2013), 222: AAS 105 (2013), 1111.

[131] PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church](#), 469.

[132] *Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development* (14 June 1992), Principle 15.

[133] Cf. MEXICAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR PASTORAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS, *Jesucristo, vida y esperanza de los indígenas e campesinos* (14 January 2008).

[134] PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church](#), 470.

[135] [Message for the 2010 World Day of Peace](#), 9: AAS 102 (2010), 46.

[136] *Ibid.*

[137] *Ibid.*, 5: p. 43.

[138] BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter [Caritas in Veritate](#) (29 June 2009), 50: AAS 101 (2009), 686.

[139] Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (24 November 2013), 209: AAS 105 (2013), 1107.

[140] *Ibid.*, 228: AAS 105 (2013), 1113.

[141] Cf. Encyclical Letter [Lumen Fidei](#) (29 June 2013), 34: AAS 105 (2013), 577: "Nor is the light of faith, joined to the truth of love, extraneous to the material world, for love is always lived out in body and spirit; the light of faith is an incarnate light radiating from the luminous life of Jesus. It also illumines the material world, trusts its inherent order, and knows that it calls us to an ever widening path of harmony and understanding. The gaze of science thus benefits from faith: faith encourages the scientist to remain constantly open to reality in all its inexhaustible richness. Faith awakens the critical sense by preventing research from being satisfied with its own formulae and helps it to realize that nature is always greater. By stimulating wonder before the profound mystery of creation, faith broadens the horizons of reason to shed greater light on the world which discloses itself to scientific investigation".

[142] Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (24 November 2013), 256: AAS 105 (2013), 1123.

[143] *Ibid.*, 231: p. 1114.

[144] ROMANO GUARDINI, *Das Ende der Neuzeit*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, Würzburg, 1965, 66-67 (English: *The End of the Modern World*, Wilmington, 1998, 60).

[145] JOHN PAUL II, [Message for the 1990 World Day of Peace](#), 1: AAS 82 (1990), 147.

[146] BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter [Caritas in Veritate](#) (29 June 2009), 66: AAS 101 (2009), 699.

[147] ID., [Message for the 2010 World Day of Peace](#), 11: AAS 102 (2010), 48.

[148] *Earth Charter*, The Hague (29 June 2000).

[149] JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter [Centesimus Annus](#) (1 May 1991), 39: AAS 83 (1991), 842.

[150] ID., [Message for the 1990 World Day of Peace](#), 14: AAS 82 (1990), 155.

[151] Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (24 Nov 2013), 261: AAS 105 (2013), 1124.

[152] BENEDICT XVI, [Homily for the Solemn Inauguration of the Petrine Ministry](#) (24 April 2005): AAS 97 (2005), 710.

[153] AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, *A New Earth – The Environmental Challenge* (2002).

[154] ROMANO GUARDINI, *Das Ende der Neuzeit*, 72 (*The End of the Modern World*, 65-66).

[155] Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (24 November 2013), 71: AAS 105 (2013), 1050.

[156] BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter [Caritas in Veritate](#) (29 June 2009) 2: AAS 101 (2009), 642.

[157] PAUL VI, [Message for the 1977 World Day of Peace](#): AAS 68 (1976), 709.

[158] PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church](#), 582.

[159] The spiritual writer Ali al-Khawas stresses from his own experience the need not to put too much distance between the creatures of the world and the interior experience of God. As he puts it: “Prejudice should not have us criticize those who seek ecstasy in music or poetry. There is a subtle mystery in each of the movements and sounds of this world. The initiate will capture what is being said when the wind blows, the trees sway, water flows, flies buzz, doors creak, birds sing, or in the sound of strings or flutes, the sighs of the sick, the groans of the afflicted...” (EVA DE VITRAY-MEYEROVITCH [ed.], *Anthologie du*

*soufisme*, Paris 1978, 200).

[160] *In II Sent.*, 23, 2, 3.

[161] *Cántico Espiritual*, XIV, 5.

[162] *Ibid.*

[163] *Ibid.*, XIV, 6-7.

[164] JOHN PAUL II, Apostolic Letter [Orientale Lumen](#) (2 May 1995), 11: AAS 87 (1995), 757.

[165] *Ibid.*

[166] ID., Encyclical Letter [Ecclesia de Eucharistia](#) (17 April 2003), 8: AAS 95 (2003), 438.

[167] BENEDICT XVI, [Homily for the Mass of Corpus Domini](#) (15 June 2006): AAS 98 (2006), 513.

[168] *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2175.

[169] JOHN PAUL II, [Catechesis](#) (2 August 2000), 4: *Insegnamenti* 23/2 (2000), 112.

[170] *Quaest. Disp. de Myst. Trinitatis*, 1, 2 concl.

[171] Cf. THOMAS AQUINAS, *Summa Theologiae*, I, q. 11, art. 3; q. 21, art. 1, ad 3; q. 47, art. 3.

[172] BASIL THE GREAT, *Hom. in Hexaemeron*, I, 2, 6: PG 29, 8.

807 readings

## [Militarism as a waste and misuse of resources and as a contribution to greenhouse gas emissions](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 19 June 2015 15:04

By Joan Russow PhD - Global Compliance Research Project

Throughout the years, through international agreements, member states of the United Nations have recognized that the military budget has been a waste and misuse of resources. Currently the Global Community is now spending 1.7 trillion per year on the military budget at a time when many basic needs and fundamental rights have not been met or fulfilled. Not only has militarism been a waste and misuse of resources, but also militarism is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions

### **YEARS OF GLOBAL COMMITMENTS RELATED TO MILITARISM AND DISARMAMENT**

Through international agreements, member states of the United Nations have undertaken to address militarism;

In 1976 at Habitat 1, member states of the United Nations affirmed the following in relation to the military budget: "The waste and misuse of resources in war and armaments should be prevented. All countries should make a firm commitment to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament. Part of the resources thus released should be utilized so as to achieve a better quality of life for

humanity and particularly the peoples of developing countries" (II, 12 Habitat 1).

In 1981, in the General Assembly resolution entitled Resolution on the reduction of the military budget, the member states

(i) reaffirmed "the urgent need to reduce the military budget, and agreed to freeze and reduce the military budget";

(ii) recognised that "the military budget constitutes a heavy burden for the economies of all nations, and has extremely harmful consequences on international peace and security";

(iii) reiterated the appeal "to all States, in particular the most heavily armed States, pending the conclusion of agreements on the reduction of military expenditures, to exercise self-restraint in their military expenditures with a view to reallocating the funds thus saved to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of developing countries" (Resolution on the Reduction of Military budgets, 1981).

These appeals were further reinforced in a 1983 General Assembly Resolution on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, that "curbing the arms build-up would make it possible to release additional resources for use in economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries."

In the 1984 General Assembly Resolution entitled the Right of Peoples to Peace, there were "Appeals to all States and international organizations to do their utmost to assist in implementing the right of peoples to peace through the adoption of ...measures at both the national and the international level." (4. Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace approved by General Assembly resolution 39/11 of 12 November 1984)

In 1992, all member states recognized that "Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development" (Rio Declarations. Principle 24, UNCED, 1992), and in Chapter 33, of Agenda 21, member states of the United Nations made a commitment to the "the reallocation of resources presently committed to military purposes" (33.18e)

In 1994, in adopting the statement from the International Conference on Population and Development, the member states of the United Nations concurred that "the attainment of quantitative and qualitative goals of the present Programme of Action clearly require additional resources, some of which could become available from a reordering of priorities at the individual, national and international levels. However, none of the actions required nor all of them combined are expensive in the context of either current global development or military expenditures." (Article 1.19)

In 1995, similarly, states in adopting the statement from the Social Development Summit endorsed the calling for the reallocation of military spending to ensure a greater pocket of resources to expand public services.

Again, in 1995, member states of the United Nations reconfirmed these commitments by adopting the Platform of Action at the UN conference on Women, Equality, Development and Peace. In the Platform of Action, States have made a commitment to maintain peace and security at the global, regional and local levels, together with the prevention of policies of aggression ... and the resolution of armed conflict" (Art. 14) and to reduce "...military expenditures" (Art. 15), states have also made a commitment to the "prevention and resolution of conflicts" (Art.15) and to "increase and hasten, ... the conversion of military resources and related industries to development and peaceful purposes" (145a).



Unfortunately, institutional memory is either short or member states ignore precedents.

## **YEARS OF UNHEEDED WARNINGS AND SPURIOUS SOLUTIONS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Laws have to be in place to compel the global community to end years of procrastination and finally discharge their obligations and fulfill their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and conserve carbon sinks.

In 1988, scientists, politicians and members of non-government organizations (NGOs) met at the Changing Atmosphere conference in Toronto to address the issue of climate change and concurred that:

“The stabilizing of the atmospheric concentrations of co2 is an imperative goal. It is currently estimated to require reductions of more than 50% from present [1988] emission levels. Energy research and development budgets must be massively directed to energy options which would eliminate or greatly reduce co2 emissions and to studies undertaken to further refine the target reductions.”

and warned that “humanity is conducting an unintended, uncontrolled, globally pervasive experiment whose ultimate consequence could be second only to a global nuclear war. ...and that it is imperative to act now”.

Largely coerced into inaction by industry, industry front groups, industry funded academics and industry controlled states, governments have failed to address the urgency of the crisis through their reluctance to enact effective legislation.

If citizens are willing to do their part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, member states of the United nations must stop subsidizing the fossil fuel and military industries, must redirect military expenses; must discontinue the promotion of nuclear energy – the most hazardous and expensive form of energy known- as the solution to climate change.

Corporations and policymakers are talking openly about nuclear energy as the solution to climate change. In 1991, in Canada, a parliamentary committee issued a report; “Out of Balance: the Risks of Irreversible Climate Change” affirmed the principle that a solution that is worse than the problem it is intended to solve is not a solution. Nuclear energy with its radioactive footprint and its inextricable link to the development of nuclear arms, and to depleted uranium in weapon system is not a solution

## **IMPACT OF MILITARISM ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CAN NO LONGER BE IGNORED**

During the September 5-7 DPI/NGO conference on climate change, several members of the NGO community involved in the Militarism/nuclear matters and in the Peace Caucus gathered to draft a statement expressing their concern about the failure, of international bodies, to address the impact

of militarism on climate change.

This statement was presented at the end of the plenary to Dr. Pachuri, the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. If leaders are to address "challenge of climate change" they cannot ignore the impact of militarism on climate change. The statement called for the following:

(i) The IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) to end the promotion of nuclear energy as the solution to climate change

(ii) the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to investigate and estimate the full impact on greenhouse gas emissions by the military and demand that each state release information related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all weapons systems, military exercises, from war games, weapons testing, military aviation, environmental warfare, troop transfer, military operations, waste generation, reconstruction after acts of violent interventions etc.;

(iii) NATO, whose collective activities have contributed to, not only the perpetuation of the scourge of war and the violation of international peremptory norms, but also the substantial release of greenhouse gas emissions to be disbanded;

(iv) Global military budgets to be reallocated to global social justice.

It is time for the member states of the United Nations to give substance to the years of commitments to substantially reduce the military budget and to acknowledge and address the contribution of militarism to greenhouse gas emissions.

Currently the Global Community is now spending 1.7 trillion per year on the military budget at a time when many basic needs and fundamental rights have not been fulfilled: the right to affordable and safe housing; the right to unadulterated food (pesticide-free and genetically engineered-free food); the right to safe drinking water; the right to a safe environment; the right to universally accessible, not for profit health care; and the right to free and accessible education.

The member states of the United Nations must finally fulfill years of commitments to reallocate the military budget, and substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions so as to ensure compliance with article 2 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change-**to stabilize greenhouse gases below a level of dangerous anthropogenic emissions.**

*In Paris at the COP21, the member states could agree to the following:*

[CLIMATE CHANGE: COP 21 PARIS - TIME TO BE BOLD](#)

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10234:-climate-change-](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10234:-climate-change-)

Last Updated on Friday, 19 June 2015 15:11

694 readings

## [Power from Site C dam](#) [‘dramatically’ more costly than](#) [thought: expert](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 22 June 2015 10:32



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**BY JUSTINE HUNTER**

VICTORIA — The Globe and Mail  
Published

Tuesday, May 26, 2015 8:00AM EDT

Last updated

Wednesday, May 27, 2015 4:53PM EDT

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/power-from-site-c-dam-dramatically-more-costly-than-thought-expert/article24608803/>

Just weeks before BC Hydro plans to begin construction of the \$8.8-billion Site C project, a new report says the Crown corporation has dramatically understated the cost of producing power from the hydroelectric dam.

The Peace Valley Landowners Association (PVLA), which is opposed to the project because of the flooding from creating an 83-kilometre reservoir on the Peace River, commissioned a leading U.S. energy economist, Robert McCullough, to look at the business case for what

will be the province's most expensive public infrastructure project.

The B.C. government approved the project last December, saying it is the most cost-effective option to meet the province's future electricity needs. But the province has steadfastly rejected calls for an independent review of the cost estimates for Site C, saying the costs have been rigorously scrutinized and verified by independent contractors, the Ministry of Finance and an outside accounting firm.

Mr. McCullough, in his report, said it appears the Crown corporation BC Hydro had its thumbs on the scale to make its mega project look better than the private-sector alternatives.

"Using industry standard assumptions, Site C is more than three times as costly as the least expensive option," Mr. McCullough concluded. "While the cost and choice of options deserve further analysis, the simple conclusion is that Site C is more expensive – dramatically so – than the renewable [and] natural gas portfolios elsewhere in the U.S. and Canada."

The report challenges a number of assumptions that led the government to conclude that Site C is the cheapest option. Mr. McCullough noted that the province adopted accounting changes last fall that reduced the cost of power generated by Site C. He said those changes are illusory and the costs will eventually have to be paid either by Hydro ratepayers, or provincial taxpayers.

Mr. McCullough, a leading expert on power utilities in the Pacific Northwest, also disputes the rate that BC Hydro used to compare the long-term borrowing cost of capital for Site C against other projects, noting that other major utilities in North America use higher rates for such projects because they are considered risky investments. The so-called discount rate is critical to the overall cost projections, and he said the paper trail on how the Crown arrived at its figure "can only be described as sketchy and inadequate."

The report, obtained by The Globe and Mail, will be released on

Tuesday by the PVLA.

The group will call on Premier Christy Clark to delay construction to allow time for a review by Auditor-General Carol Bellringer.

Ken Boon, president of the association, said the government needs to put the project on hold because it has approved the project based on poor advice.

"I find it frustrating," he said in an interview. "How come it is left to us to do the due diligence that the government should be doing?"

The Site C project is facing a series of court challenges by the PVLA and local First Nations organizations. Mr. Boon said his group intends to seek an injunction to delay construction if the Premier will not agree to put the project on hold.

Independent power producers have argued they can meet B.C.'s growing need for electricity at a competitive cost, but they say the province tilted the playing field last fall when it changed the way it collects dividends from BC Hydro and reduced water-rental charges for the Crown corporation. As a result of those accounting changes, the cost per megawatt hour of Site C electricity decreased by one-third, from \$83 a megawatt hour down to somewhere between \$58 and \$61 a megawatt hour. BC Hydro says it would cost \$96 a megawatt hour for alternative energy.

The government has exempted the project from a regulatory review by the B.C. Utilities Commission. However the environmental review panel that studied Site C said an independent review on BC Hydro's cost estimates, energy demand forecasts and conservation plan should be conducted before allowing the project to move forward.

Last Updated on Monday, 22 June 2015 10:37

709 readings

## [Our Jihadis and Theirs The Real \(Armed\) Dangers of American Life](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 21 June 2015 14:14

By [Tom Engelhardt](#)

[http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176013/tomgram%3A\\_engelhardt%2C\\_armed\\_violence\\_in\\_the\\_homeland/#more](http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176013/tomgram%3A_engelhardt%2C_armed_violence_in_the_homeland/#more)

Consider this paragraph a holding action on the subject of getting blown away in America. While I write this dispatch, I'm waiting patiently for the next set of dispiriting killings in this country. And I have faith. Before I'm done, some angry -- or simply mentally disturbed -- and well-armed American "lone wolf" (or lone wolves) will gun down someone (or a number of people) somewhere and possibly himself (or themselves) as well. Count on that. It'll be my last paragraph. Think of it as, in a grim way, something to look forward to as you read this piece on American armed mayhem.

National security officials and politicians have been pounding home the message that the "[greatest threat](#)" to Americans is an extreme and brutal jihadist movement thousands of miles away and the videos and social media messages its followers produce that make it seem close at hand. With that in mind, let's take a look at a few of the dangers of armed life in these United States, a quick survey of national insecurity in a country armed to the teeth.

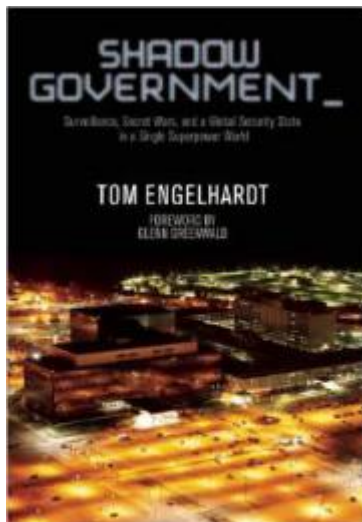
I'm sure you won't be surprised to learn that, in the first half of 2015, there's been a plethora of incidents to draw on. There's the killer still on the loose in northern Colorado who [shot at](#) people in cars or out biking or walking late at night. There's the suspected [serial killer](#) who [dumped](#) seven bodies behind a strip mall in New Britain, Connecticut, and may now be in jail on unrelated charges. There's the ongoing trial of [James Holmes](#) who blew away 12 moviegoers and wounded 70 in a multiplex in Aurora, Colorado, in 2012. There was the [mass killing](#) of seven people in February in the tiny town of Tyrone, Missouri, by Joseph Aldridge, an armed recluse who then killed himself. And don't forget [Sudheer Khamitkar](#), who shot to death his wife and two young sons and then himself in Tulsa in April, or [Christopher Carrillo](#), who murdered four of his family members and then turned his gun on himself in a Tucson home in May. And [many others](#).

In such a list, there should be a special place for a phenomenon that, though largely untabulated, has been gaining attention in recent years as ever more Americans "carry" in [ever more places](#). This means ever more loose guns lying around. I'm talking about the mayhem committed by toddlers (or perhaps they should be thought of as American [lone wolf cubs](#)). Toddler shootings range from the two year old who killed his mother in a Walmart in Idaho with the gun she was [packing in her purse](#) as 2014 ended to the three year old who [discovered a gun](#) in a purse in an Albuquerque motel room in February and wounded his father and pregnant mother with a single shot. Such a list for this year would have to include the Florida two year old who [found](#) his father's gun in the family car and killed himself with it in January, the three year old who [picked up](#) an unattended gun and killed a one year old in a Cleveland home in April, the Virginia two year old who [found a gun](#) on top of a dresser and killed himself in late May, and the four year old who, at about the same time in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, [picked up a shotgun](#) at a target shooting range and killed his 22-year-old uncle. Toddler killings have been commonplace enough in these pistol-packin' years that they now [significantly outpace](#) terror killings in the U.S.

## The Big Leagues of Violence

While we're at it (before we get to the really big stuff), there is the crew I think of as American-style suicide killers. They lack a political or religious ideology like the suicide bombers of the Middle East, but they are on missions for which killing yourself as well as others is the imagined end. Think of them as informal American jihadis, in touch with no ISIS social media types, watching no inflammatory terror videos, but all riled up anyway, often deeply disturbed, armed, and on suicide missions in the American homeland.

I'm referring to a remarkably commonplace kind of killing that, as far as I know, no one has taken the time to record or count up: men who kill their girlfriends or wives (and sometimes others in the vicinity) and then take their own lives. Here's an almost random list of just some of the reported cases I stumbled across for 2015: In January, in the appropriately named Nutley, New Jersey, a 38-year-old man [shot](#) his 37-year-old girlfriend and then killed himself; in January, in Lincoln, Nebraska, a 49-year-old man [shot](#) his 44-year-old girlfriend, called the police to report the killing, and then killed himself; also in January, a 29-year-old man [shot](#) his 27-year-old pregnant girlfriend six or seven times in a hotel for the homeless in New York City's Times Square before taking his own life; in February, in Wading River, New York, a 44-year-old man [shot](#) and killed his 43-year-old girlfriend and her 17-year-old daughter before taking his own life; in March, in Chicago, a 23-year-old man [shot](#) and killed his 24-year-old girlfriend, then himself in the mouth, committing suicide; in April, a 48-year-old Fort Worth man, who had a winning \$500 lottery ticket and refused to share the spoils with his 46-year-old girlfriend, [shot](#) her and then himself after they argued, then called the police to report the crime before dying; in April, in Cleveland, a 48-year-old man [shot](#) and killed his 19-year-old girlfriend and then repeated the act two doors down, murdering his 47-year-old ex-wife, before turning his gun on himself; also in April in Montgomery, Alabama, a man [shot](#) and killed his girlfriend, subsequently killing himself; similarly in April, a 35-year-old doctor [shot](#) and killed his 39-year-old girlfriend in Fayetteville, North Carolina, followed by a 32-year-old doctor in New Jersey, and then, when police approached him, committed suicide; in May, in San Diego, a 52-year-old man [shot](#) his 28-year-old girlfriend and her 63-year-old mother to death before committing suicide. As June began, in Cleveland, a 30-year-old man [shot](#) and killed his 24-year-old ex-girlfriend and her grandfather, badly injuring her grandmother, then killed himself. And so it goes, and mind you, this is just a starter list for such acts, which seem remarkably commonplace.



## Buy the book

Moving on to bigger things, one kind of killing has been much in the news of late: police shootings. The figures the FBI has traditionally compiled on them have proven to be way too low, so others have entered the fray. The *Washington Post*, for instance, recently began compiling a database of “every fatal shooting by police” in the U.S. in 2015 (deaths [by Taser](#) not included). Their figure so far: [at least 385](#) for the first five months of 2015 or approximately [one of every 13](#) non-suicide gun deaths so far this year.

“About half the victims,” the *Post* reports, “were white, half minority. But the demographics shifted sharply among the unarmed victims, two-thirds of whom were black or Hispanic. Overall, blacks were killed at three times the rate of whites or other minorities when adjusting by the population of the census tracts where the shootings occurred.” A [Guardian study](#) adds this detail: “Black Americans are more than twice as likely to be unarmed when killed during encounters with police as white people.”

[According to](#) the *Guardian*, a recent Bureau of Justice report found that over the last eight years an average of 928 Americans have died annually at the hands of the police. (FBI figures: only 383.) In other words in those years, there were 7,427 police homicides, the equivalent of more than two 9/11s. Compared to other developed countries, these figures are staggering. There were, for instance, [more fatal police shootings](#) in the United States in the month of March 2015 (97) than Australia had between 1992 and 2011 (94). Similarly, there have been almost three times as many police shootings in California alone in 2015 (72) as Canada experiences annually (25).

And when it comes to armed dangers in a country in which there are estimated to be between 270 and 310 million guns or, on average, [nearly one firearm](#) for every man, woman, and child, we haven’t even made it to the major leagues of death yet. Take, for instance, suicide by gun. In the last year for which we have figures, 2013, there were [21,175](#) such [deaths](#) and they seem to be rising. Deaths by firearm in this country totaled [33,636](#) in that year and seem to be rising as well.

And just for the heck of it, maybe we should throw in one other kind of weapon (even



if it generally lacks the intentionality of firearms): cars, trucks, and other vehicles. Many traffic deaths could certainly qualify as assaults, however unintentional, with a deadly weapon. In 2013, there were [32,719](#) such deaths, essentially equaling death by gun in America.

In all, then, we're talking about approximately 66,000 death-dealing assaults with weapons or vehicles in this country yearly.

### **Armed Dangers and Meal Tickets**

Now, let's leave those annual fields of carnage behind and turn to the "greatest threat" of our moment -- or so the officials of the national security state would have you believe. You know what that is, of course: the Islamic State with its sophisticated propaganda skills that, according to official Washington, regularly [run circles](#) around whatever this country and its allies can muster in response. Despite the nearly [trillion dollars](#) a year that goes into national security and the elaborate [surveillance](#) and monitoring systems that have been put in place, we remain strangely defenseless against its wiles. Using social media, its facilitators threaten to obliterate distance, reach across oceans, and rile up displaced, marginalized, and often slightly unhinged young American Muslims, and -- at least so the story goes -- prepare the groundwork for unparalleled mayhem in "the homeland."

With that dire scenario in mind, here is 2015 in Islamic State terrorism in the U.S. in terms of death and destruction: In May, evidently affected by ISIS's social media presence, [Elton Simpson](#) and Nadir Soofi, two young American Muslims from Phoenix who were roommates, [set out](#) to attack a cartoon exhibit and contest in Garland, Texas, devoted to the Prophet Muhammad and organized by Islamophobe [Pam Geller](#). Armed with assault rifles and wearing body armor, they managed to wound an unarmed security guard in the ankle before they were killed by an off-duty traffic officer, also working security at the event.

Similarly, this month a 26-year-old black Muslim, Usaamah Rahim, was reportedly involved in an ISIS-inspired plot in Boston to somehow [behead Geller](#). He then supposedly abandoned that plan, deciding instead to behead some local "[boys in blue](#)." Approached on the street for questioning by Boston police and FBI agents in plain clothes, he pulled out a "military-style knife," they claimed, threatened them, and was shot to death. (Some aspects of their account have been [questioned](#).) And that's it, folks. The greatest threat on the planet has, so far this year, managed to inspire three marginal young men to get themselves killed. When it comes to the dangers in American life, put that in the context of tens of thousands of annual deaths by firearm, or even of the toddler killings.

Despite all [the talk](#) of possible jihadist plots, this is the evidence we have of the threat to the "homeland" which the Islamic State represents at the moment and into which so much money and preventive activity flows (to the exclusion of so much else). It is, we are told, a "new threat," utterly unlike the normal dangers of our American world. In fact, such violence, rare as it may be, shouldn't seem aberrational at all. It really should strike us as more of the same -- even if the names of the perpetrators sometimes have a different ring to them: men, often young, with access to weapons, in some cases mentally unstable, and with a grudge, intent on striking out. They

should remind us of those American men who so regularly kill their girlfriends and then themselves or of many of the [mass killers](#) of [recent years](#).

Yet this is the lone danger that is constantly played up as the one worthy of both fear and investment. Of course, jihadist terror is perfectly real and if Americans lived in Syria or Iraq or Libya it would be a horrifying problem. But whatever the present skills of ISIS's propagandists, such violence has, since 9/11, proven more dangerous than [shark attacks](#), but not much else in American life. And when law enforcement agencies are surveyed, [according to](#) Charles Kurzman and David Schanzer, they, too, see the dangers of Islamist terrorism as modest indeed in this country, particularly in comparison to the homegrown far right-wing version of the same.

It matters that we are still protected by two oceans and that the Islamic jihadist heartlands are distant indeed. But let's be honest: the threat of Islamic terrorism here is also a meal ticket for the national security state. (Hence [all those plots](#) that turn out to be essentially instigated, funded, often essentially organized by FBI [informers](#) and then "cracked" by the FBI.) It's one major way that the officials of that state-within-a-state ensure support and funding, endow themselves with special privileges, including never having to appear in [court](#) for potential criminal acts, and entrench their anti-democratic [methods](#) and the blanket of secrecy that goes with them ever more deeply in American life.

As for the real armed dangers in our world, nobody's likely to put much money into protecting you from them and, despite those 66,000 deaths a year, somehow the world continues to spin and the end is not nigh.

By the way, you do have one thing coming to you, don't you? I promised you a last paragraph. So here goes.

In the week-plus since I first began writing this piece, there was indeed one Islamic State-"inspired" attack in the United States. A twenty-one year old man [lunged](#) at an FBI agent searching his home in Staten Island, New York, with "a large kitchen knife." He was reputed to be part of another of those ISIS-inspired terror "[plots](#)" that seem unlikely to ever be successfully carried out. There was also a mass killing. A twenty-one-year-old [white racist](#) walked into a historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina, and [opened fire](#) in what, if he had been Muslim, would have been called a [terror attack](#), killing nine, including the church's pastor who was also a state senator. As Reuters [reported](#), the massacre "recalled the 1963 bombing of an African-American church in Birmingham, Alabama, that killed four girls and galvanized the civil rights movement of the 1960s." There was as well at least one more grim toddler shooting. A Cincinnati three year old [found](#) his mother's gun in her purse, shot himself in the chest, and died. There was also at least one more fellow on a suicide mission: a Vermont man sought by the police in the killing of his ex-girlfriend engaged in a high-speed car chase before crashing and [committing](#) suicide by gun. There were a number of police homicides, including: a man on probation in a Hacienda Inn in [South Lake Tahoe](#); a 28-year-old man in a high-speed car chase in [Stockton](#), California; a 28-year-old man, unarmed but "behaving erratically," in [Des Moines](#), Iowa; a man who stabbed a policeman trying to arrest him in [Brighton Beach](#), New York; and a man [tentatively identified](#) as African in Louisville, Kentucky, accused of violently threatening the police with a flag pole (with the usual

conflicting stories from police and eyewitnesses about what actually happened). And in the smorgasbord that is America's cavalcade of violence, we shouldn't leave out the off-duty Neptune, New Jersey, police sergeant who [chased](#) his ex-wife in his car, caught up with her, and shot her to death in front of their seven-year-old daughter before threatening to kill himself and being arrested by the police; or the Iowa City mall security guard, evidently fired from his job earlier that day, who went home, got a weapon, returned, and [killed](#) a 20-year-old female employee of the mall's children's museum whom he had previously been harassing. He fled, but was arrested by the police soon after. Meanwhile, a [mentally disturbed](#) young man with a grudge against the police bought an armored van on eBay ("[touted as](#) a 'Zombie apocalypse assault vehicle' with 'gun ports' capable of 'drive-by mow-downs' and full armor and bulletproof windows 'just in case someone might try to take this bad boy from you'"). He then built pipe bombs, armed himself with an assault rifle and shotgun, drove to Police Headquarters in Dallas, and launched a [full-scale attack](#) on the place. Miraculously, he managed to kill no one, despite also crashing his van into several police cars, and was finally killed by a police sniper. And last but hardly least, some gunfire hit closer to home. Three young men in Brooklyn, New York, were [shot and wounded](#) in a housing-project playground complex (named after a neighborhood 13 year old who had been [killed](#) by a policeman in 1994). Someone I know gives classes in that complex. The shooter remains on the loose.

*Tom Engelhardt is a co-founder of the [American Empire Project](#) and the author of The United States of Fear as well as a history of the Cold War, [The End of Victory Culture](#). He is a fellow of the Nation Institute and runs [TomDispatch.com](#). His latest book is [Shadow Government: Surveillance, Secret Wars, and a Global Security State in a Single-Superpower World](#).*

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Last Updated on Sunday, 21 June 2015 15:13

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## [Professor ANDREW J. BACEVICH' S FOREIGN AFFAIRS' ADVICE TO CANADA AND TO THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 21 June 2015 09:58

By Joan Russow PhD

## Global Compliance Research Project

On CBC Sunday morning, Andrew J. Bacevich Professor Emeritus of International Relations and History, made at least two key points: one was related to the role of a small state such as Canada. The other was, if the US wants to influence the Middle East, the US should have policies worth emulating.

### INDEPENDENT ROLE FOR CANADA

Andrew J. Bacevich stated quite clearly that Canada should play an independent role. It is quite obvious that the Harper Government, since its inception, has relinquished Canada's role as an independent country. As early as 2006, the Harper government indicated its early support for Israel by refusing to adopt the Declaration of a nuclear Arms Free Middle East. The Harper government has continued to demonstrate, its one-sided

support for Israel and its opposition to the Palestine. Alan Baker, a former ambassador, has pointed out that the Harper government's strong support for Israel is even out of sync with Canada's official stated policy:

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/world/israel-middle-east/harper-governments-strong-israel-stance-not-matched-by-offical-foreign-affairs-polices-former-israeli-ambassador-saysff>

In 2014, Harper even referred to the attack on Gaza as being a measured response;

[http://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editors/2014/07/19/pms\\_reaction\\_to\\_gaza\\_comes\\_under\\_fire.html](http://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editors/2014/07/19/pms_reaction_to_gaza_comes_under_fire.html)

The latest action was the Harper government's indicating it would use hate crime laws against Canadian groups that engage in the "Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) Campaign, against Israel,

in Canada.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/ottawa-cites-hate-crime-laws-when-asked-about-its-zero-tolerance-for-israel-boycotters-1.3067497>

Professor Bacevich, unaware of the Harper government's position on Climate Change, suggested that an aspect of Canada independence could be to lead on climate change. Throughout the conference of the parties on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Harper government has been receiving the fossil fuel award

For withdrawing from the Kyoto protocol, obstructing the resolve of the conference and for having weak targets based not on reductions from 1990 levels.

THE US AND ITS ALLIES MIGHT BE WORTH EMULATING. IF THEY WERE PREPARED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

**Redefine what constitutes Security**

Currently security is associated with `militarized security, human or collective security: all of which have; [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\): The World We](#)

Want is impeded by the continuation of the world we do not want been discredited.

Perhaps concept of true security could be an extension of Olaf Palme's concept of common security to embody the following objectives:

- \* to achieve a state of peace, and disarmament; through reallocation of military expenses (As agreed in Article 18 e Chapter 33, Agenda 21, UNCED) and the delegitimization of war
- to create a global structure that respects the rule of law and the International Court of Justice;
- to enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and ensure the right to development and social justice;
- to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, women's rights civil and political rights, indigenous rights, social and cultural rights – right to food, right to housing, right to safe drinking water and sewage, right to education and right to universally accessible not for profit health care system;
- to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, the respect for the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, the reduction of the ecological footprint moving away from the current model of unsustainable and excessive overconsumption and from furthering the cult of war

AT THE SAME TIME AS DOING THE FOLLOWING;

**A. Prevent war and conflict**

**B Avert Environmental Devastation and Health Problems**

**C. Cease Exploitative Trade**

**D Stave off Corporatism and Financial Institutions**

[t.com/ellen-brown/new-g20-bailin-rules-now-\\_b\\_6244394.html](http://t.com/ellen-brown/new-g20-bailin-rules-now-_b_6244394.html)

**E. End social injustice and violation of Human Rights**

## **F. Abandon the disregard for the rule of international law and legal precedents**

### **A**

#### **PREVENT WAR AND CONFLICT**

**1. Delegitimize war- Given the social, environmental, health, human rights, economic consequences of war, under no conditions or circumstance is war legal or just.**

**2. End any attempt to undermine the international resolve to prevent the scourge of war; this would include not engaging in intimidation, in cajoling or in offering economic incentives in exchange for support, at the UN Security Council, for military interventions.**

**3. End the practice of invoking Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations rather than invoking Chapter VI - the peaceful resolutions of disputes – and refusing to be judged by the International Court of Justice.**

**4. End the misconstruing of Article 51 (self-defence) of the Charter of the United Nations to justify premeditated non-provoked military aggression, or to use various such pretexts for invading other sovereign states.**

**5. End the guises for military intervention "human security" (Iraq 1991), "Humanitarian intervention" (Kosovo, 1999), " "self-defence" (Afghanistan 2001), "Pre-emptive/ preventive" attack (Iraq, 2003) "Responsibility to Protect (Haiti, 2004, Libya, 2011) or "will to intervene" (Mali, 2013)**

**6. End the practice of mollifying public opposition to war by couching aggressive acts in euphemistic "operations" such as "Operation Just Cause", "Operation Iraqi Freedom", "Operation Enduring Freedom**

**7. Stop ignoring the commitment to Reallocate military spending as agreed to under Chapter 33 16e of Agenda 21, UNCED and under many previous**



**commitment under UNGA resolutions and Declarations**

**8. Abandon the guise of the pre-emptive/preventive attack policy that has resulted in aggressive attacks on sovereign states and that has been in violation of the Article 2 of United Nations and international law as being the 'supreme' international crime of a war of aggression.**

**9. End the disrespect for the jurisdiction and decisions of the International Court of Justice.**

**10. End occupation of sovereign states.**

**11. End the trumping of health, environment, civil and political and human rights for the sake of "militarized security,**

**12. End the practice of targeting or assisting in the assassination of leaders of other sovereign states, and of engaging in "regime change".**

**13. End the destabilization of states and regions through the sale of arms, including through the guise of "foreign aid" or through infiltration of NGOs, such as USAID, NED, Freedom House or through fundamentalist Christians in groups such as Operation Rescue.**

**14. End the production of land mines, as required in the convention against landmines and end the procrastination, by those responsible, to remove land mines from all areas of the world where land mines are known to exist.**

**15. End the reluctance of nuclear arms states to comply with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by failing to implement Article VI of the Treaty, (Article VI: commits all parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on measures to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve disarmament.).**

**16 .End the production of all weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical, and biological, as agreed to in UNCHE in 1972, and in specific conventions. And discontinue the gutting of the Treaty on Cluster bombs and other arms reduction treaties**

**17.Suffocate the production of uranium, end importing and exporting of uranium, prohibit the use of weapons such as those with depleted uranium and cluster and end the continued profit-making from the sale of arms and trade in small arms.**

**18. End "War Games" or "Military Exercises" such as Exercise Trident Fury or Northwest Training Range complex.**

**Prohibit propaganda for war as per International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including establishing military bases, engaging in war games, producing and selling of armaments, and holding arms exhibition. End government investment in weapons systems:**

**19. No longer oppose the implementation of regional nuclear arms free areas around the world.**

**20. End the production, circulation and berthing of nuclear powered or nuclear arms-capable vessels throughout the world.**

**21. End the disregard for the obligations under the 1967 Outer Space Treaty to ensure that exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind [humanity].**

**22. Repeal the Patriot Act and Anti-Terrorism Act because they violate civil and political rights, and results in racial profiling.**

**23 .End the practice of "rendering"- sending "persons of interests" to countries which are known to condone torture.**

**24. End the refusal to be judged by an international tribunal for any actions that might be deemed to violate international law related to crimes against the peace, to war crimes, or to genocide.**

**25. End the misuse of UN "peacekeeping" forces to clean up aggressive acts of destruction and occupation caused by other states.**

**26. End the discriminatory application of the ICC investigations "Some states are seen to be more Equal than others"**

**27. Close and convert, to peaceful purposes, all foreign military bases in sovereign states around the world.**

**28. End the reluctance to abide by the 1975 Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of humanity.**

**29. End the use of weapons that are prohibited under Article 36, which reads.**

**In the study, development, acquisition or adoption of a new weapons, means or method of warfare, states are under an obligation to determine whether its employment would, in some or all circumstances, be prohibited by this Protocol or by any other rule of international law (Art 36. New weapons provision) Also in the additional Geneva protocol there are imposed limitations on the development of new weapons. Determine whether drones are prohibited by the Geneva Protocol on prohibited weapons**

**30. Demilitarize the economy by reallocating resources presently committed to military purposes to provide for the needs of citizens to pass on the peace dividend to the developing countries as undertaken through numerous UN Conference Action Plans and UN General Assembly Resolutions and Declarations.**

**31. End misplaced spending priorities: on militarism, on adulterated unsafe food, on production of products and substances harmful to the environment and human health, and redirecting budgetary expenses to eradicate poverty.**

**32. Prohibit environmental modification techniques as per**

**Convention prohibiting environmental modification techniques (ENMOD), 1976**

**33. End the disregard for the UNESCO Declaration that affirms that science and technology should be used in peace and for the benefit of humanity**

## **B**

### **AVERTING ENVIRONMENTAL DEVASTATION AND HEALTH PROBLEMS**

**\*End the reluctance to consider the fundamental question of whether there is really a need for proposals that may be detrimental to the environment. For example, there is the presumption that we need more and more energy rather than questioning this need.**

**\*abandon the failure to stress the necessity of conservation and preservation of nature such as the obligation to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity for the benefit of present and future generations, (preamble, Convention of Biological Diversity, UNCED, 1992)**

**34. End the exploitation of Nature affirmed in 1982 World Charter of Nature: every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to humans, and to accord other organisms such recognition, humans must be guided by a moral code of action,**

**35 Eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries; this pattern has contributed to poverty, to the inequitable distribution of resources within countries and between**

**countries, has increased the vulnerability to natural disasters and has threaten the well-being of future generations.**

**36.Reduce the ecological footprint, as required in Habitat II, that has contributed to a socially inequitable and environmentally unsound world; end the conversion of nature into a source of raw materials, and the practice of "built-in obsolescence"**

**37 .End the reluctance to invoke the precautionary principle - in the Rio Declaration, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in the Law of the Seas- as a general and enforceable principle of law: where there is a threat of irreversible harm the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measure to prevent the threat.**

**38. End the failure to comply with Art. 2 of the UNFCCC to stabilize greenhouse gases below a level of dangerous anthropogenic emissions.**

**39...Phase out the use of fossil fuels, especially those from the unconventional sources such as the tar sands, reduce other greenhouse gas producing activities, ban fracking and end the substantial contribution to greenhouse gas emissions caused by methane gas resulting from the dependency on animal protein.**

**40. Discontinue the promoting of false "solutions" to climate change such as biofuels, large hydro projects, and nuclear energy which are not socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy sources. Abandon the market based proposal of the so-called Green Economy that commodities nature**

**41. End the failure of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to investigate and estimate the full impact of greenhouse gas emissions by the military, and to demand that each state release information related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all militarism, from military exercises, war games, weapons testing, military aviation troop transfer, military operations, and waste generation, to reconstruction after acts of violent**

interventions etc.

**42. End the practice of member states relying not on the emerging scientific data, but on the IPCC 2007 report which was based on 2004 and 2005 data. The emerging data now indicates the urgency of keeping the rise in temperature below the dangerous level of 1°C, [which is the point at which global systems on land, water and air will be so affected as to create vicious feedback cycles and destabilise many ecosystems and human societies]; whereas the IPCC 2007 Report had indicated that 2 degrees was the safe threshold. The emerging scientific data also indicates that there are more serious climate-induced events than anticipated in the 2007 IPCC Report.**

**43. End the climate injustice of using the atmospheric space of developing countries, and refusing to pay compensation**

**44. End the misappropriation of agricultural land for the growing of biofuel and contributing to food insecurity, and prohibit the purchase and use of land for biofuels to serve foreign markets and undermine food security.**

**45. End the strategy of substituting proposals of adaption to or offsetting of climate change rather than seriously addressing the issue of preventing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.**

**46. Prevent Natec's- natural disasters caused by technology or technological disasters caused by natural disasters and not rely on after-the fact attempts to reduce or mitigate disasters.**

**47. Ban, through the invoking the precautionary principle, the**

**production and distribution of genetically engineered food and crops,**

**the practice of biopiracy of genes of indigenous peoples, the dumping of GE food and adventitious materials [living modified organisms] on developing countries. And remove off the shelves all processed foods containing genetically engineered material.**

**48. Ban Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which are**

**bio- accumulative and toxic, and are capable of traveling long distances from their original source.**

**49. End the violating the transboundary principle that holds that states shall be held legally responsible for any pollution, in other states, caused by activities under their own jurisdiction. The transboundary principle is in the Rio Declaration, and in the Laws of the Seas:**

**Under Art 194 2 of the Law of the Sea is the obligation**

**To take all measures necessary to ensure that activities under their jurisdiction or control are so conducted as not to cause damage by pollution to other States and their environment, and that pollution arising from incidents or activities under their jurisdiction or control does not spread beyond the areas where they exercise sovereign rights in accordance with this Convention. (Art. 194. 2., Law of the Seas, 1982)**

**-Prohibit Seabed mining.**

**50. End the practice of causing environmental devastation and then relying on restorative or clean-up technologies to remediate the environmental destruction rather than taking the preventive approach so as to avoid costly and inadequate subsequent measures to "rehabilitate" the site.**

**51. End unsustainable forest management, the conversion of forests into agricultural land and the expansion of large-scale agro-industrial monocultures for food, fibre and, increasingly, energy. End the land grab of land, by developed states, in developing states**

**52. End land degradation, soil erosion, salinization, water logging, and soil pollution, which contribute to loss of soil fertility and food security.and prevent desertification**

**53. Prohibit the practice, by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in violating the principle that a regulator must not be a promoter, of promoting civil nuclear energy.**

**54. Phase out the use of civil nuclear energy, and refuse to accept nuclear energy as the solution to climate change and delete Article IV of the NPT which bestows the inalienable right of states to access so-called "peaceful" use of nuclear energy.**

**55...Prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health. (Principle 14 Rio Declaration, 1992)**

**56. End the defiance by industrialized states, of principle 7 of the 1992 Rio Declaration which was adopted by all states at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This principle states that:**

**``States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. (Principle 7, Rio Declaration)**

**57. End environmentally induced diseases, address the social determinant of health problems- such as poverty, and provide universal access to a publicly-funded not-for-profit health non-two tier health care system.**

**58 End the lack of commitment to ensure, as agreed in Habitat II, that Corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with international law, including international environmental law**

**59. End the use of the notion of 'prior consent' to persuade the poor,**



**disadvantaged and vulnerable countries or communities within developed countries to accept the dumping of products and substances that are potentially harmful to the environment and human health. End the ruse of using extraterritorialism. -what right do we have to impose our higher standards on a developing country with lower standards. the dumping of mine tailing in lakes and other waterways.**

**60. Prevent Pharmaceutical collusion between university and Pharmaceutical corporations. And end the policy of permitting Universities to sell products of research to corporations**

**61. End practice of the Pharmaceutical industry in creating new health problems to create market potential for new drugs**

**62. Prohibit the patenting of genes under the WTO TRIPS provision**

**63. End the misguided dependency on drugs when doctors fail to offer the possibility that change in life style could effectively address the health problem**

**64. Oppose the continued production and export of products that have been banned... or withdrawn**

**65. Prevent import of products banned or not yet approved in country of origin**

**C.**

### **CEASING EXPLOITATIVE TRADE**

**66. End the undermining, by International Trade agreements, such as GATT, and the subsequent WTO, TPP, of measures which would advance and promote fossil fuel energy and which would promote socially inequitable environmentally unsafe and unsound energy, renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.**

**67 Dismantle or abrogate trade institutions and agreements, such as WTO and NAFTA, which promulgate globalization, deregulation and privatization; these institutions and agreements undermine the rule of international public trust law, and condone and actively facilitate corporations benefiting and profiting from war and from environmental destruction.**

**68. End all proposals which will result, through the practice of harmonization of standards and regulations, in arriving at the lowest common denominator for health and environmental standards.**

**9. End the requirement of) "testing once" and (ii) "reliance on testing by the private sector". That if the private sector has already tested the substance or product, Environmental agencies would have to justify before congress if they want to test again.**

**(i) "Testing once" to eliminate redundancy by testing once so that if a product is tested in one of the three countries it does not have to be tested in the other two. This practice would undermine the ability of states to carry out their own tests and ban substances such as the banning by Canada of RBST or Bovine Growth Hormone in milk.**

**70. Abandon the IMF Structural Adjustment Program which has led to the violation of human rights, has exploited citizens in the developing world, which has resulted in years of privatization, and elimination of essential services throughout the world and has adversely impacted on vulnerable and indigenous peoples around the world.**

#### **D.**

### **STAVING OFF CORPORATISM AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

#### **D Stave off Corporatism and Financial Institutions**

**71. End the privatization, including Public Private Partnerships, of public services such as water, sewage and health care, and end the opposition to the affirmation that the access to water is a human right.**

**72. End corporate funding of education, including the corporate direction of research, and opposing end the opposition to the principle that research must be arms-length and not tied to corporations.**

**73. Enforce the international commitment made to ensure that corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with international law including international environmental law.**

**And oppose corporate "voluntary compliance",**

**74. End the subsidizing and investing, of public funds, in corporations that have developed weapons of mass destruction and "conventional arms" that have violated human rights that have denied social justice, that have exploited workers, and that have destroyed the environment.**

**75. Revoke charters of corporations, including transnational**

**corporations, which have engaged in activities that impact on health**

**and environment, including on the right to food, and right to water; end the legal fiction that the corporate form has constitutional rights as a person and prohibit corporate funding of political parties.**

**76. Phase out sunset industries-ones that are harmful to human health and the environment and institute a fair and just transition for workers and communities affected by the phase out, and end the lucrative profits made on money trading...**

**77. End the egregious practice of derivatives and other banking schemes, and end the support of non-cooperative and non-community banks**

**78. End the bail-out of corporations and banks under the guise of their being "too big to fail", and end the reclassifying of function, by financial institutions, such as Goldman Sachs in order to take advantage of the bail -out**

**79. Prohibit the centralization of banks and the egregious funny money banking systems and abandon the capitalist, exploitative, competitive economic model, and prohibit corporate funding of politicians,**

**\*renounce support for the g20 egregious "bail-in" banking scheme to take deposits and pensions**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellen-brown/new-g20-bailin-rules-now-b\\_6244394.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellen-brown/new-g20-bailin-rules-now-b_6244394.html)

**80. End shifting, by corporations, of their addresses offshore to lower their taxes, and end the evading, by corporations, of criminal charges by spinning off their companies.**

**E.**

#### **END SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**81 Eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generation... (Preamble, Declaration on the Establishment of a new international economic order, 1974)**

**82. Cancel Third World debt. And end the reluctance to implement the long-standing international commitment to transfer .7% of the GDP for overseas development aid (ODA)**

**83 End the practice of send arms as ODA and end the extension of active assistance to developing countries tied, political or military conditions. and**

**cancel third world debt**

**84. End all discrimination on the following grounds:**

- race, tribe, or culture;
- colour, ethnicity, national ethnic or social origin, or language; nationality, place of birth, or nature of residence (refugee or immigrant, migrant worker);
- gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or form of family, [including same-sex marriage]
- disability or age;
- religion or conviction, political or other opinion, or - class, economic position, or other status.

**85. End the violation of human rights including labour rights, civil and political rights, social and cultural rights- right to food, right to housing, right to water right to sewage treatment, right to a universally accessible, not-for-profit health care system, right to education and social justice.**

**86. End the denial of the labour right to strike, of the right to have collective bargaining,**

**87 End the denial of the requirement of equal pay for work of equal value**

**85. End the redefinition of Torture and thus the violating of the Convention against Torture through Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,**

**86 End the practice of rendition of citizens and failure to abide by the Geneva Conventions.**

**87. End cruel and inhumane punishment such as capital punishment, which**

**violates accepted international norms.**

**89. End the discrimination against immigrants, and refugees and against Migrant Workers and their Families; and to revoke the Secure Fence Act and end the unconscionable wall between the United States and Mexico. Tear down walls and the wall in Israel/**

**90. Abandon the no-fly` list, and no-cross boarder lists.**

**91 Oppose Strategic Law suits Against Public Participation ("SLAPP) suits" against public participation.**

**92 End the targeting, intimidating and discriminating against activists on the grounds of political and other opinion (a listed ground in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).**

**93. End religious extremism and proselytizing including the spread of Evangelical Christianity around the world, which has undermined local indigenous cultures, instilled fear through the dangerous belief in the "rapture", "Armageddon" and "left behind", and condemn dispensationalist "end times" scenario which has serious irreversible consequences. And has led to the undermining of other established beliefs and practices**

**94. End the practice of ending speeches with the invocation of God Bless a country**

## **F**

### **ABIDIING BY INTERNATIONAL LAW.**

**95 End the defiance of the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of civilians, and respect international human rights and humanitarian law.**

**96. End unilateralism and affirm a commitment to multilateralism and oppose unilateral actions that undermine global common security.**

**97. End current irreversible practices that will violate the rights of future generation intergenerational equity includes the rights of future generations to their cultural, natural heritage and to a safe environment.**

**98. End the US position of refusing to respect the jurisdiction of the international Court of Justice in terms of revenge through military intervention and to instead seek justice through the International Court of Justice.**

**99. End US reluctance to do the following:**

**1 to ratify the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties**

**2 to ratify the international Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its protocol**

**3. To ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**4 to ratify the Kyoto Protocol**

**5 to ratify the Convention on the rights of migrant Workers and their families**

**6. to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**7. to ratify the International Covenant of Social economic, and Cultural Rights**

**8. to ratify the Optional Protocols of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

**9. to abide by the Convention Against Torture**

**10. to abide by the Geneva protocols on prohibited weapons**

**11. and to sign and ratify the Convention for the Banning of Landmines,**

**11to sign and ratify all Geneva Protocols, including Protocol V, which requires the removal of remnants of war**

**12 to invoke the precautionary principle, which appears in the Rio Declaration, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as a general and enforceable principle of law**

## **Joan Russow Global Compliance research Project**

**The theme of Rio+20 was "the future we Want" . In 2015 the United Nations is linking the MDGS and SDGs in Conferences that will continue the theme of "the future we want." The question arises can we have the future we want without proscribing the future we do not want. Is it possible to have sustainability within a world of predominantly unsustainable institutes and practices without concurrently eliminating these practices? To achieve the future we want we must**

**A. Prevent war and conflict**

**B Avert Environmental Devastation and Health Problems**

**C. Cease Exploitative Trade**

**D Stave off Corporatism and Financial Institutions**

**E. Guarantee social Justice and Human Rights**

**F Abide by International Law**

**.A**

### **PREVENTING WAR AND CONFLICT**

**1..Delegitimize war- Given the social, environmental, health, human rights, economic consequences of war, under no conditions or circumstance is war legal or just.**

**2.End any attempt to undermine the international resolve to prevent the scourge of war; this would include not engaging in intimidation, in cajoling or in offering economic incentives in exchange for support for military interventions.**



**3. End the reluctance to abide by the 1975 Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of humanity.**

**4. Reallocate military spending as agreed to under Chapter 33 16e of Agenda 21, UNCED**

**5. End the misconstruing of Article 51 (self-defence) of the Charter of the United Nations to justify premeditated non-provoked military aggression, or to use various such pretexts for invading other sovereign states.**

**6. Abandon the guise of the pre-emptive/preventive attack policy that has resulted in aggressive attacks on sovereign states and that has been in violation of the Article 2 of United Nations and international law as being the 'supreme' international crime of a war of aggression.**

**7. End the practice of invoking Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations rather than invoking Chapter VI - the peaceful resolutions of disputes - and be prepared to be judged by the International Court of Justice.**

**8. End the practice of disrespecting of the jurisdiction and decisions of the International Court of Justice.**

**9. Withdraw immediately from any military involvement and occupation of sovereign states.**

**10. End the trumping of health, environment, civil and political and human rights for the sake of "security, power and profit.**

**11. End the use of "human security" which has been extended to "humanitarian intervention", and used along with the "responsibility to protect" or with right to intervene with a view to justifying military intervention in other states.**

**12. End the failure to embrace "common security" as defined in the 1982 report on prepared by Olof Palme, and which entrench peremptory norms related to the preventing war and conflict, guaranteeing human rights, protecting the environment, and ensuring social justice.**

**13 .Discontinue the propping up and financing of military dictators and abandon the long standing policy enunciated against Somoza "he's a bastard but he is our bastard".**

**14.End the practice of targeting or assisting in the assassination of leaders of other sovereign states, and of engaging in "regime change".**

**15. End the practice of mollifying public opposition by couching aggressive acts in euphemistic "operations" such as "Operation Just Cause", "Operation Iraqi Freedom", "Operation Enduring Freedom",**

**15.End the destabilization of states and regions through the sale of arms, including through the guise of "foreign aid' or through infiltration of NGOs, such as USAID, NED, Freedom House or through fundamentalist Christians in groups such as Operation Rescue.**

**16.End the production of land mines, as required in the convention against landmine and end the procrastination, by those responsible, to remove land mines from all areas of the world where land mines are known to exist.**

**17.End the reluctance of nuclear arms states to comply with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by failing to implement Article VI of the Treaty, (Article VI: commits all parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on measures to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve disarmament.).**

**18 .End the production of all weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear, chemical, and biological, as agreed to in UNCHE in 1972, and in specific**

**conventions. And discontinue the gutting of the Treaty on Cluster bombs**

**19.Suffocate the production of uranium, end importing and exporting of uranium, prohibit the use of weapons such as those with depleted uranium and cluster and end the continued profit-making from the sale of arms and trade in small arms.**

**20.Disband NATO for its disregard of the international rule of law, including the objective of the Charter of the United Nations, and the Convention against Torture.**

**21.Prohibit propaganda for war (ICCPR), including establishing military bases, engaging in war games, producing and selling of armaments, and holding arms exhibunequal treatment of the states itions. End government investment in weapons systems**

**22.End the that possess nuclear weapons or nuclear weapon capabilities such as the destabilizing impact of the Middle East as a result of the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel.**

**3.End the disregard for the obligations under the 1967 Outer Space Treaty to ensure that exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind [humanity].**

**24 Repeal the Patriot Act and Anti-Terrorism Act because they violate civil and political rights, and results in racial profiling.**

**25 .End the practice of "rendering"- sending "persons of interests" to countries which are known to condone torture.**

**26.End the refusal to be judged by an international tribunal for any actions that might be deemed to violate international law related to crimes against the peace,**

to war crimes, or to genocide.

**27. End the misuse of UN "peacekeeping" forces to clean up aggressive acts of destruction and occupation caused by other states.**

**28 Close and convert, to peaceful purposes, all foreign military bases in sovereign states around the world.**

**29. End the production, circulation and berthing of nuclear powered or nuclear arms-capable vessels throughout the world.**

**30. End "War Games" or "Military Exercises" such as Exercise Trident Fury or Northwest Training Range complex.**

**31 .Discontinue the propping up and financing of military dictators and abandon the long standing policy enunciated against Somoza "he's a bastard but he is our bastard".**

**32 .Demilitarize the economy by reallocating resources presently committed to military purposes to provide for the needs of citizens to pass on the peace dividend to the developing countries as undertaken through numerous UN Conference Action Plans and UN General Assembly Resolutions and Declarations.**

**33. End misplaced spending priorities: on militarism, on adulterated unsafe food, on production of products and substances harmful to the environment and human health, and redirecting budgetary expenses to eradicate poverty.**

**B**

**AVERTING ENVIRONMENTAL DEVASTATION AND HEALTH PROBLEMS**

**34. End the exploitation of Nature and recognize rights of nature in 1982 World Charter of Nature; every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to humans, and to accord other organisms such recognition's, humans must be guided by a moral code of action,**

**35 Eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries; this pattern has contributed to poverty, to the inequitable distribution of resources within countries and between countries, has increased the vulnerability to natural disasters and has threaten the well-being of future generations.**

**36. Reduce the ecological footprint, as required in Habitat II, that has contributed to a socially inequitable and environmentally unsound world; end the conversion of nature into a source of raw materials, and the practice of "built-in obsolescence"**

**37 .End the reluctance to invoke the precautionary principle - in the Rio Declaration, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change- as a general and enforceable principle of law: where there is a threat of irreversible harm the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measure to prevent the threat. End the misapplication of the precautionary principle by stating; we do not have to wai until there is scientific certainty of SAFETY to make a decision**

**38. End the application of the reverse onus strategy which places the onus not on the proponent of an intervention to prove safety but on the opponent, to demonstrate harm.**

**39. Prevent Natechs- natural disasters caused by technology or technological disasters caused by natural disasters and not rely on after-the fact attempts to reduce or mitigate disasters.**

**40. Ban, through the invoking the precautionary principle, the production and distribution of genetically engineered food and crops,**

**the practice of biopiracy of genes of indigenous peoples, the dumping of GE food and adventitious materials [living modified organisms] on developing countries. And remove off the shelves all processed foods containing genetically engineered material.**

**41 End the destruction of biodiversity and the disregard for obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity to invoke the precautionary principle and not have to wait until there is scientific certainty of loss of biodiversity to prevent the loss**

**42. Ban Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which are bioaccumulative and toxic, and are capable of traveling .long distances from their original source.**

**43 .Prosecute countries for violating the transboundary principle that holds that states shall be held legally responsible for any pollution, in other states, caused by activities under their own jurisdiction.**

**44. End the practice of causing environmental devastation and then relying on restorative or clean-up technologies to remediate the environmental destruction rather than taking the preventive approach so as to avoid costly and inadequate subsequent measures to "rehabilitate" the site.**

**45. End the unsustainable forest management, the conversion of forests into agricultural land and the expansion of large-scale agro-industrial monocultures for food, fibre and, increasingly, energy. End the land grab of land, for biofuel, by developed states, in developing states**

\* End deforestation

**46. End land degradation, soil erosion, salinization, water logging, and soil pollution, which contribute to loss of soil fertility.**

**47. End the strategy of substituting proposals of adaption to or offsetting of climate change rather than seriously addressing the issue of preventing climate**

change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**48. Phase out the use of fossil fuels, especially those from the unconventional sources such as the tar sands, reduce other greenhouse gas producing activities, ban fracking and end the substantial contribution to greenhouse gas emissions caused by methane gas resulting from the dependency on animal protein.**

**49. Discontinue the promoting of false "solutions" to climate change such as biofuels, large hydro projects, and nuclear energy which are not socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy sources. Abandon the market based proposal of the so-called Green Economy that could lead to the commodifying nature**

**50. End the failure of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to investigate and estimate the full impact of greenhouse gas emissions by the military, and to demand that each state release information related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all militarism, from military exercises, war games, weapons testing, military aviation troop transfer, military operations, and waste generation, to reconstruction after acts of violent interventions etc.**

**51. End the practice of member states relying not on the emerging scientific data, but on the IPCC 2007 report which was based on 2004 and 2005 data. The emerging data now indicates the urgency of keeping the rise in temperature below the dangerous level of 1°C, [which is the point at which global systems on land, water and air will be so affected as to create vicious feedback cycles and destabilise many ecosystems and human societies]; whereas the IPCC 2007 Report had indicated that 2 degrees was the safe threshold. The emerging scientific data also indicates that there are more serious climate-induced events than anticipated in the 2007 IPCC Report.**

**52. End the climate injustice of using the atmospheric space of developing countries, and refusing to pay compensation**

**53. End the misappropriation of agricultural land for the growing of biofuel and contributing to food insecurity, and prohibit the purchase and use of land for biofuels to serve foreign markets and undermine food security.**

**54. Prohibit the practice, by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in violating the principle that a regulator must not be a promoter, of promoting civil nuclear energy.**

**55. Abandon the use of civil nuclear energy, and refuse to accept nuclear energy as the solution to climate change and delete Article IV of the NPT which bestows the inalienable right of states to access so-called "peaceful" use of nuclear energy.**

**56. Prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health. (Principle 14 Rio Declaration, 1992)**

**57. End the defiance by industrialized states, of principle 7 of the 1992 Rio Declaration which was adopted by all states at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This principle states that:**

**“States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. (Principle 7, Rio Declaration)**

**58. Prevent environmentally induced diseases, stop ignoring the social determinants of health problems- such as poverty/ environmentally induced diseases, etc and end the denigration universal access to a publicly-funded not-for-profit health non-two tier health care system.**

**59 End the lack of commitment to ensure, as agreed in Habitat II, that Corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with international law, including international environmental law**

**60. End the use of the notion of ‘prior consent’ to persuade the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable communities within developed countries and in developing countries to accept the dumping of products and substances that are potentially harmful to the environment and human health. End the ruse of using extraterritorialism. -what right do we have to impose our higher standards**



**on a developing country with lower standards**

**And end the disregard for indigenous peoples by abiding by Article 19 in UNDRIP which requires free prior consent of indigenous people for use of their territories and end the claim that consent does not really mean consent.**

**61. End collusion between universities and Pharmaceutical corporations. And end the policy of permitting Universities to sell products of research to corporations**

**62. End the practice used by the Pharmaceutical aided by public relation firms industries of inventing new health problems to create market potential for new drugs**

**62.Prohibit the patenting of genes under the WTO TRIPS provision**

**63.End the misguided dependency on drugs when doctors fail to offer the possibility that change in life style could effectively address the health problem**

**64.Oppose the continued production and export of products that have been banned... or withdrawn in country of origin being dumped on other countries**

**C**

**CEASING EXPLOITATIVE TRADE**

**66.End the undermining, by International Trade agreements, such as GATT, and the subsequent WTO, of measures which would advance and promote socially equitable environmentally safe and sound renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.**

**67 Dismantle or abrogate trade institutions and agreements, such as WTO and NAFTA, which promulgate globalization, deregulation and privatization; these institutions and agreements undermine the rule of international public trust law,**

**and condone and actively facilitate corporations benefiting and profiting from war and from environmental destruction. End the negotiations of TTP, CETA and other emerging trade agreements ; All of which should be declared null and void for violating international peremptory norms**

**68. End all proposals which will result, through the practice of harmonization of standards and regulations, in arriving at the lowest common denominator for health and environmental standards.**

**69. End the requirement of) "testing once" and (ii) "reliance on testing by the private sector". That if the private sector has already tested the substance or product, Environmental agencies would have to justify before congress if they want to test again.**

**(i) "Testing once" to eliminate redundancy by testing once so that if a product is tested in one of the three countries it does not have to be tested in the other two. This practice would undermine the ability of states to carry out their own tests and ban substances such as the banning by Canada of RBST or Bovine Growth Hormone in milk.**

**70. Abandon the IMF Structural Adjustment Program which has led to the violation of human rights, has exploited citizens in the developing world, which has resulted in years of privatization, and elimination of essential services throughout the world and has adversely impacted on vulnerable and indigenous peoples around the world.**

**D.**

**STAVING OFF CORPORATISM AND**

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

**71. End the privatization, including Public Private Partnerships, of public services such as water, sewage and health care, and end the opposition to the affirmation that the access to water is a human right.**

**72. End corporate funding of education, including the corporate direction of research, and end the opposition to the principle that research must be arms-**

**length and not tied to corporations.**

**73. ~~-----~~End the reluctance to enforce the international commitment made to ensure that corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with international law**

**And oppose corporate "voluntary compliance",**

**74. End the subsidizing and investing, of public funds, in corporations that have developed weapons of mass destruction and "conventional arms" that have violated human rights that have denied social justice, that have exploited workers, and that have destroyed the environment.**

**75. Revoke charters of corporations, including transnational**

**corporations, which have engaged in activities that impact on health**

**and environment, including on the right to food, and right to water; end the legal fiction that the corporate form has constitutional rights as a person and prohibit corporate funding of political parties.**

**76. Phase out sunset industries-ones that are harmful to human health and the environment and institute a fair and just transition for workers and communities affected by the phase out, and end the lucrative profits made on money trading..**

**77. End the egregious practice of derivatives and other banking schemes, and end the support of non-cooperative and non-community banks**

**78. End the bail-out of corporations and banks under the guise of their being "too big to fail", and end the reclassifying of function, by financial institutions, such as Goldman Sachs in order to take advantage of the bail -out**

**79. Prohibit the centralization of banks and the egregious funny money banking systems and abandon the capitalist, exploitative, competitive economic model, and prohibit corporate funding of politicians,**

**80. End the shifting, by corporations, of their addresses offshore to lower their taxes, and end the evading, by corporations, of criminal charges by spinning off their companies.**

**E.**

## **GUARANTEEING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**81 Eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generation... (Preamble, Declaration on the Establishment of a new international economic order, 1974)**

**82.Cancel Third World debt. And end the reluctance to implement the long-standing international commitment to transfer .7% of the GDP for overseas development aid (ODA)**

**83 End the practice of sending arms as ODA and end the extension of active assistance to developing countries tied, political or military conditions.**

**84.End all discrimination on the following grounds:**

**- race, tribe, or culture;**

**- colour, ethnicity, national ethnic or social origin, or language; nationality, place of birth, or nature of residence (refugee or immigrant, migrant worker);**

**- gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or form of family, including same-sex marriage**

**- disability or age;**

**- religion or conviction, political or other opinion, or - class, economic position, or other status.**

**85.End the violation of human rights including labour rights, civil and political**

**rights, social and cultural rights- right to food, right to housing, right to water right to sewage treatment, right to a universally accessible, not-for-profit health care system, right to education and social justice.**

**86. End the denial of the labour right to strike, and of the right to have collective bargaining,**

**87 End the denial of the requirement of equal pay for work of equal value**

**85. End the redefinition of Torture and thus the violating of the Convention against Torture through Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, And include in "state terrorism" in the definition of terrorism**

**86 End the practice of rendition of citizens and failure to abide by the Geneva Conventions.**

**87. End cruel and inhumane punishment such as capital punishment, which violates accepted international norms.**

**89. End the discrimination against immigrants, and refugees and against Migrant Workers and their Families; and to revoke the Secure Fence Act and end the unconscionable wall between the United States and Mexico. Tear down walls and the wall in Israel/**

**90. Abandon the no-fly` list, and no-cross boarder lists.**

**91. Oppose Strategic Law suits Against Public Participation ( "SLAPP) suits" against public participation.**

**92. End the targeting, intimidating and discriminating against activists on the grounds of political and other opinion (a listed ground in the International**

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

**93. End all religious extremism and proselytizing including the spread of Evangelical Christianity around the world, which has undermined local indigenous cultures, instilled fear through the dangerous belief in the "rapture", "Armageddon" and "left behind", and condemn dispensationalist "end times" scenario which has serious irreversible consequences. And has led to the undermining of other established beliefs and practices**

**94. End the practice of ending speeches with the invocation of God Bless a country**

**F.**

**ABANDON THE DISREGARD FOR THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND LEGAL PRECEDENTS**

**95. End the defiance of the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of civilians, and respect international human rights and humanitarian law.**

**ANDREW J. BACEVICH' S FOREIGN AFFAIRS' ADVICE TO CANADA AND TO THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES**

**BY Joan Russow PhD**

**Global Compliance Research Project**

**On CBC Sunday morning, Andrew J. Bacevich Professor Emeritus of International Relations and History, made at least two key points: one was**

related to the role of a small state such as Canada. The other was, if the US wants to influence the Middle East, the US should be a have policies worth emulating.

## INDEPENDENT ROLE FOR CANADA

Andrew J. Bacevich stated quite clearly that Canada should play an independent role. It is quite obvious that the Harper Government, since its inception, has relinquished Canada's role as an independent country. As early as 2006, the Harper government indicated its early support for Israel by refusing to adopt the Declaration of a nuclear Arms Free Middle East. The Harper government has continued to demonstrate, its one-sided support for Israel and its opposition to the Palestine. Alan Baker, a former ambassador, has pointed out that the Harper government's strong support for Israel is even out of sync with Canada's official stated policy:

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/world/israel-middle-east/harper-governments-strong-israel-stance-not-matched-by-official-foreign-affairs-polices-former-israeli-ambassador-saysff>

In 2014, Harper even referred to the attack on Gaza as being a measured response;

[http://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editors/2014/07/19/pms\\_reaction\\_to\\_gaza\\_comes\\_under\\_fire.html](http://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editors/2014/07/19/pms_reaction_to_gaza_comes_under_fire.html)

The latest action was the Harper government's indicating it would use hate crime laws against Canadian groups that engage in the "Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) Campaign, against Israel, in Canada.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/ottawa-cites-hate-crime-laws-when-asked-about-its-zero-tolerance-for-israel-boycotters-1.3067497>



Professor Bacevich, unaware of the Harper government's position on Climate Change, suggested that an aspect of Canada independence could be to lead on climate change. Throughout the conference of the parties on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Harper government has been receiving the c fossil fuel award

For withdrawing from the Kyoto protocol, obstructing the resolve of the conference and for having weak targets based not on reductions from 1990 levels.

THE US AND ITS ALLIES MIGHTS BE WORTH EMULATING. IF THEY WERE PREPARED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

**Redefine what constitutes Security**

Currently security is associated with `militarized security, human or collective security: all of which have; [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\): The World We Want is impeded by the continuation of the world we do not want](#) been discredited.

Perhaps concept of true security could be an extension of Olaf Palme's concept of common security to embody the following objectives:

- \* to achieve a state of peace, and disarmament; through reallocation of military expenses (As agreed in Article 18 e Chapter 33, Agenda 21, UNCED) and the delegitimization of war

- to create a global structure that respects the rule of law and the International Court of Justice;
- to enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and ensure the right to development and social justice;
- to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, women's rights civil and political rights, indigenous rights, social and cultural rights – right to food, right to housing, right to safe drinking water and sewage, right to education and right to universally accessible not for profit health care system;
- to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, the respect for the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, the reduction of the ecological footprint moving away from the current model of unsustainable and excessive overconsumption and from furthering the cult of war

AT THE SAME TIME AS DOING THE FOLLOWING;

**A. Prevent war and conflict**

**B Avert Environmental Devastation and Health Problems**

**C. Cease Exploitative Trade**

**D Stave off Corporatism and Financial Institutions**

[t.com/ellen-brown/new-g20-bailin-rules-now- b\\_6244394.html](http://t.com/ellen-brown/new-g20-bailin-rules-now- b_6244394.html)

**E. End social injustice and violation of Human Rights**

**F. Abandon the disregard for the rule of international law and legal precedents**

**A**

**PREVENT WAR AND CONFLICT**

**1. Delegitimize war- Given the social, environmental, health, human rights, economic consequences of war, under no conditions or circumstance is war legal**

or just.

**2. End any attempt to undermine the international resolve to prevent the scourge of war; this would include not engaging in intimidation, in cajoling or in offering economic incentives in exchange for support, at the UN Security Council, for military interventions.**

**3. End the practice of invoking Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations rather than invoking Chapter VI - the peaceful resolutions of disputes – and refusing to be judged by the International Court of Justice.**

**4. End the misconstruing of Article 51 (self-defence) of the Charter of the United Nations to justify premeditated non-provoked military aggression, or to use various such pretexts for invading other sovereign states.**

**5. End the guises for military intervention "human security" (Iraq 1991), "Humanitarian intervention" (Kosovo, 1999), " "self-defence" (Afghanistan 2001), "Pre-emptive/ preventive" attack (Iraq, 2003) "Responsibility to Protect (Haiti, 2004, Libya, 2011) or "will to intervene" (Mali, 2013)**

**6. End the practice of mollifying public opposition to war by couching aggressive acts in euphemistic "operations" such as "Operation Just Cause", "Operation Iraqi Freedom", "Operation Enduring Freedom**

**7. Stop ignoring the commitment to Reallocate military spending as agreed to under Chapter 33 16e of Agenda 21, UNCED and under many previous commitment under UNGA resolutions and Declarations**

**8. Abandon the guise of the pre-emptive/preventive attack policy that has resulted in aggressive attacks on sovereign states and that has been in violation of the Article 2 of United Nations and international law as being the 'supreme' international crime of a war of aggression.**

**9. End the disrespect for the jurisdiction and decisions of the International Court of Justice.**

**10. End occupation of sovereign states.**

**11. End the trumping of health, environment, civil and political and human rights for the sake of "militarized security,**

**12. End the practice of targeting or assisting in the assassination of leaders of other sovereign states, and of engaging in "regime change".**

**13. End the destabilization of states and regions through the sale of arms, including through the guise of "foreign aid" or through infiltration of NGOs, such as USAID, NED, Freedom House or through fundamentalist Christians in groups such as Operation Rescue.**

**14. End the production of land mines, as required in the convention against landmines and end the procrastination, by those responsible, to remove land mines from all areas of the world where land mines are known to exist.**

**15. End the reluctance of nuclear arms states to comply with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by failing to implement Article VI of the Treaty, (Article VI: commits all parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on measures to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve disarmament.).**

**16. End the production of all weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical, and biological, as agreed to in UNCHE in 1972, and in specific conventions. And discontinue the gutting of the Treaty on Cluster bombs and other arms reduction treaties**

**17. Suffocate the production of uranium, end importing and exporting of uranium, prohibit the use of weapons such as those with depleted uranium and cluster and end the continued profit-making from the sale of arms and trade in small arms.**

**18. End "War Games" or "Military Exercises" such as Exercise Trident Fury or Northwest Training Range complex.**

**Prohibit propaganda for war as per International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including establishing military bases, engaging in war games, producing and selling of armaments, and holding arms exhibition. End government investment in weapons systems:**

**19. No longer oppose the implementation of regional nuclear arms free areas around the world.**

**20. End the production, circulation and berthing of nuclear powered or nuclear arms-capable vessels throughout the world.**

**21. End the disregard for the obligations under the 1967 Outer Space Treaty to ensure that exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind [humanity].**

**22. Repeal the Patriot Act and Anti-Terrorism Act because they violate civil and political rights, and results in racial profiling.**

**23 .End the practice of "rendering"- sending "persons of interests" to countries which are known to condone torture.**

**24. End the refusal to be judged by an international tribunal for any actions that might be deemed to violate international law related to crimes against the peace, to war crimes, or to genocide.**

**25. End the misuse of UN "peacekeeping" forces to clean up aggressive acts of destruction and occupation caused by other states.**

**26. End the discriminatory application of the ICC investigations "Some states**

are seen to be more Equal than others”

**27. Close and convert, to peaceful purposes, all foreign military bases in sovereign states around the world.**

**28. End the reluctance to abide by the 1975 Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of humanity.**

**29. End the use of weapons that are prohibited under Article 36, which reads.**

**In the study, development, acquisition or adoption of a new weapons, means or method of warfare, states are under an obligation to determine whether its employment would, in some or all circumstances, be prohibited by this Protocol or by any other rule of international law (Art 36. New weapons provision) Also in the additional Geneva protocol there are imposed limitations on the development of new weapons. Determine whether drones are prohibited by the Geneva Protocol on prohibited weapons**

**30. Demilitarize the economy by reallocating resources presently committed to military purposes to provide for the needs of citizens to pass on the peace dividend to the developing countries as undertaken through numerous UN Conference Action Plans and UN General Assembly Resolutions and Declarations.**

**31. End misplaced spending priorities: on militarism, on adulterated unsafe food, on production of products and substances harmful to the environment and human health, and redirecting budgetary expenses to eradicate poverty.**

**32. Prohibit environmental modification techniques as per**

**Convention prohibiting environmental modification techniques (ENMOD), 1976**

**33. End the disregard for the UNESCO Declaration that affirms that science**

**and technology should be used in peace and for the benefit of humanity**

**B**

**AVERTING ENVIRONMENTAL DEVASTATION AND HEALTH PROBLEMS**

**\*End the reluctance to consider the fundamental question of whether there is really a need for proposals that may be detrimental to the environment. For example, there is the presumption that we need more and more energy rather than questioning this need.**

**\*abandon the failure to stress the necessity of conservation and preservation of nature such as the obligation to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity for the benefit of present and future generations, (preamble, Convention of Biological Diversity, UNCED, 1992)**

**34. End the exploitation of Nature affirmed in 1982 World Charter of Nature: every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to humans, and to accord other organisms such recognition, humans must be guided by a moral code of action,**

**35 Eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries; this pattern has contributed to poverty, to the inequitable distribution of resources within countries and between countries, has increased the vulnerability to natural disasters and has threaten the well-being of future generations.**

**36.Reduce the ecological footprint, as required in Habitat II, that has contributed to a socially inequitable and environmentally unsound world; end the conversion of nature into a source of raw materials, and the practice of "built-in obsolescence"**

**37 .End the reluctance to invoke the precautionary principle - in the Rio**

**Declaration, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in the Law of the Seas- as a general and enforceable principle of law: where there is a threat of irreversible harm the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measure to prevent the threat.**

**38. End the failure to comply with Art. 2 of the UNFCCC to stabilize greenhouse gases below a level of dangerous anthropogenic emissions.**

**39...Phase out the use of fossil fuels, especially those from the unconventional sources such as the tar sands, reduce other greenhouse gas producing activities, ban fracking and end the substantial contribution to greenhouse gas emissions caused by methane gas resulting from the dependency on animal protein.**

**40. Discontinue the promoting of false "solutions" to climate change such as biofuels, large hydro projects, and nuclear energy which are not socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy sources. Abandon the market based proposal of the so-called Green Economy that commodities nature**

**41. End the failure of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to investigate and estimate the full impact of greenhouse gas emissions by the military, and to demand that each state release information related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all militarism, from military exercises, war games, weapons testing, military aviation troop transfer, military operations, and waste generation, to reconstruction after acts of violent interventions etc.**

**42. End the practice of member states relying not on the emerging scientific data, but on the IPCC 2007 report which was based on 2004 and 2005 data. The emerging data now indicates the urgency of keeping the rise in temperature below the dangerous level of 1°C, [which is the point at which global systems on land, water and air will be so affected as to create vicious feedback cycles and destabilise many ecosystems and human societies]; whereas the IPCC 2007 Report had indicated that 2 degrees was the safe threshold. The emerging scientific data also indicates that there are more serious climate-induced events than anticipated in the 2007 IPCC Report.**



**43. End the climate injustice of using the atmospheric space of developing countries, and refusing to pay compensation**

**44. End the misappropriation of agricultural land for the growing of biofuel and contributing to food insecurity, and prohibit the purchase and use of land for biofuels to serve foreign markets and undermine food security.**

**45. End the strategy of substituting proposals of adaption to or offsetting of climate change rather than seriously addressing the issue of preventing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.**

**46. Prevent Natec's- natural disasters caused by technology or technological disasters caused by natural disasters and not rely on after-the fact attempts to reduce or mitigate disasters.**

**47. Ban, through the invoking the precautionary principle, the production and distribution of genetically engineered food and crops, the practice of biopiracy of genes of indigenous peoples, the dumping of GE food and adventitious materials [living modified organisms] on developing countries. And remove off the shelves all processed foods containing genetically engineered material.**

**48. Ban Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which are bio- accumulative and toxic, and are capable of traveling long distances from their original source.**

**49. End the violating the transboundary principle that holds that states shall be held legally responsible for any pollution, in other states, caused by activities under their own jurisdiction. The transboundary principle is in the Rio Declaration, and in the Laws of the Seas:**

**Under Art 194 2 of the Law of the Sea is the obligation**

**To take all measures necessary to ensure that activities under their jurisdiction or control are so conducted as not to cause damage by pollution to other States**

**and their environment, and that pollution arising from incidents or activities under their jurisdiction or control does not spread beyond the areas where they exercise sovereign rights in accordance with this Convention. (Art. 194. 2., Law of the Seas, 1982)**

**-Prohibit Seabed mining.**

**50. End the practice of causing environmental devastation and then relying on restorative or clean-up technologies to remediate the environmental destruction rather than taking the preventive approach so as to avoid costly and inadequate subsequent measures to "rehabilitate" the site.**

**51. End unsustainable forest management, the conversion of forests into agricultural land and the expansion of large-scale agro-industrial monocultures for food, fibre and, increasingly, energy. End the land grab of land, by developed states, in developing states**

**52. End land degradation, soil erosion, salinization, water logging, and soil pollution, which contribute to loss of soil fertility and food security.and prevent desertification**

**53. Prohibit the practice, by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in violating the principle that a regulator must not be a promoter, of promoting civil nuclear energy.**

**54. Phase out the use of civil nuclear energy, and refuse to accept nuclear energy as the solution to climate change and delete Article IV of the NPT which bestows**

**the inalienable right of states to access so-called "peaceful" use of nuclear energy.**

**55...Prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health. (Principle 14 Rio Declaration, 1992)**

**56. End the defiance by industrialized states, of principle 7 of the 1992 Rio Declaration which was adopted by all states at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This principle states that:**

**``States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. (Principle 7, Rio Declaration)**

**57. End environmentally induced diseases, address the social determinant of health problems- such as poverty, and provide universal access to a publicly-funded not-for-profit health non-two tier health care system.**

**58 End the lack of commitment to ensure, as agreed in Habitat II, that Corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with international law, including international environmental law**

**59. End the use of the notion of 'prior consent' to persuade the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable countries or communities within developed countries to accept the dumping of products and substances that are potentially harmful to the environment and human health. End the ruse of using extraterritorialism. -what right do we have to impose our higher standards on a developing country with lower standards. the dumping of mine tailing in lakes and other waterways.**

**60. Prevent Pharmaceutical collusion between university and Pharmaceutical corporations. And end the policy of permitting Universities to sell products of research to corporations**

**61.End practice of the Pharmaceutical industry in creating new health problems**

**to create market potential for new drugs**

**62. Prohibit the patenting of genes under the WTO TRIPS provision**

**63. End the misguided dependency on drugs when doctors fail to offer the possibility that change in life style could effectively address the health problem**

**64. Oppose the continued production and export of products that have been banned... or withdrawn**

**65. Prevent import of products banned or not yet approved in country of origin**

**C.**

### **CEASING EXPLOITATIVE TRADE**

**66. End the undermining, by International Trade agreements, such as GATT, and the subsequent WTO, TPP, of measures which would advance and promote fossil fuel energy and which would promote socially inequitable environmentally unsafe and unsound energy, renewable energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry etc.**

**67 Dismantle or abrogate trade institutions and agreements, such as WTO and NAFTA, which promulgate globalization, deregulation and privatization; these institutions and agreements undermine the rule of international public trust law, and condone and actively facilitate corporations benefiting and profiting from war and from environmental destruction.**

**68. End all proposals which will result, through the practice of harmonization of standards and regulations, in arriving at the lowest common denominator for health and environmental standards.**

**9. End the requirement of) "testing once" and (ii) "reliance on testing by the private sector". That if the private sector has already tested the substance or**

**product, Environmental agencies would have to justify before congress if they want to test again.**

**(i) "Testing once" to eliminate redundancy by testing once so that if a product is tested in one of the three countries it does not have to be tested in the other two. This practice would undermine the ability of states to carry out their own tests and ban substances such as the banning by Canada of RBST or Bovine Growth Hormone in milk.**

**70. Abandon the IMF Structural Adjustment Program which has led to the violation of human rights, has exploited citizens in the developing world, which has resulted in years of privatization, and elimination of essential services throughout the world and has adversely impacted on vulnerable and indigenous peoples around the world.**

#### **D.**

### **STAVING OFF CORPORATISM AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

#### **D Stave off Corporatism and Financial Institutions**

**71. End the privatization, including Public Private Partnerships, of public services such as water, sewage and health care, and end the opposition to the affirmation that the access to water is a human right.**

**72. End corporate funding of education, including the corporate direction of research, and opposing end the opposition to the principle that research must be arms-length and not tied to corporations.**

**73. Enforce the international commitment made to ensure that corporations,**

**including transnational corporations, comply with international law including international environmental law.**

**And oppose corporate "voluntary compliance",**

**74. End the subsidizing and investing, of public funds, in corporations that have developed weapons of mass destruction and "conventional arms" that have violated human rights that have denied social justice, that have exploited workers, and that have destroyed the environment.**

**75. Revoke charters of corporations, including transnational**

**corporations, which have engaged in activities that impact on health**

**and environment, including on the right to food, and right to water; end the legal fiction that the corporate form has constitutional rights as a person and prohibit corporate funding of political parties.**

**76. Phase out sunset industries-ones that are harmful to human health and the environment and institute a fair and just transition for workers and communities affected by the phase out, and end the lucrative profits made on money trading...**

**77. End the egregious practice of derivatives and other banking schemes, and end the support of non-cooperative and non-community banks**

**78. End the bail-out of corporations and banks under the guise of their being "too big to fail", and end the reclassifying of function, by financial institutions, such as Goldman Sachs in order to take advantage of the bail -out**

**79. Prohibit the centralization of banks and the egregious funny money banking systems and abandon the capitalist, exploitative, competitive economic model, and prohibit corporate funding of politicians,**

**\*renounce support for the g20 egregious "bail-in" banking scheme to take deposits and pensions**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellen-brown/new-g20-bailin-rules-now-b\\_6244394.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellen-brown/new-g20-bailin-rules-now-b_6244394.html)

**80. End shifting, by corporations, of their addresses offshore to lower their taxes, and end the evading, by corporations, of criminal charges by spinning off their companies.**

**E.**

### **END SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**81 Eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generation... (Preamble, Declaration on the Establishment of a new international economic order, 1974)**

**82. Cancel Third World debt. And end the reluctance to implement the long-standing international commitment to transfer .7% of the GDP for overseas development aid (ODA)**

**83 End the practice of send arms as ODA and end the extension of active assistance to developing countries tied, political or military conditions. and cancel third world debt**

**84.End all discrimination on the following grounds:**

**- race, tribe, or culture;**

**- colour, ethnicity, national ethnic or social origin, or language; nationality, place of birth, or nature of residence (refugee or immigrant, migrant worker);**

**- gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or form of family, [including same-sex marriage]**

**- disability or age;**

**- religion or conviction, political or other opinion, or - class, economic position,**

or other status.

**85. End the violation of human rights including labour rights, civil and political rights, social and cultural rights- right to food, right to housing, right to water right to sewage treatment, right to a universally accessible, not-for-profit health care system, right to education and social justice.**

**86. End the denial of the labour right to strike, of the right to have collective bargaining,**

**87 End the denial of the requirement of equal pay for work of equal value**

**85. End the redefinition of Torture and thus the violating of the Convention against Torture through Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,**

**86 End the practice of rendition of citizens and failure to abide by the Geneva Conventions.**

**87. End cruel and inhumane punishment such as capital punishment, which violates accepted international norms.**

**89. End the discrimination against immigrants, and refugees and against Migrant Workers and their Families; and to revoke the Secure Fence Act and end the unconscionable wall between the United States and Mexico. Tear down walls and the wall in Israel/**

**90. Abandon the no-fly` list, and no-cross boarder lists.**

**91 Oppose Strategic Law suits Against Public Participation ("SLAPP) suits" against public participation.**



**92 End the targeting, intimidating and discriminating against activists on the grounds of political and other opinion (a listed ground in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).**

**93. End religious extremism and proselytizing including the spread of Evangelical Christianity around the world, which has undermined local indigenous cultures, instilled fear through the dangerous belief in the "rapture", "Armageddon" and "left behind", and condemn dispensationalist "end times" scenario which has serious irreversible consequences. And has led to the undermining of other established beliefs and practices**

**94. End the practice of ending speeches with the invocation of God Bless a country**

## **F**

### **ABIDIING BY INTERNATIONAL LAW.**

**95 End the defiance of the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of civilians, and respect international human rights and humanitarian law.**

**96. End unilateralism and affirm a commitment to multilateralism and oppose unilateral actions that undermine global common security.**

**97. End current irreversible practices that will violate the rights of future generation intergenerational equity includes the rights of future generations to their cultural, natural heritage and to a safe environment.**

**98. End the US position of refusing to respect the jurisdiction of the international Court of Justice in terms of revenge through military intervention and to instead seek justice through the International Court of Justice.**

**99. End US reluctance to do the following:**

**1 to ratify the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties**

**2 to ratify the international Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its protocol**

**3. To ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity**

- 4 to ratify the Kyoto Protocol**
- 5 to ratify the Convention on the rights of migrant Workers and their families**
- 6. to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child**
- 7. to ratify the International Covenant of Social economic, and Cultural Rights**
- 8. to ratify the Optional Protocols of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**
- 9. to abide by the Convention Against Torture**
- 10. to abide by the Geneva protocols on prohibited weapons**
- 11. and to sign and ratify the Convention for the Banning of Landmines,**
- 11to sign and ratify all Geneva Protocols, including Protocol V, which requires the removal of remnants of war**
- 12 to invoke the precautionary principle, which appears in the Rio Declaration, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as a general and enforceable principle of law**

## **Justice News**

### **Joan Russow Global Compliance research Project**

**The theme of Rio+20 was " the future we Want" . In 2015 the United Nations is linking the MDGS and SDGs in Conferences that will continue the theme of "the future we want." The question arises can we have the future we want without proscribing the future we do not want. Is it possible to have sustainability within a world of predominantly unsustainable institutes and practices without concurrently eliminating these practices? To achieve the future we want we must**

#### **A. Prevent war and conflict**

**B Avert Environmental Devastation and Health Problems**

**C. Cease Exploitative Trade**

**D Stave off Corporatism and Financial Institutions**

**E. Guarantee social Justice and Human Rights**

**F Abide by International Law**

**.A**

## **PREVENTING WAR AND CONFLICT**

**1..Delegitimize war- Given the social, environmental, health, human rights, economic consequences of war, under no conditions or circumstance is war legal or just.**

**2.End any attempt to undermine the international resolve to prevent the scourge of war; this would include not engaging in intimidation, in cajoling or in offering economic incentives in exchange for support for military interventions.**

**3.End the reluctance to abide by the 1975 Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of humanity.**

**4.Reallocate military spending as agreed to under Chapter 33 16e of Agenda 21, UNCED**

**5.End the misconstruing of Article 51 (self-defence) of the Charter of the United Nations to justify premeditated non-provoked military aggression, or to use various such pretexts for invading other sovereign states.**

**6. Abandon the guise of the pre-emptive/preventive attack policy that has resulted in aggressive attacks on sovereign states and that has been in violation of the Article 2 of United Nations and international law as being the 'supreme' international crime of a war of aggression.**

**7. End the practice of invoking Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations rather than invoking Chapter VI - the peaceful resolutions of disputes - and be prepared to be judged by the International Court of Justice.**

**8. End the practice of disrespecting of the jurisdiction and decisions of the International Court of Justice.**

**9. Withdraw immediately from any military involvement and occupation of sovereign states.**

**10. End the trumping of health, environment, civil and political and human rights for the sake of "security, power and profit.**

**11. End the use of "human security" which has been extended to "humanitarian intervention", and used along with the "responsibility to protect" or with right to intervene with a view to justifying military intervention in other states.**

**12. End the failure to embrace "common security" as defined in the 1982 report on prepared by Olof Palme, and which entrench peremptory norms related to the preventing war and conflict, guaranteeing human rights, protecting the environment, and ensuring social justice.**

**13. Discontinue the propping up and financing of military dictators and abandon the long standing policy enunciated against Somoza "he's a bastard but he is our bastard".**

**14. End the practice of targeting or assisting in the assassination of leaders of**

**other sovereign states, and of engaging in "regime change".**

**15. End the practice of mollifying public opposition by couching aggressive acts in euphemistic "operations" such as "Operation Just Cause", "Operation Iraqi Freedom", "Operation Enduring Freedom",**

**15. End the destabilization of states and regions through the sale of arms, including through the guise of "foreign aid" or through infiltration of NGOs, such as USAID, NED, Freedom House or through fundamentalist Christians in groups such as Operation Rescue.**

**16. End the production of land mines, as required in the convention against landmine and end the procrastination, by those responsible, to remove land mines from all areas of the world where land mines are known to exist.**

**17. End the reluctance of nuclear arms states to comply with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by failing to implement Article VI of the Treaty, (Article VI: commits all parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on measures to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve disarmament.).**

**18 .End the production of all weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear, chemical, and biological, as agreed to in UNCHE in 1972, and in specific conventions. And discontinue the gutting of the Treaty on Cluster bombs**

**19. Suffocate the production of uranium, end importing and exporting of uranium, prohibit the use of weapons such as those with depleted uranium and cluster and end the continued profit-making from the sale of arms and trade in small arms.**

**20. Disband NATO for its disregard of the international rule of law, including the objective of the Charter of the United Nations, and the Convention against Torture.**

**21. Prohibit propaganda for war (ICCPR), including establishing military bases,**

**engaging in war games, producing and selling of armaments, and holding arms exhibitions. End government investment in weapons systems**

**22. End the destabilizing impact of the Middle East as a result of the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel.**

**3. End the disregard for the obligations under the 1967 Outer Space Treaty to ensure that exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind [humanity].**

**24 Repeal the Patriot Act and Anti-Terrorism Act because they violate civil and political rights, and results in racial profiling.**

**25 .End the practice of "rendering"- sending "persons of interests" to countries which are known to condone torture.**

**26. End the refusal to be judged by an international tribunal for any actions that might be deemed to violate international law related to crimes against the peace, to war crimes, or to genocide.**

**27. End the misuse of UN "peacekeeping" forces to clean up aggressive acts of destruction and occupation caused by other states.**

**28 Close and convert, to peaceful purposes, all foreign military bases in sovereign states around the world.**

**29. End the production, circulation and berthing of nuclear powered or nuclear arms-capable vessels throughout the world.**

**30. End "War Games" or "Military Exercises" such as Exercise Trident Fury or Northwest Training Range complex.**

**31 .Discontinue the propping up and financing of military dictators and abandon the long standing policy enunciated against Somoza "he's a bastard but he is our bastard".**

**32 .Demilitarize the economy by reallocating resources presently committed to military purposes to provide for the needs of citizens to pass on the peace dividend to the developing countries as undertaken through numerous UN Conference Action Plans and UN General Assembly Resolutions and Declarations.**

**33.End misplaced spending priorities: on militarism, on adulterated unsafe food, on production of products and substances harmful to the environment and human health, and redirecting budgetary expenses to eradicate poverty.**

**B**

#### **AVERTING ENVIRONMENTAL DEVASTATION AND HEALTH PROBLEMS**

**34.End the exploitation of Nature and recognize rights of nature in 1982 World Charter of Nature; every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to humans, and to accord other organisms such recognition's, humans must be guided by a moral code of action,**

**35 Eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries; this pattern has contributed to poverty, to the inequitable distribution of resources within countries and between countries, has increased the vulnerability to natural disasters and has threaten the well-being of future generations.**

**36. Reduce the ecological footprint, as required in Habitat II, that has**

**contributed to a socially inequitable and environmentally unsound world; end the conversion of nature into a source of raw materials, and the practice of "built-in obsolescence"**

**37 .End the reluctance to invoke the precautionary principle - in the Rio Declaration, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change- as a general and enforceable principle of law: where there is a threat of irreversible harm the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measure to prevent the threat. End the misapplication of the precautionary principle by stating; we do not have to wait until there is scientific certainty of SAFETY to make a decision**

**38.End the application of the reverse onus strategy which places the onus not on the proponent of an intervention to prove safety but on the opponent, to demonstrate harm.**

**39. Prevent Natechs- natural disasters caused by technology or technological disasters caused by natural disasters and not rely on after-the fact attempts to reduce or mitigate disasters.**

**40. Ban, through the invoking the precautionary principle, the production and distribution of genetically engineered food and crops, the practice of biopiracy of genes of indigenous peoples, the dumping of GE food and adventitious materials [living modified organisms] on developing countries. And remove off the shelves all processed foods containing genetically engineered material.**

**41 End the destruction of biodiversity and the disregard for obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity to invoke the precautionary principle and not have to wait until there is scientific certainty of loss of biodiversity to prevent the loss**

**42.Ban Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which are bioaccumulative and toxic, and are capable of traveling .long distances from their original source.**



**43 .Prosecute countries for violating the transboundary principle that holds that states shall be held legally responsible for any pollution, in other states, caused by activities under their own jurisdiction.**

**44. End the practice of causing environmental devastation and then relying on restorative or clean-up technologies to remediate the environmental destruction rather than taking the preventive approach so as to avoid costly and inadequate subsequent measures to "rehabilitate" the site.**

**45.End the unsustainable forest management, the conversion of forests into agricultural land and the expansion of large-scale agro-industrial monocultures for food, fibre and, increasingly, energy. End the land grab of land, for biofuel, by developed states, in developing states**

\* End deforestation

**46.End land degradation, soil erosion, salinization, water logging, and soil pollution, which contribute to loss of soil fertility.**

**47. End the strategy of substituting proposals of adaption to or offsetting of climate change rather than seriously addressing the issue of preventing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.**

**48. Phase out the use of fossil fuels, especially those from the unconventional sources such as the tar sands, reduce other greenhouse gas producing activities, ban fracking and end the substantial contribution to greenhouse gas emissions caused by methane gas resulting from the dependency on animal protein.**

**49. Discontinue the promoting of false "solutions" to climate change such as biofuels, large hydro projects, and nuclear energy which are not socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy sources. Abandon the market based proposal of the so-called Green Economy that could lead to the commodifying nature**

**50. End the failure of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to investigate and estimate the full impact of greenhouse gas emissions by the military, and to demand that each state release information related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all militarism, from military exercises, war games, weapons testing, military aviation troop transfer, military operations, and waste generation, to reconstruction after acts of violent interventions etc.**

**51. End the practice of member states relying not on the emerging scientific data, but on the IPCC 2007 report which was based on 2004 and 2005 data. The emerging data now indicates the urgency of keeping the rise in temperature below the dangerous level of 1°C, [which is the point at which global systems on land, water and air will be so affected as to create vicious feedback cycles and destabilise many ecosystems and human societies]; whereas the IPCC 2007 Report had indicated that 2 degrees was the safe threshold. The emerging scientific data also indicates that there are more serious climate-induced events than anticipated in the 2007 IPCC Report.**

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**And end the disregard for indigenous peoples by abiding by Article 19 in UNDRIP which requires free prior consent of indigenous people for use of their territories and end the claim that consent does not really mean consent.**

**61. End collusion between universities and Pharmaceutical corporations. And end the policy of permitting Universities to sell products of research to corporations**

**62. End the practice used by the Pharmaceutical aided by public relation firms industries of inventing new health problems to create market potential for**

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**C**

**CEASING EXPLOITATIVE TRADE**

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**67 Dismantle or abrogate trade institutions and agreements, such as WTO and NAFTA, which promulgate globalization, deregulation and privatization; these institutions and agreements undermine the rule of international public trust law, and condone and actively facilitate corporations benefiting and profiting from war and from environmental destruction. End the negotiations of TTP, CETA and other emerging trade agreements ; All of which should be declared null and void for violating international peremptory norms**

**68. End all proposals which will result, through the practice of harmonization of standards and regulations, in arriving at the lowest common denominator for health and environmental standards.**

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70. Abandon the IMF Structural Adjustment Program which has led to the violation of human rights, has exploited citizens in the developing world, which has resulted in years of privatization, and elimination of essential services throughout the world and has adversely impacted on vulnerable and indigenous peoples around the world.

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STAVING OFF CORPORATISM AND

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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And oppose corporate "voluntary compliance",

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**80. End the shifting, by corporations, of their addresses offshore to lower their taxes, and end the evading, by corporations, of criminal charges by spinning off their companies.**

**E.**

**GUARANTEEING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**81 Eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing**

**countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generation... (Preamble, Declaration on the Establishment of a new international economic order, 1974)**

**82. Cancel Third World debt. And end the reluctance to implement the long-standing international commitment to transfer .7% of the GDP for overseas development aid (ODA)**

**83 End the practice of sending arms as ODA and end the extension of active assistance to developing countries tied, political or military conditions.**

**84. End all discrimination on the following grounds:**

**- race, tribe, or culture;**

**- colour, ethnicity, national ethnic or social origin, or language; nationality, place of birth, or nature of residence (refugee or immigrant, migrant worker);**

**- gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or form of family, including same-sex marriage**

**- disability or age;**

**- religion or conviction, political or other opinion, or - class, economic position, or other status.**

**85. End the violation of human rights including labour rights, civil and political rights, social and cultural rights- right to food, right to housing, right to water right to sewage treatment, right to a universally accessible, not-for-profit health care system, right to education and social justice.**

**86. End the denial of the labour right to strike, and of the right to have collective bargaining,**

**87 End the denial of the requirement of equal pay for work of equal value**

**85. End the redefinition of Torture and thus the violating of the Convention against Torture through Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, And include in "state terrorism" in the definition of terrorism**

**86 End the practice of rendition of citizens and failure to abide by the Geneva Conventions.**

**87. End cruel and inhumane punishment such as capital punishment, which violates accepted international norms.**

**89. End the discrimination against immigrants, and refugees and against Migrant Workers and their Families; and to revoke the Secure Fence Act and end the unconscionable wall between the United States and Mexico. Tear down walls and the wall in Israel/**

**90. Abandon the no-fly`` list, and no-cross boarder lists.**

**91. Oppose Strategic Law suits Against Public Participation ( "SLAPP) suits" against public participation.**

**92. End the targeting, intimidating and discriminating against activists on the grounds of political and other opinion (a listed ground in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).**

**93. End all religious extremism and proselytizing including the spread of Evangelical Christianity around the world, which has undermined local indigenous cultures, instilled fear through the dangerous belief in the "rapture", "Armageddon" and "left behind", and condemn dispensationalist "end times" scenario which has serious irreversible consequences. And has led to the undermining of other established beliefs and practices**

**94. End the practice of ending speeches with the invocation of God BLess a country**



**F.**

**ABANDON THE DISREGARD FOR THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW  
AND LEGAL PRECEDENTS**

**95. End the defiance of the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of civilians,  
and respect international human rights and humanitarian law.**

**96. End unilateralism and affirm a commitment to multilateralism and oppose  
unilateral actions that undermine global common security.**

**97. .End current irreversible practices that will violate the rights of future  
generation intergenerational equity includes the rights of future generations to  
their cultural, natural heritage and to a safe environment.**

**98. End the US position of refusing to respect the jurisdiction of the international  
Court of Justice in terms of revenge through military intervention and to instead  
seek justice through the International Court of Justice.**

**99. End reluctance to do the following:**

**1 to ratify the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties**

**2 to ratify the international Convention for the Elimination of all Forms  
of Discrimination Against Women and its protocol**

**3. to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**4 to ratify the Kyoto Protocol**

**5 to ratify the Convention on the rights of migrant Workers and their families**

**6. to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**7. to ratify the International Covenant of Social economic, and Cultural Rights**

**8. to ratify the Optional Protocols of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

**9. to abide by the Convention Against Torture**

**10. to abide by the Geneva protocols on prohibited weapons**

**11. and to sign and ratify the Convention for the Banning of Landmines,**

**11to sign and ratify all Geneva Protocols, including Protocol V, which requires the removal of remnants of war**

**12 to invoke the precautionary principle, which appears in the Rio Declaration, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as a general and enforceable principle of law**

**100. etc**

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Last Updated on Sunday, 21 June 2015 14:03

1829 readings

[Under Harper, the federal government poses the greatest threat to free expression in Canada](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 19 June 2015 15:47

Sunday, May 3, 2015

Photo: Tony Fohse

*To mark World Press Freedom Day, celebrated annually on May 3, CJFE President Arnold Amber examines the challenges posed to free expression here in Canada. This is an amended version of an article that will be published in CJFE's 2014-15 Review of Free Expression in Canada, on May 5, 2015.*

By Arnold Amber

It was a wonderful start for a new federal government. The first piece of legislation Stephen Harper's Conservatives placed before Parliament in 2006 was an omnibus bill that promised a new era of openness, transparency and accountability.

The legislation was a breath of fresh air for Canadians who had been outraged by the Sponsorship Scandal—a corrupt operation in Quebec that siphoned off about \$100 million to national Liberal party operatives and senior members of advertising firms from a government-funded program to promote federalism in that province.

“The time for accountability has arrived” were Harper's first words in the Conservative 2006 election platform with a pledge to “replace old-style politics with a new vision.” The scandal and the Conservatives' aggressive campaign promises that they would be more accountable and democratic than the Liberals helped propel the Tories to win a minority government.

Unfortunately, what the campaign pledged and the new legislation codified, the government never made happen. Instead of a new Utopia, for nine years we have had a very shutdown, closed administration, where secrecy and control are among the core values and the modus operandi.

### **Fighting with Watchdogs**

No federal government in recent memory—possibly ever—has precipitated more fights with its appointed watchdog officials or special interest advocacy groups than the current one. It's an issue largely fuelled by Harper's insatiable appetite to control the flow of information and the substance of political debate.

Two of those officials—former Auditor General Sheila Fraser and former Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page—became well-known across Canada as they battled with Harper and his cabinet ministers. The disputes were not just about the essence of

government programs but how information was getting—or, in fact, not getting—to parliament and the public.

Canadians may remember Page best for challenging the Defence department's plan to buy 65 fighter jets from Lockheed Martin, in a partnership with the U.S. government. The department pegged the overall price at around \$16 billion, and the government appeared ready to close the deal. After Page calculated the price at \$30 billion, everything was put on hold. But Page and his successor Jean-Denis Fréchette are far less known for another battle that typifies the struggle over transparency and the quest for secrecy in the Harper era.

Page was concerned about how the 2012 budget's \$5.2 billion in spending cuts over three years—which would eliminate 19,000 public service jobs—would affect government services. He asked each department to provide his office with details, but they refused to do so. Page kept pressing, telling the *Toronto Star* that it's impossible for MPs to scrutinize government spending without the facts. "The system is being totally undermined," he said. "They're not telling us where the axe is going to fall."

Ultimately, Page sued the government to get the data he wanted. Federal Court Justice Sean Harrington dismissed his case on a technicality in April 2013, though he noted that the court does have the power to intervene in issues like this.

After Page left his job, the Parliamentary Budget Office filed 33 requests—one for each department—under the federal Access To Information (ATI) law, which gives all Canadians the right to ask for and get relevant federal documents and data. Only one department returned data the office could analyze. "Thirty-two either refused, provided no data or provided totally irrelevant data," Fréchette said.

### **The Code of Silence**

Today, May 3, marks World Press Freedom Day. It is important for all Canadians to remember that ATI is one of the fundamental parts of free expression—it allows journalists or members of the public to ask for documentation about government activity and get timely answers. Although previous federal governments had poor records on ATI, the Harper administration sunk to new lows. In six annual editions of the *Canadian Journalists for Free Expression's Review* report card, the federal government's handling of ATI received five F's and a D-. Time limits for responses were continually disregarded and some government departments stopped answering requests altogether. And, still now, when requests are answered, many of the pages are blacked out, making the responses worthless.

Federal Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault highlighted these problems in October 2013. "I am not the first information commissioner that's been saying the system is failing," she said. "What I am saying now is, failing dangerously...to the point

where we're not actually meeting our legal obligations.”

It was no surprise, then, that the Canadian Association of Journalists has twice given Harper its “Code of Silence” award, handed to a government or publicly funded agency “for keeping secret what it should make accessible.”

How bad is Canada’s ATI law? It is now more than 30 years old and has had no meaningful reform since being enacted. And in an assessment of the strength of the ATI legal framework in 102 countries around the world (though not the implementation and enforcement of these laws), Canada is currently ranked 59th—just ahead of Afghanistan and Thailand. To make matters worse on the implementation level, in recent years the Harper government has also exempted the offices of the Prime Minister and cabinet officers from the ATI process which means they do not have to answer requests for information.

In her annual report, released in March, Legault called for a massive change in the ATI law and how it should work. An effective ATI program, she wrote, “ensures that citizens can hold politicians and bureaucrats to account for their actions and decisions. In reality, however, the Act that was intended to shine a light on the decisions and operations of government has become a shield against transparency.”

### **Silencing Opponents**

The government has also moved to silence two other groups—the scientists who work for it, and non-governmental organizations who often criticize it.

The government under Harper has often been in conflict with science research, particularly when its findings on issues such as climate change clash with the energy industry. The government has restricted the right of scientists to speak to the media, the public and even each other about their work. Indeed, 90 percent of federal scientists say they can’t freely speak about their research.

The Canadian Science Writers’ Association says that interviews, and often the questions to be asked, are vetted ahead of time, and responses given by scientists are frequently monitored. In several documented cases ministers’ offices have stopped researchers from giving interviews. How upset are Canadian scientists over what they regard as severe censorship? Upset enough for more than 2,000 of them to protest on Parliament Hill two years ago.

Also under a free-to-speak chill are non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have charitable status. The Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) now more closely investigates what these groups do in their advocacy work. A number of them opposed to Conservative ideology, such as Dying With Dignity, lost their charitable status, while others, including PEN Canada, Environmental Defence and the David Suzuki Foundation, have undergone audits. Countless others have curtailed their activities out

of fear that they could be next on the CRA's hit list.

### **Controlling The Message**

When Harper became prime minister, he took control of all information flowing from the government. In the early days of his rule, Conservative MPs, with the exception of Harper and a select few cabinet ministers, were forbidden from speaking to the media.

In a 2011 article on iPolitics, author and columnist Lawrence Martin condemned Harper's thirst for control: "In an extraordinary move, judged by critics to be more befitting a one-party state, Harper ordered all government communications to be vetted by his office or the neighbouring Privy Council Office. Even the most harmless announcements (Parks Canada's release on the mating season of the black bear, for example) required approval from the top," he wrote.

Canadians in general assume that we all have the full basket of free expression rights—including the right to know what our governments do and why. Harper has been successful in controlling the message—within his party, from the parliamentary opposition, and to the public. Its extent and grasp is unprecedented in Canadian political history.

Free expression, government accountability and transparency are not going to be the "ballot question" in this year's federal election. But they are fundamental to the enjoyment of all our rights and how we participate in our democratic system. Voters should keep these issues in mind when casting their ballots.

Last Updated on Monday, 22 June 2015 12:01

3153 readings

[Fracking poses 'significant' risk to humans and should be temporarily banned across EU, says new report](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 22 June 2015 11:54



A major scientific study says the process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals and that an EU-wide ban should be issued until safeguards are in place

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/fracking-poses-significant-risk-to-humans-and-should-be-temporarily-banned-across-eu-says-new-report-10334080.html>

**BY ANDY ROWELL**

SATURDAY 20 JUNE 2015

A MAJOR NEW SCIENTIFIC STUDY HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE CONTROVERSIAL GAS EXTRACTION TECHNIQUE KNOWN AS FRACKING POSES A “SIGNIFICANT” RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH AND BRITISH WILDLIFE, AND THAT AN EU-WIDE MORATORIUM SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL WIDESPREAD REGULATORY REFORM IS UNDERTAKEN.

The damning report by the CHEM Trust, the British charity that investigates the harm chemicals cause humans and wildlife, highlights serious shortcomings in the UK’s regulatory regime, which the report says will only get worse as the Government makes further budget cuts.

It also warns of severe risks to human health if the new Conservative government tries to fast-track fracking of shale gas across the UK. The “scale of commercial fracking” unleashed by the Government’s eagerness to exploit the technique “should not be underestimated”, it cautions.

**READ MORE: LANCASHIRE FRACKING IN DOUBT FOLLOWING CRITICAL REPORT FRACKING TURNING US INTO BIGGER OIL PRODUCER THAN SAUDI ARABIA**

The report is due to be published tomorrow – in the week that Lancashire county council votes on two highly contentious planning applications to frack



in the county by the company Cuadrilla. If approved, they will be the first commercial fracking sites in the UK.

Last week, council planning officers recommended approval of fracking at one site, Preston New Road, but opposed a second site, Roseacre Wood, but only on traffic concerns, not pollution from fracking itself.

The charity says it will send copies of the report to the Lancashire councillors before they vote.

Late last year, New York became the first US state with significant shale gas reserves to ban fracking for health reasons. Howard Zucker, New York's acting health commissioner, said he had identified "significant" public health risks and the state's governor, Andrew Cuomo, compared fracking to passive smoking, a practice that wasn't understood as a health risk for many years.

Earth Day: Pictures that show we are killing our planet

1 of 22

The CHEM Trust report also focuses on the potential health effects of the hundreds of chemicals, along with sand and water, that fracking companies use to prise open rocks. It warns of "significant" pollution to air, groundwater and surface waters and threats to wildlife.

Some of these toxic chemicals have been linked to breast, prostate and testicular cancer in humans as well as coronary heart disease, the report says. It outlines how 38 fracking chemicals are "acutely toxic for humans" and a further 20 are mutagenic, or known or possible carcinogens.

The report gives specific examples of hazardous materials used in fracking, including chemicals "associated with leukaemia in humans" and "toxic to sperm production in males". The trust warns it is "particularly concerned about the use of hormone-disrupting chemicals".

It is also asking for full disclosure of the chemicals that will be used in the fracking process. Many of the chemicals used in the process remain secret. In the US, nearly 300 products used in fracking fluids contain at least one secret chemical.

The report warns of concerns about "the current regulation of fracking" in the UK, which has "weak points". Since the passage of the Infrastructure Bill last year, "it is no longer clear how well groundwaters will be protected". It is

particularly concerned that “ongoing cuts in regulatory authorities” will only make matters worse, especially any cuts to the regulator, the Environment Agency, which lost 15 per cent of its staff last year.

Specific issues about fracking in Lancashire are raised, including the suggestion that fracking could harm wildlife in the Wyre estuary, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, home to 11 wading bird species of international importance and three of national importance, as well as important orchids and insects. “There is clear potential for fracking to cause serious pollution incidents with major impacts on the UK especially areas of recognised wildlife interest” the study concludes.

The report makes numerous recommendations to protect health, groundwater and the British countryside. These include no fracking operations near drinking water aquifers, the undertaking of environmental impact assessments for all fracking sites, and effective monitoring even after fracking operations have stopped.

**READ MORE: RISE OF US FRACKING CAUSES SHIFT IN NORTH SEA OIL COMPANY GAINS PERMISSION TO DRILL FOR GAS IN NORTH YORK MOORS BEER DRINKERS CLAIM FRACKING POSES 'THREAT TO QUALITY OF REAL ALE'**

Dr Michael Warhurst, the executive director of CHEM Trust, said: “Our investigation has identified key problems with the way fracking is regulated and monitored. Given the potential for pollution and damage to ecosystems, CHEM Trust is calling for a moratorium on fracking in Europe until our recommendations are in place”.

A spokesperson for the Environment Agency said: “We take the environmental risks associated with oil and gas exploration and production very seriously, including hydraulic fracturing for shale gas, and are committed to ensuring that people and the environment are protected.

“Our regulatory controls are in place to protect people and the environment.”

Last Updated on Monday, 22 June 2015 12:01

612 readings

[New York state officially bans fracking](#)



## [Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 29 June 2015 13:29

"High-volume hydraulic fracturing poses significant adverse impacts to land, air, water, natural resources and potential significant public health impacts that cannot be adequately mitigated."

Elizabeth Henderson, an organic farmer in Newark, speaks out against fracking at a rally at today's New York State Fair. (*Glenn Coin* | [gcoin@syracuse.com](mailto:gcoin@syracuse.com) )

By [Glenn Coin | gcoin@syracuse.com](#)

[Follow on Twitter](#)

on June 29, 2015 at 1:54 PM, updated June 29, 2015 at 2:15 PM

Albany, N.Y -- It's official: New York has banned [fracking](#)

After more than seven years of study, the state Department of Environmental Conservation today issued [the final document](#) needed to ban the controversial drilling practice, known formally as high-volume hydraulic fracturing

"Prohibiting high-volume hydraulic fracturing is the only reasonable alternative," said DEC Commissioner Joe Martens in a prepared statement. "High-volume hydraulic fracturing poses significant adverse impacts to land, air, water, natural resources and potential significant public health impacts that cannot be adequately mitigated. This decision is consistent with DEC's mission to conserve, improve and protect our state's natural resources, and to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state."

Today's finding statement has been in the works since December, when [Martens said he would ban fracking](#) because too little was known about the potential health impacts. Last month, [the DEC released a 1,448-page report](#) on fracking that began in 2009. Today's findings statement is based on that report.

The fracking ban is not permanent, and could be rescinded. Proponents and opponents of the ban both said they expect lawsuits to be filed.

Fracking has drawn more scrutiny than any other environmental issue in New York. The study released in May drew 260,000 public comments. More than 300 pages of the final study were devoted to responding to those comments.

Last Updated on Wednesday, 22 July 2015 19:46

1318 readings

[26 June 2015: The UN and the city of San Francisco celebrate the](#)



# anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter

## Justice News

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 26 June 2015 08:07

To commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco on this day in 1945, the UN is marking the event in the city that has played a key role in the founding of the UN. There will be a public ceremony at City Hall with an audience of some 1,000 diplomats, students and community members. UN Officials will be joined at the event by the city's Mayor and other local and international dignitaries.

<http://www.un.org/un70/en/content/events/upcoming>

## San Francisco Conference

Forty-six nations, including the four sponsors, were originally invited to the San Francisco Conference: nations which had declared war on Germany and Japan and had subscribed to the United Nations Declaration.

The Conference Hall in San Francisco

One of these, Poland, did not attend because the composition of her new government was not announced until too late for the conference. Therefore, a space was left for the signature of Poland, one of the original signatories of the United Nations Declaration. At the time of the conference there was no generally recognized Polish Government, but on June 28, such a government was announced and on October 15, 1945 Poland signed the Charter, thus becoming one of the original Members.

## Fifty Nations, Soon To Be United

The conference itself invited four other states — the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, newly-liberated Denmark and Argentina. Thus delegates of fifty nations in all, gathered at the City of the Golden Gate, representatives of over eighty per cent of the world's population, people of every race, religion and continent; all determined to set up an organization which

would preserve peace and help build a better world. They had before them the Dumbarton Oaks proposals as the agenda for the conference and, working on this basis, they had to produce a Charter acceptable to all the countries.

## Delegations And Staff Number 3, 500

There were 850 delegates, and their advisers and staff together with the conference secretariat brought the total to 3,500. In addition, there were more than 2,500 press, radio and newsreel representatives and observers from many societies and organizations. In all, the San Francisco Conference was not only one of the most important in history but, perhaps, the largest international gathering ever to take place. The heads of the delegations of the sponsoring countries took turns as chairman of the plenary meetings : Anthony Eden, of Britain, Edward Stettinius, of the United States, T. V. Soong, of China, and Vyacheslav Molotov, of the Soviet Union. At the later meetings, Lord Halifax deputized for Mr. Eden, V. K. Wellington Koo for T. V. Soong, and Mr Gromyko for Mr. Molotov.

Plenary meetings are, however, only the final stages at such conferences. A great deal of work has to be done in preparatory committees before a proposition reaches the full gathering in the form in which it should be voted upon. And the voting procedure at San Francisco was important. Every part of the Charter had to be and was passed by a two-thirds majority.

This is the way in which the San Francisco Conference got through its monumental work in exactly two months.

## One Charter, Four Sections

The conference formed a "Steering Committee," composed of the heads of all the delegations. This committee decided all matters of major principle and policy. But, even at one member per state, the committee was fifty strong, too large for detailed work; therefore an Executive Committee of fourteen heads of delegations was chosen to prepare recommendations for the Steering Committee.

Then the proposed Charter was divided into four sections, each of which was considered by a "Commission." Commission one dealt with the general purposes of the organization, its principles, membership, the secretariat and the subject of amendments to the Charter. Commission two considered the powers and responsibilities of the General Assembly, while Commission three took up the Security Council.

Commission four worked on a draft for the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

This draft had been prepared by a 44-nation Committee of Jurists which had met in Washington in April 1945. All this sounds over-elaborate — especially when the four Commissions subdivided into twelve technical committees — but actually, it was the speediest way of ensuring the fullest discussion and securing the last ounce of

agreement possible.

## Clashes Of Opinion

There were only ten plenary meetings of all the delegates but nearly 400 meetings of the committees at which every line and comma was hammered out. It was more than words and phrases, of course, that had to be decided upon. There were many serious clashes of opinion, divergencies of outlook and even a crisis or two, during which some observers feared that the conference might adjourn without an agreement.

There was the question, for example, of the status of "regional organizations." Many countries had their own arrangements for regional defence and mutual assistance. There was the Inter-American System, for example, and the Arab League. How were such arrangements to be related to the world organization? The conference decided to give them part in peaceful settlement and also, in certain circumstances, in enforcement measures, provided that the aims and acts of these groups accorded with the aims and purposes of the United Nations.

The League of Nations had provided machinery for the revision of treaties between members. Should the United Nations make similar provisions?

## Treaties And Trusteeship

The conference finally agreed that treaties made after the formation of the United Nations should be registered with the Secretariat and published by it. As to revision, no specific mention was made although such revision may be recommended by the General Assembly in the course of investigation of any situation requiring peaceful adjustment.

The conference added a whole new chapter on the subject not covered by the Dumbarton Oaks proposals: proposals creating a system for territories placed under United Nations trusteeship. On this matter there was much debate. Should the aim of trusteeship be defined as "independence" or "self-government" for the peoples of these areas? If independence, what about areas too small ever to stand on their own legs for defence? It was finally recommended that the promotion of the progressive development of the peoples of trust territories should be directed toward "independence or self-government."

## Debates And Vetos

There was also considerable debate on the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice and the conference decided that member nations would not be compelled to accept the Court's jurisdiction but might voluntarily declare their acceptance of compulsory jurisdiction. Likewise the question of future amendments to the Charter received much attention and finally resulted in an agreed solution.

Above all, the right of each of the "Big Five" to exercise a "veto" on action by the powerful Security Council provoked long and heated debate. At one stage the conflict of opinion on this question threatened to break up the conference. The smaller powers

feared that when one of the "Big Five" menaced the peace, the Security Council would be powerless to act, while in the event of a clash between two powers not permanent members of the Security Council, the "Big Five" could act arbitrarily. They strove therefore to have the power of the "veto" reduced. But the great powers unanimously insisted on this provision as vital, and emphasized that the main responsibility for maintaining world peace would fall most heavily on them. Eventually the smaller powers conceded the point in the interest of setting up the world organization.

This and other vital issues were resolved only because every nation was determined to set up, if not the perfect international organization, at least the best that could possibly be made.

### The Last Meeting

Thus it was that in the Opera House at San Francisco on June 25, the delegates met in full session for the last meeting. Lord Halifax presided and put the final draft of the Charter to the meeting. "This issue upon which we are about to vote," he said, "is as important as any we shall ever vote in our lifetime."

In view of the world importance of the occasion, he suggested that it would be appropriate to depart from the customary method of voting by a show of hands. Then, as the issue was put, every delegate rose and remained standing. So did everyone present, the staffs, the press and some 3000 visitors, and the hall resounded to a mighty ovation as the Chairman announced that the Charter had been passed unanimously.

### The Charter Is Signed

The next day, in the auditorium of the Veterans' Memorial Hall, the delegates filed up one by one to a huge round table on which lay the two historic volumes, the Charter and the Statute of the International Court of Justice. Behind each delegate stood the other members of the delegation against a colorful semi-circle of the flags of fifty nations. In the dazzling brilliance of powerful spotlights, each delegate affixed his signature. To China, first victim of aggression by an Axis power, fell the honour of signing first.

"The Charter of the United Nations which you have just signed," said President Truman in addressing the final session, "is a solid structure upon which we can build a better world. History will honor you for it. Between the victory in Europe and the final victory, in this most destructive of all wars, you have won a victory against war itself. . . . With this Charter the world can begin to look forward to the time when all worthy human beings may be permitted to live decently as free people."

Then the President pointed out that the Charter would work only if the peoples of the world were determined to make it work.

"If we fail to use it," he concluded, "we shall betray all those who have died so that we might meet here in freedom and safety to create it. If we seek to use it selfishly -

for the advantage of any one nation or any small group of nations — we shall be equally guilty of that betrayal. "

## The Charter Is Approved

The United Nations did not come into existence at the signing of the Charter. In many countries the Charter had to be approved by their congresses or parliaments. It had therefore been provided that the Charter would come into force when the Governments of China, France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States and a majority of the other signatory states had ratified it and deposited notification to this effect with the State Department of the United States. On October 24, 1945, this condition was fulfilled and the United Nations came into existence. Four years of planning and the hope of many years had materialized in an international organization designed to end war and promote peace, justice and better living for all mankind.

In September, 2015 in New York the UN General Assembly will celebrate the 70th anniversary

The U.N. at 70: A Time for Compliance



### [Justice News](#)

By [Dr. Joan Russow](#)[Lori Johnston](#)

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/compliance/>

Dr. Joan Russow is Founder of the Global Compliance Research Project, and Lori Johnston (Yamasi) is Chair of the Southeast Indigenous Peoples' Center.





If states comply with these many instruments, the global community will have more respect for the rule of international law, and more faith in the United Nations, including for the compliance with and implementation of the SDGs. Credit: UN Photo/Joao Araujo Pinto

VICTORIA, British Columbia, Canada , Apr 27 2015 (IPS) - At key anniversaries of the U.N., there have been calls for compliance with international instruments.

In 1995, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali indicated support at the 50th anniversary of the U.N., in San Francisco, and, at the 55th Anniversary, Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged states to sign and ratify international instruments.

Human welfare, ecology and negotiation must be a priority over global supply chains and "profit-driven" development through coercion.

In 2015, with the confluence of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, COP 21, and the launch of International Decade for People of African Descent, there is an opportunity to again call upon states to sign and ratify international instruments, to determine what would constitute compliance with these and to undertake to comply with them through enacting the necessary legislation.

This could also be the time to advance and reinforce the concept of peremptory norms as stated in Article 53 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of treaties:

“A treaty is void if, at the time of its conclusion, it conflicts with a peremptory norm of general international law. For the purpose of the present convention, a peremptory norm of general international law is a norm accepted and recognized by the international community of states as a whole.”

Peremptory norms have been described as those derived from treaties, conventions and covenants which have been ratified by all states or by most states representing the full range of legal systems and the major geographical regions. Also, peremptory norms could be derived from U.N. General Assembly Declarations and Conference Action Plans.

### **Ratifying key legally binding agreements**

International Covenants such as on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its protocols, on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); Conventions such as Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), on Torture (UNTC), on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its protocols, on Endangered Species (CITES), on Climate Change (UNFCCC), on World Heritage Convention / WHC), on Desertification (UNCCD), on Ozone (MP), on Rights of the Child (CRC), on Women (CEDAW) and its protocols, on Racial Discrimination ( ICERD), on Genocide (CPPCG) on Rights of Migrant Workers, on Labour (ILO), on Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto (CTOC) on Persons with Disabilities(CRPD); Declarations such as Rights of indigenous Peoples DRIP; peace Treaties, such as NPT, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), Anti\_Personnel-Mine-(APM), Cluster Munitions (CCM), Arms Trade (ATT). Respect for the jurisdiction and decisions of the ICJ, and the ICC Rome Statute are paramount.

## Related IPS Articles

- [The U.N. at 70: A View from Outer Space](#)
- [The U.N. at 70: U.N. Reform Must Benefit All Countries](#)

If states comply with these many instruments, the global community will have more respect for the rule of international law, and more faith in the United Nations, including for the compliance with and implementation of the SDGs.

Eradication of poverty and the provision for food security coalesced U.N. members behind the SDGs. Ratifying these instruments would be a step toward achieving all of the Sustainable Development Goals, as these instruments will further true security.

At Rio 2012, states were reluctant to address the need to determine what would constitute adhering to key Rio Declaration principles, including the precautionary principle and principle of differentiated responsibility, which needs financial investment in developing economies.

### **“Innovative financing” for implementation of the SDGs**

From the 1969 to 1992, U.N. States affirmed the need to move towards disarmament and the reallocation of military expenses for the benefit of humanity and the ecosystem.

In 1969, member states of the U.N. called for the achievement of general and

complete disarmament and the channeling of the progressively released resources to be used for economic and social progress for the welfare of people everywhere and in particular for the benefit of developing countries (article 27 (a) XXIV of 11 December 1969 Declaration on Social Welfare, Progress and Development); and in 1992,

They made a commitment to reallocate resources at present committed to military purposes (Article 16 e, Chapter 33, “Innovative financing”, of Agenda 21, UNCED).

### **Furthering true security, common security**

The SDGs need to redefine what constitutes “true security.”

True security is common security, not militarised security, collective security or “human security that has been used as a pretext for war: so-called “human security” (Iraq 1991, “Humanitarian intervention” (Kosovo, 1999), “Responsibility to Protect” (Haiti, 2004, Libya, 2011), “Article 51-self-defence” (Afghanistan (2003) and Syria (2015)).

In 1982, Olaf Palme, in the Commission Report on Disarmament and Security, introduced the concept of common security which could be extended to embody the following objectives:

To achieve a state of peace, and disarmament, through reduction of military expenses;

To create a global structure that respects the rule of law;

To enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and ensure the right to development and social justice;

To promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, women’s rights civil and political rights, indigenous rights, social and cultural rights – right to food, right to housing, to safe drinking water and sewage treatment, to education and to universally accessible not for profit health care system;

To ensure the preservation, and protection of the environment, the respect for the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, the reduction of the ecological footprint and the moving to away from the current model of unsustainable overconsumption.

Arriving at universal support of existing instruments will let the U.N. uphold the three pillars of the SDGs: economic development, social development and environmental protection.

Human welfare, ecology and negotiation must be a priority over global supply chains and “profit-driven” development through coercion.

*Edited by Kitty Stapp*

PEJNEWS.COM. ADDENDUM

## COMPLIANCE SURVEY

US has failed to do the following:

1. to ratify the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties
2. to ratify the international Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its protocol
3. to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols
- 4 to ratify the Kyoto Protocol
5. Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003
- 6 to ratify the Convention on the rights of migrant Workers and their families
7. to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child
8. To adopt The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
9. to ratify the International Covenant of Social economic, and Cultural Rights
10. to ratify the Optional Protocols of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
11. to abide by the Convention Against Torture
12. to abide by the Geneva protocols on prohibited weapons
13. and to sign and ratify the Convention for the Banning of Landmines,
- 14 to sign and ratify all Geneva Protocols, including Protocol V, which requires  
the removal of remnants of war
- 15 to ratify the protocol condemning the death penalty
- 16 to invoke the precautionary principle, which appears in the Rio Declaration,  
the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as a general and enforceable principle of law
- [17.to](#) ratify the Basel Convention Controlling Transboundary Movement of Hazardous wastes and their disposal
18. to respect the jurisdiction and decisions of the International Court of Justice
- 19 to ratify the International Criminal Court

**for other articles on U.N. at 70**

please go to [IPS.org](http://IPS.org).

Last Updated on Wednesday, 22 July 2015 20:23

224 readings

[Hawaii's governor is no fan of importing B.C. liquefied natural gas](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 26 August 2015 22:11

**By Kent Spencer, The Province August 26, 2015 3:21 PM)**

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/Hawaii+governor+importing+liquefied+natural/11319336/story.html>



FortisBC is expanding its Tilbury Island LNG facility as the company moves to increase LNG exports.

Photograph by: DARRYL DYCK , THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Governor of Hawaii has thrown cold water on plans to import LNG from B.C.

On Monday, David Ige told a conference in Honolulu that he does not support LNG because it is a fossil fuel that would need to be imported. Ige's stand is that Hawaii needs to be self sufficient for power.

FortisBC has struck a conditional agreement with Hawaii Electric to deliver 700,000 tonnes of LNG per year for 15 years starting in 2019.

The plan would lead to the further expansion of FortisBC's Delta LNG plant and to LNG tankers plying the lower Fraser River.

"I have reached the conclusion that Hawaii does not need LNG in its future," Ige was quoted by Pacific Business News. "It's time to focus our efforts on

renewables. We will oppose the building of LNG facilities.”

However, the governor’s views are not necessarily the final word on LNG in the 50th state.

Hawaii Electric spokesman Darren Pai told The Province that LNG is still needed to bridge the gap until renewables can be developed.

“As we add more renewables like solar and wind, LNG can provide a cost-effective, cleaner alternative to oil,” he said in an email.

A guaranteed customer such as Hawaii is necessary for FortisBC’s \$400-million second-stage expansion to take place at its Tilbury Island facility in Delta. Fortis’ first-stage \$450-million expansion is already underway.

The company says the new liquefaction and storage facilities will serve LNG-capable B.C. Ferries and supply remote communities in B.C., Alaska and northern Canada.

[kspencer@theprovince.com](mailto:kspencer@theprovince.com)

[twitter.com/@kentspencer2](https://twitter.com/@kentspencer2)

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473 readings

[Military spending might be NDP’ s secret weapon](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Wednesday, 26 August 2015 13:12

**BY LAWRENCE MARTIN (AKA THE CANADIAN JS)**

**SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL  
TUESDAY, AUG. 25, 2015 9:20AM EDT**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/military-spending-might-be-ndps-secret-weapon/article26076974/comments/?ord=1>



Stephen Harper's Conservatives, should we go by oversimplified stereotypes, are the party that never saw a war it didn't like. The New Democrats by contrast have a long-lasting pacifist image. They were the types back in time with the well-meaning salutes. Two digits in the air, a disarmingly dorky look and sotto voce, "Peace brother." Probably made your day.

Given the stark divergence it would be rather strange to expect the New Democrats to propose higher military spending than the Conservatives. But don't be dumbfounded if it happens.

"You might well imagine," an adviser to Thomas Mulcair was telling me, "Tom coming out in September and saying Harper has driven down defence spending to one per cent of GDP. We're going to raise it to 1.2 per cent. We have a military that's being allowed to rust out and we're going to fix it."

Another adviser cautioned the level of support might not be that high – a 20 per cent increase – but significant enough to show Canadians the NDP is by no means soft on defence.

In raising the military budget, Mr. Mulcair could risk alienating parts of the party's base, which might go all squirrely. But in political terms, party strategists realize the Dippers could be vulnerable come voting day if they appear weak-kneed in the face of foreign threats; especially if there is more terrorism, ISIS savagery, or Russian sabre-rattling. The New Democrats oppose Ottawa's modest contribution to air strikes against ISIS and also stand square against the controversial anti-terror legislation, Bill C-51.

But with their own limp record on defence spending, the Tories have left the NDP an opening. Team Harper came to power in 2006, talking about ramping up military spending to 2 per cent of GDP, a level not seen since the early 1970s. Outlays went up during the Afghanistan war but never got close to that level. Budget-balancing priorities then brought reductions, and

spending has now settled in at a level about half the government's original goal. Canada now places a dismal 22nd among 28 NATO countries on defence spending.

But the Conservatives, adept at military tributes and warrior-nation marketing, have created an image which belies the statistics. Their muscle-flexing is with itsy-bitsy biceps, but they have somehow projected an image of global tough guys. They defend their record, saying they have increased overall military spending by 27 per cent, a number which doesn't factor in inflation. They plan on boosting outlays beginning in 2017.

The approach being considered by the NDP would abandon the Tory plan to purchase hyper-expensive F-35 fighter jets and aim for something more reasonably priced. Among the NDP's other priorities are search and rescue helicopters, armoured trucks for the army, supply ships for the Navy, more spending on housing and health care for the troops.

A big emphasis would be put on cleaning up the procurement process. While the Tories like to boast of being prudent financial managers, they have overseen one procurement debacle after another.

Michael Byers, a defence specialist and former NDP candidate, says that given the resulting shortfalls in military hardware "any government that is serious about completing necessary procurements would therefore incur higher costs."

Another area where the NDP can score points is on the shoddy treatment of veterans. It reached shameful proportions under former veterans affairs minister Julian Fantino.

Entering the election, two perception headaches for the Dippers were defence and economic management. One problem on the economy was their lack of a player ably suited for the finance minister's role. But they announced last week they have recruited Andrew Thomson, a tax-cutting former finance minister in Saskatchewan as a candidate.

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## COMMENT

it reminds me of my April fools posting about a fictitious press conference by John Baird

Minister John Baird Embarrassed in Amman Jordan by questions related to Canadian domestic and international policy

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9056:minister-john-baird-embarrassed-in-amman-jordan-by-questions-related-to-canadian-domestic-and-international-policy&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9056:minister-john-baird-embarrassed-in-amman-jordan-by-questions-related-to-canadian-domestic-and-international-policy&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216)

by Joan russow

I thought instead you might have been suggesting the following:



I Think this is an opportunity for the NDP to change Canada's image as an international pariah, indistinguishable from the United States and the US militarism, and support the reallocation of the military budget. Since at least 1976, the global community has recognized the waste and misuse of the global military budget, at a time when there is an absence of true security

- \* achieving a state of peace, and disarmament; re-allocation of military expenses ·

- \* creating a global structure that respects the rule of law and the ICJ

- \* enabling socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and ensure the right to development and social justice;

- \* promoting and fully guaranteeing respect for human rights including labour rights, women's rights civil and political rights, indigenous rights, social and cultural rights – right to food, right to housing, right to safe drinking water and sewage, right to education and right to universally accessible not for profit health care system;

- \* ensuring the preservation and protection of the environment, the respect for the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, the moving away from the current model of unsustainable and excessive overconsumption.

SDG Goal 16 : militarism must be addressed

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10335:comment-on-sdg-goal-16-militarism-must-be-addressed-&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10335:comment-on-sdg-goal-16-militarism-must-be-addressed-&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216)

Last Updated on Wednesday, 26 August 2015 15:36

357 readings

[SDGS must Ensure Indigenous Rights derived from UNDRIP are strengthened](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Tuesday, 25 August 2015 06:49

By Joan Russow

Global Compliance Research Project



The Seventh Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. (c) 2008 UNPF

SDGs need to recognize the importance of obligations incurred through Conventions and covenants, and commitments made through declarations and resolutions. In 2015, there should be an additional commitment to sign and ratify key international instruments related to the goals in the SDGs. The SDGs must complement not undermine previous legal obligations and commitments

A reference to “indigenous” in the preamble

B reference to ‘indigenous under SDG Goal 2

C.Reference un “indigenous” under SDG Goal 4

D International Covenant on civil and political Rights and its protocol

E.Declaration on the Rights of indigenous

### **A REFERENCE TO “INDIGENOUS” IN THE PREAMBLE**

23. Peoples who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80% live in poverty), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants. We resolve to take further effective measures and actions, in conformity “affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and in areas affected by terrorism

25. We commit to providing inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels - early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary, technical and vocational training. All people, irrespective of sex, age, race, ethnicity, and persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples, children and youth, especially those in vulnerable situations, should have access to life-long learning opportunities that help them

acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society. We will strive to provide children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, helping our countries to reap the demographic dividend including through safe schools and cohesive communities and families. 6

52. "We the Peoples" are the celebrated opening words of the UN Charter. It is "We the Peoples" who are embarking today on the road to 2030. Our journey will involve Governments as well as Parliaments, the UN system and other international institutions, local authorities, indigenous peoples, civil society, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community - and all people. Millions have already engaged with, and will own, this Agenda. It is an Agenda of the people, by the people, and for the people - and this, we believe, will ensure its success.

79. We also encourage member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels which are country-led and country-driven. Such reviews should draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes. Regional level

## **B. REFERENCE TO “INDIGENOUS” IN SDG GOAL 2**

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**2.3** By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

All signatories to the legally binding Covenant on civil and political rights have incurred

A legal obligation to discharge the following obligation

### **PART 1 Article 1**

1. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

2. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

**Given the constant external pressure, on indigenous lands, to exploit their natural resources, there is an imperative to abide by Article 19 of UNDRIP**

Article 19 States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

**C. REFERENCE TO “INDIGENOUS” IN SDG GOAL 4**

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all Goals. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

**D. INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL**

**PART 1 Article 1**

1. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

2. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

**E. DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

Published by the United Nations 07-58681—March 2008—4,000 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples United Nations United Nations United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 1 Resolution adopted by the General Assembly [without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.67 and Add.1)] 61/295. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples The General Assembly,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Human Rights Council contained in its resolution 1/2 of 29 June 2006,<sup>1</sup> by which the Council adopted the text of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 61/178 of 20 December 2006, by which it decided to defer consideration of and action on the Declaration to allow time for further consultations thereon, and also decided to conclude its consideration before the end of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, Adopts the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as contained in the annex to the present resolution. 107th plenary meeting 13 September 2007 Annex United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and good faith in the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by States in accordance with the Charter, Affirming that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such, 1. See Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/61/53), part one, chap. II, sect. A. 2

Affirming also that all peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the common heritage of humankind, Affirming further that all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust,

Reaffirming that indigenous peoples, in the exercise of their rights, should be free from discrimination of any kind, Concerned that indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular, their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests,

Recognizing the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources, Recognizing also the urgent need to respect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States,

Welcoming the fact that indigenous peoples are organizing themselves for political, economic, social and cultural enhancement and in order to bring to an end all forms of discrimination and oppression wherever they occur,

Convinced that control by indigenous peoples over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions, and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs,

Recognizing that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment,

Emphasizing the contribution of the demilitarization of the lands and territories of

indigenous peoples to peace, economic and social progress and development, understanding and friendly relations among nations and peoples of the world,

Recognizing in particular the right of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child,

Considering that the rights affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous peoples are, in some situations, matters of international concern, interest, responsibility and character,

Considering also that treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, and the relationship they represent, are the basis for a strengthened partnership between indigenous peoples and States,

Acknowledging that the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>2</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>2</sup> as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>3</sup> affirm the fundamental importance of the right to self-determination of all peoples, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

Bearing in mind that nothing in this Declaration may be used to deny any peoples their right to self-determination, exercised in conformity with international law,

Convinced that the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in this Declaration will enhance harmonious and cooperative relations between the State and indigenous peoples, based on principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and good faith,

Encouraging States to comply with and effectively implement all their obligations as they apply to indigenous peoples under international instruments, in particular those related to human rights, in consultation and cooperation with the peoples concerned,

Emphasizing that the United Nations has an important and continuing role to play in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples,<sup>2</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex. 3.A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III. 4

Believing that this Declaration is a further important step forward for the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples and in the development of relevant activities of the United Nations system in this field,

Recognizing and reaffirming that indigenous individuals are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in international law, and that indigenous peoples possess collective rights which are indispensable for their existence, well-being and integral development as peoples,

Recognizing that the situation of indigenous peoples varies from region to region and from country to country and that the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical and cultural backgrounds should be taken into

consideration,

Solemnly proclaims the following United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect:

Article 1 Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and international human rights law.

Article 2 Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

Article 3 Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4 Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to 4.Resolution 217 A (III). 5 their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 5 Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 6 Every indigenous individual has the right to a nationality.

Article 7 1. Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person. 2. Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.

Article 8 1. Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.

2. States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:

(a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;

(b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;

(c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or

undermining any of their rights;

(d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;

(e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them. 6

Article 9 Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.

Article 10 Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.

Article 11 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

2. States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.

Article 12 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.

2. States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned.<sup>7</sup>

Article 13 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.

Article 14 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a



manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.

2. Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.

3. States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

Article 15 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.

2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

Article 16 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination.

8

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that State-owned media duly reflect indigenous cultural diversity. States, without prejudice to ensuring full freedom of expression, should encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect indigenous cultural diversity.

Article 17 1. Indigenous individuals and peoples have the right to enjoy fully all rights established under applicable international and domestic labour law.

2. States shall in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples take specific measures to protect indigenous children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, taking into account their special vulnerability and the importance of education for their empowerment.

3. Indigenous individuals have the right not to be subjected to any discriminatory conditions of labour and, inter alia, employment or salary.

Article 18 Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decisionmaking institutions.

Article 19 States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free,

prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 20 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities. 9 2. Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress. Article 21 1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

Article 22 1. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration. 2. States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

Article 23 Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

Article 24 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services. 2. Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right. 10

Article 25 Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard. Article 26 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and

resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 27 States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process. Article

28 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.

2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources of equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

Article 29 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.

3. States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.

Article 30 1. Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest or otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned.

2. States shall undertake effective consultations with the indigenous peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, prior to using their lands or territories for military activities.

Article 31 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games

and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions. 12 2. In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

Article 32 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

Article 33 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.

Article 34 Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards.

Article 35 Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the responsibilities of individuals to their communities. 13

Article 36 1. Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders.

2. States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right.

Article 37 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

2. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as diminishing or eliminating the rights of indigenous peoples contained in treaties, agreements and other constructive

arrangements.

Article 38 States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of this Declaration.

Article 39 Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

Article 40 Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights. 14

Article 41 The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established.

Article 42 The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration. Article

43 The rights recognized herein constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.

Article 44 All the rights and freedoms recognized herein are equally guaranteed to male and female indigenous individuals. Article

45 Nothing in this Declaration may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights indigenous peoples have now or may acquire in the future.

Article 46 1. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States.

2. In the exercise of the rights enunciated in the present Declaration, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all shall be respected. The exercise of the rights set forth in this Declaration shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law 15 and in accordance with international human rights obligations. Any such limitations shall be non-discriminatory and strictly necessary solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for meeting the

just and most compelling requirements of a democratic society.

3. The provisions set forth in this Declaration shall be interpreted in accordance with the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance and good faith.

Last Updated on Tuesday, 25 August 2015 06:59

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[The Dry Weather That's Hitting The Tar Sands Industry Is 'A Preview Of The Future,' Scientist Says](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 23 August 2015 04:59

BY SAMANTHA PAGE      AUG 21, 2015 1:57PM



*This June 25, 2008 photo shows an aerial view of Alberta's Athabasca river running through the oil sands developments in Canada.*

Dozens of tar sands developers in Alberta's tar sands have been suspended from taking water — needed for their operations — out of local rivers, after a low flow advisory was issued.

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) suspended 73 licenses to temporarily divert water (TDLs) from the Athabasca, Peace, and Wabasca rivers on July 24, after unusually dry weather caused water to fall to at or below healthy maintenance levels. Now, scientists are saying this could become a regular issue for Alberta's tar sands industry.

Tar sands mining is a type of surface mining in which the top layer of organic matter

— trees and plants — is scrapped off, and heavy crude oil is filtered from the sand and clay below. Three barrels of water are needed for every barrel of oil extracted from the tar sands, according to Friends of the Earth.

“More than 90 percent of this water, 400 million gallons per day, ends up as toxic waste dumped in massive pools that contain carcinogenic substances like cyanide,” the group says. Processing the oil from tar sands is incredibly carbon-intensive, and because of tar sands, the energy sector has become Canada’s biggest source of greenhouse gases.

As global warming worsens, some regions, including Alberta, can expect more and more dry summers, scientists say.

“This is absolutely a preview of the future,” Simon Dowell, a climate scientist at the University of British Columbia, told ThinkProgress.

This is a reminder that even the fossil fuel industry has to be worried about the impacts of climate change

Earlier snow melt and drier conditions due to climate change are “exactly what all the models predict,” he said. In fact, the AER suspensions came the same week a paper Dowell co-authored was accepted for publication. In the paper, Dowell and lead author Doris Leong found that, by mid-century, there could be two-month interruptions in tar sands development due to lack of water.

Four counties in Alberta have declared a state of “agricultural disaster” due to drought this summer, the CBC reports. And with the record-breaking El Niño event, it’s expected that western Canada will continue its dry spell at least through this winter, Dowell said.

Some studies have predicted that climate change could increase the likelihood of severe El Niños, a phenomenon that, like climate change, can exacerbate extreme weather events in some parts of the world.

This spring, a group of more than 100 U.S. and Canadian scientists banded together against the continued development of the Alberta tar sands, saying it is “incompatible” with limiting climate change.

“It is somewhat ironic,” Dowell said. “This is a reminder that even the fossil fuel industry has to be worried about the impacts of climate change.”

For now, the water use restrictions will not end operations for all the affected companies, as many have stored water or alternative sources.

“The AER encourages industry to develop their own contingency plans to minimize the impacts that low-flow has on their energy operations. For example, operators may have previously stored water from the source to a reservoir on their site, and when water restrictions are in place, they can divert water from a reservoir,” Jordan Fitzgerald, an AER spokesman, told ThinkProgress by email.

The current restrictions are in effect only in the Upper Athabasca Basin, in northern Alberta, but operators elsewhere in the province are also being urged to conserve.

“The AER is also encouraging oil and gas operators to voluntarily reduce their water

consumption in areas with no mandatory restrictions but with streamflows lower than normal,” Fitzgerald said.

Unfortunately for the tar sands industry, low flows might actually be the new normal.

### [Why \Harper Deserves to Lose The Election](#)



Posted by Dragonslayer

Monday, 17 August 2015 15:02

[Here are 70 reasons that harper doesnt deserve to win the election and why you should get out an help sink him on election day](#)

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### [California First As Both Climate Victim and Responder, the National Style-Setter Leads the Way](#)



Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 16 August 2015 17:04

By [William deBuys](#)

[http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176036/tomgram%3A\\_william\\_debuys%2C\\_entering\\_the\\_mega-drought\\_era\\_in\\_america/#more](http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/176036/tomgram%3A_william_debuys%2C_entering_the_mega-drought_era_in_america/#more)<>Long ago, I lived in a cheap flat in San Francisco and worked as the lone straight man in a gay construction company. Strangely enough, the drought now strangling California brings back memories of those days. It was the 1970s. Our company specialized in restoring the Victorian “gingerbread” to the facades of the city’s townhouses, and I got pretty good at installing cornices, gable brackets, and window hoods, working high above the street.

Last Updated on Saturday, 22 August 2015 14:40

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### [Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 16 August 2015 10:24

**By Joan Russow**



**Global Compliance Research Project originally written in 2002**



If states comply with these many instruments, the global community will have more respect for the rule of international law, and more faith in the United Nations, including for the compliance with and implementation of the SDGs.

Credit: UN Photo/Joao Araujo Pinto

Project from <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/04/the-u-n-at-70-a-time-for-compliance/>

**For the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, I went through years of time bound International commitments and circulated a document**

**. IF the SDGS time-bound commitments are to be fulfilled, states must sign and ratify all relevant international Conventions and covenants and enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance. And institute a global mechanism of enforcement**

though the international Court of Justice and the international Criminal Court and to ensure that no state is above international law.

The Following is a compilation of years of commitments made through international Action Plans. Institutional memory is very short !

I Thought that it could be sung to the tune of "In the Year 2525" if man is still alive <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izQB2> in the year 2525

### IN THE YEAR 1993

**By 1993, the international community should have initiated a consultative process aimed at increasing cooperation between local authorities; 28.2. (b) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The OECD Council has decided that OECD member countries should establish or strengthen national risk reduction programmes. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) has introduced initiatives regarding responsible care and product stewardship aimed at reduction of chemical risks. The Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) programme of UNEP is designed to assist decision makers and technical personnel in improving community awareness of hazardous installations and in preparing response plans. ILO has published a Code of Practice on the prevention of major industrial accidents and is preparing an international instrument on the prevention of industrial disasters for eventual adoption in 1993. 19.47. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The integration of the value of unpaid work, including work that is currently designated "domestic", in resource accounting mechanisms in order better to represent the true value of the contribution of women to the economy, using revised guidelines for the United Nations System of National Accounts, to be issued in 1993; 24.8 (e) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Establish procedures allowing for consultation and possible participation of youth of both genders, by 1993, in decision-making processes with regard to the environment, involving youth at the local, national and regional levels; 25.9 (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

Some of the goals inherent in the objectives and activities of this programme area are already contained in such international legal instruments as the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169) and are being incorporated into the draft universal declaration on indigenous rights, being prepared by the United Nations working group on indigenous populations. The International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993), proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/164 of 18 December 1990, presents a timely opportunity to mobilize further international technical and financial cooperation. 26.2. Agenda 21 UNCED

#### IN THE YEAR 1994

By 1994, representatives of associations of cities and other local authorities should have increased levels of cooperation and coordination with the goal of enhancing the exchange of information and experience among local authorities; (c) Agenda 21 UNCED

Governments and other relevant actors could, inter alia, undertake the following activities, with appropriate assistance from aid agencies, and report on their status of implementation to the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in 1994, especially to its committee on population and environment. 5.18. Agenda 21 UNCED

The relationships between demographic trends and factors and environmental change and between environmental degradation and the components of demographic change should be analysed. 5.19. Agenda 21 UNCED

Research should be conducted on how environmental factors interact with socio-economic factors as a cause of migration. 5.20. Agenda 21 UNCED

Vulnerable population groups (such as rural landless workers, ethnic minorities, refugees, migrants, displaced people, women heads of household) whose changes in demographic structure may have specific impacts on sustainable development should be identified. 5.21. Agenda 21 UNCED

An assessment should be made of the implications of the age structure of the population on resource demand and dependency burdens, ranging from

educational expenses for the young to health care and support for the elderly, and on household income generation.

#### **5.22. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**An assessment should also be made of national population carrying capacity in the context of satisfaction of human needs and sustainable development, and special attention should be given to critical resources, such as water and land, and environmental factors, such as ecosystem health and biodiversity. 5.23. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The impact of national demographic trends and factors on the traditional livelihoods of indigenous groups and local communities, including changes in traditional land use because of internal population pressures, should be studied. 5.24. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**National databases on demographic trends and factors and environment should be built and/or strengthened, disaggregating data by ecological region (ecosystem approach), and population/environment profiles should be established by region.**

#### **5.25. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Methodologies and instruments should be developed to identify areas where sustainability is, or may be, threatened by the environmental effects of demographic trends and factors, incorporating both current and projected demographic data linked to natural environmental processes. 5.26. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Case-studies of local level responses by different groups to demographic dynamics should be developed, particularly in areas subject to environmental stress and in deteriorating urban centres. 5.27. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Population data should be disaggregated by, *inter alia*, sex and age in order to take into account the implications of the gender division of labour for the use and management of natural resources. 5.28. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In formulating human settlements policies, account should be taken of resource needs, waste production and ecosystem health. 5.29. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The direct and induced effects of demographic changes on environment and development programmes should, where appropriate, be integrated, and the impact on demographic features assessed. 5.30. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**National population policy goals and programmes that are consistent with national environment and development plans for sustainability and in keeping with the freedom, dignity and personally held values of individuals should be established and implemented.**

**5.31. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Appropriate socio-economic policies for the young and the elderly, both in terms of family and state support systems, should be developed.**

**5.32. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Policies and programmes should be developed for handling the various types of migrations that result from or induce environmental disruptions, with special attention to women and vulnerable groups.5.33. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Demographic concerns, including concerns for environmental migrants and displaced people, should be incorporated in the programmes for sustainable development of relevant international and regional institutions 5.34. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**National reviews should be conducted and the integration of population policies in national development and environment strategies should be monitored nationally.5.35. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Governments and local communities, including community-based women's organizations and national non-governmental organizations, consistent with national plans, objectives, strategies and priorities, could, inter alia, undertake the activities set out below with the assistance and cooperation of international organizations, as appropriate. Governments could share their experience in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in 1994, especially its committee on population and environment.5.44. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The recommendations contained in this chapter should in no way prejudice discussions at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, which will be the appropriate forum for dealing with population and development issues, taking into account the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, held in Mexico City in 1984, 1/ and the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 2/ adopted by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held in Nairobi in 1985.**

#### **5.66. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To request the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session to establish, under the aegis of the General Assembly, an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification, in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994 12.40. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**States should cooperate, as appropriate, in the preparation of national guidelines for integrated coastal zone management and development, drawing on existing experience. A global conference to exchange experience in the field could be held before 1994.**

#### **17.11. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**By 1994, representatives of associations of cities and other local authorities should have increased levels of cooperation and coordination with the goal of enhancing the exchange of information and experience among local authorities; 28.2 (c) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Each country should aim to complete, as soon as practicable, if possible by 1994, a review of capacity- and capability-building requirements for devising national sustainable development strategies, including those for generating and implementing its own Agenda 21 action programme; 37.4 (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

### **IN THE YEAR 1995**

**By 1995, to reduce measles deaths by 95 per cent and reduce measles cases by 90 per cent compared with pre-immunization levels; Agenda 21 UNCED Agenda 21 UNCED 6.12 d Agenda 21 UNCED**

**By 1995, to review and, where appropriate, establish a programme to integrate environmental and sustainable development with policy analysis for the food and agriculture sector and relevant macroeconomic policy analysis, formulation and implementation; 14.8.**

**(a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Past experience has shown that specific targets should be set by each individual country. At the World Summit for Children, in September 1990, heads of State or Government called for both universal access to water-supply and sanitation and the eradication of guinea worm disease by 1995. Even for the more realistic target of achieving full coverage in water-supply by 2025, it is estimated that annual investments must reach double the current levels. One realistic strategy to meet present and future needs, therefore, is to develop lower-cost but adequate services that can be implemented and sustained at the community level. 18.49. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 1995, in industrialized countries, and in the year 2005, in developing countries, ensure that at least 50 per cent of all sewage, waste waters and solid wastes are treated or disposed of in conformity with national or international environmental and health quality guidelines; 21.29 (c) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To establish in the year 1995 mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women and to ensure their contributions and benefits; 24.2 (d) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**By 1995, a mutually productive dialogue should be established at the national level between all Governments and non-governmental organizations and their self-organized networks to recognize and strengthen their respective roles in implementing environmentally sound and sustainable development. 27.7. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**By 1995, to reduce measles deaths by 95 per cent and reduce measles cases by 90 per cent compared with pre-immunization levels; 6.12 (d) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**By continued efforts, to provide health and hygiene education and to ensure universal access to safe drinking water and universal access to sanitary measures of excreta disposal, thereby markedly reducing waterborne diseases such as cholera**

**and schistosomiasis and reducing: 6.12 (e) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Countries with the support of the United Nations system should identify workforce training needs and assess measures to be taken to meet those needs. A review of progress in this area could be undertaken by the United Nations system in 1995.36.14. Agenda 21 UNCED**

#### **IN THE YEAR 1996**

**To review and develop policies to support the best possible use of land and the sustainable management of land resources, by not later than 1996; 10.5 (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To create mechanisms to facilitate the active involvement and participation of all concerned, particularly communities and people at the local level, in decision-making on land use and management, by not later than 1996 10.5 (d) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The broad objective is to facilitate allocation of land to the uses that provide the greatest sustainable benefits and to promote the transition to a sustainable and integrated management of land resources. In doing so, environmental, social and economic issues should be taken into consideration. Protected areas, private property rights, the rights of indigenous people and their communities and other local communities and the economic role of women in agriculture and rural development, among other issues, should be taken into account. In more specific terms, the objectives are as follows: 10.5. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To review and develop policies to support the best possible use of land and the sustainable management of land resources, by not later than 1996; (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**By 1996, most local authorities in each country should have undertaken a consultative process with their populations and achieved a consensus on "a local Agenda 21" for the community; (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To review and develop policies to support the best possible use of land and the sustainable management of land resources, by not later than 1996; (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**



## **IN THE YEAR 1997**

**By 1997, the Secretary-General of the United Nations should submit to the General Assembly a report on achievement of improved policies, coordination systems and procedures for strengthening the implementation of technical cooperation programmes for sustainable development, as well as on additional measures required to strengthen such cooperation. That report should be prepared on the basis of information provided by countries, international organizations, environment and development institutions, donor agencies and non-governmental partners. 37.4 (b) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The General Assembly, as the highest level inter-governmental mechanism, is the principal policy-making and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up of UNCED. The General Assembly would organize a regular review of the implementation of Agenda 21. In fulfilling this task the General Assembly could consider the timing, format and organizational aspects of such a review. In particular, the General Assembly could consider holding a special session no later than 1997 for the purposes of overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, with adequate preparations at a high level.**

**38.9. Agenda 21 UNCED**

## **IN THE YEAR 1998**

**The broad objective is to facilitate allocation of land to the uses that provide the greatest sustainable benefits and to promote the transition to a sustainable and integrated management of land resources. In doing so, environmental, social and economic issues should be taken into consideration. Protected areas, private property rights, the rights of indigenous people and their communities and other local communities and the economic role of women in agriculture and rural development, among other issues, should be taken into account. In more specific terms, the objectives are as follows: 10.5. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To strengthen institutions and coordinating mechanisms for land and land resources, by not later than 1998; (c) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To strengthen institutions and coordinating mechanisms for land and land resources, by not later than 1998; 10.5 (c) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To maintain and develop, as appropriate, operational multisectoral plans, programmes and policy measures, including programmes and measures to enhance sustainable food production and food security within the framework of sustainable development, not later than 1998; 14.8 (b) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Not later than the year 1998, to establish operational and interactive networks among farmers, researchers and extension services to promote and develop integrated pest management. 14.75 (c) Agenda 21 UNCED**

#### **IN THE YEAR 1999**

**CULMINATION OF THE DECADE DEVOTED TO THE FURTHERANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**

#### **IN THE YEAR 1999**

**CULMINATION OF THE DECADE DEVOTED TO THE FURTHERANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**

#### **IN THE YEAR 2000**

**To improve and strengthen planning, management and evaluation systems for land and land resources, by not later than 2000; 6 b, Agenda 21, UNCED**

**Within the overall strategy to achieve health for all in the year 2000, the objectives are to meet the basic health needs of rural peri-urban and urban populations; to provide the necessary specialized environmental health services; and to coordinate the involvement of citizens, the health sector, the health-related sectors and relevant non-health sectors (business, social, educational and religious institutions) in solutions to health problems. As a matter of priority, health service coverage should be achieved for population groups in greatest need, particularly those**

#### **living in rural areas. 6.4 Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The Conference secretariat has estimated the average total annual cost (1993-2000) of implementing the activities of this programme to be about \$40 billion, including about \$5 billion from the international community on grant or concessional terms. These are indicative and order of magnitude estimates only and have not been reviewed by Governments. Actual costs and financial terms, including any that are non-concessional, will depend upon, *inter alia*, the specific strategies and programmes Governments decide upon for implementation.**

#### **6.6. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**A number of goals have been formulated through extensive consultations in various international forums attended by virtually all Governments, relevant United Nations organizations (including WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP and the World Bank) and a number of non-governmental organizations. Goals (including but not limited to those listed below) are recommended for implementation by all countries where they are applicable, with appropriate adaptation to the specific situation of each country in terms of phasing, standards, priorities and availability of resources, with respect for cultural, religious and social aspects, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values and taking into account ethical considerations. Additional goals that are particularly relevant to a country's specific situation should be added in the country's national plan of action (Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s 1). Such national level action plans should be coordinated and monitored from within the public health sector. Some major goals are:**

#### **6.12. Agenda 21 UNCED**

##### **In the year 2000**

**In the year 2000, to eliminate guinea worm disease (dracunculiasis); 6.12 (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, eradicate polio; 6.12 (b) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, to effectively control onchocerciasis (river blindness) and leprosy; (c)**

**In the year 2000, the number of deaths from childhood diarrhoea in developing countries by 50 to 70 per cent; 6.12 (i) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**(ii) In the year 2000, the incidence of childhood diarrhoea in developing countries by at least 25 to 50 per cent; 6.12 Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, to initiate comprehensive programmes to reduce mortality from acute respiratory infections in children under five years by at least one third, particularly in countries with high infant mortality; 6.12 (f) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, to provide 95 per cent of the world's child population with access to appropriate care for acute respiratory infections within the community and at first referral level; 6.12(g) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, to institute anti-malaria programmes in all countries where malaria presents a significant health problem and maintain the transmission-free status of areas freed from endemic malaria; 6.12 (h) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, to implement control programmes in countries where major human parasitic infections are endemic and achieve an overall reduction in the prevalence of schistosomiasis and of other trematode infections by 40 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, from a 1984 baseline, as well as a marked reduction in incidence, prevalence and intensity of filarial infections; 6.12 (i) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To mobilize and unify national and international efforts against AIDS to prevent infection and to reduce the personal and social impact of HIV infection; 6.12 (j) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To contain the resurgence of tuberculosis, with particular emphasis on multiple antibiotic resistant forms; 6.12 (k) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To accelerate research on improved vaccines and implement to the fullest extent possible the use of vaccines in the prevention of disease. 6.12 (l) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The health and well-being of all urban dwellers must be improved so that they can contribute to economic and social development. The global objective is to achieve a 10 to 40 per cent improvement in health indicators in the year 2000. The same rate of improvement should be achieved for environmental, housing and health service indicators. These include the development of quantitative objectives for infant mortality, maternal mortality, percentage of low birth weight newborns and specific indicators (e.g. tuberculosis as an indicator of crowded housing, diarrhoeal diseases as indicators of inadequate water and sanitation, rates of industrial and transportation accidents that indicate possible opportunities for prevention of**

**injury, and social problems such as drug abuse, violence and crime that indicate underlying social disorders).6.33.Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The overall objective is to minimize hazards and maintain the environment to a degree that human health and safety is not impaired or endangered and yet encourage development to proceed. Specific programme objectives are:**

#### **6.40.Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, to incorporate appropriate environmental and health safeguards as part of national development programmes in all countries; 6.40.(a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, to establish, as appropriate, adequate national infrastructure and programmes for providing environmental injury, hazard surveillance and the basis for abatement in all countries; 6.40.(b) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, to establish, as appropriate, integrated programmes for tackling pollution at the source and at the disposal site, with a focus on abatement actions in all countries; 6.40. (c) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To identify and compile, as appropriate, the necessary statistical information on health effects to support cost/benefit analysis, including environmental health impact assessment for pollution control, prevention and abatement measures. 6.40.(d) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The broad objective is to facilitate allocation of land to the uses that provide the greatest sustainable benefits and to promote the transition to a sustainable and integrated management of land resources. In doing so, environmental, social and economic issues should be taken into consideration. Protected areas, private property rights, the rights of indigenous people and their communities and other local communities and the economic role of women in agriculture and rural development, among other issues, should be taken into account. In more specific terms, the objectives are as follows:**

#### **10.5. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To review and develop policies to support the best possible use of land and the sustainable management of land resources, by not later than 1996; 10.5.**

**(a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To improve and strengthen planning, management and evaluation systems for land and land resources, by not later than 2000; 10.5.(b) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To strengthen institutions and coordinating mechanisms for land and land resources, by not later than 1998;10.5. (c) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To create mechanisms to facilitate the active involvement and participation of all concerned, particularly communities and people at the local level, in decision-making on land use and management, by not later than 1996.10.5. (d) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**This is the foundation of the "enabling approach" advocated for the human settlement sector. External assistance will help to generate the internal resources needed to improve the living and working environments of all people in the year 2000 and beyond, including the growing number of unemployed - the no-income group. At the same time the environmental implications of urban development should be recognized and addressed in an integrated fashion by all countries, with high priority being given to the needs of the urban and rural poor, the unemployed and the growing number of people without any source of income. 7.3. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**A major global programme to address this problem is the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, adopted by the General Assembly in December 1988 (resolution 43/181, annex). Despite its widespread endorsement, the Strategy needs a much greater level of political and financial support to enable it to reach its goal of facilitating adequate shelter for all by the end of the century and beyond. 7.7. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**All countries should adopt and/or strengthen national shelter strategies, with targets based, as appropriate, on the principles and recommendations contained in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. People should be protected by law against unfair eviction from their homes or land; 7.9(b) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Global progress reports covering national action and the support activities of international organizations and bilateral donors should be produced and disseminated on a biennial basis, as requested in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. 7.9 (j) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The objective is to ensure the provision of adequate environmental infrastructure facilities in all settlements in the year 2025. The achievement of this objective would require that all developing countries incorporate in their national strategies programmes to build the necessary technical, financial and human resource**

**capacity aimed at ensuring better integration of infrastructure and environmental planning in the year 2000. 7.38. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Specific human resource development and capacity-building activities have been built into each of the programme areas of this chapter. More generally, however, additional steps should be taken to reinforce those activities. In order to do so, all countries, as appropriate, should take the following action: 7.77. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Strengthening the development of human resources and of capacities of public sector institutions through technical assistance and international cooperation so as to achieve in the year 2000 substantial improvement in the efficiency of governmental activities; 7.77. (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Creating an enabling policy environment supportive of the partnership between the public, private and community sectors; 7.77.(b) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Providing enhanced training and technical assistance to institutions providing training for technicians, professionals and administrators, and appointed, elected and professional members of local governments and strengthening their capacity to address priority training needs, particularly in regard to social, economic and environmental aspects of human settlements development; 7.77. (c) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Providing direct assistance for human settlement development at the community level,inter alia, by:**

**(i) Strengthening and promoting programmes for social mobilization and raising awareness of the potential of women and youth in human settlements activities; 7.77. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**(ii) Facilitating coordination of the activities of women, youth, community groups and non-governmental organizations in human settlements development; 7.77. (d) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**(iii) Promoting research on women's programmes and other groups, and evaluating progress made with a view to identifying bottlenecks and needed assistance; 7.77. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**(e) Promoting the inclusion of integrated environmental management into general local government activities. 7.77. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**The broad objective is to facilitate allocation of land to the uses that provide the greatest sustainable benefits and to promote the transition to a sustainable and**

**integrated management of land resources. In doing so, environmental, social and economic issues should be taken into consideration. Protected areas, private property rights, the rights of indigenous people and their communities and other local communities and the economic role of women in agriculture and rural development, among other issues, should be taken into account. In more specific terms, the objectives are as follows: 10.5. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To review and develop policies to support the best possible use of land and the sustainable management of land resources, by not later than 1996; 10.5.**

**(a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**(b) To improve and strengthen planning, management and evaluation systems for land and land resources, by not later than 2000; 10.5. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**(c) To strengthen institutions and coordinating mechanisms for land and land resources, by not later than 1998; 10.5. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**(d) To create mechanisms to facilitate the active involvement and participation of all concerned, particularly communities and people at the local level, in decision-making on land use and management, by not later than 1996. 10.5. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To strengthen forest-related national institutions, to enhance the scope and effectiveness of activities related to the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests, and to effectively ensure the sustainable utilization and production of forests' goods and services in both the developed and the developing countries; in the year 2000, to strengthen the capacities and capabilities of national institutions to enable them to acquire the necessary knowledge for the protection and conservation of forests, as well as to expand their scope and, correspondingly, enhance the effectiveness of programmes and activities related to the management and development of forests; 11.3.(a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, to develop appropriate land-use planning and management for both arable and non-arable land in mountain-fed watershed areas to prevent soil erosion, increase biomass production and maintain the ecological balance; 13.15**

**(a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, to review and initiate, as appropriate, national land-resource surveys, detailing the location, extent and severity of land degradation; 14.45.(a)**



## **Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Not later than the year 2000, to adopt policies and strengthen or establish programmes for in situ on-farm and ex situ conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, integrated into strategies and programmes for sustainable agriculture; 14.48 (c) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Not later than the year 2000, to improve and implement plant protection and animal health services, including mechanisms to control the distribution and use of pesticides, and to implement the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides; 14.75. (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Not later than the year 2000, to develop and maintain in all countries the integrated plant nutrition approach, and to optimize availability of fertilizer and other plant nutrient sources; 14.85. (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Not later than the year 2000, to develop and maintain in all countries the integrated plant nutrition approach, and to optimize availability of fertilizer and other plant nutrient sources; 14.85 (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Not later than the year 2000, to initiate and encourage a process of environmentally sound energy transition in rural communities, from unsustainable energy sources, to structured and diversified energy sources by making available alternative new and renewable sources of energy; 14.94 (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**(a) In the year 2000:**

**(i) To have designed and initiated costed and targeted national action programmes, and have put in place appropriate institutional structures and legal instruments; 18.11 Agenda 21 UNCED (ii) To have established efficient water-use programmes to attain sustainable resource utilization patterns; 18.11 Agenda 21 UNCED**

**All States, according to their capacity and available resources, and through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, including cooperation with the United Nations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, could set the following targets:**

**In the year 2000, to have studied in detail the feasibility of installing water resources assessment services; 18.26.(a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**As a long-term target, to have fully operational services available based upon high-density hydrometric networks. 18.26.(b) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**To reduce the prevalence of water-associated diseases, starting with the eradication of dracunculiasis (guinea worm disease) and onchocerciasis (river blindness) in the year 2000; 18.39 (e) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**All States, according to their capacity and available resources, and through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, including the United Nations and other relevant organizations as appropriate, could set the following targets: In the year 2000, to have ensured that all urban residents have access to at least 40 litres per capita per day of safe water and that 75 per cent of the urban population are provided with on-site or community facilities for sanitation; 18.58.(a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, to have established and applied quantitative and qualitative discharge standards for municipal and industrial effluents;**

**18.58 (b) (In the year 2000, to have ensured that 75 per cent of solid waste generated in urban areas are collected and recycled or disposed of in an environmentally safe way. 18.58 c) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Freshwater fisheries in lakes and streams are an important source of food and protein. Fisheries of inland waters should be so managed as to maximize the yield of aquatic food organisms in an environmentally sound manner. This requires the conservation of water-quality and quantity, as well as of the functional morphology of the aquatic environment. On the other hand, fishing and aquaculture may themselves damage the aquatic ecosystem; hence their development should conform to guidelines for impact limitation. Present levels of production from inland fisheries, from both fresh and brackish water, are about 7 million tons per year and could increase to 16 million tons per year in the year 2000; however, any increase in environmental stress could jeopardize this rise. 18.67. Agenda 21 UNCED**

**FAO global projections for irrigation, drainage and small-scale water programmes in the year 2000 for 130 developing countries are as follows: (a) 15.2 million hectares of new irrigation development; (b) 12 million hectares of improvement/modernization of existing schemes; (c) 7 million hectares installed with drainage and water control facilities; and (d) 10 million hectares of small-scale water programmes and conservation. 18.71. Agenda 21 UNCED**

The development of new irrigation areas at the above-mentioned level may give rise to environmental concerns in so far as it implies the destruction of wetlands, water pollution, increased sedimentation and a reduction in biodiversity. Therefore, new irrigation schemes should be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment, depending upon the scale of the scheme, in case significant negative environmental impacts are expected. When considering proposals for new irrigation schemes, consideration should also be given to a more rational exploitation, and an increase in the efficiency or productivity, of any existing schemes capable of serving the same localities. Technologies for new irrigation schemes should be thoroughly evaluated, including their potential conflicts with other land uses. The active involvement of water-users groups is a supporting objective. 18.72. Agenda 21 UNCED

To strengthen international risk assessment. Several hundred priority chemicals or groups of chemicals, including major pollutants and contaminants of global significance, should be assessed in the year 2000, using current selection and assessment criteria; Agenda 21 UNCED 19.13. (a)

A globally harmonized hazard classification and compatible labelling system, including material safety data sheets and easily understandable symbols, should be available, if feasible, in the year 2000. 19.27. Agenda 21 UNCED

To promote intensified exchange of information on chemical safety, use and emissions among all involved parties; 19.38 (a) Agenda 21 UNCED

To achieve in the year 2000, as feasible, full participation in and implementation of the PIC procedure, including possible mandatory applications through legally binding instruments contained in the Amended London Guidelines and in the FAO International Code of Conduct, taking into account the experience gained within the PIC procedure. 19.38 (b) Agenda 21 UNCED

In the year 2000, national systems for environmentally sound management of chemicals, including legislation and provisions for implementation and enforcement, should be in place in all countries to the extent possible. Agenda 21 UNCED

The interim secretariat for the Basel Convention should undertake studies in order to arrive at a reasonable cost estimate for activities to be undertaken initially until the year 2000.

20.37. Agenda 21 UNCED

**Governments, according to their capacities and available resources and with the cooperation of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, should:**

**In the year 2000, ensure sufficient national, regional and international capacity to access, process and monitor waste trend information and implement waste minimization policies; 21.9. (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, have in place in all industrialized countries programmes to stabilize or reduce, if practicable, production of wastes destined for final disposal, including per capita wastes (where this concept applies), at the level prevailing at that date; developing countries as well should work towards that goal without jeopardizing their development prospects; 21.9. (b) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Apply in the year 2000, in all countries, in particular in industrialized countries, programmes to reduce the production of agrochemical wastes, containers and packaging materials, which do not meet hazardous characteristics. 21.9. (c) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Governments, according to their capacities and available resources and with the cooperation of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, should:**

**In the year 2000, promote sufficient financial and technological capacities at the regional, national and local levels, as appropriate, to implement waste reuse and recycling policies and actions; 21.18 (a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, in all industrialized countries, and in the year 2010, in all developing countries, have a national programme, including, to the extent possible, targets for efficient waste reuse and recycling. 21.18 (b) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Governments, according to their capacities and available resources and with the cooperation of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, should:**

**In the year 2000, establish waste treatment and disposal quality criteria, objectives and standards based on the nature and assimilative capacity of the receiving environment; 21.29.(a) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2000, establish sufficient capacity to undertake waste-related pollution impact monitoring and conduct regular surveillance, including epidemiological surveillance, where appropriate; 21.29. (b) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**Governments, according to their capacities and available resources and with the cooperation of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, as**

appropriate, should:

(c) In the year 1995, in industrialized countries, and in the year 2005, in developing countries, ensure that at least 50 per cent of all sewage, waste waters and solid wastes are treated or disposed of in conformity with national or international environmental and health quality guidelines; 21.29. Agenda 21 UNCED

The overall objective of this programme is to provide health-protecting, environmentally safe waste collection and disposal services to all people. Governments, according to their capacities and available resources and with the cooperation of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, should:(a) In the year 2000, have the necessary technical, financial and human resource capacity to provide waste collection services commensurate with needs; 21.39 Agenda 21 UNCED

The following objectives are proposed for national Governments:

To implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, particularly with regard to women's participation in national ecosystem management and control of environment degradation; 24.2. (a) Agenda 21 UNCED

To increase the proportion of women decision makers, planners, technical advisers, managers and extension workers in environment and development fields; 24.2. (b) Agenda 21 UNCED

To consider developing and issuing in the year 2000 a strategy of changes necessary to eliminate constitutional, legal, administrative, cultural, behavioural, social and economic obstacles to women's full participation in sustainable development and in public life; 24.2. (c) Agenda 21 UNCED

States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women should review and suggest amendments to it in the year 2000, with a view to strengthening those elements of the Convention related to environment and development, giving special attention to the issue of access and entitlements to natural resources, technology, creative banking facilities and low-cost housing, and the control of pollution and toxicity in the home and workplace. States parties should also clarify the extent of the Convention's scope with respect to the issues of environment and development and request the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to develop guidelines regarding the nature of reporting such issues, required under particular articles of the Convention. 24.5. Agenda 21 UNCED

Each country, in the year 2000, should ensure that more than 50 per cent of its youth, gender balanced, are enrolled in or have access to appropriate secondary

education or equivalent educational or vocational training programmes by increasing participation and access rates on an annual basis. 25.5. Agenda 21 UNCED

In general, the financing for the implementation of Agenda 21 will come from a country's own public and private sectors. For developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, ODA is a main source of external funding, and substantial new and additional funding for sustainable development and implementation of Agenda 21 will be required. Developed countries reaffirm their commitments to reach the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA and, to the extent that they have not yet achieved that target, agree to augment their aid programmes in order to reach that target as soon as possible and to ensure a prompt and effective implementation of Agenda 21. Some countries agree or have agreed to reach the target in the year 2000. It was decided that the Commission on Sustainable Development would regularly review and monitor progress towards this target. This review process should systematically combine the monitoring of the implementation of Agenda 21 with a review of the financial resources available. Those countries which have already reached the target are to be commended and encouraged to continue to contribute to the common effort to make available the substantial additional resources that have to be mobilized. Other developed countries, in line with their support for reform efforts in developing countries, agree to make their best efforts to increase their level of ODA. In this context, the importance of equitable burden-sharing among developed countries is recognized. Other countries, including those undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, may voluntarily augment the contributions of the developed countries. 33.15. Agenda 21 UNCED

The primary objective is to improve the scientific capacities of all countries/- in particular, those of developing countries/- with specific regard to: (a) Education, training and facilities for local research and development and human resource development in basic scientific disciplines and in environment-related sciences, utilizing where appropriate traditional and local knowledge of sustainability; 35.21. (a) Agenda 21 UNCED

A substantial increase in the year 2000 in the number of scientists/-particularly women scientists/- in those developing countries where their number is at present insufficient; Agenda 21 UNCED 35.21. (b) Agenda 21 UNCED

## IN THE YEAR 2002

Framework Convention on Climate change reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 1990 .... by the end of the century ie. 2000 (UNCED, 1992)

32. Advance implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of

**the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, with particular emphasis in the period 2002-2006 on municipal wastewater, the physical alteration and destruction of habitats, and nutrients, by actions at all levels to:**

**(a) Facilitate partnerships, scientific research and diffusion of technical knowledge; mobilize domestic, regional and international resources; and promote human and institutional capacity-building, paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries;**

**(b) Strengthen the capacity of developing countries in the development of their national and regional programmes and mechanisms to mainstream the objectives of the Global Programme of Action and to manage the risks and impacts of ocean pollution;**

**(c) Elaborate regional programmes of action and improve the links with strategic plans for the sustainable development of coastal and marine resources, noting in particular areas which are subject to accelerated environmental changes and development pressures;**

**(d) Make every effort to achieve substantial progress by the next Global Programme of Action conference in 2006 to protect the marine environment from land-based activities. WSSD**

**WSSD36. [Recalls the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol 15 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,16 preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, and calls upon States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.] International, regional and national actions are required to:**

**Greenpeace Comment: Brackets should be removed. If any other country disagrees, their position**

**could be reflected by way of a footnote.**

**WSSD 36 (a) Provide technical and financial assistance and capacity building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the Marrakech Accords 17 for the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;**

**WSSD 36 (b) Build scientific and technological capabilities and networks for the exchange**

of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries;

**WSSD 36 (c) Promote the systematic observation of the Earth's atmosphere by improving ground-based monitoring stations, increasing use of satellites, and appropriate integration of these observations to produce high-quality data that could be disseminated for the use of all countries, in particular developing countries;**

**WSSD 36 (d) Implement a strategy for integrated global observations to monitor the Earth's atmosphere, with the cooperation of relevant international organizations, especially the United Nations specialized agencies, in cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;**

**WSSD 36 (e) Support the Arctic Council initiative to assess the environmental, social and economic consequences of climate change on the Arctic as well as on the Antarctic, in particular the impact on local and indigenous communities.**

**36. Change in the Earth's climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind. We remain deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks of negative impacts of climate change and recognize that, in this context, the problems of poverty, land degradation, access to water and food and human health remain at the centre of global attention.**

**The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the key instrument for addressing climate change, a global concern, and we reaffirm our commitment to achieving its ultimate objective of stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner, in accordance with our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge States that have not already done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in a timely manner. Actions at all levels are required to:**

**Meet all the commitments and obligations under the UNFCCC;**

**Work cooperatively towards achieving the objectives of the UNFCCC;**

**Provide technical and financial assistance and capacity building to developing countries**



**and countries with economies in transition in accordance with commitments under the UNFCCC, including the Marrakech accords;**

**Build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia through continuing support to the IPCC for the exchange of scientific data and information especially in developing countries;**

**Develop and transfer technological solutions;**

**Develop and disseminate innovative technologies in respect of key sectors of development, particularly energy, and of investment in this regard, including through private sector involvement, market-oriented approaches, as well as supportive public policies and international cooperation;**

**Promote the systematic observation of the Earth's atmosphere, land and oceans by improving monitoring stations, increasing the use of satellites, and appropriate integration of these observations to produce high-quality data that could be disseminated for the use of all countries, in particular developing countries;**

**Enhance the implementation of national, regional and international strategies to monitor the Earth's atmosphere, land and oceans including, as appropriate, strategies for integrated global observations, inter alia with the cooperation of relevant international organisations, especially the United Nations specialized agencies in cooperation with the UNFCCC;**

**Support initiatives to assess the consequences of climate change, such as the Arctic Council initiative, including the environmental, economic and social impacts on local and indigenous communities. WSSD**

**140 (f) Mobilize national and international support for applied research and capacity-building, provide financial and technical assistance for the effective implementation of sustainable development of mountain ecosystems in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and address the poverty among people living in mountains through concrete plans, projects and programmes, with sufficient support from all stakeholders, taking into account the spirit of the International Year of the Mountain 2002. WSSD**

**41. Promote sustainable tourism development, including non-consumptive and eco-tourism, taking into account the spirit of the International Year of Eco-tourism 2002, the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage in 2002, the World Eco-tourism Summit 2002 and its Quebec Declaration, and the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism as adopted by the World Tourism Organization in order to increase the benefits from tourism resources for the population in host communities while maintaining the cultural and environmental integrity of the host communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and natural heritages. Promote sustainable tourism development and capacity-building in order to contribute to the strengthening of rural and local communities. This would include actions at all levels to:**

**(a) Enhance international cooperation, foreign direct investment and partnerships with both private and public sectors, at all levels;**

(b) **Develop programmes, including education and training programmes, that encourage people to participate in eco-tourism, enable indigenous and local communities to develop and benefit from eco-tourism, and enhance stakeholder cooperation in tourism development and heritage preservation, in order to improve the protection of the environment, natural resources and cultural heritage;**

(c) **Provide technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to support sustainable tourism business development and investment and tourism awareness programmes, to improve domestic tourism, and to stimulate entrepreneurial development;**

(d) **Assist host communities in managing visits to their tourism attractions for their maximum benefit, while ensuring the least negative impacts on and risks for their traditions, culture and environment, with the support of the World Tourism Organization and other relevant organizations;**

(e) **Promote the diversification of economic activities, including through the facilitation of access to markets and commercial information, and participation of emerging local enterprises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. WSSD**

#### **IN THE YEAR 2003**

22 (a) **Promote the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste, including the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade so that it can enter into force by 2003 and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants so that it can enter into force by 2004, and encourage and improve coordination as well as supporting developing countries in their implementation; WSSD**

**WSSD28. [Agreed] Promote effective coordination among the various international and intergovernmental bodies and processes working on water-related issues, both within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and international financial institutions, drawing on the contributions of other international institutions and civil society to inform intergovernmental decision-making; closer coordination should also be promoted to elaborate and support proposals and undertake activities related to the International Year of Freshwater 2003 and beyond.**

**WSSD 37 (b) [Agreed] Facilitate implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer 18 by ensuring adequate replenishment of its fund by 2003/2005;**

**74. In furtherance of the region's commitment to sustainable development, there are ongoing efforts at the regional, subregional and transregional levels, including, inter alia, the Environment for Europe process; the fifth ECE ministerial conference, to be held in Kiev in May 2003; the development of an environmental strategy for the 12 countries of Eastern Europe; the Caucasus and Central Asia; the Central Asian Agenda 21; OECD work on sustainable development, the EU sustainable development strategy; and regional and subregional conventions and processes relevant to sustainable development, including, inter alia, the Aarhus Convention, the Alpine Convention, the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation, the Boundary Waters Treaty, the Iqaluit Declaration of the Arctic Council, the Baltic Agenda 21 and the Mediterranean Agenda 21. WSSD**

**WSSD 81 ALT (ii)** *[Focus the WTO's assistance efforts, in particular the 2003 plan, on advancing the Doha agenda, and call upon the WTO secretariat to finalize its 2003 plan accordingly, including reaching out to members who have not provided their input];*

*(c) Fully implement the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries (IF) [and urge [developed countries]/[development partners] to significantly increase contributions to the IF Trust Fund, and expand related follow-on activity under the IF to address a greater number of least developed countries, [including by extending the pilot programmes]].*

*THIS SECTION WAS DELETED PICKED UP IN 84*

**84 (e) Fully support the implementation of the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, and urge development partners to significantly increase contributions to the Trust Fund of the Framework, in accordance with the Doha Ministerial Declaration. WSSD**

**81. Welcome the successful and substantial third replenishment of the GEF, which will enable it to address the funding requirements of new focal areas and existing ones and continue to be responsive to the needs and concerns of its recipient countries, in particular developing countries, and further encourage GEF to leverage additional funds from key public and private organizations, improve the management of funds through more speedy and streamlined procedures and simplify its project cycle. WSSD**

#### **IN THE YEAR 2004**

**WSSD22(a) [Agreed] Promote the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste, including the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade so that it can enter into force by 2003 and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants so that it can enter into force by 2004 and encourage and improve**

**coordination as well as supporting developing countries in their implementation;**

**WSSD30 (d) [Agreed] Urgently develop and implement national and, where appropriate, regional plans of action, to put into effect the FAO International Plans of Action , in particular the IPOA for the Management of Fishing Capacity by 2005 and the IPOA to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing by 2004. Establish effective monitoring and reporting, and enforcement, and control of fishing vessels, including by flag States, to further the IPOA to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;**

**WSSD34(b) [Agreed] Establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments;**

**WSSD52 (e) Effectively reduce, prevent and control waste and pollution and their health-related impacts by undertaking, [by 2004], initiatives aimed at implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities in Small Island Developing States;**

**WSSD52 (g) [Agreed] Develop community-based initiatives on sustainable tourism by 2004, and build the capacities necessary to diversify tourism products, while protecting culture and traditions, and effectively conserving and managing natural resources;**

**WSSD53 (a) [Agreed] Strengthening ongoing and supporting new efforts on energy supply and services, by 2004, including through the United Nations system and partnership initiatives;**

**WSSD55. [Agreed] Undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2004, in accordance with the provisions set forth in General Assembly resolution S-22/ 2, and, in this context, requests the 57 th session of the United Nations General Assembly to consider an international meeting for the sustainable development of small island developing States.**

#### **IN THE YEAR 2005**

**WSSD22 (b) [Agreed] Further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals**

**management based on the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action Beyond 2000 of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) by 2005 and urge that UNEP, IFCS, other international organizations dealing with chemical management, and other relevant international organizations and actors closely cooperate in this regard, as appropriate;**

**WSSD25. [Agreed] Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, through actions at all levels to:**

**WSSD 22(b) [Agreed] Further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management based on the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action Beyond 2000 of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) by 2005 and urge that UNEP, IFCS, other international organizations dealing with chemical management, and other relevant international organizations and actors closely cooperate in this regard, as appropriate;**

**WSSD 29 (a) Maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield consistent with the precautionary approach as agreed in the 1995 UN FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks [by 2005-15] [on an urgent basis].**

**NOW 30 (c) Implement the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, taking note of the special requirements of developing countries as noted in its article 5, and the relevant Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) international plans of action and technical guidelines; WSSD**

**WSSD30(d) [Agreed] Urgently develop and implement national and, where appropriate, regional plans of action, to put into effect the FAO International Plans of Action , in particular the IPOA for the Management of Fishing Capacity by 2005 and the IPOA to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing by 2004. Establish effective monitoring and reporting, and enforcement, and control of fishing vessels, including by flag States, to further the IPOA to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;**

**WSSD37(b) [Agreed] Facilitate implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer 18 by ensuring adequate replenishment of its fund by 2003/2005;**

**WSSD43(g) [Agreed] Accelerate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action by countries and by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and intensify efforts on reporting to the Forum to contribute to an assessment of progress in 2005;**

**WSSD48. [Agreed] Implement, within the agreed timeframes, all commitments agreed in the UNGASS declaration on HIV/AIDS, emphasizing in particular the reduction of HIV prevalence among young men and women aged 15-24 by 25 per cent in the most affected countries by 2005 and globally by 2010, as well as combat malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases by, inter alia:**

**WSSD61(a) Support the development and implementation of national policies and programmes, including, research programmes and development plans of African countries to regenerate their agricultural sector and sustainably develop their fisheries, increase investment in infrastructure, technology and extension services, according to country needs. Countries should be in the process of developing and implementing food security strategies, within the context of national poverty eradication programmes [by 2005];**

**61 (a) Support the development and implementation of national policies and programmes, including research programmes and development plans of African countries to regenerate their agricultural sector and sustainably develop their fisheries, and increase investment in infrastructure, technology and extension services, according to country needs. African countries should be in the process of developing and implementing food security strategies, within the context of national poverty eradication programmes, by 2005; WSSD**

**NO LONGER IN 83 WSSD83.** *[Call upon WTO members to fulfil the commitments made in Doha, notably in terms of access to markets [including] for the exports of developing countries, especially LDCs, particularly in areas of interest to these countries, by implementing the following actions [while being mindful of the important deadlines that must be met to ensure progress by the Fifth Ministerial Conference and of the opportunities that will result from the successful conclusions of these negotiations by 1 January 2005].]*

**WSSD83.(alt.)***[Call upon WTO members to be mindful of the important deadlines that must be met to ensure progress by the Fifth Ministerial Conference and of the opportunities that will result from the successful conclusions of these negotiations by 1 January 2005 in the areas of greatest interest to developing countries, particularly in market access. In this regard, reaffirming our commitments under the Doha Declaration we note the particular significance to achieving sustainable development of the following aspects of the Doha Mandate:]*

**83. Reduce unsustainable debt burden through such actions as debt relief and, as appropriate, debt cancellation and other innovative mechanisms geared to comprehensively address the debt problems of developing countries, in particular the poorest and most heavily indebted ones. Therefore, debt relief measures should, where appropriate, be pursued vigorously and expeditiously, including within the Paris and London Clubs and**

other relevant forums, in order to contribute to debt sustainability and facilitate sustainable development, while recognizing that debtors and creditors must share responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations, and that external debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that can then be directed towards activities consistent with attaining sustainable growth and development. Therefore, we support paragraphs 47 through 51 of the Monterrey Consensus dealing with external debt. Debt relief arrangements should seek to avoid imposing any unfair burdens on other developing countries. There should be an increase in the use of grants for the poorest, debt-vulnerable countries. Countries are encouraged to develop national comprehensive strategies to monitor and manage external liabilities as a key element in reducing national vulnerabilities. In this regard, actions are required to:

(a) Implement speedily, effectively and fully the enhanced heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative, which should be fully financed through additional resources, taking into consideration, as appropriate, measures to address any fundamental changes in the economic circumstances of those developing countries with unsustainable debt burden caused by natural catastrophes, severe terms-of-trade shocks or affected by conflict, taking into account initiatives which have been undertaken to reduce outstanding indebtedness;

(b) Encourage participation in the HIPC initiative of all creditors that have not yet done so;

(c) Bring international debtors and creditors together in relevant international forums to restructure unsustainable debt in a timely and efficient manner, taking into account the need to involve the private sector in the resolution of crises due to indebtedness, where appropriate;

(d) Acknowledge the problems of the debt sustainability of some non-HIPC low-income countries, in particular those facing exceptional circumstances;

(e) Encourage exploring innovative mechanisms to comprehensively address the debt problems of developing countries, including middle-income countries and countries with economies in transition. Such mechanisms may include debt-for-sustainable-development swaps;

(f) Encourage donor countries to take steps to ensure that resources provided for debt relief do not detract from ODA resources intended to be available for developing countries. WSSD

**WSSD103. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education [by 2005] as provided in the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, and at all levels of education no later than 2015 to meet the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, with action to ensure, inter alia, equal access to all levels and forms of education, training and capacity-building by gender mainstreaming, and by creating a gender-sensitive educational system.**

**NOW 113. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005, as provided in the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, and at all levels of education no later than 2015, to meet the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, with action to ensure, inter alia, equal access to all levels and forms of**

**education, training and capacity-building by gender mainstreaming, and by creating a gender-sensitive educational system.**

**WSSD107 (d) [Agreed] Recommend to the UN General Assembly that it consider adopting a decade of education for sustainable development, starting in 2005.**

**NOW 117 (d) Recommend to the United Nations General Assembly that it consider adopting a decade of education for sustainable development, starting in 2005.**

**WSSD145(b) [Bearing in mind paragraph 24(a) of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, take further appropriate steps related to]/[Take immediate steps to make progress on the commitment [made in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,] for] the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development [and begin their implementation by 2005] and should to this end, as appropriate, be supported through international cooperation, taking into account the special needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. Such strategies, which where applicable, could be formulated as poverty reduction strategies, which integrate economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, should be pursued in accordance with each country's national priorities.**

**NOW NO DATE**

**145 (b) Take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development and begin their implementation by 2005. To this end, as appropriate, strategies should be supported through international cooperation, taking into account the special needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. Such strategies, which, where applicable, could be formulated as poverty reduction strategies that integrate economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, should be pursued in accordance with each country's national priorities. WSSD**

**IN THE YEAR 2006**

**WSSD32(d) [Agreed] Make every effort to achieve substantial progress by the next GPA Conference in 2006 to protect the marine environment from land-based activities.**



## **IN THE YEAR 2007**

**[Adopt at the national level, policies leading to timetables for progressively phasing out energy subsidies which inhibit sustainable development. Developed countries should lead the way, and, subject to a satisfactory review in 2007, they could be followed progressively by developing countries;] 19(p.bis) Agenda 21, UNCED**

## **NOW NO TIME REFERENCE**

**19 (p) Policies to reduce market distortions would promote energy systems compatible with sustainable development through the use of improved market signals and by removing market distortions, including restructuring taxation and phasing out harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, with such policies taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries with the aim of minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development;**

**WSSD22(c) [Agreed] Encourage countries to implement the new globally harmonized system (GHS) for the classification and labeling of chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008;**

**2009**

## **IN THE YEAR 2010**

**WSSD19(e) [[Diversify energy supply by developing cleaner, more efficient and innovative fossil fuel technologies, and promote the] increase [of] the share of [non-hydro]/[new] renewable energy sources [by at least 2%]/[with the objective of increasing the global share to at least 15% of total primary energy supply by 2010]. [To achieve this all countries should adopt and implement ambitious national goals.] [For industrialized countries, these goals should aim at an increase in the share of renewable energy sources of total primary energy supply by at least 2 percentage points of total energy supply by 2010 relative to 2000.] / [to at least 5% of total primary energy supply] [by 2010].] at the global level by 2010. To achieve this, all countries should adopt and implement specific national goals; ]]**

## **NOW NO TIME LINES**

**19 (e) Diversify energy supply by developing advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies, including fossil fuel technologies and renewable energy technologies, hydro included, and their transfer to developing countries**

on concessional terms as mutually agreed. With a sense of urgency, substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply, recognizing the role of national and voluntary regional targets as well as initiatives, where they exist, and ensuring that energy policies are supportive to developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty, and regularly evaluate available data to review progress to this end; WSSD

WSSD9(d) [Agreed] Encourage the application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach, noting the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem and Decision 5/6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

WSSD37(d) [Agreed] Improve access to affordable, accessible, cost-effective, safe and environmentally sound alternatives to ozone-depleting substances by developing countries by 2010, and assist them in complying with the phase-out schedule under the Montreal Protocol,

WSSD42. Biodiversity, which plays a critical role in overall sustainable development and poverty eradication, is essential to our planet, human well-being and to the livelihood and cultural integrity of people. However, biodiversity is presently being lost at unprecedented rates due to human activities; this trend can only be reversed if the local people benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in particular in countries of origin of genetic resources, in accordance with Article 15 of the CBD. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the key instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from use of genetic resources. [Achieving a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss [by 2010] includes actions at all levels to]/[With a view to having instruments in place to stop the current alarming biodiversity loss [by 2010], actions are required at all levels to]:

#### WEAKENED

42. Biodiversity, which plays a critical role in overall sustainable development and poverty eradication, is essential to our planet, human well-being and to the livelihood and cultural integrity of people. However, biodiversity is currently being lost at unprecedented rates due to human activities; this trend can only be reversed if the local people benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in particular in countries of origin of genetic resources, in accordance with article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. *The Convention is the key instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from use of genetic resources.* A more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, and includes actions at all levels to:

**WSSD47e) [Agreed] Promote and develop partnerships to enhance health education with the objective of achieving improved health literacy on a global basis by 2010, with the involvement of United Nations Agencies, as appropriate;**

**WSSD48. [Agreed] Implement, within the agreed timeframes, all commitments agreed in the UNGASS declaration on HIV/AIDS, emphasizing in particular the reduction of HIV prevalence among young men and women aged 15-24 by 25 per cent in the most affected countries by 2005 and globally by 2010, as well as combat malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases by, inter alia:**

**2011**

**IN THE YEAR 2012**

**WSSD31(c) [Agreed] Develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, including the ecosystem approach, the elimination of destructive fishing practices, the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks, by 2012, and time/area closures for the protection of nursery grounds and periods, proper coastal land use; and watershed planning and the integration of marine and coastal areas management into key sectors;**

**2013**

**2014**

**IN THE YEAR 2015**

*WSSD6(a) [Agreed] Halve, in the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than \$1 a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water;*

**WSSD7. [Dramatically reduce]/[Halve by 2015] the proportion of people lacking access to improved sanitation while sensitive to the needs of the poor, and protecting the environment, through actions at all levels to: OR**

**WSSD7. (alt.) [launch a programme of Action] [Support the Millennium Declaration development goal to halve, in the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to**

reach, or to afford, safe drinking water, and undertake a related effort for the people without access to improved sanitation, sensitive to the needs of the poor and protecting the environment. This would include actions at all levels to:]

7. The provision of clean drinking water and adequate sanitation is necessary to protect human health and the environment. In this respect, we agree to halve, in the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water (as outlined in the Millennium Declaration) and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, which would include actions at all levels to:

- (a) Develop and implement efficient household sanitation systems;
- (b) Improve sanitation in public institutions, especially schools;
- (c) Promote safe hygiene practices;
- (d) Promote education and outreach focused on children, as agents of behavioural change;
- (e) Promote affordable and socially and culturally acceptable technologies and practices;
- (f) Develop innovative financing and partnership mechanisms;
- (g) Integrate sanitation into water resources management strategies.

WSSD8.[Launch an action programme]/[Take actions] to improve access to reliable and affordable energy services for sustainable development sufficient to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development goals, including the goal of halving the proportion of people in poverty by 2015, and as a means to generate other important services that mitigate poverty, bearing in mind that access to energy facilitates the eradication of poverty. This would include actions at all levels to:

8. Take joint actions and improve efforts to work together at all levels to improve access to reliable and affordable energy services for sustainable development sufficient to facilitate the achievement of the millennium development goals, including the goal of halving the proportion of people in poverty by 2015, and as a means to generate other important services that mitigate poverty, bearing in mind that access to energy facilitates the eradication of poverty. This would include actions at all levels to: WSSD

WSSD23. Human activities are having an increasing impact on the integrity of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activities. [As the natural resource base is vital for sustainable development, the current trend in loss

of natural resources must be halted and reversed, where appropriate, at global and national levels by 2015.)/[Managing the natural resources base in a sustainable and integrated manner is essential for sustainable development.] In this regard, it is necessary to implement strategies [which apply the precautionary principle] [based on an ecosystem approach] to protect all [types of]/[classes of] ecosystems and to achieve integrated management of land, water and living resources, while strengthening regional, national and local capacities. [Concerns related to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources should be integrated in all sectoral policies, strategies and programmes as well as in sustainable development strategies or, where applicable, poverty reduction strategies. Relevant existing environmental agreements and related instruments should be implemented fully and in a coherent manner.]

NOW NO TIME LINE.

23. Human activities are having an increasing impact on the integrity of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activities.

LEFT OUT [As the natural resource base is vital for sustainable development, the current trend in loss of natural resources must be halted and reversed, where appropriate, at global and national levels by 2015.]

Managing the natural resources base in a sustainable and integrated manner is essential for sustainable development. In this regard, to reverse the current trend in natural resource degradation as soon as possible, it is necessary to implement strategies which

LEFT OUT

[which apply the precautionary principle] [based on an ecosystem approach] to protect all [types of]/[classes of] ecosystems

should include targets adopted at the national and, where appropriate, regional levels to protect ecosystems and to achieve integrated management of land, water and living resources, while strengthening regional, national and local capacities. This would include actions at all levels to:

WSSD24. Launch a programme of actions, with financial and technical assistance, to achieve the Millennium Declaration goal to halve, in the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach, or to afford, safe drinking water [and undertake a related effort for the people without access to improved sanitation]/[and to achieve a similar goal to halve, in the year 2015, the proportion of people without access to improved sanitation] This would include actions at all levels to:

**24. Launch a programme of actions, with financial and technical assistance, to achieve the millennium development goal on safe drinking water. In this respect, we agree to halve, in the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water**

**LEFT OUT [and undertake a related effort for the people without access to improved sanitation]/**

**as outlined in the Millennium Declaration and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, which would include actions at all levels to:**

**WSSD29(a) CHECK Maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield consistent with the precautionary approach as agreed in the 1995 UN FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks [by 200515] [on an urgent basis].**

**NOW NO DATE NOT URGENT**

**NOW 30(c) Implement the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, taking note of the special requirements of developing countries as noted in its article 5, and the relevant Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) international plans of action and technical guidelines;**

**WSSD30. To achieve [equitable and] sustainable fisheries, the following actions are required at all levels:**

**(a) Maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks [by 2015] [on an urgent basis].**

**WSSD38 (a) [Agreed] Achieve the Millennium Declaration target to halve in the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people who suffer from hunger and realize the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their families, including food, including by, promoting food security and fighting hunger in combination with measures which address poverty, consistent with the outcome of the World Food Summit and, for State Parties, with their obligations under Article 11 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.**

**WSSD47(f) [Agreed] Develop programmes and initiatives to reduce, in the year 2015, mortality rates for infants and children under 5 by two thirds, and maternal**

mortality rates by three quarters, of the prevailing rate in 2000, and reduce disparities between and within developed and developing countries as quickly as possible with particular attention to eliminating the pattern of disproportionate and preventable mortality among girl infants and children;

**WSSD56(e) [Agreed] Support the development of national programmes and strategies to promote education within the context of nationally owned and led strategies for poverty reduction and strengthen research institutions in education in order to increase the capacity to fully support the achievement of internationally agreed development goals related to education, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration on ensuring that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education relevant to national needs;**

**WSSD61. [Agreed] Achieve significantly improved sustainable agricultural productivity and food security in furtherance of the agreed Millennium Development Goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, including through initiatives at all levels to:**

**WSSD69. [Agreed] Bearing in mind the target of halving the number of people who live in poverty in the year 2015, as provided in the Millennium Declaration, the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific recognized that the region contains over half of the world's population and the largest number of the world's people living in poverty. Hence, sustainable development in the region is critical to achieving sustainable development at the global level.**

**WSSD99(a) [Agreed] Meet the development goal in the Millennium Declaration of achieving universal primary education, ensuring that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling;**

**WSSD103. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education [by 2005] as provided in the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, and at all levels of education no later than 2015 to meet the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, with action to ensure, inter alia, equal access to all levels and forms of education, training and capacity-building by gender mainstreaming, and by creating a gender-sensitive educational system.**

**NOW**

**113. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005, as provided in the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, and at all levels of education no later than 2015, to meet the development goals contained in the Millennium**

**Declaration, with action to ensure, inter alia, equal access to all levels and forms of education, training and capacity-building by gender mainstreaming, and by creating a gender-sensitive educational system.**

**2016**

**2017**

**2018**

**2019**

**IN THE YEAR 2020**

**WSSD10. [Agreed] [URGENTLY, FUND PROJECTS TO ELIMINATE] *By 2020 achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the Cities Without Slums initiative. This would include actions at all levels to:***

**WSSD22. Renew the commitment [as stated in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21] to sound management of chemicals, throughout their life cycle, and hazardous wastes for sustainable development and for the protection of human health and the environment, inter alia, aiming to achieve [by 2020 ] that chemicals are used and produced in ways that [do not lead to]/[reduce] significant adverse effects on human health and the environment [based on sound science, risk assessment and risk management, bearing in mind the precautionary approach as set out in Rio principle**

**15 [and other [relevant] international instruments.]**

**2002**

**2023**

**2024**



## **IN THE YEAR 2025**

### **Unprecedented Increase in environmentally persistent wastes**

**Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption are increasing the quantities and variety of environmentally persistent wastes at unprecedented rates. The trend could significantly increase the quantities of wastes produced by the end of the century and increase quantities four to fivefold in the year 2025. (21.7., Solid Wastes, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992))**

**Early in the next century, more than half of the world's population will be living in urban areas. In the year 2025, that proportion will have risen to 60 per cent, comprising some 5 billion people. Rapid urban population growth and industrialization are putting severe strains on the water resources and environmental protection capabilities of many cities. Special attention needs to be given to the growing effects of urbanization on water demands and usage and to the critical role played by local and municipal authorities in managing the supply, use and overall treatment of water, particularly in developing countries for which special support is needed. Scarcity of freshwater resources and the escalating costs of developing new resources have a considerable impact on national industrial, agricultural and human settlement development and economic growth. Better management of urban water resources, including the elimination of unsustainable consumption patterns, can make a substantial contribution to the alleviation of poverty and improvement of the health and quality of life of the urban and rural poor. A high proportion of large urban agglomerations are located around estuaries and in coastal zones. Such an arrangement leads to pollution from municipal and industrial discharges combined with overexploitation of available water resources and threatens the marine environment and the supply of freshwater resources (Art. 18.56, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992)..**

**Governments, according to their capacities and available resources and with the cooperation of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, should:**

**In the year 2025, dispose of all sewage, waste waters and solid wastes in conformity with national or international environmental quality guidelines. 21.29. (d) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2025: To have achieved subsectoral targets of all freshwater programme areas.**

**It is understood that the fulfillment of the targets quantified in (i) and (ii) above will depend upon new and additional financial resources that will be made**

**available to developing countries in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/228. 18.11 b) (i) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2025, dispose of all sewage, waste waters and solid wastes in conformity with national or international environmental quality guidelines. 21.29 (d) Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2025, provide all urban populations with adequate waste services; 21.39 (b)Agenda 21 UNCED**

**In the year 2025, ensure that full urban waste service coverage is maintained and sanitation coverage achieved in all rural areas.21.39 (c) Agenda 21 UNCED**



**In the year 2025:**

**To have achieved subsectoral targets of all freshwater programme areas.**

**It is understood that the fulfilment of the targets quantified in (i) and (ii) above will depend upon new and additional financial resources that will be made available to developing countries in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/228. 18.1 (b) (i) Agenda 21 UNCED**

Last Updated on Sunday, 16 August 2015 11:04

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[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 20 August 2015 17:06

By Joan Russow Global Compliance Research Project

**SDG GOAL 5: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS;**



## **EVALUATION OF STATE PERFORMANCE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLATFORM OF ACTION**

**October 1995 including addressing 'militarism**

**A. COVENANT OF IMPLEMENTATION**

**B. ADDRESSING MILITARISM**

**A. COVENANT OF IMPLEMENTATION**

**In 1995 all member states of the United Nations adopted the Beijing Platform of Action**

**After the Conference in Beijing, I was concerned about the failure of governments to implement the Platform of Action so I went through the document and made a scroll, the Covenant of Implementation, of all the**

references to implementing the platform. The following is the Covenant of Implementation . At a minimum SDG Goal 5 should call for the implementation of the commitments from Beijing

9. **Ensure the full implementation of the human rights of women and of the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;**

11. **Achieve the full and effective implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;**

19. It is essential to design, **implement and monitor**, with the full participation of women, effective, efficient and mutually reinforcing **gender-sensitive policies and programmes, including development policies and programmes, at all levels that will**

**foster the empowerment and advancement of women;**

20. The participation and contribution of all *actors of civil society* particularly women's groups and networks and other non- governmental organizations and community-based organizations, with full respect for their autonomy, in cooperation with Governments, are important to the **effective implementation and follow-up of the Platform for Action;**

21. **The implementation of the Platform for Action requires commitment from Governments and the international community. By making national and international commitments for action, including those made at the Conference, Governments and the international community recognize the need to take priority action for the empowerment and advancement of women.**

38. **We hereby adopt and commit ourselves as Governments to implement the following Platform for Action, ensuring that a gender perspective is reflected in all**

our policies and programmes. We urge the United Nations system, regional and international financial institutions, other relevant regional and international institutions and all women and men, as well as non-governmental organizations, with full respect for their autonomy, and all sectors of civil society, in cooperation with Governments, to fully commit themselves and contribute to the implementation of this Platform for Action.

## FROM THE PLATFORM OF ACTION

1. The Platform for Action is an agenda for women's empowerment. It aims at **accelerating the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women** 1/ and at removing all the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. This means that the principle of shared power and responsibility should be established between women and men at home, in the workplace and in the wider national and international communities. Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace. A transformed partnership based on equality between women and men is a condition for people-centred sustainable development. A sustained and long-term commitment is essential, so that women and men can work together for themselves, for their children and for society to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

9. The objective of the Platform for Action, which is in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, is the empowerment of all women. The full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women is essential for the empowerment of women. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The implementation of this Platform, including through national laws and the formulation of strategies, policies, programmes and development priorities, is the sovereign responsibility of each State, *in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the significance of and full respect for various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of individuals* and their communities should contribute to the full enjoyment by women of their human rights in order to achieve equality, development and peace.

45. A review of progress since the Nairobi Conference highlights special concerns - areas of particular urgency that stand out as priorities for action. All actors should focus action and resources on the strategic objectives relating to the critical areas of concern which are, necessarily, interrelated, interdependent and of high priority. There is a need for these actors to develop and **implement mechanisms of accountability for all the areas of concern.**

59. The success of policies and measures aimed at supporting or strengthening the promotion of gender equality and the improvement of the status of women should be based on the integration of the gender perspective in general policies **relating to all spheres of society as well as the implementation of positive measures with adequate institutional and financial support at all levels.**

60. (c) **Pursue and implement sound and stable macroeconomic and sectoral policies that are designed and monitored with the full and equal participation of women, encourage broad-based *sustained economic growth*, address the structural causes of poverty and are geared towards eradicating poverty and reducing gender-based inequality within the overall framework of achieving people-centred sustainable development;**

60 (j) Formulate and **implement, when necessary, specific economic, social, agricultural and related policies** in support of female-headed households;

60 (k) Develop and **implement anti-poverty programmes**, including employment schemes, that improve access to food for women living in poverty, including through the use of appropriate pricing and distribution mechanisms;

60 (p) Formulate and **implement policies and programmes that enhance the access of women agricultural and fisheries producers (including subsistence farmers and producers, especially in rural areas) to financial, technical, extension and marketing services;** provide access to and control of land, appropriate infrastructure and technology in order to increase women's incomes and promote household food security, especially in rural areas and, where appropriate, encourage the development of producer-owned, market-based cooperatives;

61 (b) Strengthen analytical capacity in order to more systematically strengthen gender perspectives and integrate them into the design and implementation of lending programmes, including structural adjustment and economic recovery programmes;

**61 (c) Find effective development-oriented and durable solutions to external debt problems in order to help them to finance programmes and projects targeted at development, including the advancement of women, inter alia, through the immediate implementation of the terms of debt forgiveness agreed upon in the Paris Club in December 1994, which encompassed debt reduction, including cancellation or other debt relief measures and develop techniques of debt conversion applied to social development programmes and projects in conformity with Platform priorities;**

62(b) Engage in lobbying and establish monitoring mechanisms, as appropriate, and other relevant activities **to ensure implementation of the recommendations on poverty eradication outlined in the Platform for Action and aimed at ensuring accountability and transparency from the State and private sectors;**

84. By Governments, in cooperation with employers, workers and trade unions, international and non-governmental organizations, including women's and youth organizations, and educational institutions: (a) Develop and implement education, training and retraining policies for women, especially young women and women re-entering the labour market, to provide skills to meet the needs of a changing socio-economic context for improving their employment opportunities;

Strategic objective B.5. **Allocate sufficient resources for and monitor the implementation of educational reforms**

86. (a) Provide the required budgetary resources to the educational sector, with reallocation within the educational sector to ensure increased funds for basic education, as appropriate;

86 (b) Establish a mechanism at appropriate levels **to monitor the implementation of educational reforms** and measures in relevant ministries, and establish technical assistance programmes, as appropriate, to address issues raised by the monitoring efforts.

89(a) Contribute to the evaluation of progress achieved, using educational indicators generated by national, regional and international bodies, and urge Governments, **in implementing measures, to eliminate differences between women and men, boys and girls with regard to opportunities in education and training and the levels achieved in all fields, particularly in primary and literacy programmes;**

**Strategic objective C.1. Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services**

#### **Actions to be taken**

107. By Governments, in collaboration with non- governmental organizations and employers' and workers' organizations and with the support of international institutions:

107 (a) Support and implement the commitments made in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as established in the report of that Conference and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development 14/ and the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant international agreements, to meet the health needs of girls and women of all ages;

107 (c) **Design and implement, in cooperation with women and community-based organizations, gender-sensitive health programmes, including decentralized health services,** that address the needs of women throughout their lives and take into account their multiple roles and responsibilities, the demands on their time, the special needs of rural women and women with disabilities and the diversity of women's needs arising from age and socio-economic and cultural differences, among others; include women, especially local and indigenous women,



in the identification and planning of health-care priorities and programmes; and remove all barriers to women's health services and provide a broad range of health-care services;

107 (g) Ensure that all health services and workers conform to human rights and to ethical, professional and gender-sensitive standards in the delivery of women's health services aimed at ensuring responsible, voluntary and informed consent. **Encourage the development, implementation and dissemination of codes of ethics guided by existing international codes of medical ethics as well as ethical principles that govern other health professionals;**

107 (r) Promote public information on the benefits of breast-feeding; examine **ways and means of implementing fully the WHO/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, and enable mothers to breast-feed their infants by providing legal, economic, practical and emotional support;**

107 (s) Establish mechanisms to support and involve non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations, professional groups and other bodies working to improve the health of girls and women, in government policy-making, programme design, **as appropriate, and implementation within the health sector and related sectors at all levels;**

107 (w) Promote and ensure household and national food security, as appropriate, and implement programmes aimed at improving the nutritional status of all girls and women **by implementing the commitments made in the Plan of Action on Nutrition of the International Conference on Nutrition, 16/ including a reduction world wide of severe and moderate malnutrition among children under the age of five by one half of 1990 levels by the year 2000, giving special attention to the gender gap in nutrition, and a reduction in iron deficiency anaemia in girls and women by one third of the 1990 levels by the year 2000;**

108 (g) Recognize the specific needs of adolescents and **implement specific appropriate programmes, such as education and information on sexual and reproductive health issues and on sexually transmitted diseases, including**

HIV/AIDS, taking into account the rights of the child and the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents as stated in paragraph 108 (e);

108 (l) Devise and **implement comprehensive and coherent programmes for the prevention**, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis, a condition that predominantly affects women;

108 (n) **Reduce environmental hazards that pose a growing threat to health, especially in poor regions and communities; apply a precautionary approach, as agreed to in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 17/ and include reporting on women's health risks related to the environment in monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21;

109. By Governments, international bodies including relevant United Nations organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors and

non-governmental organizations:

109 (a) Ensure the involvement of women, especially those infected with HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases or affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, in all decision-making relating to the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases;

109 (b) Review and amend laws and combat practices, as appropriate, that may contribute to women's susceptibility to HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases, including enacting legislation against those socio-cultural practices that contribute to it, and implement legislation, policies and practices to protect women, adolescents and young girls from discrimination related to HIV/AIDS;

109(j) Assist women and their formal and informal organizations to establish and expand effective peer education and outreach programmes and to participate **in the design, implementation and monitoring of these programmes;**

111(d) Develop goals and time-frames, where appropriate, for improving women's health and for planning, **implementing, monitoring and evaluating programmes, based on gender-impact assessments using qualitative and quantitative data disaggregated by sex, age, other established demographic criteria and socio-economic variables;**

111 (e) Establish, as appropriate, ministerial and interministerial mechanisms for monitoring **the implementation of women's health policy and programme reforms and establish, as appropriate, high-level focal points in national planning authorities responsible for monitoring to ensure that women's health concerns are mainstreamed in all relevant government agencies and programmes.**

112 (c) Give higher priority to women's health and develop mechanisms for coordinating and **implementing the health objectives of the Platform for Action and relevant international agreements to ensure progress.**

123. The effective suppression of trafficking in women and girls for the sex trade is a matter of pressing international concern. **Implementation of the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 18/ as well as other relevant instruments, needs to be reviewed and strengthened.** The use of women in international prostitution and trafficking networks has become a major focus of international organized crime. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, who has explored these acts as an additional cause of the violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, is invited to address, within her mandate and as a matter of urgency, the issue of international trafficking for the purposes of the sex trade, as well as the issues of forced prostitution, rape, sexual abuse and sex tourism. Women and girls who are victims of this international trade are at an increased risk of further violence, as well as unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection, including infection with HIV/AIDS.

125 (d) **Adopt and/or implement and periodically review and analyse legislation to ensure its effectiveness in eliminating violence against women, emphasizing the prevention of violence and the prosecution of offenders; take measures to**

**ensure the protection of women subjected to violence, access to just and effective remedies, including compensation and indemnification and healing of victims, and rehabilitation of perpetrators;**

**125 (e) Work actively to ratify and/or implement international human rights norms and instruments as they relate to violence against women, including those contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 19/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 12/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 12/ and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; 20/**

**125 (f) Implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, taking into account general recommendation 19 adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, at its eleventh session; 21/**

**125 (g) Promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes related to violence against women and actively encourage, support and implement measures and programmes aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of the causes, consequences and mechanisms of violence against women among those responsible for implementing these policies, such as law enforcement officers, police personnel and judicial, medical and social workers, as well as those who deal with minority, migration and refugee issues, and develop strategies to ensure that the revictimization of women victims of violence does not occur because of gender-insensitive laws or judicial or enforcement practices;**

**125 (j) Formulate and implement, at all appropriate levels, plans of action to eliminate violence against women;**

**125 (p) Allocate adequate resources within the government budget and mobilize community resources for activities related to the elimination of violence against women, including resources for the implementation of plans of action at all appropriate levels;**

125 (q) Include in reports submitted in accordance with the provisions of relevant United Nations human rights instruments, information pertaining to violence against women and measures taken to **implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;**

129 Encourage the dissemination and implementation of the UNHCR Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women and the UNHCR Guidelines on the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence against Refugees.

130 (a) Promote research, collect data and compile statistics, especially concerning domestic violence relating to the prevalence of different forms of violence against women and encourage research into the causes, nature, seriousness and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of measures implemented to prevent and redress violence against women;

**135. In a world of continuing instability and violence, the implementation of cooperative approaches to peace and security is urgently needed.** The equal access and full participation of women in power structures and their full involvement in all efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts are essential for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Although women have begun to play an important role in conflict resolution, peace-keeping and defence and foreign affairs mechanisms, they are still underrepresented in decision-making positions. If women are to play an equal part in securing and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically and represented adequately at all levels of decision-making.

148 (b) In reviewing the **implementation of the plan of action for the**

**United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), take into account the results of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for**

## **Equality, Development and Peace;**

149. By Governments, intergovernmental and non- governmental organizations and other institutions involved in providing protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme, as appropriate:

**(a) Take steps to ensure that women are fully involved in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all short-term and long-term projects and programmes providing assistance to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women, including the management of refugee camps and resources; ensure that refugee and displaced women and girls have direct access to the services provided;**

150. By Governments: **(a) Disseminate and implement the UNHCR Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women and the UNHCR Guidelines on Evaluation and Care of Victims of Trauma and Violence, or provide similar guidance, in close cooperation with refugee women and in all sectors of refugee programmes;**

151. By Governments, intergovernmental and non- governmental organizations:

**151 (a) Support and promote the implementation of the right of self-determination of all peoples as enunciated, inter alia, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by providing special programmes in leadership and in training for decision- making;**

**151 (b) Support and promote the implementation of the right of self-determination of all peoples as enunciated, inter alia, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by providing special programmes in leadership and in training for decision- making.**

167. By Governments: **(a) Enact and enforce legislation to guarantee the rights of women and men to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;**

**(b) Adopt and implement laws against discrimination based on sex in the labour market, especially considering older women workers, hiring and promotion, the extension of employment benefits and social security, and working conditions;**

167 (k) Revise and implement national policies that support the traditional savings, credit and lending mechanisms for women;

168 (h) Review, reformulate, if necessary, and **implement policies, including business, commercial and contract law and government regulations, to ensure that they do not discriminate against micro, small and medium-scale enterprises owned by women in rural and urban areas;**

168 (i) Analyse, advise on, coordinate and implement policies that integrate the needs and interests of employed, self-employed and entrepreneurial women into sectoral and inter-ministerial policies, programmes and budgets;

168 (l) Safeguard and promote respect for basic workers' rights, including the prohibition of forced labour and child labour, freedom of association and the right to organize and bargain collectively, equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value and non-discrimination in employment, fully implementing the conventions of the International Labour Organization in the case of States party to those conventions and, taking into account the principles embodied in the case of those countries that are not party to those conventions in order to achieve truly sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

169 (d) Ensure that women's priorities are included in public investment programmes for economic infrastructure, such as water and sanitation, electrification and energy

conservation, transport and road construction. Promote greater involvement of women beneficiaries at the project planning and implementation stages to ensure access to jobs and contracts.

171. By multilateral funders and regional development banks, as well as bilateral and private funding agencies, at the international, regional and subregional levels:

**171 (a) Review, where necessary reformulate, and implement policies, programmes and projects, to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women in rural and remote areas;**

180. By Governments, employers, employees, trade unions and women's organizations:

(a) Implement and enforce laws and regulations and encourage voluntary codes of conduct that ensure that international labour standards, such as International Labour Organization Convention 100 on equal pay and workers' rights, apply equally to female and male workers;

**180 (b) Enact and enforce laws and introduce implementing measures, including means of redress and access to justice in cases of non-compliance, to prohibit direct and indirect discrimination on grounds of sex, including by reference to marital or family status in relation to access to employment, conditions of employment, including training, promotion, health and safety, as well as termination of employment and social security of workers, including legal protection against sexual and racial harassment;**

180 (f) Implement and monitor positive public and private-sector employment, equity and positive action programmes to address systemic discrimination against women in the labour force, in particular women with disabilities and women belonging to other disadvantaged groups, with respect to hiring, retention and promotion, and vocational training of women in all sectors;



180 (k) Increase efforts to close the gap between women's and men's pay, take steps **to implement the principle of equal remuneration for equal work of equal value by strengthening legislation, including compliance with international labour laws and standards, and encourage job evaluation schemes with gender-neutral criteria;**

180 (m) Set specific target dates for eliminating all forms of child labour that are contrary to accepted international standards and **ensure the full enforcement of relevant existing laws and, where appropriate, enact the legislation necessary to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and International Labour Organization standards,** ensuring the protection of working children, in particular, street children, through the provision of appropriate health, education and other social services;

189. The equitable distribution of power and decision-making at all levels is dependent on Governments and other actors undertaking statistical gender analysis and mainstreaming a gender perspective in policy development and the implementation of programmes. Equality in decision-making is essential to the empowerment of women. In some countries, affirmative action has led to 33.3 per cent or larger representation in local and national Governments.

192. (a) Commit themselves to establishing the goal of gender balance in governmental bodies and committees, as well as in public administrative entities, and in the judiciary, including, inter alia, setting specific targets **and implementing measures to substantially increase the number of women with a view to achieving equal representation of women and men,** if necessary through positive action, in all governmental and public administration positions;

195. By the United Nations:

**(a) Implement existing and adopt new employment policies and measures in order to achieve overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by the year 2000,** with due regard to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

198. National machineries for the advancement of women have been established in almost every Member State to, inter alia, design, **promote the implementation of, execute, monitor, evaluate, advocate and mobilize support for policies that promote the advancement of women.** National machineries are diverse in form and uneven in their effectiveness, and in some cases have declined. Often marginalized in national government structures, these mechanisms are frequently hampered by unclear mandates, lack of adequate staff, training, data and sufficient resources, and insufficient support from national political leadership.

203. A national machinery for the advancement of women is the central policy-coordinating unit inside government. Its main task is to support government-wide mainstreaming of a gender-equality perspective in all policy areas. The necessary conditions for an effective functioning of such national machineries include:

203 (a) Location at the highest possible level in the government, falling under the responsibility of a Cabinet minister;

and monitoring with a view to involving non-governmental organizations and community organizations from the grass-roots upwards;

(b) Based on a strong political commitment, create a national machinery, where it does not exist, and strengthen, as appropriate, existing national machineries, for the advancement of women at the highest possible level of government; it should have clearly defined mandates and authority; critical elements would be adequate resources and the ability and competence to influence policy and formulate and review legislation. Among other things, it should perform policy analysis, undertake advocacy, communication, coordination and monitoring of implementation;

206(e) Report, on a regular basis, to legislative bodies on the progress of efforts, as appropriate, to mainstream gender concerns, taking into account the implementation of the Platform for Action;

207 (b) Regularly review national policies, programmes and projects, as well as their implementation, evaluating the impact of employment and income policies in order to guarantee that women are direct beneficiaries of development and that their full contribution to development, both remunerated and unremunerated, is considered in economic policy and planning;

207 (e) Give all ministries the mandate to review policies and programmes from a gender perspective and in the light of the Platform for Action. Locate the responsibility for the implementation of that mandate at the highest possible level. Establish and/or strengthen an inter-ministerial coordination structure to carry out this mandate and monitor progress and to network with relevant machineries.

208. (a) Facilitate the formulation and implementation of government policies on equality between women and men, develop appropriate strategies and methodologies, and promote coordination and cooperation within the central government in order to ensure mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all policy-making processes;

209 (b) Collect, compile, analyse and present on a regular basis data dis-aggregated by age, sex, socioeconomic and other relevant indicators, including number of dependents, for utilization in policy and programme planning and implementation and to reflect problems and questions related to men and women in society;

209 (c) Involve centres for women's studies and research organizations in developing and testing appropriate indicators and research methodologies to strengthen gender analysis, as well as in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the goals of the Platform for Action;

210 (d) Use more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects.

218. In order to protect the human rights of women, it is necessary to avoid, as far as possible, resorting to reservations and to ensure that no reservation is incompatible

with the object and purpose of the Convention or is otherwise incompatible with international treaty law. Unless the human rights of women, as defined by international human rights instruments, are fully recognized and effectively protected, applied, implemented and enforced in national law as well as in national practice in family, civil, penal, labour and commercial codes and administrative rules and regulations, they will exist in name only.

219. In those countries that have not yet become parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments, or where reservations that are incompatible with the object or purpose of the Convention have been entered, or where national laws have not yet been revised to implement international norms and standards, women's de jure equality is not yet secured. Women's full enjoyment of equal rights is undermined by the discrepancies between some national legislation and international law and international instruments on human rights. Overly complex administrative procedures, lack of awareness within the judicial process and inadequate monitoring of the violation of the human rights of all women, coupled with the underrepresentation of women in justice systems, insufficient information on existing rights and persistent attitudes and practices perpetuate women's de facto inequality. De facto inequality is also perpetuated by the lack of enforcement of, inter alia, family, civil, penal, labour and commercial laws or codes, or administrative rules and regulations intended to ensure women's full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Strategic objective I.1. Promote and protect the human rights of women, through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

230. (a) Work actively towards ratification or accession to and implement international and regional human rights treaties;

230 (b) Ratify and accede to and ensure implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women so that universal ratification of the Convention can be achieved by the year 2000;

230 (h) If they are States parties, implement the Convention by reviewing all national laws, policies, practices and procedures to ensure that they meet the obligations set out in the Convention; all States should undertake a review of all national laws, policies, practices and procedures to ensure that they meet international human rights obligations in this matter;

230 (j) Report on schedule to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding the implementation of the Convention, following fully the guidelines established by the Committee and involving non-governmental organizations, where appropriate, or taking into account their contributions in the preparation of the report;

230 (m) Take urgent measures to achieve universal ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child before the end of 1995 and ensure full implementation of the Convention to ensure equal rights for girls and boys, and urge those that have not already done so to become a party in order to realize universal implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the year 2000;

230 (o) Strengthen the implementation of all relevant human rights instruments in order to combat and eliminate, including through international cooperation, organized and other forms of trafficking in women and children, including for the purposes of sexual exploitation, pornography, prostitution and sex tourism, and provide legal and social services to the victims. This should include provisions for international cooperation to prosecute and punish those responsible for organized exploitation of women and children;

231 (b) Ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights for the full integration and mainstreaming of the human rights of women;

231 (c) Develop a comprehensive policy programme for mainstreaming the human

rights of women throughout the United Nations system, including activities with regard to advisory services, technical assistance, reporting methodology, gender impact assessments, coordination, public information and human rights education, and play an active role in the implementation of the programme;

231(d) Review national laws, including customary laws and legal practices in the areas of family, civil, penal, labour and commercial law in order to ensure the implementation of the principles and procedures of all relevant international human rights instruments by means of national legislation, and revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex and remove gender bias in the administration of justice;

232(p) Strengthen and encourage the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, paying special attention to ensure non-discrimination and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls with disabilities, including their access to information and services in the field of violence against women, as well as their active participation in and economic contribution to all aspects of society;

233 (f) Encourage, coordinate and cooperate with local and regional women's groups, relevant non-governmental organizations, educators and the media, to implement programmes in human rights education to make women aware of their human rights;

243 (a) Promote research and implementation of a strategy of information, education and communication aimed at promoting a balanced portrayal of women and girls and their multiple roles;

253 (a) Ensure opportunities for women, including indigenous women, to participate in environmental decision-making at all levels, including as managers, designers and planners, and as implementers and evaluators of environmental projects;

243 (e) Take measures to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of, among other things, environmentally sound and sustainable resource management mechanisms, production techniques and infrastructure development in rural and urban areas;

254 (d) Establish strategies and mechanisms to increase the proportion of women, particularly at grass-roots levels, involved as decision makers, planners, managers, scientists and technical advisers and as beneficiaries in the design, development and implementation of policies and programmes for natural resource management and environmental protection and conservation;

254 (i) Develop programmes to involve female professionals and scientists, as well as technical, administrative and clerical workers, in environmental management, develop training programmes for girls and women in these fields, expand opportunities for the hiring and promotion of women in these fields and implement special measures to advance women's expertise and participation in these activities;

256 (i) Develop programmes to involve female professionals and scientists, as well as technical, administrative and clerical workers, in environmental management, develop training programmes for girls and women in these fields, expand opportunities for the hiring and promotion of women in these fields and implement special measures to advance women's expertise and participation in these activities;

256 (l) Ensure that clean water is available and accessible to all by the year 2000 and that environmental protection and conservation plans are designed and implemented to restore polluted water systems and rebuild damaged watersheds.

259 (d) Promote coordination within and among institutions to implement the Platform for Action and chapter 24 of Agenda 21 by, inter alia, requesting the Commission on Sustainable Development, through the Economic and Social Council, to seek input from the Commission on the Status of Women when reviewing the

implementation of Agenda 21 with regard to women and the environment.

274(a) By States that have not signed or ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, take urgent measures towards signing and ratifying the Convention, bearing in mind the strong exhortation made at the World Conference on Human Rights to sign it before the end of 1995, and by States that have signed and ratified the Convention, ensure its full implementation through the adoption of all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures and by fostering an enabling environment that encourages full respect for the rights of children;

274 (f) Develop and implement comprehensive policies, plans of action and programmes for the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child to promote and protect the full enjoyment of her human rights and to ensure equal opportunities for girls; these plans should form an integral part of the total development process;

274 (g) Ensure the disaggregation by sex and age of all data related to children in the health, education and other sectors in order to include a gender perspective in planning, implementation and monitoring of such programmes.

278 (a) Generate awareness of the disadvantaged situation of girls among policy makers, planners, administrators and implementors at all levels, as well as within households and communities;

**286. The Platform for Action establishes a set of actions that should lead to fundamental change. Immediate action and accountability are essential if the targets are to be met by the year 2000. Implementation is primarily the responsibility of Governments, but is also dependent on a wide range of institutions in the public, private and non- governmental sectors at the community, national, subregional/regional**



**286. The Platform for Action establishes a set of actions that should lead to fundamental change. Immediate action and accountability are essential if the targets are to be met by the year 2000. Implementation is primarily the responsibility of Governments, but is also dependent on a wide range of institutions in the public, private and non- governmental sectors at the community, national, sub-regional/regional STRONGLY AGREE 1 2 3 4 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE)**

288. Implementation of the Platform for Action by national, subregional/regional and international institutions, both public and private, would be facilitated by transparency, by increased linkages between networks and organizations and by a consistent flow of information among all concerned. Clear objectives and accountability mechanisms are also required. Links with other institutions at the national, sub-regional,/regional and international levels and with networks and organizations devoted to the advancement of women are needed. **STRONGLY AGREE 1 2 3 4 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE)**

289. Non-governmental and grass-roots organizations have a specific role to play in creating a social, economic, political and intellectual climate based on equality between women and men. Women should be for Action. in the internal dynamics of institutions and organizations, including values, behaviour, rules and procedures that are inimical to the advancement of women. Sexual harassment should be eliminated. should have strong and clear mandates and the authority, resources and for Action. Their methods of operation should ensure efficient and effective implementation of the Platform. There should be a clearwomen and men as a basis for all actions. **STRONGLY AGREE 1 2 3 4 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE)**

292. To ensure effective implementation of the Platform for Action and to enhance the work for the advancement of women at the national, subregional/ regional and international levels, Governments, the United Nations system and all other relevant organizations should promote an inter alia, in the monitoring and evaluation of all policies **STRONGLY AGREE 1 2 3 4 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE)**

293. Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action. Commitment at the highest political level is advancement of women. The Fourth World Conference on Women is a requires commitment from Governments

and the international community. The Platform for Action is part of a continuing process and has a catalytic effect as it will contribute to programmes and practical outcomes for girls and women of all ages. States and the international commitments for action. As part of this process, many States have made commitments for action as reflected, inter alia, in their national

294. National mechanisms and institutions for the advancement of women should participate in public policy formulation and encourage the implementation of the Platform for Action through various bodies and institutions, including the private sector, and, where necessary, should act as a catalyst in developing new programmes by the year 2000 in areas that are not covered by existing institutions.

297. As soon as possible, preferably by the end of 1995, Governments, in consultation with relevant institutions and non-governmental

organizations, should begin to develop implementation strategies for the Platform and, preferably by the end of 1996, should have developed their strategies or plans of action. This planning process should draw upon persons at the highest level of authority in Government and relevant comprehensive, have time-bound targets and benchmarks for monitoring, and include proposals for allocating or reallocating resources for community could be enlisted, including resources.

**300 B.** Sub-regional/regional level sub-regional/ regional structures should promote and assist the pertinent national institutions in monitoring and implementing the global Platform for Action within their mandates. This should be done in coordination with the implementation of the respective regional platforms or plans of Women, taking into account the need for a coordinated follow-up to

related fields.

301. In order to facilitate the regional implementation, monitoring and commissions within their mandates, including their women's units/focal Consideration should be given, inter alia, and, where appropriate, to strengthening capacity in this respect.

302. Within their existing mandates and activities, the regional commissions should mainstream women's issues and gender perspectives and should also consider the establishment of mechanisms and processes to ensure the implementation and monitoring of both the Platform for Action commissions should, within their mandates, collaborate on gender issues organizations, financial and research

institutions and the private sector.

303. Regional offices of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system should, as appropriate, develop and publicize a plan of action for implementing the Platform for Action, including the identification of time-frames and resources. Technical assistance and operational targets for the advancement of women. To this end, regular coordination should be undertaken among United Nations bodies and agencies.

305. The Platform for Action needs to be implemented through the work of all of the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system during the period 1995-2000, specifically and as an integral part of wider programming. An enhanced framework for international cooperation for gender issues must be developed during the period 1995-2000 in order to ensure the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the Platform for Action, taking into account the results of global United Nations summits and conferences. The fact that at all of these summits and conferences, Governments have committed themselves to the empowerment of women in different areas, makes coordination crucial to the follow-up strategies for this Platform for Action. The Agenda for Development and the Agenda for Peace should take into account

313. The General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental body in the United Nations, is the principal policy-making and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up to the Conference, and as such, should integrate gender issues throughout its work. It should appraise progress in the effective implementation of the Platform for Action, recognizing that these issues cut across social, political and economic policy. At its fiftieth session, in 1995, the General Assembly will have before it the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women. In accordance with its resolution 49/161, it will also examine a report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Conference, taking into account the recommendations of the Conference. The General Assembly should include the follow-up to the Conference as part of its continuing work on the advancement of women. In 1996, 1998 and 2000, it should review the implementation of the Platform for Action. Economic and Social Council

314. The Economic and Social Council, in the context of its role under Assembly resolutions 45/264, 46/235 and 48/162, would oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Platform for Action, giving due consideration to the reports of the Commission on the Status of Women, taking into account the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women, taking into account the Commission's and Conference follow-up. The Council should incorporate consideration to recommendations prepared by the Commission. It should consider dedicating at least one high-level segment before the year 2000 to the advancement

of women and implementation of the Platform for Action with the active involvement and participation, inter alia, of the specialized agencies, including the World Bank and IMF.

316. The Council should consider dedicating at least one operational activities segment before the year 2000 to the coordination of development activities related to gender, based on the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, with a view to instituting guidelines and procedures for implementation of the Platform for Action by the funds and programmes of the United Nations system.

**From a content analysis of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform of Action**

**Compiled by the Global Compliance Project, and presented at a public meeting as a 12 foot scroll of expectations about implementation of the Platform of Action**

**Contact: Dr. Joan E. Russow**

**1230 St. Patrick St. Victoria, B.C. CANADA**

**Tel/FAX (604) 598-0071; e-mail [jrussow@uvaix.uvic.ca](mailto:jrussow@uvaix.uvic.ca)**

...

**POST- 50**

**1996 GLOBAL COMPLIANCE RESOLUTION**

We prepared the following draft resolution for the “We the Peoples Conference: the Role of Civil Society in the History and Future of the United Nations”. This resolution called upon states, at the June 26, 1995 UN Affirmation Ceremony, to pledge to discharge fifty years of obligations.

This resolution was adopted by the plenary at the Conference, and the assembly agreed that the resolution should be passed on to Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali who subsequently addressed the plenary. We recently received a letter of support from Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali:

Thank you for sharing with me the “Global Compliance Resolution” whose spirit reaffirms the commitment of people the world over to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (*signed, Boutros Boutros-Ghali July 5, 1995*)

Since then on September 13, a version of the Global Compliance resolution was officially distributed to all delegations of the member states at the United Nations at the United Nations Conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace. The Global Compliance resolution was distributed again to all delegations of the member states of the United Nations on September 15, on the final day of the conference.

A proposed resolution for October 24 was sent to all the UN 50th Anniversary representatives. A response was received from Dr. Sohreh Tabatabai, the Coordinator, Fiftieth Anniversary Secretariat:

I regret that it is not possible for us to arrange for presentation of the Global compliance Resolution to the General Assembly. As resolutions may be introduced only by Member States ...

You may be interested to learn that the special commemorative session of the General Assembly planned for 22-24 October is expected to endorse a Declaration rededicating Member States to achieving the goals of the United Nations Charter.

**STATES HAVE CONTINUALLY BEEN PREPARED TO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, NOT PREPARED TO DISCHARGE 50 YEARS OF OBLIGATIONS. THE GLOBAL COMPLIANCE RESOLUTION CALLS UPON STATES TO DISCHARGE 50 YEARS OF OBLIGATIONS WHICH IF FULFILLED WOULD DEMONSTRATE THEIR DEDICATION TO ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.**

**THE GLOBAL COMPLIANCE PROJECT CHALLENGES A STATE TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION TO COMPLEMENT THE DECLARATION OF REDEDICATION TO THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS.**

## **51/1 Proclamation of the International Year of Global Compliance**

### **The General Assembly**

*Whereas* the General Assembly has decided unanimously to proclaim solemnly, on the Fifty-first Anniversary of the United Nations, the International Year of Global Compliance on the 24 October 1996,

*Whereas* for fifty-one years, since the formation of the United Nations, member states of the United Nations have undertaken in UN system governing bodies obligations reflected in Charters, Covenants, Conventions, Declarations and Resolutions,

*Whereas*, if these fifty-one years of obligations had been honored and acted upon, respect for human rights could have been guaranteed, preservation and protection of the environment could have been ensured, threats to peace prevented and removed, disarmament achieved, and socially equitable and environmentally sound development could have been enabled,

*Whereas* fulfillment of the purpose of the United Nations would require the discharging of the fifty-one years of obligations related to guaranteeing respect for human rights, preserving and protecting the environment, promoting peace, and ensuring socially equitable and environmentally sound development;

*Whereas*, the freeing up of money through the peace dividend would assist in the discharging of these obligations,

*Whereas* the Fifty-first Anniversary of the United Nations provides a unique opportunity to reaffirm the support for and commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and to undertake to discharge previous obligations undertaken through Charters, Covenants, Conventions, Declarations and Resolutions,

**Now, therefore,**

The General Assembly, and its member states

Solemnly proclaim October 1995 the International Day of Global Compliance

and solemnly pledge to do the following:

- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and international law can be maintained;
- to fulfill fifty years of obligations undertaken through Conventions, Treaties, Declarations and Resolutions made in the UN system;
- to sign and ratify what they have not yet signed and ratified, and to enact the necessary legislation to ensure the discharging of these obligations;
- to fulfill additional obligations undertaken through globally adopted UN Conference action plans, and programs of action.

*50th plenary meeting 24, October, 1996*

CONCURRING with the Jakarta Declaration that the world today is still far from being a peaceful, just and secure place. Simmering disputes, violent conflicts, aggression and foreign occupation, interference in the internal affairs of states, policies of hegemony and domination, ethnic strife, religious intolerance, new forms of racism and narrowly conceived nationalism are major and dangerous obstacles to harmonious co-existence among states and peoples and have even led to the disintegration of states and societies;

CONCURRING with UNCED that Humanity stands at a defining moment in history, we are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystem on which we depend for our well being (Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992);

CONCURRING with the international Conference on Population and Development that “around the world many of the basic resources on which future generations will depend for their survival and well-being are being depleted and environmental degradation is intensifying, driven by unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, unprecedented growth in population, widespread and persistent poverty,

and social and economic inequality”. (Preamble, 1.2 1994 , International Conference on Population and Development);

CONCURRING with the International Conference on Population and Development that Women who have unwanted pregnancies *should shall* have ready access to reliable information and compassionate counseling. any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process. In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases, women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. Post-abortion counseling, education and family-planning services should be offered promptly, which will also help to avoid repeat abortions. (8.25, International Conference on Population and Development, 1994);

MINDFUL that while distinct cultural traditions contribute to the wealth of global diversity, no cultural practices that are in violation of fundamental human rights shall be tolerated by the global civil society;

APPRECIATING the right of specific religious practices; practices that violate fundamental human rights shall not be condoned. Such practices such as genital mutilation shall be immediately globally condemned;

WELCOMING the commitment in the Platform of Action (1995) to take special measures to ensure women’s equal access to and full participation in the decision making process, and to promote the full and equal participation of women in power structures and decision making at all levels and at all areas, including international;

AFFIRMING the equal access to and full participation of women in the decision making of international affairs within the United Nations, women call upon the member states of the United Nations to fulfill 50 years of obligations by signing what they have not signed, by ratifying what they have not ratified, by enacting legislation to ensure compliance and by implementing the necessary measures for discharging these obligations. In addition women in Beijing called upon states to undertake new commitment that might be necessary for the discharging of these obligations and for the creation of a world of peace, where the fulfillment of basic needs and human rights to food, shelter, education, health and safety are guaranteed as inalienable and fundamental rights. Women also call for a redefinition of development based on equitable and ecological principles;



REAFFIRMING the recognition of the equal rights of men and women (Charter, United Nations, 1945);

REAFFIRMING the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world (Preamble, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948);

REAFFIRMING that the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom (Preamble, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948);

REAFFIRMING that Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, tribe, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, **sexual orientation, family structure**, or other status. (Art. 2, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948), CLARIFYING that the term “other status” is an open term which includes forms of discrimination that are now prevalent such as that on the grounds of “sexual orientation” and “family structure”, and that in the future the term “other status” will include future unanticipated forms of discrimination.

CONVINCED that sovereign rights shall not be used to justify the continuation of a practice that is in violation of human rights, is ecologically destructive, contributes to violence, conflict and war, or increases the threat to peace;

REAFFIRMING the Convention on the Rights of the child that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world:

REAFFIRMING that [the provision] [Provide] of access to safe and healthy shelter is essential to a person's physical, psychological, social and economic well-being and should **shall** be a fundamental part of national and international action. The right to adequate housing as a basic human right is enshrined in the Universal Declaration

of Human rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (7.6, Settlement, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992)

REAFFIRMING that every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain their physical and mental faculties. Society today already possess sufficient resources, organizational ability and technology and hence the competence to achieve this objective. Accordingly, the eradication of hunger is a common objective of all the countries of the international community, especially of the developed countries and others in a position to help. (Art. 1. Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, 1974) **The need for society to properly channel its resources in ways that will eradicate hunger rather than exacerbate it.**

PROCLAIMING that It is a fundamental responsibility of Governments to work together for higher food production and a more equitable and efficient distribution of food between countries and within countries. Governments should **shall** initiate immediately a greater concerted attack on chronic malnutrition and deficiency diseases among the vulnerable and lower income groups. In order to ensure adequate nutrition for all, Governments *should formulate appropriate* [**shall ensure**] food and nutrition policies [**are**] integrated in overall socio-economic and agricultural development plans based on adequate knowledge of available as well as potential food resources (Sect. 2, Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, 1974)

REAFFIRMING that The States parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance (Art. 9., International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966)

REAFFIRMING that The States... recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living. for himself [**herself**] and his [**her**] family, including adequate food, clothing and housing and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. the states parties will take [appropriate~] steps to ensure the realization of this right recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent (Art.11.1, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966)

MINDFUL that while distinct cultural traditions contribute to the wealth of global diversity, no cultural or religious practices that are in violation of fundamental human

rights shall be tolerated by the global civil society;

CONCURRING that indigenous and tribal peoples shall enjoy the full measure of human rights and fundamental freedoms without hindrance or discrimination. the provisions of the Convention shall be applied without discrimination to male and female members of these peoples. (Art. 3 Convention (no. 169) concerning indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent countries);

MINDFUL that since the first United Nations Conference on the Environment in Stockholm in 1972 we have come to realize that the threats to the biosphere which sustains all life on this planet have increased in rate, magnitude and scale beyond expectation; inaction is negligent; the international community has enough information about the pending state of ecological irreversibility that it must act immediately;

Mindful of the spirit, principles, aims and functions of the World Charter for Nature adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-seventh session as a rule of ethics in respect of the human environment and the conservation of natural resources, (Preamble, Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 1992);

CONCURRING that every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to man [Humanity], and to accord other organisms such recognition's, man [humans] must be guided by a moral code of action ( $\infty$  World Charter of nature, 1982)

RECOGNIZING That Humankind is a part of nature and life depends on the uninterrupted functioning of natural systems which ensure the supply of energy and nutrients (World Charter of Nature, 1992);

COMMITTED to the invoking of the precautionary principle, as enunciated in the Biodiversity Convention:

where there is a threat of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty *should shall* not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat (from the Biodiversity Convention, 1992);

COMPLYING with the non-transference principle from the Rio Declaration

States should **shall** effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health (Principle 14 Rio Declaration, 1992);

CONCURRING with the assessment in recent international instruments that significant responsibility for the current urgency of the global situation lies in a current model of development which contributes to the increase of conflict, to the escalation of war, to the violation of human rights, to the destruction of the environment and to the denial of equality and equity;

CONCURRING that the current model of development reflects the unbridled power and practices of transnationals which have contributed to the increase of conflict, to the escalation of war, to the violation of human rights, to the degradation of the environment, and to exploitative development;

CONVINCED that the charters of all the transnationals that have contributed to conflict, to the escalation of war, to the violation of human rights and to the degradation of the environment shall be revoked. In addition full compensation shall be sought from the transnationals and funds shall be transferred into assisting the member states of the United Nations to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights, to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, to create a global structure that respects the rule of law, to achieve a state of peace, justice and security, and to participate in socially equitable/equal and environmentally sound development;

RECOGNIZING the need to Enact legislation to allow conscientious objectors to redirect the military portion of the state budget to peaceful purposes (Conscience Canada, Peace tax Campaign, War Resisters International);

REAFFIRMING the urgent need to reinforce the endeavours of all States and international action in the area of the reduction of military budgets, with a view to reaching international agreements to freeze, reduce or otherwise restrain military expenditures (A. 1 Resolution 36/82 1981, Reduction of Military Budgets. 1981);

MINDFUL that as agreed in 1972 at Stockholm weapons of mass destruction must be

eliminated, and that as recognized through numerous UN General Assembly Resolutions, the military budget must be frozen at 1981 levels (as decided in 1981 through General Assembly resolutions), and that the largest proportion of the military budget shall be used to achieve and maintain peace, to restore degraded ecosystems and to provide restitution to those having been impacted by war;

RECALLING the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, which provides that during this period renewed efforts should be made to reach agreement on the reduction of military expenditures and the reallocation of resources thus saved to economic and social development, especially for the benefit of developing countries, (Preamble, UN Resolution 36/82 1981, Reduction of Military Budgets);

COMMITTED to establishing a time-table for phasing out fossil fuel and nuclear energy and for the rapid development of solar and other forms of non-polluting energy, and for more efficient energy use; (Nobel Laureate , UNCED, 1992);

RECOGNIZING that outstanding obstacles and systemic constraints have prevented the establishment of the international political will necessary to discharge previous obligations and to undertake new commitments, and that many of these obstacles and systemic constraints arise from the current economic model of development;

CONVINCED that in 1996, on the first post-50 anniversary of the United Nations, the member states of the United Nations must ensure that the previous 50 years of obligations are fully discharged, and be willing to make additional commitments which might be necessary to finally bring about fulfillment of the ideals of the United Nations — a world free from the scourge of war, a world of equality for all humanity and a world worthy of passing on to future generations;

**We, the state members of the United Nations pledge that we will, in 1996, on October 24th on the first post-50th Anniversary of the United Nations**

**move into the next stage of the United Nations: the stage of compliance, implementation and enforcement in which we fulfill the original objectives of the United Nations and establish a civil community of global compliance, equality, peace and justice.**

- **We will sign what we have not yet signed,**
- **We will ratify what we have not yet ratify,**
- **We will enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance, and**
- **We will enforce and monitor the enforcement of our international obligations.**

STATE:

CONTACT PERSON

ADDRESS

Please send to the Secretary General of the United Nations, and a copy to the Global Compliance Project

Contact: Dr. Joan E. Russow

Co-ordinator, Global Compliance Research Project

1230 St. Patrick Street, Victoria, B.C. CANADA V8S 4Y4

**PROCLAMATION FOR TRANSLATING WORDS OF RHETORIC TO  
ACTION OF COMPLIANCE, IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT:  
COVENANT OF IMPLEMENTATION.**

The Global Compliance Research Project prepared the *Charter of Obligations*— a 350 page compilation of 50 years of obligations incurred internationally in the area of human rights, peace, environment and social justice. This Charter was approved for official distribution as a research document and circulated to every state delegation at the Fourth UN conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Since Beijing we have done a content analysis of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform of Action and we are linking the Charter of Obligations with what we have referred to as the “Covenant of Implementation”—84 x 8 inch covenant of 10 point single-spaced references to statements related to the need for implementation. The

statements in the Charter and the Covenant have been linked with concerns expressed by the Women Participating in the NGO Forum for the purpose of determining which issues could be accommodated within existing obligations. This analysis could assist in planning for lobbying activities by delineating which issues have been covered by previous instruments and thus require implementation and which issues need to be accommodated in future international instruments. 50 years of obligations exist, what is needed is to determine what would constitute compliance, implementation and enforcement of these obligations.

## **GLOBAL COMPLIANCE RESEARCH PROJECT**

The Global Compliance Research Project is a project linking over 60 states. For the Beijing Conference . The Global Compliance Research Project prepared the *Charter of Obligations*— a 350 page compilation of 50 years of obligations incurred internationally in the area of human rights, peace, environment and social justice. This Charter was approved for official distribution as a research document and circulated to every state delegation at the Fourth UN conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Every year until the states agree the Global Compliance Research Project will lobby states to endorse the Global Compliance Resolution which call upon states to sign what they have not yet signed, ratified what they have not ratified, enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance, and to undertake to enforce accrued obligations. Also the Global Compliance Research Project will update the Charter of Obligations and circulate the Charter to members of the Global Compliance Research Project. Furthermore, the Global Compliance Research Project has developed an educational program called “principle-based” education which If you would like to be a member of the Global Compliance Research project or if you would like a copy of the Charter of Obligations. Please fill out and return the following form:

I would like to be a member of the Global Compliance Research Project

If you would like to be a member of the Global Compliance Research Project please send

information about your interests and issues

I would like to have a copy of the Charter of Obligations that was circulated in Beijing (\$25 including postage)

I would like to have a copy of the next version of the 1996 Charter of Obligations

(\$30 including postage)

I would like to submit information on issues related to the implementation of international obligations for possible inclusion in the next Charter of Obligations

I would like to lobby my government to introduce the Global Compliance Resolution on the Floor of the General Assembly for October 24, 1996 "Year of Global Compliance"

## **B. ADDRESSING MILITARISM**

**13. Excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures and arms trade or trafficking, and investments for arms production and acquisition have reduced the resources available for social development. As a result of the debt burden and other economic difficulties,** many developing countries have undertaken structural adjustment policies. Moreover, there are structural adjustment programmes that have been poorly designed and implemented, with resulting detrimental effects on social development. The number of people living in poverty has increased disproportionately in most developing countries, particularly the heavily indebted countries, during the past decade.

16. Widespread economic recession, as well as political instability in some regions, has been responsible for setting back development goals in many countries. This has led to the expansion of unspeakable poverty. Of the more than 1 billion people living in abject poverty, women are an overwhelming majority. The rapid process of change and adjustment in all sectors has also led to increased unemployment and underemployment, with particular impact on women. In many cases, structural adjustment programmes have not been designed to minimize their negative effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups or on women, nor have they been designed to assure positive effects on those groups by preventing their marginalization in economic and social activities. The Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations<sup>10/</sup> underscored the increasing interdependence of national economies, as well as the importance of trade liberalization and access to open, dynamic markets. There has also been heavy military spending in some regions. Despite increases in official development assistance (ODA) by some countries, ODA has recently declined overall.

138. Many women's non-governmental organizations have called for reductions in military expenditures world wide, as well as in international trade and trafficking in and the proliferation of weapons. Those affected most negatively by conflict and excessive military spending are people living in poverty, who are deprived because of the lack of investment in basic services. Women living in poverty, particularly rural women, also suffer because of the use of arms that are particularly injurious or have indiscriminate effects. There are more than 100 million anti-personnel land-mines



scattered in 64 countries globally. The negative impact on development of excessive military expenditures, the arms trade, and investment for arms production and acquisition must be addressed. At the same time, maintenance of national security and peace is an important factor for economic growth and development and the empowerment of women.

Strategic objective E.2. Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments Actions to be taken 143. By Governments: (a) Increase and hasten, as appropriate, subject to national security considerations, the conversion of military resources and related industries to development and peaceful purposes; (b) Undertake to explore new ways of generating new public and private financial resources, inter alia, through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures, trade in arms and investment for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, so as to permit the possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development, in particular for the advancement of women;

Actions to be taken 143. By Governments: (a) Increase and hasten, as appropriate, subject to national security considerations, the conversion of military resources and related industries to development and peaceful purposes; (b) Undertake to explore new ways of generating new public and private financial resources, inter alia, through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures, trade in arms and investment for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, so as to permit the possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development, in particular for the advancement of women; (c) Take action to investigate and punish members of the police, security and armed forces and others who perpetrate acts of violence against women, violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict; (d) While acknowledging legitimate national defence needs, recognize and address the dangers to society of armed conflict and the negative effect of excessive military expenditures, trade in arms, especially those arms that are particularly injurious or have indiscriminate effects, and excessive investment for arms production and acquisition; similarly, recognize the need to combat illicit arms trafficking, violence, crime, the production and use of and trafficking in illicit drugs, and trafficking in women and children;

138. Many women's non-governmental organizations have called for reductions in military expenditures world wide, as well as in international trade and trafficking in and the proliferation of weapons. Those affected most negatively by conflict and excessive military spending are people living in poverty, who are deprived because of the lack of investment in basic services. Women living in poverty, particularly rural women, also suffer because of the use of arms that are particularly injurious or have indiscriminate effects. There are more than 100 million anti-personnel land-mines scattered in 64 countries globally. The women.

State

Contact person

Group or Individual

Address

Range of interests

Last Updated on Wednesday, 02 September 2015 14:43

1009 readings

## [Fort Nelson First Nation wins legal challenge stopping Nexen water license for fracking in British Columbia](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Monday, 07 September 2015 17:37

**Monday, September 7, 2015**

Fort Nelson First Nation has won a major legal challenge against the BC government and Nexen Inc., an upstream oil and gas company. The first long-term water license granted in the Horn River Basin for shale gas fracking has been cancelled, effective immediately, by the Environmental Appeal Board.

The license, issued to Nexen in 2012, authorized the company to pump millions of cubic meters of water from Tsea Lake, a small lake in FNFN territory, each year until 2017.

'Granting this license was a major mistake by the Province,' said FNFN Chief Liz Logan. 'Our members have always used the Tsea Lake area in our territory to hunt, trap, and live on the land. The company pumped water out of the lake, even during drought conditions. There were major impacts on the lake, fish, beavers, and surrounding environment. Water is a huge concern for us, and for all British Columbians. By approving this license, the Province demonstrated it is not protecting the public interest in water.'

After three weeks of hearings involving expert reports, scientific literature, and other evidence, the EAB has rejected the license on two grounds:

1. The EAB found that the science behind the license was fundamentally flawed in both concept and operation.
2. The EAB found that the Province failed to consult FNFN in good faith and breached its duty to consider the potential impacts on FNFN.

The EAB said that BC government officials showed a lack of good faith in their dealings with FNFN on the license, and that the consultation process was 'seriously flawed.' The EAB found that the Province breached its constitutional duty to consider the potential adverse effects on FNFN.

The EAB also rejected the Province's conclusion that the license would have no significant environmental impacts, finding that the license was fundamentally flawed in concept and operation. It found that the company's water withdrawal scheme was not supported by scientific theory or adequate data as it was based on incorrect, inadequate, and mistaken factual information and modelling results.

'We want to work with the Province and industry on sustainable development in our territory, but we are being ignored,' said Chief Logan. 'We have in the past, and are willing to do so moving forward, as long as our treaty rights are respected and the public interest in environmentally sustainable development is upheld.'

By cancelling the license, the EAB has set a precedent for future provincially supported fracking and LNG exports. Licenses will not be able to pass, unless the following standards are sufficiently met:

- meaningful consultation with FNFN and other affected First Nations on water and land use;
- basing natural resource decisions on valid scientific models and adequate data; and
- upholding the public interest in preserving BC's lakes, rivers and land for future generations.

'This decision sends a clear message to the BC government and to the fracking industry that the LNG dream will not happen at the expense of our lakes, rivers, and treaty rights,' said Chief Loga

Last Updated on Tuesday, 08 September 2015 00:34

82 readings

## [SDGs:Transforming our world by acting on conference and summit commitments not by just reaffirming them](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Thursday, 03 September 2015 09:39



Agenda.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

## **BUT WHAT DOES REAFFIRMING THE OUTCOMES AND COMMITMENTS MEAN?**

For example, after I reviewed a number of outcomes and commitments from previous conferences and summits, I found that there were numerous references to the need to address aspects of militarism and disarmament. While under Goal 16, the importance of peace is affirmed but the negative role of militarism, which has been present in previous documents, is ignored.

### **REFERENCES TO MILITARISM IN PREVIOUS DECLARATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

**In the 1976 Habitat I Outcome document, the member states affirmed that**

The waste and misuse of resources in war and armaments should be prevented. All countries should make a firm commitment to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament. Part of the resources thus released should be utilized so as to achieve a better quality of life for humanity and particularly the peoples of developing countries, Article 12a Habitat 1)

**In the 1984 Declaration on the Right of all People to Peace the member states affirmed the following:**

*The General Assembly, Reaffirming that the principal aim of the United Nations is the maintenance of international peace and security, Bearing in mind the fundamental principles of international law set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, Expressing the will and the aspirations of all peoples to eradicate war from the life of mankind and, above all, to avert a world-wide nuclear catastrophe,*

Convinced that life without war serves as the primary international prerequisite for the material well-being, development and progress of countries, and for the full implementation of the rights and fundamental

human freedoms proclaimed by the United Nations, Aware that in the nuclear age the establishment of a lasting peace on Earth represents the primary condition for the preservation of human civilization and the survival of mankind, Recognizing that the maintenance of a peaceful life for peoples is the sacred duty of each State,

1. Solemnly proclaims that the peoples of our planet have a sacred right to peace;
2. Solemnly declares that the preservation of the right of peoples to peace and the promotion of its implementation constitute a fundamental obligation of each State;
3. Emphasizes that ensuring the exercise of the right of peoples to peace demands that the policies of States be directed towards the elimination of the threat of war, particularly nuclear war, the renunciation of the use of force in international relations and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations
4. Appeals to all States and international organizations to do their utmost to assist in implementing the right of peoples to peace through the adoption of appropriate measures at both the national and the international level.

**In the preamble of the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development, is the reaffirmation of close relationship between disarmament and development:**

Reaffirming that there is a close relationship between disarmament and Development and that progress in the field of disarmament would considerably promote progress in the field of development and that resources released through disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social development and well-being of all peoples and, in particular, those of the developing countries,

**Article 7 of the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development) to do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control**

All States should promote the establishment, maintenance and

strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in

particular that of the developing countries.(Article 7 Declaration on the Right to Development)

### **33; Reallocation of resources at present committed to military purposes**

Under Article 33.16 of 1992 Agenda 21 from UNCED is the following:

Innovative financing. New ways of generating public and private financial resources should be explored:

Reallocation of resources at present committed to military purposes. (Article 16 UNCED)

### **In 1994, in adopting the statement from the International Conference on Population and Development, the member states of the United Nations concurred that**

the attainment of quantitative and qualitative goals of the present Programme of Action clearly require additional resources, some of which could become available from a reordering of priorities at the individual, national and international levels. However, none of the actions required nor all of them combined is expensive in the context of either current global development or military expenditures."

### **It was affirmed that the goals and objectives of social development require continuous efforts to reduce and eliminate major sources of social distress**

The goals and objectives of social development require continuous efforts to reduce and eliminate major sources of social distress, and instability for the family and for society. We pledge to place particular focus on and give priority attention to the fight against the world-wide conditions that pose severe threats to the health, safety, peace, security and well-being of our people. Among these conditions are chronic hunger; malnutrition; illicit drug problems; organized crime; corruption; foreign occupation; armed conflicts; illicit arms trafficking, terrorism, intolerance and incitement to racial, ethnic, religious and other hatreds; xenophobia; and endemic, communicable and chronic diseases. To this end, coordination and cooperation at the national level and especially at the regional and international levels should be further strengthened. . (Article 20 United Nations World Summit for Social Development)

### **In this context, the negative impact on development of excessive military expenditures must be addressed**

In this context, the negative impact on development of excessive military expenditures, the arms trade, and investment for arms production and acquisition must be addressed. **(Article 21 1995 United Nations World Summit for Social Development**

**Under Article 70 of the 1995 United Nations World Summit for Social Development was affirmed: the negative effect of excessive military expenditures, trade in arms**

There is therefore an urgent need for: Transparent and accountable public institutions that are accessible to people on an equal basis and are responsive to their needs....

While acknowledging legitimate national defence needs, recognizing and addressing the dangers to society of armed conflict, and the negative effect of excessive military expenditures, trade in arms, especially of those arms that are particularly injurious or have indiscriminate effects, and excessive investment for arms production and acquisition. Similarly, the need to combat illicit arms trafficking, violence, crime, the production, use and trafficking of illicit drugs, and trafficking in women and children should be recognized and addressed; The elimination of all forms of violence and the full implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. **(Article 70 United Nations World Summit for Social Development**

**C. Mobilization of financial resources**

**87. The implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the Summit at the national level may require substantial new and additional resources,**

(b) Reducing, as appropriate, excessive military expenditures and investments for arms production and acquisition, consistent with national security requirements, in order to increase resources for social and economic development; (c) Giving high priority to social development in the allocation of public spending and ensuring predictable funding for the relevant programmes; (d) Ensuring that the resources for social development are available at the level of administration that is responsible for formulating and implementing the relevant programmes; (e) Increasing the effective and transparent utilization of public resources, reducing waste and combating corruption, and concentrating on the areas of greatest social need; (Article 87 United Nations World Summit for Social Development )**Article 13 of the 1995 Platform of Action, the member states affirmed the following: Excessive military expenditures... have reduced the resources available for social development.**

Excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures and



arms trade or trafficking, and investments for arms production and acquisition have reduced the resources available for social development. As a result of the debt burden and other economic difficulties, many developing countries have undertaken structural adjustment policies. Moreover, there are structural adjustment programmes that have been poorly designed and implemented, with resulting detrimental effects on social development. The number of people living in poverty has increased disproportionately in most developing countries, particularly the heavily indebted countries, during the past decade. (Article 13, Beijing Platform of Action)

**143a. Hasten the conversion of military resources and related industries to development and peaceful purposes**

**143b generate new funds through reduction of global military expenditures**

**143c Take action to investigate and punish violence against women in armed conflict**

Actions to be taken 143. By Governments: (a) Increase and hasten, as appropriate, subject to national security considerations, the conversion of military resources and related industries to development and peaceful purposes; (b) Undertake to explore new ways of generating new public and private financial resources, inter alia, through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures, trade in arms and investment for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, so as to permit the possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development, in particular for the advancement of women; (c) Take action to investigate and punish members of the police, security and armed forces and others who perpetrate acts of violence against women, violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict; (d) While acknowledging legitimate national defence needs, recognize and address the dangers to society of armed conflict and the negative effect of excessive military expenditures, trade in arms, especially those arms that are particularly injurious or have indiscriminate effects, and excessive investment for arms production and acquisition; similarly, recognize the need to combat illicit arms trafficking, violence, crime, the production and use of and trafficking in illicit drugs, and trafficking in women and children; (Article 143, Beijing Platform of Action)

**16. There has also been heavy military spending in some regions. Despite increases in official development assistance (ODA) by some countries, ODA has recently declined overall.**

Widespread economic recession, as well as political instability in some regions, has been responsible for setting back development goals in many countries. This has led to the expansion of unspeakable poverty. Of the more than 1 billion people living in abject poverty, women are an overwhelming

majority. The rapid process of change and adjustment in all sectors has also led to increased unemployment and underemployment, with particular impact on women. In many cases, structural adjustment programmes have not been designed to minimize their negative effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups or on women, nor have they been designed to assure positive effects on those groups by preventing their marginalization in economic and social activities. The Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations 10/ underscored the increasing interdependence of national economies, as well as the importance of trade liberalization and access to open, dynamic markets. There has also been heavy military spending in some regions. Despite increases in official development assistance (ODA) by some countries, ODA has recently declined overall. ; (Article 16, Beijing Platform of Action)

### In 1996 Habitat II Agenda

204. The full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in particular in all developing countries, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries, will require the mobilization of additional financial resources from various sources at the national and international levels and more effective development cooperation in order to promote assistance for shelter and human settlements activities. This will require, inter alia:

(1) Recognizing the negative effect of excessive military expenditures and trade in arms, especially of arms that are particularly injurious or have indiscriminate effects, and excessive investment for arms production and acquisition, while acknowledging legitimate national defence needs

49. Habitat, Chairperson's summary of the hearings is set out below: Global action for shelter and employment

The labour union representatives argued that the decrease in development assistance to developing countries has had a negative impact on social development. Governments must find alternative resources to fund social programmes. More resources could be found through the reduction of military expenditures, which are quite high in many developing countries. Those resources could be used to provide basic and social infrastructure, including the creation of Global action for shelter and employment Habitat,

Chairperson's summary of the hearings continued

The global community currently allocates some US\$ 800 billion a year to military budgets. With the demise of the cold war, is it not time that we considered **shifting a percentage of those funds from the "old" national security need for huge military budgets to the "new" human security need to provide housing, safe water and sanitation for human settlements, both urban and rural? The threats to our national security in the next century are not just from guns - but from formidable challenges to health**

**care and the environment in both the developed and the developing worlds.** If every nation on earth agreed to reduce its military budget by just 5 per cent over the next 10 years, the world community could begin to address the currently intractable human settlements problems of a world urbanizing faster than it can now afford.

### **B.ANOTHER EXAMPLE; SDG GOAL 1; END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE.**

Another example is with SDG Goal 1; End Poverty in all its forms everywhere.

### **SDG 1 ERADICATING POVERTY SIXTY SEVEN YEARS OF PROMISES, PROMISES PROMISES**

In reviewing commitments and obligations from 1948 Universal Declaration of human Rights from 1966 Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, **the 1974 Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition** social rights, the 1976 Habitat 1 Agenda, the 1984 Declaration on the Right to Development, 1984 Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace, 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development, 1989 [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) report from United Nations World Summit for Social Development, 1992 Chapter 3 on Poverty Chapter 4 Consumption and other Chapters from Agenda 21 UNCED, 1993 Reports from World human rights and the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, , 1995, platform of Actions from the conference on Women; Equality development and peace, The 1996 Habitat Agenda, and finally the 2002 Report world Summit on Sustainable Development

### **I concluded, that GOAL END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE SIXTY SEVEN YEARS OF UNFULFILLED COMMITMENTS**

In reviewing commitments and obligations from 1948 Universal Declaration of human Rights from 1966 Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, **the 1974 Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition** social rights, the 1976 Habitat 1 Agenda, the 1984 Declaration on the Right to Development, 1984 Declaration on the Right of All Peoples to Peace, 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development, 1989 [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) report from United Nations World Summit for Social Development, 1992 Chapter 3 on Poverty Chapter 4 Consumption and other Chapters from Agenda 21 UNCED, 1993 Reports from World human rights and the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, , 1995, platform of Actions from the conference on

Women; Equality development and peace, The 1996 Habitat Agenda, and finally the 2002 Report world Summit on Sustainable Development

**I concluded, that GOAL I. End Poverty in all its Forms Everywhere must start by immediately undertaking to discharge all the obligations and related to poverty in Covenants and act on commitments from Declarations, Agendas, Resolutions, reports;**

**I have documented 67 pages from 1948 to 2002 of key commitments related to poverty.**

**If anyone would like to read them, please contact me at [drjoanrussow@gmail.com](mailto:drjoanrussow@gmail.com)**

Last Updated on Friday, 04 September 2015 06:22

India's ambitious solar program was rebuked by the WTO in a decision that climate advocates say shows the potential damage of deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership. (Photo: [Knut-Erik](#)



[Helle/flickr/cc\)](#)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) on Wednesday ruled against India over its national solar energy program in a case brought by the U.S. government, sparking outrage from labor and environmental advocates.

As power demands grow in India, the country's government put forth a plan to create 100,000 megawatts of energy from solar cells and modules, and included incentives to domestic manufacturers to use locally-developed equipment.

According to Indian [news outlets](#), the WTO ruled that India had discriminated against American manufacturers by providing such incentives, which violates global trade rules, and struck down those policies—siding with the U.S. government in a case that the Sierra Club said demonstrates the environmentally and economically destructive power of pro-corporate deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

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212 readings

## [Carbon-credit scheme linked to increased greenhouse-gas production](#)



[Earth News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 28 August 2015 09:54

### **Loophole enabled Russian factories to benefit from destroying industrial waste.**

[Richard Hodson](#) Nature

<http://www.nature.com/news/carbon-credit-scheme-linked-to-increased-greenhouse-gas-production-1.18238>

24 August 2015 Corrected:

[25 August 2015](#)

Article tools



*Martin Wagner/EyeEm/Getty Images*

Production of trifluoromethane (HFC-23) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) increased at some Russian factories after a carbon-credit scheme was introduced.

Factories in Russia increased their production of industrial waste products and then claimed millions of carbon credits for destroying them after an international trading scheme went into effect.

Evidence published<sup>1</sup> in *Nature Climate Change* reveals that several Russian chemical plants increased production of highly potent greenhouse-gas waste to “unprecedented

levels” after they could reap financial benefits from their disposal.

Carbon credits grant nations the right to emit gases that contribute to global warming. They are traded internationally on carbon markets such as the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme, and their monetary value is determined by how much buyers are willing to pay for them.

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- [The problems with emissions trading](#)
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- [Climate burden of refrigerants rockets](#)

Developed nations are able to earn carbon credits by investing in emissions-reduction projects under a scheme called Joint Implementation (JI), agreed under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. For the potent greenhouse gases trifluoromethane (HFC-23) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), the value of the credits obtained can exceed the cost of destroying these gases in the production process, creating a 'perverse' incentive to increase production so that credits can be claimed.

“Because of the high global-warming potential [of these gases], you get thousands of credits for every tonne destroyed,” says paper co-author Lambert Schneider, an independent carbon-market specialist based in Berlin. “So these projects are particularly vulnerable to perverse incentives.”

#### Lack of oversight

Schneider and co-author Anja Kollmuss found that generation of waste HFC-23 and SF<sub>6</sub> gases increased dramatically between 2008, when crediting began, and 2013 at the KCKK Polymer plant in the Kirov region and at the HaloPolymer Perm plant in Lasvinskaya. The plants produce these chemicals as waste in the production of the refrigerant chlorodifluoromethane, known as HCFC-22, and of non-waste SF<sub>6</sub>, which is used electrical components. Crucially, the increase in waste was not tied to a corresponding increase in the amount of useful product being made at these plants.

At HaloPolymer Perm, for instance, waste SF<sub>6</sub> was produced at 16.9% the rate of useful SF<sub>6</sub> between 2008 and 2010 — much greater than the 2% produced by the plant before it could earn credits.

Schneider estimates that between 28 million and 33 million extra credits were issued to these Russian plants. In 2008, these credits were worth more than €20 (US\$23)

each, however the value has now fallen to less than €1.

Although a supervisory committee exists to monitor and prevent abuses of the scheme, it is up to nations hosting JI projects to decide to request their assistance. According to Schneider, only 3% of JI credits awarded so far have come from projects that have received such oversight. “In my view, it is a loophole in the rules of the Kyoto Protocol,” says Schneider.

#### Past problems

This is not the first time that such a system has come under scrutiny. A larger scheme called the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which enables carbon-credit projects in developing countries, [attracted strong criticism in 2011](#) for allowing controversial practices to take place.

“This whole story makes a lot of sense to me,” says Michael Wara, an environmental-law researcher at Stanford Law School in California. “It happened in the CDM, and now they’ve shown that it’s happening with the JI programme. That’s not at all surprising given all the incentives.”

The findings come as international governments prepare to debate emissions targets and schemes as part of a new climate-change agreement at a United Nations summit in Paris this December.

“It’s really important that countries have ambitious climate targets in the new Paris agreement,” says Schneider. “If you have ambitious targets and you give away credits where no reductions are really occurring, you’d have to make up the difference somewhere else.”

Wara, however, says that it may be time to give up on carbon markets altogether. “The system didn’t really work very well,” he says. “People respond to incentives, ultimately, and this is an incentive that was created by the design of the system.”

HaloPolymer Perm and HaloPolymer Kirovo-Chepetsk (formerly KCKK Polymer) have not responded to *Nature's* requests for comment.

451 readings

[Making the connections on tar-sands pollution, racism, and sexism](#)



[Justice News](#)

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 28 August 2015 09:13

*Look who's changing the world.*

By [Sara Bernard](#) on 27 Aug 2015

Grist

<http://grist.org/people/making-the-connections-on-tar-sands-pollution-racism-and-sexism/>

Look who is changing the world



Melina Laboucan-Massimo was born in the wilds of northern Alberta, Canada, in a tiny town aptly named Peace River. She grew up in Little Buffalo, an even tinier town about 65 miles to the east, where most of her family still lives. A member of the Lubicon Cree, one of Canada's First Nations, she was raised



on the land like her parents and grandparents: hunting moose and drying the meat, using local plants as medicines, spending summers deep in the boreal forests and muskeg swamps and winters in a village with no running water.

Her community's traditional lifestyle is under threat from oil development in the nearby [Alberta tar sands](#), and that inspired Laboucan-Massimo to study environmental science at the University of Alberta at Edmonton and to become an activist. Today, the 34-year-old is one of the most unflappable leaders in the climate fight. As a climate and energy campaigner for Greenpeace Canada, she has traveled across Canada and the globe warning about the dangers of tar-sands development and [testified](#) before the U.S. Congress on Keystone XL. She's also wrapping up a master's degree at the University of Victoria on indigenous governance with a focus on renewable energy in First Nation communities.

But Laboucan-Massimo has another mission, one that she sees as [fundamentally linked](#) to all of the above: To make the world a safer, more equitable place for women. "The Earth is our Mother," she [says](#). "Violence against the Earth begets violence against women."

1052 readings

## SDG Goals in the context of international precedents



**Justice News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Tuesday, 06 October 2015 06:39

**By Joan Russow Global Compliance Research Project**



photo credit semmick photo

## **FURTHER COMMENTS ON OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS RELATED TO THE SDGS**

### **SDG Goal 1; EndPoverty in all its Form Everywhere ; Sixty Seven Years of Procrastination**

[http://www.pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10365:sdg-goal-1-end-poverty-in-all-its-forms-everywhere-sixty-seven-years-of-unfulfilled-commitments&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216](http://www.pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10365:sdg-goal-1-end-poverty-in-all-its-forms-everywhere-sixty-seven-years-of-unfulfilled-commitments&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216)

### **SDG Goal 2 End Hunger Achieve Food Security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10344:sdg-goal-2-end-hunger-achieve-food-security-and-improved-nutrition-and-promote-sustainable-agriculture&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10344:sdg-goal-2-end-hunger-achieve-food-security-and-improved-nutrition-and-promote-sustainable-agriculture&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

### **SDG Goal 3: A Review of Social and SOCIAL AND Environmental Determinants of Health**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10372:-sdg-goal-3-a-review-of-social-and-environmental-determinants-of-health&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10372:-sdg-goal-3-a-review-of-social-and-environmental-determinants-of-health&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

### **SDG Goal 4: Ensure Inclusive Equitable Quality Education and Promote Life-Long Learning Opportunities For all. And Educating for SDGS**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10380:goal-4-ensure-inclusive-and-equitable-quality-education-and-promote-life-long-learning-opportunities-for-all&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10380:goal-4-ensure-inclusive-and-equitable-quality-education-and-promote-life-long-learning-opportunities-for-all&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216)

**SDG Goal 5: Time to implement the Beijing Platform of Action**

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**SDG Goal 6: Must include the human right to safe water and sanitation**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10374:sdg-goal-6-must-include-the-human-right-to-safe-water-and-sanitation&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10374:sdg-goal-6-must-include-the-human-right-to-safe-water-and-sanitation&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

**SDG Goal 7; Access to Affordable Socially Equitable Environmentally Sound Energy**

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**Goal 8: Socially equitable and environmental sound employment and fair and just transition principle**

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**SDG GOAL 9 Infrastructure transportation - moving away from car dependency**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10379:sdg-goal-9-infrastructure-transportation-moving-away-from-car-dependency&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10379:sdg-goal-9-infrastructure-transportation-moving-away-from-car-dependency&catid=86:i-earth-news&Itemid=210)

**SDG GOAL 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries (a goal within the context of previous obligations and commitments)**

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**SDG Goal 11 Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe resilient and sustainable.**

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10411:sdg-goal-11-a-comment-making-cities-amn-human-settlements-inclusive-safe-resilient-and-sustainable&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10411:sdg-goal-11-a-comment-making-cities-amn-human-settlements-inclusive-safe-resilient-and-sustainable&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216)

SDG Goal 12: Moving away from the Unsustainable Patterns of Consumption and Production to socially equitable and ecologically sound development

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10397:sdg-goal-12-moving-away-from-the-unsustainable-patterns-of-consumption-and-production-&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10397:sdg-goal-12-moving-away-from-the-unsustainable-patterns-of-consumption-and-production-&catid=74:ijustice-news&Itemid=216)

**SDG Goal 13 Climate Change; urgent means urgent**

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**SDG Goal 15: The imperative to end the logging in old growth forests**

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**SDG Goal 16 : militarism must be addressed**

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**SDG Goal 17: Strengthening Means of Implementation through Complying with International Peremptory Norms**

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**SDGs: Transforming our world by acting on conference and summit commitments not by just reaffirming them**

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[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10285:-the-overarching-theme-and-themes-of-the-sdgs-must-be-based-on-](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10285:-the-overarching-theme-and-themes-of-the-sdgs-must-be-based-on-)

[international-law-legal-precedents-and-peremptory-norms&catid;=74:ijustice-news&Itemid;=216](#)

[http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10284:-the-overarching-theme-and-themes-of-the-sdgs-must-be-based-on-international-law-legal-precedents-and-peremptory-norms&catid;=74:ijustice-news&Itemid;=216](http://pejnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10284:-the-overarching-theme-and-themes-of-the-sdgs-must-be-based-on-international-law-legal-precedents-and-peremptory-norms&catid;=74:ijustice-news&Itemid;=216)

Last Updated on Saturday, 24 October 2015 15:53

1936 readings

## Federal Election: does “honesty in Politics’ have an impact on the debate about “To Whip or Not to Whip votes”?



**Justice News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Sunday, 04 October 2015 14:50

By Joan Russow

Global Compliance Research



Project

**On September 4, 2015, on the CBC program 'the 180", was the following description of the interview with Duff Conacher from Ottawa advocacy group, Democracy Watch. When I heard his description of what constitutes "honesty in Politics", I assume that he is advocating the importance of elected representatives' abiding by their principles, policy and platform.**

### **Was this honesty in politics?**

When it is difficult to support a political Party is when elected members of the party take positions in opposition to its core values, and policy espoused in its platform . From 1997 to 2000, I was the leader of the Canadian Green Party which was presumed to share, with international Greens, common values, one of which was non-violence and common policy against Trade agreements. Yet in 1999, when the Greens formed part of government in Germany, they supported the bombing of Yugoslavia. At meetings among Canadian, Mexican and US Greens, there was a common policy opposing NAFTA; yet in the 2000 election, the Mexican Greens formed a coalition government with the right wing PRI and supported NAFTA. Now in Canada the Green Party is willing to ignore its platform with its Green MP Bruce Hyer who left the NDP because he was against gun control; the Green Party platform does support gun control. Also he voted in favour of the bombing of Syria, which also would be considered to be

inconsistence with a core principle of the Green Party

I agree with the proposal that Duff Conacher has made and believe that it is related to refusing to whip the vote. I have often thought that the term 'whipping the vote' was somewhat misleading because it is related primarily to requiring elected members of a Party to abide by their commitments made in their platforms during the election.

*(The full interview is available in a pod cast from CBC Radio. The following is a summary from the "the 180" site.*

*"The following portions have been edited for clarity and length.)*

**First of all, during elections there would be a penalty and a complaints system for violations of promises made... In between elections, there would be a complaint process and penalty for people who are misleaders, instead of leaders -- that would apply to everyone in politics: not just government and government officials, but also the opposition, political staff, etcetera. And also a system to allow for switching of parties between elections, but only for reasons that are justifiable, such as if the party that someone is elected under violates all of their promises and therefore has essentially abandoned the platform that the person ran on, but not for career ambitions, to try and get in with a better party. Politicians have imposed honesty requirements on all sorts of Canadians: federal government employees are required to be honest and can be fired if they're dishonest. Judges make the decisions as to whether you've been dishonest or not and that's what we think should happen, as well -- have an ethics commissioner or some other specialized court... And then the penalty we propose is that you would be fined: a significant fine. If you mislead voters, break a promise and if you switch parties for an unjustifiable reason between elections then you would be forced to resign and run in a by-election."**

**(<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/-1.3253030/opinion-punish-politicians-for-dishonesty-1.3253251>) (<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/-1.3253030/opinion-punish-politicians-for-dishonesty-1.3253251>)"**

The issue of "Whipping the vote" was raised during the last BC election when a film, "Whipped" was released; .. The film interviewed former NDP, Liberal and Socred members who were critical of the process of whipping the vote. The Green Party has indicated as a badge of honour that they do not whip the vote and does not require elected members at the provincial and Federal level to abide by their platform..

**One of the reasons citizens become cynical about Party politics is when political parties espouse principles, craft policies and run on a platform, and then allow MPs to vote freely and ignore the commitments.**

I attended the Victoria screening of Sean Holman's film, "Whipped the Secret World of Party Discipline. Judging from the enthusiastic response of the audience for the film, this issue was getting a lot of traction during the BC provincial election. The film profiled former Liberal, Socred and NDP MLAs, who after, overtly disagreeing with the leader/Party, either resigned or were whipped.

.The film addressed the issue of control by the leader of the Party and Party discipline and ignored the importance of adhering to the principles, policies and platform, which, for me, is the essence of a political Party.

It is incumbent upon each candidate in an election to know the party principles, policy and platform, and if he or she does not agree on essential principles, and the platform, he or she should run as an independent.

When a candidate runs in the election there is the assumption that the candidate supports the Party principles commitments and platform.

When a candidate is elected there is also an assumption that when there is a vote that the elected MLA or MP will vote according to these commitments. The public would, however, probably accept cases where new evidence has emerged that would compel MLAs and MPs to vote against the party principles and commitments.

After the screening I had reservations about the non-conditional support for free votes and absolute

opposition to whipping the vote. One of the reasons I had reservations was because of my experience as a former leader of the Green Party of Canada.

For example, one of the founding principles of the Green Party internationally was non-violence. I had to deal with what I understood to be a complete violation of this principle when a shadow cabinet member, in 1998, supported the no fly zone and bombing of Iraq, Would this not be a time to point out that a fundamental principle had been violated and to whip the vote?

Another example was when the German Greens as part of a coalition government, supported the NATO bombing of Kosovo. At this time, The German Green leader whipped the elected Green Party members and ignored the fundamental principle of non-violence. In this case the whipping was wrong because the whipping caused the party to violate a fundamental principle of the Party. For me this was a time to criticize the German Greens and point out the violation of the principle and ignore the notion of international Green Party solidarity.

Other international Green Party leaders supported the German Greens 'position because the coalition government would have fallen. I eventually stepped down as leader and then left the Party.

Following the film there was a panel comprised of a former Liberal MLA cabinet minister George Abbott, a former Canadian Alliance/Conservative Candidate, Bruce Halisor and Sean Holman, the Film Maker. I asked whether the panel, did not believe that MLAs should be whipped when there is a matter of fundamental principle. I used the example that I had to face when I was the federal Leader of the Green Party of Canada. Bruce Hallisor's response received extensive applause, when he stated `but before long everything becomes a matter of principle and then `whipped.

In the current Federal Election, the Green Party, in its platform, is in support of gun control but was prepared to accept a NDP member who crossed the floor because he was expected as a member of the NDP to vote in favour of gun control.

Last Updated on Saturday, 17 October 2015 09:23

682 readings

## **SDG goal 7; Access to reliable, affordable, Socially Equitable Environmentally Sound Energy**



**Justice News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Sunday, 04 October 2015 00:00

**SDG goal 7; Access to reliable, affordable, Socially Equitable Environmentally Sound Energy**

Global Compliance Research Project



In 1976 at Habitat I, in Vancouver all along the Jericho Beach, there were displays on renewable energy primarily solar and wind,. Many thought that this would be a

turning point, and rather than continuing to subsidize fossil fuel and nuclear energy, the global community would enter into the era of renewable energy. While at UNCED, there were commitments to **environmentally sound use of new and renewable sources of energy; and to the use of solar, geothermal and wind, there was no call to replace fossil fuels and nuclear. Still, in 2012, at Rio plus 20 there was the failure to end the subsidies to fossil fuels. With SDG 7, hopefully the era of socially equitable and environmentally sound reliable renewable energy has begun**

**In the following there are four sections**

**SECTION A; GOAL 7 AND INDICATORS**

**SECTION B AN EXAMINATION OF EXERPTS, RELATED TO SOCIALLY EQUITABLE, ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND ENERGY**

**SECTION C; The need to end Practices and actions that impede the move socially environmentally sound renewable energy**

**SECTION D ANALYSIS OF IAEA'S PROMOTION OF NULEAR ENERGY AT UNCED**

**SECTION A; GOAL 7 AND INDICATORS**

**\*\*\*\*GOAL 7: ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE, AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL;**

7.1 by 2030 ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services

7.2 increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030

7.3 double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030

7.a by 2030 enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technologies, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies

7.b by 2030 expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS

**SECTION B**

**AN EXAMINATION OF EXERPTS, RELATED TO SOCIALLY EQUITABLE, ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND ENERGY**

**\*\*\*\*1974PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER,**

**Promotion of international co-operation in research and development**

To promote international co-operation in research and development in exploration and exploitation, conservation and the legitimate utilization of natural resources and all sources of energy (TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 1974 IV e).



#### \*\*\*\*1976HABITAT I

**Preamble millions of people to a life of poverty, without satisfying the basic requirements for food, education, health services, shelter, environmental hygiene, water and energy;**

Recognizing that the circumstances of life for vast numbers of people in human settlements are unacceptable, particularly in developing countries, and that, unless positive and concrete action is taken at national and international levels to find and implement solutions, these conditions are likely to be further aggravated, as a result of: Inequitable economic growth, reflected in the wide disparities in wealth which now exist between countries and between human beings and which condemn millions of people to a life of poverty, without satisfying the basic requirements for food, education, health services, shelter, environmental hygiene, water and energy;

11. The nations must avoid the pollution of the biosphere and the oceans **and should join in the effort to end irrational exploitation of all environmental resources, whether non-renewable or renewable in the long term.**

The nations must avoid the pollution of the biosphere and the oceans and should join in the effort to end irrational exploitation of all environmental resources, whether non-renewable or renewable in the long term. The environment is the common heritage of mankind and its protection is the responsibility of the whole international community. All acts by nations and people should therefore be inspired by a deep respect for the protection of the environmental resources upon which life itself depends.

#### **Recognizing interconnectedness with nature**

**Humankind** is a part of nature and life depends on the uninterrupted functioning of natural systems which ensure the supply of energy and nutrients (Preamble, UN Resolution, 37/7, World Charter of Nature, 1982)World Charter of Nature, 1992)

#### \*\*\*\*1992 AGENDA 21

United Nations Conference on Environment & Development Brazil, 3 to 14 June 1992  
AGENDA 21 CONTENTS Chapter Paragraphs 1.

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4.1 - 4.27 5. Demographic dynamics and sustainability

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7.1 - 7.80

8. Integrating environment and development in decision-making

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15. Conservation of biological diversity 15.1 - 15.11

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17. Protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources 17.1 - 17.136

18. Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources 18.1 - 18.90

19. Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products 19.1 - 19.76

20. Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, in hazardous wastes 20.1 - 20.46

21. Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues 21.1 - 21.49

## **22. Safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes**

Throughout Agenda 21 the term "environmentally sound" means "environmentally safe and sound", in particular when applied to the terms "energy sources", "energy supplies", "energy systems" and "technology" or "technologies".

Agenda 21 - Chapter 4 Changing Consumption Patterns

4.1. This chapter contains the following programme areas: a. Focusing on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption;

b. Developing national policies and strategies to encourage changes in unsustainable consumption patterns.

Agenda 21 - Chapter 4 Changing Consumption Patterns

### **4.2. changing consumption patterns is very broad... those dealing with energy, transportation and wastes**

Since the issue of changing consumption patterns is very broad, it is addressed in several parts of Agenda 21, notably those dealing with energy, transportation and wastes, and in the chapters on economic instruments and the transfer of technology. The present chapter should also be read in conjunction with chapter 5 (Demographic dynamics and sustainability (Agenda 4.2 - Chapter 4 Changing Consumption Patterns

#### **4.2 i c. Intensify research and the development, diversification and conservation of energy, taking into account the need for efficient use and environmentally sound technology.**

4.10. In order to support this broad strategy, Governments, and/or private research and policy institutes, with the assistance of regional and international economic and environmental organizations, should make a concerted effort to: a. Expand or promote databases on production and consumption and develop methodologies for analysing them; b. Assess the relationship between production and consumption, environment, technological adaptation and innovation, economic growth and development, and demographic factors; c. Examine the impact of ongoing changes in the structure of modern industrial economies away from material-intensive

economic growth; d. Consider how economies can grow and prosper while reducing the use of energy and materials and the production of harmful materials; e. Identify balanced patterns of consumption worldwide which the Earth can support in the long term. Developing new concepts of sustainable economic growth and prosperity

**Activities 4.18 (a) Encouraging greater efficiency in the use of energy and resources.**

Reducing the amount of energy and materials used per unit in the production of goods and services can contribute both to the alleviation of environmental stress and to greater economic and industrial productivity and competitiveness. Governments, in cooperation with industry, should therefore intensify efforts to use energy and resources in an economically efficient and environmentally sound manner by: a. Encouraging the dissemination of existing environmentally sound technologies;

**4.18 b. Promoting research and development in environmentally sound technologies**

Promoting research and development in environmentally sound technologies;

**4.18 c. Assisting developing countries to use these technologies efficiently and to develop technologies**

Assisting developing countries to use these technologies efficiently and to develop technologies suited to their particular circumstances;

**4.18 d. Encouraging the environmentally sound use of new and renewable sources of energy;**

e. Encouraging the environmentally sound and sustainable use of renewable natural resources.

**4.24. market signals that make clear to producers and consumers the environmental costs of the consumption of energy,**

**Without the stimulus of prices .... significant changes in consumption and production patterns seem unlikely to occur in the near future**

Without the stimulus of prices and market signals that make clear to producers and consumers the environmental costs of the consumption of energy, materials and natural resources and the generation of wastes, significant changes in consumption and production patterns seem unlikely to occur in the near future. Developing and disseminating knowledge concerning the links between demographic trends and factors and sustainable development

1.

**Basis for action**

2.

**5.3. unsustainable consumption patterns places increasingly severe stress on the life-supporting capacities of our planet. These interactive processes affect the use of land, water, air, energy and other resources**

**Rapidly growing cities, unless well-managed, face major environmental problems**

The growth of world population and production combined with unsustainable consumption patterns places increasingly severe stress on the life-supporting capacities of our planet. These interactive processes affect the use of land, water, air, energy and other resources. Rapidly growing cities, unless well-managed, face major environmental problems. The increase in both the number and size of cities

calls for greater attention to issues of local government and municipal management. The human dimensions are key elements to consider in this intricate set of relationships and they should be adequately taken into consideration in comprehensive policies for sustainable development. Such policies should address the linkages of demographic trends and factors, resource use, appropriate technology dissemination, and development. Population policy should also recognize the role played by human beings in environmental and development concerns. There is a need to increase awareness of this issue among decision makers at all levels and to provide both better information on which to base national and international policies and a framework against which to interpret this information.

(5,3 chapter 5 (Demographic dynamics and sustainability. Agenda 21)

– Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21

E. Reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards Basis for action

**6.39. hundreds of millions of people is adversely affected... due to past and present developments in consumption and production patterns and lifestyles, in energy production and use, in industry, in transportation etc., with little or no regard for environmental protection.**

In many locations around the world the general environment (air, water and land), workplaces and even individual dwellings are so badly polluted that the health of hundreds of millions of people is adversely affected. This is, inter alia, **due to past and present developments in consumption and production patterns and lifestyles, in energy production and use, in industry, in transportation etc., with little or no regard for environmental protection.** There have been notable improvements in some countries, but deterioration of the environment continues. The ability of countries to tackle pollution and health problems is greatly restrained because of lack of resources. Pollution control and health protection measures have often not kept pace with economic development. Considerable development related environmental health hazards exist in the newly industrializing countries. Furthermore, the recent analysis of WHO has clearly established the interdependence among the factors of health, environment and development and has revealed that most countries are lacking such integration as would lead to an effective pollution control mechanism. 2/ Without prejudice to such criteria as may be agreed upon by the international community, or to standards which will have to be determined nationally, it will be essential in all cases to consider the systems of values prevailing in each country and the extent of the applicability of standards that are valid for the most advanced countries but may be inappropriate and of unwarranted social cost for the developing countries (6.39. Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

**Article 6.14 I . Establish environmental health impact assessment procedures ...for..new energy facilities**

1.

Industry and energy production: i. Establish environmental health impact assessment procedures for the planning and development of new industries and energy facilities; (6.14.i Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

2.

3.

**Continued stress on global ecosystem from the consumption pattern in industrialized countries**

4.

5.

In industrialized countries, the consumption patterns of cities are severely stressing the global ecosystem, while settlements in the developing world need more raw material, energy, and economic development simply to overcome basic economic and social problems. (7.1., Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992)

6.

Agenda 21 – Chapter 7 Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development

**7.5.e Promoting sustainable energy and transport systems in human settlements;**

The programme areas included in this chapter are:

e. Promoting sustainable energy and transport systems in human settlements; (Chapter 7.5 e Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development, Agenda 21)

**7.24. saving of energy, safe production of chemicals and less polluting transportation.**

Developing countries should also encourage technological training and research through joint efforts by donors, non-governmental organizations and private business in such areas **as the reduction of waste, water quality, saving of energy, safe production of chemicals and less polluting transportation.**

(7.24 Chapter 7 Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development, Agenda 21)

**7.27. Land resources are the basis for (human) living systems and provide soil, energy, water and the opportunity for all human activity. In rapidly growing urban areas**

Access to land resources is an essential component of sustainable low-impact lifestyles. Land resources are the basis for (human) living systems and provide soil, energy, water and the opportunity for all human activity. In rapidly growing urban areas, access to land is rendered increasingly difficult by the conflicting demands of industry, housing, commerce, agriculture, land tenure structures and the need for open spaces. Furthermore, the rising costs of urban land prevent the poor from gaining access to suitable land. In rural areas, unsustainable practices, such as the exploitation of marginal lands and the encroachment on forests and ecologically fragile areas by commercial interests and landless rural populations, result in environmental degradation, as well as in diminishing returns for impoverished rural settlers.

(7.27 Chapter 7 Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development, Agenda 21)

**7.40 Developing countries should be assisted at the national and local levels in adopting an integrated approach to the provision of water supply, energy**

Developing countries should be assisted at the national and local levels in adopting an integrated approach to the provision of water supply, energy, sanitation, drainage and solid-waste management, and external funding agencies should ensure that this

approach is applied in particular to environmental infrastructure improvement in informal settlements based on regulations and standards that take into account the living conditions and resources of the communities to be served

(7.40 Chapter 7 Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development, Agenda 21)

#### **E. Promoting sustainable energy and transport systems in human settlements Basis for action**

##### **7.46. Developing countries are at present faced with the need to increase their energy production to accelerate development**

**Reducing energy production costs and energy -related pollution. Increasing the efficiency of energy use to reduce its polluting effects and to promote the use of renewable energies must be a priority**

Most of the commercial and non-commercial energy produced today is used in and for human settlements, and a substantial percentage of it is used by the household sector. Developing countries are at present faced with the need to increase their energy production to accelerate development and raise the living standards of their populations, while at the same time reducing energy production costs and energy -related pollution. Increasing the efficiency of energy use to reduce its polluting effects and to promote the use of renewable energies must be a priority in any action taken to protect the urban environment.

(7.46 Chapter 7 Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development, Agenda 21)

##### **7.47. Developed countries, as the largest consumers of energy, are faced with the need for energy planning and management, promoting renewable and alternate sources of energy**

**evaluating the life-cycle costs of current systems and practices as a result of which many metropolitan areas are suffering from pervasive air quality problems**

**The causes have much to do with technological inadequacies and with an increasing fuel consumption generated by inefficiencies, high demographic and industrial concentrations and a rapid expansion in the number of motor vehicles..**

Developed countries, as the largest consumers of energy, are faced with the need for energy planning and management, promoting renewable and alternate sources of energy, and evaluating the life-cycle costs of current systems and practices as a result of which many metropolitan areas are suffering from pervasive air quality problems related to ozone, particulate matters and carbon monoxide. The causes have much to do with technological inadequacies and with an increasing fuel consumption generated by inefficiencies, high demographic and industrial concentrations and a rapid expansion in the number of motor vehicles..

(7.47 Chapter 7 Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development, Agenda 21)

##### **7.48. Transport accounts for about 30 per cent of commercial energy consumption and for about 60 per cent of total global consumption of liquid petroleum**

Transport accounts for about 30 per cent of commercial energy consumption and for about 60 per cent of total global consumption of liquid petroleum. In developing countries, rapid motorization and insufficient investments in urban-transport planning, traffic management and infrastructure, are creating increasing problems in terms of accidents and injury, health, noise, congestion and loss of productivity similar to those occurring in many developed countries. All of these problems have a

severe impact on urban populations, particularly the low-income and no-income groups (7.48 Chapter 7 Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development, Agenda 21)

**Activities 7.50. The principal activities relevant to this programme area are included in chapter 9**

The principal activities relevant to this programme area are included in chapter 9 (Protection of the atmosphere), programme area B, subprogramme 1 (Energy development, efficiency and consumption) and subprogramme 2 (Transportation).

(7.50 Chapter 7 Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development, Agenda 21)

**7.51. the promotion of sustainable energy development in all countries,**

A comprehensive approach to human settlements development should include the promotion of sustainable energy development in all countries, as follows:

. Developing countries, in particular, should:

**7.51 Formulate national action programmes to promote and support reforestation and national forest regeneration**

1.

Formulate national action programmes to promote and support reforestation and national forest regeneration with a view to achieving sustained provision of the biomass energy needs of the low-income groups in urban areas and the rural poor, in particular women and children;

2.

**7.51 i Formulate national action programmes to promote integrated development of energy-saving and renewable energy**

Formulate national action programmes to promote integrated development of energy-saving and renewable energy technologies, particularly for the use of solar, hydro, wind and biomass sources;

**7.51 ii Promote wide dissemination and commercialization of renewable energy technologies** through suitable measures, inter alia, fiscal and technology transfer mechanisms;

Carry out information and training programmes directed at manufacturers and users in order **to promote energy -saving techniques and energy -efficient appliances;**

**7.51b i. International organizations and bilateral donors should:**

**i. Support developing countries in implementing national energy programmes**

**particularly the use of solar, wind,**

Support developing countries in implementing national energy programmes in order to achieve widespread use of energy -saving and renewable energy technologies, particularly **the use of solar, wind, biomass** and hydro sources;

**7.51b ii. Provide access to research and development results to increase energy-use efficiency levels in human settlements.**

(7.51 Chapter 7 Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development, Agenda 21)

**7.52 f. Re-evaluate the present consumption and production patterns in order to reduce the use of energy and national resources**

Re-evaluate the present consumption and production patterns in order to reduce the use of energy and national resources

(7.52 Chapter 7 Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development, Agenda 21) Chapter 9.

Agenda 21 – Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere

**9.3. objectives of this chapter should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with a view to avoiding adverse impacts on the latter**

It is also recognized that activities that may be undertaken in pursuit of the objectives of this chapter should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with a view to avoiding adverse impacts on the latter, taking into full account the legitimate priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty.

9.5.b The present chapter includes the following four programme areas:

b. Promoting sustainable development:

**i. Energy development, efficiency and consumption;**

(9.5. b I Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**1. Energy development, efficiency and consumption**

Basis for action

**9.9. Energy is essential to economic and social development and improved quality of life.**

**energy, however, is currently produced and consumed in ways that could not be sustained if technology were to remain constant and if overall quantities were to increase substantially**

**efficiency in energy production, transmission, distribution and consumption, and on growing reliance on environmentally sound energy systems, particularly new and renewable sources of energy**

Energy is essential to economic and social development and improved quality of life. Much of the world's energy, however, is currently produced and consumed in ways that could not be sustained if technology were to remain constant and if overall quantities were to increase substantially. The need to control atmospheric emissions of greenhouse and other gases and substances will increasingly need to be based on efficiency in energy production, transmission, distribution and consumption, and on growing reliance on environmentally sound energy systems, particularly new and renewable sources of energy. (9.9 Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**9.9g utilizing and producing environmentally [safe and} sound renewable energy resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower and biomass**

Cooperate to increase the availability of capacity, capabilities and relevant technologies... in developing countries for utilizing and producing environmentally [safe and} sound renewable energy resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower and biomass, including woodfuel resource. Each resource should be utilized in a manner that fosters sustainable development and minimizes environmental stress and health impacts,... (9.9 g Atmosphere, Agenda 21, March, 1992)



**1/ All energy sources will need to be used in ways that respect the atmosphere, human health and the environment as a whole.**

**9.10. The existing constraints to increasing the environmentally sound energy supplies required ... need to be removed**

The existing constraints to increasing the environmentally sound energy supplies required for pursuing the path towards sustainable development, particularly in developing countries, need to be removed. Objectives (9.10 Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**9.11. . The basic and ultimate objective of this programme area is to reduce adverse effects on the atmosphere from the energy sector**

**to increase the contribution of environmentally sound and cost-effective energy systems, particularly new and renewable ones, through less polluting and more efficient energy production, transmission, distribution**

**the need for equity, adequate energy supplies and increasing energy consumption in developing countries,**

**and/or consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products and/or the use of fossil fuels for which countries have serious difficulties in switching to alternatives, and the situations of countries highly vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change.**

The basic and ultimate objective of this programme area is to reduce adverse effects on the atmosphere from the energy sector by promoting policies or programmes, as appropriate, to increase the contribution of environmentally sound and cost-effective energy systems, particularly new and renewable ones, through less polluting and more efficient energy production, transmission, distribution and use. This objective should reflect the need for equity, adequate energy supplies and increasing energy consumption in developing countries, and should take into consideration the situations of countries that are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing and export, and/or consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products and/or the use of fossil fuels for which countries have serious difficulties in switching to alternatives, and the situations of countries highly vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change. (9.11 Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**Activities**

**9.12 a . Cooperate in identifying and developing economically viable, environmentally sound energy sources**

Governments at the appropriate level, with the cooperation of the relevant United Nations bodies and, as appropriate, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, should:

a. Cooperate in identifying and developing economically viable, environmentally sound energy sources to promote the availability of increased energy supplies to support sustainable development efforts, in particular in developing countries; (9.12a Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**9.12 b. integrated energy, environment and economic policy decisions for sustainable development**

Promote the development at the national level of appropriate methodologies for making integrated energy, environment and economic policy decisions for sustainable development, inter alia, through environmental impact assessments;

(9.12 b Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**9.12 c. Promote the research, development, transfer and use of improved energy-efficient technologies and practices, including endogenous technologies in all relevant sectors**

Promote the research, development, transfer and use of improved energy-efficient technologies and practices, including endogenous technologies in all relevant sectors, giving special attention to the rehabilitation and modernization of power systems, with particular attention to developing countries;(9.12.c Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**9.12 d. Promote the research, development, transfer and use of technologies and practices for environmentally sound energy systems, including new and renewable energy systems,**

Promote the research, development, transfer and use of technologies and practices for environmentally sound energy systems, including new and renewable energy systems, with particular attention to developing countries; (9.12 d I Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**9. 12 e. to develop, produce and use increasingly efficient and less polluting forms of energy**

Promote the development of institutional, scientific, planning and management capacities, particularly in developing countries, to develop, produce and use increasingly efficient and less polluting forms of energy; (9. 12 e Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**9. 12 f. determine how the contribution of environmentally sound energy systems as a whole, particularly new and renewable energy systems**

Review current energy supply mixes to determine how the contribution of environmentally sound energy systems as a whole, particularly new and renewable energy systems, could be increased in an economically efficient manner, taking into account respective countries' unique social, physical, economic and political characteristics, and examining and implementing, where appropriate, measures to overcome any barriers to their development and use; (9. 12 f Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**9. 12 g. Coordinate energy plans regionally and subregionally, where applicable, and study the feasibility of efficient distribution of environmentally sound energy from new and renewable energy sources;** (9. 12 g Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**9. 12 h. including administrative, social and economic measures, in order to improve energy efficiency;**

In accordance with national socio-economic development and environment priorities, evaluate and, as appropriate, promote cost-effective policies or programmes, including administrative, social and economic measures, in order to improve energy efficiency;

(9. 12 h Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**9.12i Build capacity for energy planning and programme management in energy efficiency, as well as for the development, introduction, and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy;**

(9. 12 i Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

j. Promote appropriate energy efficiency and emission standards or recommendations at the national level, 2/ aimed at the development and use of

technologies that minimize adverse impacts on the environment;

(9. 12 j Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

9.12 k. Encourage education and awareness-raising programmes at the local, national, subregional and regional levels concerning energy efficiency and environmentally sound energy systems;

(9. 12 k Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

(9. 12 l. Establish or enhance, as appropriate, in cooperation with the private sector, labelling programmes for products to provide decision makers and consumers with information on opportunities for energy efficiency.

(9. 12 l Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

2. Transportation Basis for action

### **Activities**

#### **9.15. cost-effective, more efficient, less polluting and safer transport systems, particularly integrated rural and urban mass transit, as well as environmentally sound road networks,**

Governments at the appropriate level, with the cooperation of the relevant United Nations bodies and, as appropriate, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, should: a. Develop and promote, as appropriate, cost-effective, more efficient, less polluting and safer transport systems, particularly integrated rural and urban mass transit, as well as environmentally sound road networks, taking into account the needs for sustainable social, economic and development priorities, particularly in developing countries; (9. 15 a Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

#### **9. 15 b. Facilitate... access to and the transfer of safe, efficient, including resource-efficient, and less polluting transport technologies,**

Facilitate at the international, regional, subregional and national levels access to and the transfer of safe, efficient, including resource-efficient, and less polluting transport technologies, particularly to the developing countries, including the implementation of appropriate training programmes; 9. 15 b Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

#### **9.18. b. Encourage industry ...make more efficient use of all resources and materials, including energy;**

Encourage industry to increase and strengthen its capacity to develop technologies, products and processes that are safe, less polluting and make more efficient use of all resources and materials, including energy; 9. 18 b Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

#### **9. 19 e taking into account area-specific accessible potentials for energy, particularly safe and renewable sources of energy,**

Chapter 9 Protection c. Cooperate in the development and transfer of such industrial technologies and in the development of capacities to manage and use such technologies, particularly with respect to developing countries; d. Develop, improve and apply environmental impact assessments to foster sustainable industrial development;

e. Promote efficient use of materials and resources, taking into account the life cycles of products, in order to realize the economic and environmental benefits of using resources more efficiently and producing fewer wastes; f. Support the promotion of less polluting and more efficient technologies and processes in industries, taking into account area-specific accessible potentials for energy,

particularly safe and renewable sources of energy, with a view to limiting industrial pollution, and adverse impacts on the atmosphere of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

**.9.35. New and renewable energy sources are solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, wind, hydro, biomass, geothermal, ocean, animal and human power, as referred to in the reports of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, prepared**

The Conference secretariat has included costing for technical assistance and pilot programmes under paragraphs 9.32 and 9.33. Notes 1/ New and renewable energy sources are solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, wind, hydro, biomass, geothermal, ocean, animal and human power, as referred to in the reports of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, prepared specifically for the Conference (see A/CONF.151/PC/119 and A/AC.218/1992/5). 2/ This includes standards or recommendations promoted by regional economic integration organizations.

9. 35 a Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

In the Atmosphere chapter of Agenda 21, the following [safe] and sound technologies are advocated:

Chapter 14 Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development 14.1 - 14.104

**CONSERVATION OF ENERGY**

**14.94. a. Promote pilot plans and projects consisting of electrical, mechanical and thermal power (gasifiers, biomass, solar driers, wind-pumps and combustion systems)**

Governments at the appropriate level, with the support of the relevant international and regional organizations, should:

a. Promote pilot plans and projects consisting of electrical, mechanical and thermal power (gasifiers, biomass, solar driers, wind-pumps and combustion systems)

Promote pilot plans and projects consisting of electrical, mechanical and thermal power (gasifiers, biomass, solar driers, wind-pumps and combustion systems) that are appropriate and likely to be adequately maintained; (14.98 a Chapter 14 Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development, Agenda 21)

**14.98 b. Initiate and promote rural energy programmes supported by technical training, banking and related infrastructure**

Initiate and promote rural energy programmes supported by technical training, banking and related infrastructure; (.14.98 b Chapter 14 Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development, Agenda 21)

**14.98 c. Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development) economic activities, including industry, energy, ..., in order to optimize ecologically sound resource use and minimize waste.**

Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development) economic activities, including industry, energy, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, tourism and infrastructure, in order to optimize ecologically sound resource use and minimize waste. Macroeconomic and sectoral policies have, however, rarely given due attention to population considerations. Explicitly integrating population into economic and development strategies will both speed up the pace of sustainable development and poverty alleviation and contribute to the achievement of population objectives and an improved quality of life of the population. (.14.98 c Chapter 14 Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development, Agenda 21)

**\*\*\*\*1994 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**3.3. Sustainable development implies, inter alia, long-term sustainability in production and consumption relating to all economic activities, including industry, energy,**

Sustainable development implies, inter alia, long-term sustainability in production and consumption relating to all economic activities, including industry, energy, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, tourism and infrastructure, in order to optimize ecologically sound resource use and minimize waste. Sustainable development implies, inter alia, long-term sustainability in production and consumption relating to all

**\*\*\*\*1995 WORLD SUMMIT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

B. Improved access to productive resources and infrastructure

31. The opportunities for income generation, diversification of activities and increase of productivity in low-income and poor communities should be enhanced by:

**31. (a) Improving the availability and accessibility of transportation, communication, power and energy services**

Improving the availability and accessibility of transportation, communication, power and energy services at the local or community level, in particular for isolated, remote and marginalized communities;

**31(j) Encouraging the utilization of renewable energy, based on local employment-intensive resources, in particular in rural areas**

**\*\*\*\*1995 BEIJING PLATFORM OF ACTION**

167 d). By Governments, central banks and national development banks, and private banking institutions, as appropriate ...Ensure that women's priorities are included in public investment programmes for economic infrastructure, such as water and sanitation, electrification and energy conservation

(d) Ensure that women's priorities are included in public investment programmes for economic infrastructure, such as water and sanitation, electrification and energy conservation, transport and road construction; promote greater involvement of women beneficiaries at the project planning and implementation stages to ensure access to jobs and contracts.

**256. (k) By Governments: ...Support the development of women's equal access to housing infrastructure, safe water, and sustainable and affordable energy**

By Governments: (Support the development of women's equal access to housing infrastructure, safe water, and sustainable and affordable energy

(k) Support the development of women's equal access to housing infrastructure, safe water, and sustainable and affordable energy technologies, such as wind, solar, biomass and other renewable sources, through participatory needs assessments, energy planning and policy formulation at the local and national levels;

**257 f By international organizations, non-governmental organizations and private sector institutions... promote new and renewable sources of energy**

(f) Promote knowledge of and sponsor research on the role of women, particularly rural and indigenous women, in food gathering and production, soil conservation, irrigation, watershed management, sanitation, coastal zone and marine resource management, integrated pest management, land-use planning, forest conservation and community forestry, fisheries, natural disaster prevention, and new and renewable sources of energy, focusing particularly on indigenous women's knowledge and experience;

**258 c. By Governments, regional and international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate: ensure full compliance... the Code of Practice of the International Atomic Energy Agency relating to the movement of radioactive waste;**

c) Ensure the full compliance with relevant international obligations, including where relevant, the Basel Convention and other conventions relating to the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes (which include toxic wastes) and the Code of Practice of the International Atomic Energy Agency relating to the movement of radioactive waste; enact and enforce regulations for environmentally sound management related to safe storage and movements; consider taking action towards the prohibition of those movements that are unsafe and insecure; ensure the strict control and management of hazardous wastes and radioactive waste, in accordance with relevant international and regional obligations and eliminate the exportation of such wastes to countries that, individually or through international agreements balization and growing interdependence, rural settlements represent a great challenge and opportunity for renewed developmental initiatives at all levels and in all fields. Many rural settlements, however, are facing a lack or an inadequacy of economic opportunities, especially employment, and of infrastructure and services, particularly those related to water, sanitation, health, education, communication, transportation and energy. Appropriate efforts and technologies for rural development can help to reduce, inter alia, imbalances, unsustainable practices, poverty, isolation, environmental pollution and insecure land tenure. Such efforts can contribute to improving the linkage of rural settlements with the mainstream of economic, social and cultural life, to assuring sustainable communities and safe environments, and to reducing pressures on urban growth.

**\*\*\*\*1996 HABITAT**

Article 9hg

40. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

40(f) f **encourage energy-saving methods and are protective of human health;**

Promoting locally available, appropriate, affordable, safe, efficient and environmentally sound construction methods and technologies in all countries,

particularly in developing countries, at the local, national, regional and subregional levels that emphasize optimal use of local human resources and encourage energy-saving methods and are protective of human health;

**43 j. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of: promoting the efficient and rational use of natural resources - including water, air, biodiversity, forests, energy sources**

**reducing the ecological footprint of human settlements;**

Promoting changes in unsustainable production and consumption patterns, particularly in industrialized countries, population policies and settlement structures that are more sustainable, reduce environmental stress, promote the efficient and rational use of natural resources - including water, air, biodiversity, forests, energy sources and land - and meet basic needs, thereby providing a healthy living and working environment for all and **reducing the ecological footprint of human settlements;**

**43 (n) promoting ... energy-efficient transportation systems**

Improving access to work, goods, services and amenities, inter alia, by promoting effective and environmentally sound, accessible, quieter and more energy-efficient transportation systems and by promoting spatial development

**43 (o) Promoting more energy-efficient technology and alternative/renewable energy for human settlements and energy-efficient transportation systems**

Promoting more energy-efficient technology and alternative/renewable energy for human settlements, and energy-efficient transportation systems

**84. the delivery of safe water, sanitation, waste management, social welfare, transport and communications facilities, energy, health and emergency services, schools**

Basic infrastructure and services at the community level include the delivery of safe water, sanitation, waste management, social welfare, transport and communications facilities, energy, health and emergency services, schools, public safety, and the management of open spaces. The lack of adequate basic services, a key component of shelter, exacts a heavy toll on human health, productivity and the quality of life, particularly for people living in poverty in urban and rural areas. Local and state/provincial authorities, as the case may be, have the primary responsibility to provide or enable delivery of services, regulated by appropriate legislation and standards. Their capacity to manage, operate and maintain infrastructure and basic services must be supported by central Governments. There are, however, a host of other actors, including the private sector, communities and A/CONF.165/14 page 47 non-governmental organizations, that can participate in service provision and management under the coordination of Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities.(Article 84 Habitat II)

**85g. Access to sustainable sources of energy;**

safeguard the health, safety, welfare and improved living environment of all people and to provide adequate and affordable basic infrastructure and services, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should promote:

(g) Access to sustainable sources of energy; .(Article 85g Habitat II)

**88. particular attention to energy efficiency, health, accessibility, and**

### **consumer safety and protection.**

With rapid urbanization, population growth and industrialization, the skills, materials and financing for the planning, design, construction, A/CONF.165/14 page 49 maintenance, and rehabilitation of housing, infrastructure and other facilities are often not available or are of inferior quality. Public policy and private investment should, together, facilitate an adequate supply of cost-effective building materials, construction technology and bridging finance to avoid the bottlenecks and distortions that inhibit the development of local and national economies. By improving quality and reducing the cost of production, housing and other structures will last longer, be better protected against disasters, and be affordable to low-income populations and accessible to persons with disabilities, which will provide a better living environment. The potential for job creation and other positive external socio-economic impacts of the construction industry should be harnessed; its activity should be brought into harmony with the environment, and its contribution to overall economic growth should be exploited, all to the advantage of society at large. Institutional support should also be provided in the form of industrial standards and quality control, with particular attention to energy efficiency, health, accessibility, and consumer safety and protection to reduce energy consumption in buildings (Article 88 Habitat II)

### **90. h to design and build accessible energy-efficient structures to reduce energy consumption in buildings**

(h) Provide incentives for engineers, architects, planners and contractors and their clients to design and build accessible energy-efficient structures and facilities by using locally available resources and to reduce energy consumption in buildings in use; (Article 90 h Habitat II)

### **9 b Encourage and promote the application of low-energy**

To enhance the local capacity for environmentally sound production of building materials and construction techniques, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in cooperation with all interested parties, should:

b) Encourage and promote the application of low-energy, environmentally sound and safe manufacturing technologies backed by appropriate norms and effective regulatory measures;( (Article 92 b Habitat II)

### **101. Some human settlements ...are also subject to non-renewable energy fuel sources**

The sustainability of the global environment and human life will not be achieved unless, among other things, human settlements in both urban and rural areas are made economically buoyant, socially vibrant and environmentally sound, with full respect for cultural, religious and natural heritage and A/CONF.165/14 page 55 diversity. Urban settlements hold a promise for human development and for protection of the world's natural resources through their ability to support large numbers of people while limiting their impact on the natural environment. Yet many cities are witnessing harmful patterns of growth, of production and consumption, of land use, of mobility and of degradation of their physical structure. Such problems are often synonymous with soil, air and water pollution, waste of resources and destruction of natural resources. Some human settlements are also subject to limited water supply, sanitation and drainage and to dependency upon toxic and non-renewable energy fuel sources and irreversible loss of biodiversity. Many of these trends are aggravated or accelerated by high population growth and the magnitude of rural-to-urban migration. Demographic factors, combined with poverty and lack of access to resources and unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, can cause or exacerbate problems of



environmental degradation and resource depletion and thus inhibit sustainable development. Therefore, a largely urbanized world implies that sustainable development will depend very largely on the capacity of urban and metropolitan areas to manage the production and consumption patterns and the transport and waste disposal systems needed to preserve the environment.

**108. attention should be paid to the most critical issues, such as changing production and consumption patterns; energy efficiency;**

International cooperation, including city-to-city cooperation, is both necessary and mutually beneficial in promoting sustainable human settlements development. Depending on the context and the needs of the cities, towns and villages in each country and region, special attention should be paid to the most critical issues, such as changing production and consumption patterns; energy efficiency; sustainable resource and land-use management; poverty eradication; population and health; water supply, sanitation and waste management; disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and management; cultural, natural and historical heritage; environmental protection; industry; infrastructure; and basic services such as health and education facilities and services. Habitat II provides an opportunity to focus on the effect that A/CONF.165/14 page 57 current patterns of human settlements development will have on the ability to achieve the objectives established at recent United Nations conferences. Close attention to trends in urban development is essential to the viability of sustainable human settlements development in rural and urban areas alike. (Article 108 Habitat II)

**109. Land is essential for the provision of food, water and energy for many living systems, and is critical to human activity.**

Land is essential for the provision of food, water and energy for many living systems, and is critical to human activity. In rapidly growing urban areas, access to land is rendered increasingly difficult by the potentially competing demands of housing, industry, commerce, infrastructure, transport, agriculture and the need for open spaces and green areas, and the protection of fragile ecosystems. The rising costs of urban land and other factors prevent persons living in poverty and members of other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups from gaining access to suitable land, the location of which does not pose economic, environmental or health risks to the residents for such reasons as its proximity to polluting industrial facilities, inappropriate geographical conditions or its susceptibility to natural disasters. Bringing the development of urban areas into harmony with the natural environment and the overall system of settlements is one of the basic tasks to be undertaken in achieving a sustainable urbanized world. The tools for achieving a physically more balanced development include not only specific urban and regional policies and legal, economic, financial, cultural and other measures, but also innovative methods of urban planning and design and of urban development, revitalization and management. National, subnational and local policies and programmes need to be integrated. In this regard, the principle of the precautionary approach, stipulated in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, should be widely applied by Governments according to their capabilities, and the use of environmental and social impact assessments is desirable.

(Article 109 Habitat II)

**111. to promote land-use patterns that minimize transport demands, save energy and protect open and green spaces.**

Many cities are using peripheral land for urban-related purposes in a wasteful manner while existing serviced land and infrastructure may not be adequately

developed and used. To avoid unbalanced, unhealthy and unsustainable growth of human settlements, it is necessary to promote land-use patterns that minimize transport demands, save energy and protect open and green spaces. Appropriate urban density and mixed land-use guidelines are of prime importance for urban development. National, subnational and local policies and development plans must be carefully re-examined to ensure optimal land use and geographically better balanced economic development, including the protection of indispensable agricultural land; land that sustains biodiversity, water quality and groundwater recharge; fragile areas, including coastal areas; and other sensitive areas in need of protection.

(Article 111, Habitat II)

**HABITAT137. (f) Provide incentives and disincentives to promote the use of clean production and energy-**

To improve environmental conditions and reduce industrial and domestic waste and other forms of health risks in human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels and in partnership with all interested parties should:

(f) Provide incentives and disincentives to promote the use of clean production and energy- and water-saving processes and technologies that, among other things, can increase economic opportunities in the areas of environmental technology, environmental clean-up and environmentally friendly products and can improve the attractiveness and competitiveness of human settlements for economic investments;  
(Article 137 f, Habitat II)

**139. (a) Protect existing forest resources and promote, where possible, afforestation around and within human settlements in order to fulfil basic needs relating to energy, construction, recreation and food security**

In order to promote a healthy environment that will continue to support adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements for current and future generations, Governments at the appropriate levels, in partnership with all relevant interested parties, should:

(a) Promote the conservation and sustainable use of urban and peri-urban biodiversity, including forests, local habitats and species biodiversity; the protection of biodiversity should be included within local sustainable development planning activities; **(Article139.(b) Habitat II)**

**(b) Protect existing forest resources and promote, where possible, afforestation around and within human settlements in order to fulfil basic needs relating to energy, construction, recreation and food security; (Article139.(b) Habitat II)**

**145. Current dependence in most urban centres on non-renewable energy sources can lead to climate change, air pollution and consequent environmental and human health problems (Article145.(b) Habitat II)**

The use of energy is essential in urban centres for transportation, industrial production, and household and office activities. Current dependence in most urban centres on non-renewable energy sources can lead to climate change, air pollution and consequent environmental and human health problems, and may represent a serious threat to sustainable development. Sustainable energy production and use can be enhanced by encouraging energy efficiency, by such means as pricing policies, fuel switching, alternative energy, mass transit and public awareness.

Human settlements and energy policies should be actively coordinated.

**Actions 146. (a) Promote urban and rural planning and design solutions that are conducive to the efficient use of energy and that pay due attention to end users and their attitudes and practices;**

In order to promote efficient and sustainable energy use, Governments at the appropriate levels, in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and consumer groups, should, as appropriate:

(a) Promote urban and rural planning and design solutions that are conducive to the efficient use of energy and that pay due attention to end users and their attitudes and practices; **(Article146.(a) Habitat II)**

**146 (b) Introduce appropriate measures to promote the use of renewable and safe sources of energy and to improve the efficiency of energy use in human settlements, while ensuring that people living in poverty and their families are not disadvantaged; (Article146.(b) Habitat II)**

**(c) Promote energy-efficient systems, for example, by introducing or supporting innovative energy-efficient measures in the generation, distribution and use of energy, such as combined heating and cooling systems that utilize waste heat recovery, and co-generation of heating and electricity; (Article146.(c) Habitat II)**

**146 (d) Encourage research, development and use of non-motorized or low-energy transport systems and the use of renewable energy sources and technologies, such as solar, wind and biomass energy; (Article146.(d) Habitat II)**

**146 (e) Encourage countries, in particular developing countries, to cooperate in exchanging knowledge, experience and know-how in the phasing out of lead gasoline, through, inter alia, the use of biomass ethanol as an environmentally sound substitute; (Article146.(e) Habitat II)**

**146(f) Introduce or amend user charges and/or other measures to promote the efficient use of household energy; (Article146.(f) Habitat II)**

**146(g) Stimulate, through fiscal incentives or other measures, and adopt energy-efficient and environmentally sound technologies in the rehabilitation of existing industries and services and in the construction of new ones; (Article146.(g) Habitat II)**

**146 (h) Support programmes for the reduction and neutralization of emissions of polluting gases originating in the generation, transportation and use of energy; (Article146.(h) Habitat II)**

**146 (i) Encourage research, development and use of non-motorized or low-energy transport systems and the use of renewable energy sources and technologies, such as solar, wind and biomass (Article146.(f) Habitat II)**

**146 (i) Encourage and promote public education and media campaigns to encourage recycling, reuse and reduced energy consumption; (Article146.(f) Habitat II)**

**146 (j) Encourage the use of solar heating and cooling and electric technologies, energy efficient design, ventilation and improved insulation of buildings to reduce the consumption of energy in buildings;**

**(Article 146.(f) Habitat II)**

**146 (k) Encourage the use of safe industrial and agricultural waste products and other types of low-energy and recycled building materials in construction; (Article 146.(f) Habitat II)**

**146 (l) Encourage and promote the development and dissemination of new and environmentally sound technologies, including the reduction of metal compounds as part of transportation fuels, and good practices in the use of energy. (Article 146.(f) Habitat II)**

**147. The transportation sector is a major consumer of non-renewable energy**

Transport and communication systems are the key to the movement of goods, people, information and ideas, and to access to markets, employment, schools and other facilities and land use, both within cities and between cities, and in rural and other remote areas. The transportation sector is a major consumer of non-renewable energy and of land and is a major contributor to pollution, congestion and accidents. Integrated transport and land-use policy and planning can reduce the ill effects of current transport systems. People living in poverty, women, children, youth, older persons and people with disabilities are particularly disadvantaged by the lack of accessible, affordable, safe and efficient public transport systems. **(Article 147 Habitat II)**

**151. The transportation sector is a major consumer of non-renewable energy**

**The transportation sector is a major consumer of non-renewable energy**

In order to achieve sustainable transport in human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels, in partnership with the private sector, the community sector and other relevant interested parties, should: **(Article 115 Habitat II)**

**115 (f) Promote, regulate and enforce quiet, use-efficient and low-polluting technologies, including fuel-efficient engine ...and alternative forms of energy**

Promote, regulate and enforce quiet, use-efficient and low-polluting technologies, including fuel-efficient engine and emissions controls and fuel with a low level of polluting emissions and impact on the atmosphere and other alternative forms of energy; **(Article 115 f Habitat II)**

**160. b Support the restructuring of local industries, where appropriate, develop urban infrastructure and services, promote a reliable, efficient and environmentally sound supply of energy and enhance telecommunication networks;**

(b) Support the restructuring of local industries, where appropriate, develop urban infrastructure and services, promote a reliable, efficient and environmentally sound supply of energy and enhance telecommunication networks;

**Actions 186.f respond to, issues of regional and national importance, such as land and property rights of women, land management, energy and water resources management,**

To address the special needs of metropolitan areas and the needs of all people living in those areas, Governments at the appropriate level, including local authorities, should:

(f) Strengthen, as appropriate, the capacity and mandates of metropolitan authorities to deal effectively with, or respond to, issues of regional and national importance,

such as land and property rights of women, land management, energy and water resources management, environmental management, transport and communications, trade and finance, adequate social services and infrastructure and access to them, and social integration;

**(Article 115 h Habitat II)**

**186. should facilitate and promote ...energy conservation, environmental management, and social welfare that recognizes women and marginalized groups;**

To address the special needs of metropolitan areas and the needs of all people living in those areas, Governments at the appropriate level, including local authorities, should: ... Facilitate and promote energy conservation

(h) Facilitate and promote policy dialogue, both nationally and internationally, and the exchange of experience, expertise, know-how and technology among metropolitan authorities in such areas as transport and communications, water management and waste-water treatment, waste management, energy conservation, environmental management, and social welfare that recognizes women and marginalized groups; **(Article 115 h Habitat II)**

**241. The indicators should cover key areas of the Habitat Agenda, such as shelter, health, transport, energy, water supply, sanitation, employment and other aspects of urban sustainability, empowerment,**

As part of their commitment to strengthening their existing shelter- and settlements-related data collection and analysis capabilities, Governments at all levels, including local authorities, should continue to identify and disseminate best practices, and should develop and apply shelter and human settlements development indicators, including those that reflect the rights and well-being of children. The key indicators, augmented by policy-oriented national and subnational level indicators specific to the different regions, and other relevant information, as appropriate, will be used by Governments for assessing national implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The indicators should cover key areas of the Habitat Agenda, such as shelter, health, transport, energy, water supply, sanitation, employment and other aspects of urban sustainability, empowerment, participation and local responsibility, and should be gender-specific where possible. Such information, which should be available and accessible to all, will be provided to the United Nations, taking into account the different reporting procedures in the economic, social and environmental fields, and the need for reporting procedures to reflect diversity in regional, national, subnational and, in particular, local characteristics and priorities. **(Article 241 Habitat II)**

**Resolution 2 Expression of thanks to the people and Government of Turkey\***

**13. The Dialogues for the Twenty-first Century - dealing with the future of cities, finance, water, energy, health, access to land, rural/urban linkages, transport, communication, citizenship and democracy - were reported to the Committee and enriched the debate with their findings. The ethical aspects of the Conference were underlined by the messages that came from the Forum on Human Solidarity, which were also stressed by the Wisdom Keepers.**

**\*\*\*2002 WSSD**

**9. Improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially**

**acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources, access to energy facilitates the eradication of poverty.**

Take joint actions and improve efforts to work together at all levels to improve access to reliable and affordable energy services for sustainable development sufficient to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium development goals, including the goal of halving the proportion of people in poverty by 2015, and as a means to generate other important services that mitigate poverty, bearing in mind that access to energy facilitates the eradication of poverty. This would include actions at all levels to:

**9 (a) Improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources**

**decentralized energy systems, increased use of renewables, cleaner liquid and gaseous fuels and enhanced energy efficiency,**

Improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources, taking into account national specificities and circumstances, through various means, such as enhanced rural electrification and decentralized energy systems, increased use of renewables, cleaner liquid and gaseous fuels and enhanced energy efficiency, by intensifying regional and international cooperation in support of national efforts, including through capacity -building, financial and technological assistance and innovative financing mechanisms, including at the micro - and meso - levels, recognizing the specific factors for providing access to the poor;

**9 (b) Improve access to modern biomass technologies and fuelwood sources**

Improve access to modern biomass technologies and fuelwood sources and supplies and commercialize biomass operations, including the use of agricultural residues, in rural areas and where such practices are sustainable;

**9(c) Promote a sustainable use of biomass and, as appropriate , other renewable energies through improvement of current patterns of use**

Promote a sustainable use of biomass and, as appropriate , other renewable energies through improvement of current patterns of use, such as management of resources, more efficient use of fuelwood and new or improved products and technologies;

**9(e) to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services**

Develop national energy policies and regulatory frameworks that will help to create the necessary economic, social and institutional conditions in the energy sector to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development and poverty eradication in rural, peri-urban and urban areas;

**9(f) Enhance international and regional cooperation to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services,**

Enhance international and regional cooperation to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services, as an integral part of poverty reduction programmes, by facilitating the creation of enabling environments and addressing capacity -building needs, with special attention to rural and isolated areas, as appropriate;

**9(g) taking into account the instrumental role of developing national**

**policies on energy for sustainable Page 6 development, bearing in mind that in developing countries sharp increases in energy services are required to improve the standards of living**

Assist and facilitate on an accelerated basis, with the financial and technical assistance of developed countries, including through public-private partnerships, the access of the poor to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services, taking into account the instrumental role of developing national policies on energy for sustainable Page 6 development, bearing in mind that in developing countries sharp increases in energy services are required to improve the standards of living of their populations and that energy services have positive impacts on poverty eradication and improve standards of living.

**26.f Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, through actions at all levels to:**

**(f) Support, where appropriate, efforts and programmes for energy - efficient, sustainable and cost-effective desalination of seawater, water recycling and water harvesting from coastal fogs in developing countries, through such measures as technological, technical and financial assistance and other modalities;**

**35. taking into account the very serious potential for environment and human health impacts of radioactive wastes,**

Governments, taking into account their national circumstances, are encouraged, recalling paragraph 8 of resolution GC (44)/RES/17 of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and taking into account the very serious potential for environment and human health impacts of radioactive wastes, to make efforts to

examine and further improve measures and internationally agreed regulations regarding safety, while stressing the importance of having effective liability mechanisms in place, relevant to international maritime transportation and other transboundary movement of radioactive material, radioactive waste and spent fuel, including, inter alia, arrangements for prior notification and consultations done in accordance with relevant international instruments.

**38. the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks of negative impacts of climate change**

**The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 27 is the key instrument for addressing climate change, a global concern, and we reaffirm our commitment to achieving its ultimate objective of stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system**

**to proceed in a sustainable manner, in accordance with our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.**

**States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge States that have not already done so to ratify it in a timely manner.**

Change in the Earth's climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind. We remain deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks of negative impacts of climate change and recognize that, in this context, the problems of poverty, land degradation, access to water and food and human health remain at the centre of global attention. The United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change 27 is the key instrument for addressing climate change, a global concern, and we reaffirm our commitment to achieving its ultimate objective of stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner, in accordance with our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 28 preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge States that have not already done so to ratify it in a timely manner.

**38 a Meet all the commitments and obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;**

Actions at all levels are required to: (a) Meet all the commitments and obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

**38 (b) Meet all the commitments and obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;**

Work cooperatively towards achieving the objectives of the Convention;

**38(c) Provide technical and financial assistance and capacity -building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition**

Provide technical and financial assistance and capacity -building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in accordance with commitments under the Convention, including the Marrakesh Accords; 29 \_\_\_\_\_ 27 A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I. 28 FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex. 29 FCCC/CP/2001/13 and Add.1 -4 . Page 22

**38 (d) Build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities ... through continuing support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

Build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the exchange of scientific data and information especially in developing countries;

**38 (e) Develop and transfer technological solutions;**

**38 (f) Develop and disseminate innovative technologies in regard to key sectors of development, particularly energy,**

Develop and disseminate innovative technologies in regard to key sectors of development, particularly energy, and of investment in this regard, including through private sector involvement, market -oriented approaches, and supportive public policies and international cooperation;

**38 (g) Promote the systematic observation of the Earth's atmosphere, land and oceans by improving monitoring stations,**

Promote the systematic observation of the Earth's atmosphere, land and oceans by improving monitoring stations, increasing the use of satellites and appropriate integration of these observations to produce high -quality data that could be



disseminated for the use of all countries, in particular developing countries;

(h) Enhance the implementation of national, regional and international strategies to monitor the Earth's atmosphere, land and oceans, including, as appropriate, strategies for integrated global observations, inter alia, with the cooperation of relevant international organizations, especially the specialized agencies, in cooperation with the Convention;

38 (i)

**Support initiatives to assess the consequences of climate change, such as the Arctic Council initiative, including the environmental, economic and social impacts on local and indigenous communities.**

**45. halt the loss of forest biodiversity and land and resource degradation and improve food security and access to safe drinking water and affordable energy**

Forests and trees cover nearly one third of the Earth's surface. Sustainable forest management of both natural and planted forests and for timber and non - timber products is essential to achieving sustainable development as well as a critical means to eradicate poverty, significantly reduce deforestation, halt the loss of forest biodiversity and land and resource degradation and improve food security and access to safe drinking water and affordable energy; in addition, it highlights the multiple benefits of both natural and planted forests and trees and contributes to the well-being of the planet and humanity. The achievement of sustainable forest management, nationally and globally, including through partnerships among interested Governments and stakeholders, including the private sector, indigenous and local communities and non -governmental organizations, is an essential goal of sustainable development. This would include actions at all levels to:

**59. Support the availability of adequate, affordable and environmentally sound energy services for the sustainable development of small island developing States by, inter alia:**

Support the availability of adequate, affordable and environmentally sound energy services for the sustainable development of small island developing States by, inter alia:

(a) Strengthening ongoing and supporting new efforts on energy supply and services, by 2004, including through the United Nations system and partnership initiatives;

(b) Developing and promoting efficient use of sources of energy, including indigenous sources and renewable energy, and building the capacities of small island developing States for training, technical know-how and strengthening national institutions in the area of energy management.

62. Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, sustainable development has remained elusive for many African countries. Poverty Page 36 remains a major challenge and most countries on the continent have not benefited fully from the opportunities of globalization, further exacerbating the continent's marginalization. Africa's efforts to achieve sustainable development have been hindered by conflicts, insufficient investment, limited market access opportunities and supply side constraints, unsustainable debt burdens, historically declining levels of official development assistance and the impact of HIV/AIDS. The World Summit on Sustainable Development should reinvigorate the commitment of the international community to address these special challenges and give effect to a new vision based on concrete actions for the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a commitment by African leaders to the people of Africa. It recognizes that partnerships among African countries themselves and between them and with the international community are key elements of a shared and common vision to eradicate poverty, and furthermore it aims to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, while participating actively in the world economy and body politic. It provides a framework for sustainable development on the continent to be shared by all Africa's people. The international community welcomes NEPAD and pledges its support to the implementation of this vision, including through utilization of the benefits of South - South cooperation supported, inter alia, by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. It also pledges support for other existing development frameworks that are owned and driven nationally by African countries and that embody poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers. Achieving sustainable development includes actions at all levels to:

(a) Create an enabling environment at the regional, subregional, national and local levels in order to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development and support African efforts for peace, stability and security, the resolution and prevention of conflicts, democracy, good governance, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development and gender equality;

(b) Support the implementation of the vision of NEPAD and other established regional and subregional efforts, including through financing, technical cooperation and institutional cooperation and human and institutional capacity - building at the regional, subregional and national levels, consistent with national policies, programmes and nationally owned and led strategies for poverty reduction and sustainable development, such as, where applicable, poverty reduction strategy papers;

(c) Promote technology development, transfer and diffusion to Africa and further develop technology and knowledge available in African centres of excellence;

(d) Support African countries in developing effective science and technology institutions and research activities capable of developing and adapting to world class technologies;

(e) Support the development of national programmes and strategies to promote education within the context of nationally owned and led strategies for poverty reduction and strengthen research institutions in education in order to increase the capacity to fully support the achievement of internationally agreed development goals related to education, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration on ensuring that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education relevant to national needs; Page 37

(f) Enhance the industrial productivity, diversity and competitiveness of African countries through a combination of financial and technological support for the development of key infrastructure, access to technology, networking of research centres, adding value to export products, skills development and enhancing market access in support of sustainable development;

(g) Enhance the contribution of the industrial sector, in particular mining, minerals and metals, to the sustainable development of Africa by supporting the development of effective and transparent regulatory and management frameworks and value addition, broad -based participation, social and environmental responsibility and increased market access in order to create an attractive and conducive environment

for investment;

(h) Provide financial and technical support to strengthen the capacity of African countries to undertake environmental legislative policy and institutional reform for sustainable development and to undertake environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, to negotiate and implement multilateral environment agreements;

(i) Develop projects, programmes and partnerships with relevant stakeholders and mobilize resources for the effective implementation of the outcome of the African Process for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment;

**(j) Deal effectively with energy problems in Africa, including through initiatives to:**

(i) Establish and promote programmes, partnerships and initiatives to support Africa's efforts to implement NEPAD objectives on energy, which seek to secure access for at least 35 per cent of the African population within 20 years, especially in rural areas;

**(ii) Provide support to implement other initiatives on energy, including the promotion of cleaner and more efficient use of natural gas and increased use of renewable energy, and to improve energy efficiency**

Provide support to implement other initiatives on energy, including the promotion of cleaner and more efficient use of natural gas and increased use of renewable energy, and to improve energy efficiency and access to advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas;

**(k) and continue to take actions to mitigate the adverse effects on climate change in Africa, consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Assist African countries in mobilizing adequate resources for their adaptation needs relating to the adverse effects of climate change,

extreme weather events, sea level rise and climate variability, and assist in developing national climate change strategies and mitigation programmes, and continue to take actions to mitigate the adverse effects on climate change in Africa, consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(l) Support African efforts to develop affordable transport systems and infrastructure that promote sustainable development and connectivity in Africa;

(m) Further to paragraph 42 above, address the poverty affecting mountain communities in Africa;

(n) Provide financial and technical support for afforestation and reforestation in Africa and to build capacity for sustainable forest management, including combating deforestation and measures to improve the policy and legal framework of the forest sector.

66. Promote integrated water resources development and optimize the upstream and downstream benefits therefrom, the development and effective management of water resources across all uses and the protection of water quality and aquatic ecosystems, including through initiatives at all levels, to:

(a) Provide access to potable domestic water, hygiene education and improved sanitation and waste management at the household level through initiatives to encourage public and private investment in water supply and sanitation that give priority to the needs of the poor within stable and transparent national regulatory frameworks provided by Governments, while respecting local conditions involving all concerned stakeholders and monitoring the performance and improving the

accountability of public institutions and private companies; and develop critical water supply, reticulation and treatment infrastructure, and build capacity to maintain and manage systems to deliver water and sanitation services in both rural and urban areas; Page 39

(b) Develop and implement integrated river basin and watershed management strategies and plans for all major water bodies, consistent with paragraph 25 above;

(c) Strengthen regional, subregional and national capacities for data collection and processing and for planning, research, monitoring, assessment and enforcement, as well as arrangements for water resource management;

(d) Protect water resources, including groundwater and wetland ecosystems, against pollution, and, in cases of the most acute water scarcity, support efforts for developing non-conventional water resources, including the energy-efficient, cost-effective and sustainable desalination of seawater, rainwater harvesting and recycling of water.

\* \* \*67. Achieve significantly improved sustainable agricultural productivity and food security in furtherance of the agreed Millennium development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, including through initiatives at all levels to: (a) Support the development and implementation of national policies and programmes, including research programmes and development plans of African countries to regenerate their agricultural sector and sustainably develop their fisheries, and increase investment in infrastructure, technology and extension services, according to country needs. African countries should be in the process of developing and implementing food security strategies, within the context of national poverty eradication programmes, by 2005; (b) Promote and support efforts and initiatives to secure equitable access to land tenure and clarify resource rights and responsibilities, through land and tenure reform processes that respect the rule of law and are enshrined in

national law, and provide access to credit for all, especially women, and that enable economic and social empowerment and poverty eradication as well as efficient and ecologically sound utilization of land and that enable women producers to become decision makers and owners in the sector, including the right to inherit land; (c) Improve market access for goods, including goods originating from African countries, in particular least developed countries, within the framework of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, without prejudging the outcome of the World Trade Organization negotiations, as well as within the framework of preferential agreements; (d) Provide support for African countries to improve regional trade and economic integration between African countries. Attract and increase investment in regional market infrastructure; (e) Support livestock development programmes aimed at progressive and effective control of animal diseases.

73. The Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development is an undertaking by the leaders of that region that, building on the Platform for Action on the Road to Johannesburg, 2002, 36 which was approved in Rio de Janeiro in October 2001, recognizes the importance of regional actions towards sustainable development and takes into account the region's singularities, shared visions and cultural diversity. It is targeted towards the adoption of concrete actions in different areas of sustainable development, such as biodiversity, water resources, vulnerabilities and sustainable cities, social aspects, including health and poverty, economic aspects, including energy, and institutional arrangements, including capacity-building, indicators and participation of civil society, taking into account

ethics for sustainable development level.

76. The Regional Platform identified seven initiatives for follow-up action: capacity - building for sustainable development; poverty reduction for sustainable development; cleaner production and sustainable energy; land management and biodiversity conservation; protection and management of and access to freshwater resources; oceans, coastal and marine resources and sustainable development of small island developing States; and action on atmosphere and climate change. Follow-up actions of these initiatives will be taken through national strategies and relevant regional and subregional initiatives, such as the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development and the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. C. Sustainable development in the West Asia region

- 144. Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of Agenda 21 regarding the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 50/227, which reaffirmed the Council as the central mechanism for the coordination of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and supervision of subsidiary bodies, in particular its functional commissions, and to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination, the Council should:  
(a) Increase its role in overseeing system-wide coordination and the balanced integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development; (b) Organize periodic consideration of sustainable development themes in regard to the implementation of Agenda 21, including the means of implementation. Recommendations in regard to such themes could be made by the Commission on Sustainable Development; (c) Make full use of its high -level, coordination, operational activities and the general segments to effectively take into account all relevant aspects of the work of the United Nations on sustainable development. In this context, the Council should encourage the active participation of major groups in its high -level segment and the work of its relevant functional commissions, in accordance with the respective rules of procedure; (d) Promote greater coordination, complementarity, effectiveness and efficiency of activities of its functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies that are relevant to the implementation of Agenda 21; (e) Terminate the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development and transfer its work to the Commission on Sustainable Development; (f) Ensure that there is a close link between the role of the Council in the follow-up to the Summit and its role in the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus, in a sustained and coordinated manner. To that end, the Council should explore ways to develop arrangements relating to its meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, as set out in the Monterrey Consensus; Page 58 (g) Intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of its activities concerning the coordinated implementation of Agenda 21. E. Role and function of the Commission on Sustainable Development

•  
.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

•  
19 (e) Diversify energy supply by developing advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies, including fossil fuel technologies and renewable energy technologies, hydro included, and their transfer to developing countries on concessional terms as mutually agreed. With a sense of urgency, substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply, recognizing the role of national and voluntary regional targets as well as initiatives, where they exist, and ensuring that energy policies are supportive to developing countries efforts to eradicate poverty, and regularly evaluate available data to review progress to this end; WSSD

In the year 2015

WSSD8.**[Launch an action programme]/[Take actions]** to improve access to reliable and affordable energy services for sustainable development sufficient to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development goals, including the goal of halving the proportion of people in poverty by 2015, and as a means to generate other important services that mitigate poverty, bearing in mind that access to energy facilitates the eradication of poverty. This would include actions at all levels to:

8. Take joint actions and improve efforts to work together at all levels to improve access to reliable and affordable energy services for sustainable development sufficient to facilitate the achievement of the millennium development goals, including the goal of halving the proportion of people in poverty by 2015, and as a means to generate other important services that mitigate poverty, bearing in mind that access to energy facilitates the eradication of poverty. This would include actions at all levels to: WSSD

## **.SECTION C**

**The need to end Practices and actions that impede the move socially environmentally sound renewable energy**

### **AVERTING ENVIRONMENTAL DEVASTATION AND HEALTH PROBLEMS**

1. End the exploitation of Nature and recognize rights of nature in 1982 World Charter of Nature; every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to humans, and to accord other organisms such recognition's, humans must be guided by a moral code of action,

2. Eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries; this pattern has contributed to poverty, to the inequitable distribution of resources within countries and between countries, has increased the vulnerability to natural disasters and has threaten the well-being of future generations.

3. Reduce the ecological footprint, as required in Habitat II, that has contributed to a socially inequitable and environmentally unsound world; end the conversion of

nature into a source of raw materials, and the practice of "built-in obsolescence"

4 .End the reluctance to invoke the precautionary principle - in the Rio Declaration, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change- as a general and enforceable principle of law: where there is a threat of irreversible harm the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measure to prevent the threat. End the misapplication of the precautionary principle by stating; we do not have to wait until there is scientific certainty of SAFETY to make a decision

5.End the application of the reverse onus strategy which places the onus not on the proponent of an intervention to prove safety but on the opponent, to demonstrate harm.

6. Prevent Natechs- natural disasters caused by technology or technological disasters caused by natural disasters and not rely on after-the fact attempts to reduce or mitigate disasters.

7 Ban, through the invoking the precautionary principle, the production and distribution of genetically engineered food and crops, the practice of biopiracy of genes of indigenous peoples, the dumping of GE food and adventitious materials [living modified organisms] on developing countries. And remove off the shelves all processed foods containing genetically engineered material.

8 End the destruction of biodiversity and the disregard for obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity to invoke the precautionary principle and not have to wait until there is scientific certainty of loss of biodiversity to prevent the loss

10.Ban Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which are bioaccumulative and toxic, and are capable of traveling .long distances from their original source.

11 .Prosecute countries for violating the transboundary principle that holds that states shall be held legally responsible for any pollution, in other states, caused by activities under their own jurisdiction.

12. End the practice of causing environmental devastation and then relying on restorative or clean-up technologies to remediate the environmental destruction rather than taking the preventive approach so as to avoid costly and inadequate subsequent measures to "rehabilitate" the site.

13.End the unsustainable forest management, the conversion of forests into agricultural land and the expansion of large-scale agro-industrial monocultures for food, fibre and, increasingly, energy. End the land grab of land in by developed states, in developing states

14. End land degradation, soil erosion, salinization, water logging, and soil pollution, which contribute to loss of soil fertility.

15. End the strategy of substituting proposals of adaption to or offsetting of climate change rather than seriously addressing the issue of preventing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

16. Phase out the use of fossil fuels, especially those from the unconventional sources such as the tar sands, reduce other greenhouse gas producing activities, ban fracking and end the substantial contribution to greenhouse gas emissions caused by methane gas resulting from the dependency on animal protein.

17. Discontinue the promoting of false "solutions" to climate change such as biofuels, large hydro projects, and nuclear energy which are not socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy sources. Abandon the market based proposal of the so-called Green Economy that could lead to the commodifying nature

18. End the failure of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to investigate and estimate the full impact of greenhouse gas emissions by the military, and to demand that each state release information related to the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of all militarism, from military exercises, war games, weapons testing, military aviation troop transfer, military operations, and waste generation, to reconstruction after acts of violent interventions etc.

19. End the practice of member states relying not on the emerging scientific data, but on the IPCC 2007 report which was based on 2004 and 2005 data. The emerging data now indicates the urgency of keeping the rise in temperature below the dangerous level of 1°C, [which is the point at which global systems on land, water and air will be so affected as to create vicious feedback cycles and destabilise many ecosystems and human societies]; whereas the IPCC 2007 Report had indicated that 2 degrees was the safe threshold. The emerging scientific data also indicates that there are more serious climate-induced events than anticipated in the 2007 IPCC Report.

20. End the climate injustice of using the atmospheric space of developing countries, and refusing to pay compensation

21. End the misappropriation of agricultural land for the growing of biofuel and contributing to food insecurity, and prohibit the purchase and use of land for biofuels to serve foreign markets and undermine food security.

22. Prohibit the practice, by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in violating the principle that a regulator must not be a promoter, of promoting civil nuclear energy.



23 Abandon the use of civil nuclear energy, and refuse to accept nuclear energy as the solution to climate change and delete Article IV of the NPT which bestows the inalienable right of states to access so-called "peaceful` use of nuclear energy.

24. Prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health. (Principle 14 Rio Declaration, 1992)

25. End the defiance by industrialized states, of principle 7 of the 1992 Rio Declaration which was adopted by all states at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This principle states that:

``States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. (Principle 7, Rio Declaration)

26. Prevent environmentally induced diseases, stop ignoring the social determinants of health problems- such as poverty/ environmentally induced diseases, etc and end the denigration universal access to a publicly-funded not-for-profit health non-two tier health care system.

27 End the lack of commitment to ensure, as agreed in Habitat II, that Corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with international law, including international environmental law

28. End the use of the notion of `prior consent" to persuade the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable communities within developed countries and in developing countries to accept the dumping of products and substances that are potentially harmful to the environment and human health. End the ruse of using extraterritorialism. -what right do we have to impose our higher standards on a developing country with lower standards

And end the disregard for indigenous peoples by abiding by Article 19 in UNDRIP which requires free prior consent of indigenous people for use of their territories and end the claim that consent does not really mean consent.

## **SECTION D ANALYSIS OF IAEA'S PROMOTION OF NULEAR ENERGY AT UNCED**

### **Seductive devices, doctrines, dogmas, strategies and fallacies**

By Fred Knelman and Joan Russow

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was initially set up in the 1960's to regulate Nuclear energy; they have, however, become one of the strongest proponents of nuclear energy. A fundamental regulatory principle of the "separation

of function" is that "the agency entrusted for regulating a technology cannot be the same agency that promotes the use of that technology"(Knelman, 1975). IAEA , through its UNCED document entitled "Nuclear Techniques and Sustainable Development." acted as a major proponent, not only of the current use, but of the increased use of nuclear energy.

### **Seductive devices, doctrines, dogmas, strategies and fallacies**

By Fred Knelman and Joan Russow

Dr. Fred Knelman was the Vice President of the Whistler Foundation for a Sustainable Environment, and Joan Russow, was the delegate for the Whistler Foundation at the New York Preparatory Committee for UNCED and at the Earth Summit at Rio. The Whistler Foundation and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation had circulated a Declaration that was signed by 37 Nobel Laureates; this declaration called for the phasing out of Nuclear energy. They requested permission to read this declaration at one of the plenary session at Rio Centro; permission was denied.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was initially set up in the 1960's to regulate Nuclear energy; they have, however, become one of the strongest proponents of nuclear energy. A fundamental regulatory principle of the "separation of function" is that "the agency entrusted for regulating a technology cannot be the same agency that promotes the use of that technology"(Knelman, 1975). IAEA , through its UNCED document entitled "Nuclear Techniques and Sustainable Development." acted as a major proponent, not only of the current use, but of the increased use of nuclear energy.

Agenda 21-- the 700 page far-reaching action-plan document from UNCED, was adopted unanimously by the global community represented at the Earth Summit in Rio. In Agenda 21 the following concern about radiation was expressed:

The deterioration of environmental quality, notably air, water and soil pollution owing to toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, radiation and other sources, is a matter of growing concern. (Chapter 16. subsection 12),

The extent of the consequences of the nuclear industry were also identified in Agenda 21:

Annually about 200,000 m<sup>3</sup> of low-level and intermediate- level waste and 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> of high-level waste ( as well as spent nuclear fuel destined for final disposal) is generated world wide from nuclear power production. These volumes are increasing as more nuclear power units are taken into operation, nuclear facilities are decommissioned and the use of radionuclides increases. (Chapter 22, subsection 1)

Yet at one of the plenary sessions, Mr. Hans Blix, Director-General of the IAEA, was given permission to present a document advocating nuclear energy as being a safe alternative energy for the future. The International Non Governmental Organizations, (NGOs), however, recognized that the fundamental regulatory principle had been violated, and gave IAEA, the dubious honour of being presented with the International NGO Community's "Most Preposterous Proposal Award" "for presenting nuclear power as the environmental solution in energy and successfully keeping its problems out of the documents".

We would like to highlight some of the SEDUCTIVE DEVICES, STRATEGIES, DOCTRINES, DOGMAS and FALLACIES that have made the IAEA worthy of this honour. The examples will be drawn from IAEA document which was prepared for UNCED. Also references will be made to other UNCED Documents such as Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration-- the Earth Charter-- 1992, and the Canada's National Report for UNCED, 1992

The seductive devices, strategies and fallacies used by the IAEA all draw upon the fundamental language of 'nukespeak'. Knelman (1986, 1992) has expanded on the euphemistic nature of Nukespeak:

( term first used in Hilgartner S., R. Bell, and R. O'Connor 1982)

The rule is sanitize by euphemism: political euphemism is of course older than nuclear power. How many of us recognize the "elimination of unreliable elements"? There are forbidden words in the language of civil nuclear power. For example, the words "accident", "pollution" or "disease" are never used. Accidents are either "transients", "events", "significant events", "anomalies", "occurrences" or "abnormal occurrences". In the extreme, they become "normal abnormalities", i.e. truth becomes lies. Explosions are "events of rapid disengagement" or "prompt criticality". Waste dumps are "residue areas". Thermal pollution becomes "thermal effects" and pollution becomes "impacts". Disease becomes "health effects". This is a euphemism for cancer and genetic malformations. And missing plutonium, which is the link to clandestine acquisition of nuclear explosives is "material unaccounted for" or simply MUF! (Knelman, 1986.)

Other names relating to nuclear accidents are criticality, nuclear excursions, abnormal evolution, normal aberration, plant transients, unnecessary ignition sources. "Nukespeak" is perpetuated through "nuclear acceptance campaigns" by the PR departments of the nuclear establishment, designed to find "palatable synonyms" for "scare words" through the use of "truth squads" in order to remove "undue public concern", create "pro-energy climate" where "technically qualified persons" would agree that nuclear power poses "no significant threat" and could be entrusted" for the timely detection of potential abnormalities, or there is "no evidence" of such threat ( as though lack of evidence is proof of assertion) and the promises that turned into lies i.e. that nuclear power would be "too cheap to meter" providing society with "boundless energy" and save us from "freezing in the dark"., this is the language of Orwell's 1984, where peace is war and truth is a lie. ( Knelman, 1992).

## **SEDUCTIVE DEVICES, DOCTRINES, DOGMAS, STRATEGIES AND FALLACIES**

### **• The "blatant misrepresentation or expedient omission" device**

This device involves the convenient exclusion of any part that could be detrimental to one's position. The IAEA through expedient omission (possibly for advantageous "clarification") has left out a significant section in Agenda 21 which does not include nuclear energy in the list of "safe" technologies for the future.

To "clarify" Agenda 21, the IAEA in its UNCED document stated the following:

he UNCED Agenda 21 notes the need for a transition to environmentally sound energy systems, which will entail major changes in the patterns of energy production and consumption (IAEA Document, p.5, 1992)

In the Atmosphere chapter of Agenda 21, the following [safe] and sound technologies are advocated:

cooperate to increase the availability of capacity, capabilities and relevant technologies ...for utilizing and producing environmentally [safe and} sound renewable energy resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower and biomass,... Each resource should be utilized in a manner that ... minimizes environmental stress and health impacts, .... (Section 9. Subsection 9 g Agenda 21,

1992)

Thus, we see that in the Energy section of Agenda 21, Nuclear energy is not mentioned as being one of the [safe] or sound technology.

- **The "coopted terms" strategy**

This strategy involves the stipulating of a new definition for a term that would jeopardize one's own argument.

In the Rio Declaration the following precautionary principle was advocated:

Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation." ( Rio Declaration, 1992).

In the following statement, the IAEA redefines the important precautionary principle that was agreed to in the Rio Declaration, 1992.

The basic principles for radiation protection and safety in all applications and activities in nuclear science and technology are precautionary (IAEA Document , p. 2, authors emphasis)

The Rio principle, however, if enacted and truly adhered to, would bring about a moratorium on new nuclear power plants while phasing out currently existing ones.

- **The "comparison of convenience" device**

This device involves the narrowing down of alternatives so that whatever aspect is compared will appear favourable to the proposed alternative.

In the following statement from the IAEA document, the IAEA narrows the alternatives used for comparison to those which would appear to be favourable within the terms of reference of their comparison. Thus, for example, they compare the relatively low volume of nuclear wastes to the much larger volume of wastes from fossil fuels. However, it is the volume of wastes multiplied by their toxicity that is significant. Merely comparing volumes is a "comparison of convenience". The same false comparison is used to compare fuel requirements for the same energy output.

A nuclear plant would require 27 tonnes of slightly enriched uranium each year, which corresponds to a few truckloads. The corresponding quantity of natural uranium is 160 tonnes.

a coal fired plant would need 2.6 million tonnes of coal each year... which corresponds to the load carried by 5 trains, each transporting 1400 tones every day  
an oil fired plant would require 2 million tonnes of fuel oil per year, which is about 10 supertanker loads. (IAEA document, 1992, p.12)

The nuclear establishment never fails to compare coal and nuclear as competing energy sources, always claiming the inherent superiority of nuclear . Usually this is accomplished by failing to include the entire fuel cycle over its full life of impacts, social and environmental. They conveniently exclude "safety" factors," "production of wastes," "disposability of wastes," "degree of potential for bioaccumulation," lifetimes of wastes, toxicity and proliferation problems associated with nuclear.

Yet no bombs are built of coal, no terrorist is interested in hijacking coal or in the clandestine acquisition of coal weapons, coal plants do not have to be decommissioned and mothballed after some 30 to 50 years of operation, their hazardous wastes do not have to be guarded for 100,000 years, coal dust is easier to contain than radon and coal plants do not require liability subsidies by acts of parliament" ( Knelman, 1992)

• **The "lull and lure of the technological fix" syndrome ( the "misleading assurance" device or the fallacy of "technological omnipotence")**

This syndrome, device or fallacy involves the revealing of the seriousness of the problem and the offering of a "solution" which is usually worse than the problem the proponents of a potentially dangerous act indicate that they recognize the danger and focus on one area for which they can offer a technological fix

In the following statement from the Radioactive Wastes section of Agenda 21, into which it appears that the IAEA had input, the following situation is recognized:

Annually about 200,000 m<sup>3</sup> of low-level and intermediate-level waste and 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> of high-level waste ( as well as spent nuclear fuel destined for final disposal) is generated world wide from nuclear power production. These volumes are increasing as more nuclear power units are taken into operation, nuclear facilities are decommissioned and the use of radionuclides increases. The high level waste contains about 99 percent of the radionuclides and thus represents the largest radiological risk. ( Agenda 21, Radio Active wastes, 21.1.).

In the IAEA document the authors affirm the certainty of the technological fix.

There is nevertheless a consensus among experts that safe geological disposal of high level wastes, including spent nuclear fuel, is technically feasible. ( IAEA Document, p.17)

The view of experts in the field is that safe technological solutions exist for managing the waste. (IAEA Document, 1992, p. 15)

Knelman (1992) pointed out that

The assumption behind the notion of permanent disposal of High level wastes deep in a stable geological formation is false because this assumption relies on the mistaken belief that anything we do technologically can be permanent This assumption of permanence is particularly false when we are dealing with the lithosphere over some 100,000 years and when we must first disturb the geological structure by digging a very deep hole. AECL(Atomic Energy of Canada Limited) has dug a deep hole near Lac du Bonnet in Manitoba which is totally inappropriate for such so-called "permanent" disposal. For one thing you must, in all events, avoid water. Yet, The AECL hole must be soaked Walt Patterson, a nuclear critic described this AECL research as follows: A drunk has lost his keys and is discovered by a police officer crawling around a street light. When questioned, the drunk admitted that he had lost his keys in front of a dark building, a block away. When asked why the drunk was then searching around the street light, the drunk said " you see, officer, the light is better here" and as Dr. Martin Resnikoff, an expert on geological waste disposal has put it " the earth does not stand still. In other words, experts in the relevant fields do not agree. (Knelman, 1992, in progress)

- **The "rhetoric of notwithstanding clause" doctrine.**

This doctrine allows for the indulging in strong statements about deep concern and the need for significant change and then including a notwithstanding clause that negates the strong statement.

In the Rio declaration (1992) there is a strong statement about third world dumping: States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health. (Principle 14 Rio Declaration, 1992)

(There are, however, disturbing "notwithstanding clauses" that appear such as in the following statements:

Develop regulatory and non-regulatory measures and procedures aimed at preventing the export of chemicals that are banned, severely restricted, withdrawn or not approved for health or environmental reasons, *except when such export has received prior written consent from the importing country or is otherwise in accordance with the PIC procedure;* ( Section 19. subsection 53 f , Agenda 21, 1992)

In the following statement in the IAEA document, the IAEA energetically adopts the spirit of the " rhetoric of notwithstanding clauses"

The IAEA in 1990 promulgated a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste as a basis for harmonization of national legislation and policies. The code lays down the conditions and principles for international waste transfers, such as that movement must be made in a manner consistent with the international safety standards, that there must be prior notification and consent of the sending, receiving and transit States, and that each State involved should have a regulatory authority...( IAEA Document, 1992, p. 20

- **The "flamboyant absurdity" doctrine or dogma**

This doctrine or dogma carries the concerns of one's opponents to the point where the regulations governing the opponents concerns should become the standard by which other potentially lesser concerns will be addressed.

The IAEA appears to advocate that, what is considered to be the most dangerous industry, just because it is dangerous, has developed stringent standards, and that they who contribute to possibly the greatest uncontrollable hazard are the ones who should assist the community in dealing with other hazards.

The basic principles for radiation protection and safety in all applications and activities in nuclear science and technology are precautionary and are so well founded in science and so widely accepted that they are now also being regarded as a source of guidance in controlling pollutants and impacts arising from other human activities. Their wider application would undoubtedly contribute towards sustainable development. (p.2)

- **The "justification through dire consequences of alternatives" device**

This device involves the revealing of the dire consequences of the current practices and offering one own practice as the salvation for the problem

In the following statement the IAEA cites the dire consequences of the other alternatives to justify their proposed alternative:

The problem of acid rain, which is linked to emissions from the burning of fossil

fuels, has been recognized for decades..... . the primary concern about the continued and increasing use of fossil fuels is the problem of CO<sub>2</sub> emission and the potential impact on world climate..... World conference on the Changing Atmosphere... need to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission (IAEA document, p. 5)

climate change in connection with fossil fuels (p. 9)

- **The "benevolent outcome exploitation" strategy**

This strategy involves the selection of the outcome which the opposition to the proposed alternative would advocate and the subsequent attempt to demonstrate that the proposed alternative, which the opposition would condemn, would be the best way of achieving that outcome.

In the following statements from the IAEA document, the IAEA focuses on the desired outcomes of reducing acid rain and limiting greenhouse gas to justify the selection of their proposed alternative:

Several governments have already made commitments to reduce carbon emission, while recognizing that this will be hard to achieve except through drastic policy decisions in the energy sector. (IAEA Document, 1992, p.6)

Nuclear power plants in normal operations cause very little environmental detriment and are beneficial when they replace plants which would emit CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub> (p. 12). In this respect they would help to reduce acid rain and limit greenhouse gas emissions (IAEA Document 1992 , p. 12)

To accomplish the above, IAEA and other nuclear proponents are recommending the construction of some 4000 to 5000 new commercial nuclear power plants. The combination of the multi- trillion cost and the time required for construction renders this proposal no less than bewildering. By the 6 to 10 year period required for construction, other sources of climate-altering gases would wipe out all gains. Secondly at 1/7th to 1/10th the above cost, a much greater reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> and other climate-altering gases can be achieved through simple available conservation and efficiency measures.

- **The "shelter of fragmentation" syndrome**

This syndrome involves the dissociating of the problem from a more generic problem by placing the problem in its own isolated category.

In the agenda 21 document, Nuclear wastes are not included in the section of hazardous wastes because atomic wastes has its own section. Nuclear wastes thus seem to appear apart from hazardous wastes and from the strong recommendation associated with hazardous wastes such as:

Governments should intensify research and development activities on cost-effective alternatives for processes and substances that currently result in the generation of hazardous wastes that pose particular problems for environmentally sound disposal or treatment, the possibility of ultimate phase-out of those substances that present and unreasonable or otherwise unmanageable risk and are toxic, persistent and bio-accumulative to be considered as soon as practicable. Section 20 subsection 13c,

Agenda 21, 1992)

• **The "flaunting and condoning of the vicious circle principle" strategy**

This strategy is best explained by the economic principle that "bad money drives out good,". that is the opportunity costs of nuclear power are unacceptable and prohibitive Thus the money spent to subsidize nuclear power is at the expense of the funds required to solve the energy problem with safe alternatives, and consequently, because the research into alternatives will not be effectively carried out, the safe alternatives will not be able to adequately replace the non-renewable forms of energy.

In the 1992 report to UNCED, following was stated:

Nuclear energy has safety risks associated with the entire uranium cycle, from mining through processing to the ultimate disposal of high-level radioactive wastes. In addition, there are safety risks associated with the reactors used to generate electricity from uranium . And the use of fossil fuel to drive conventional thermal generation produces carbon dioxide and waste heat. (Canada's National report UNCED p. 46- 47)

From a domestic consumption point of view, the least environmentally damaging energy option is energy efficiency. (Canada's National report UNCED p. 47)

Despite the above statement, the document concludes::

New, cleaner technologies such as solar energy may help, but the hard fact is that to a large extent we will have to rely on either thermal, hydro, or nuclear energy in the future. In addition, energy projects for both export and domestic supply provide jobs and economic wealth to the country, and are especially important in some regions of Canada" ( p. 47. Canada's National report UNCED June, 1992, authors' emphasis)

The Canadian government has invoked the "vicious circle principle" by cutting subsidies to conservation efficiency and renewals. Canada is thus playing an important role in facilitating this not too hidden agenda by using many strategies, devices, doctrines, etc.

**CONCLUSION:**

The " nukespeak" and the seductive devices, strategies, syndromes used by the Nuclear Industry involve the language of delusion and distortion. Hopefully, through the continued revealing and categorizing of these words of delusion we could, in some small way, counteract the impact of the not too-hidden-agenda of the IAEA, and the rest of the nuclear establishment and their government supporters.

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**Introduction 1. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992,<sup>1</sup> provided the fundamental principles and the programme of action for achieving sustainable development. We strongly reaffirm our commitment to the Rio principles, 2 the full implementation of Agenda 212 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 213. We also commit ourselves to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration 4 and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992.**

**2. The present plan of implementation will further build on the achievements made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and expedite the realization of the remaining goals. To this end, we commit ourselves to undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhancing international cooperation, taking into account the Rio principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.**

**5 These efforts will also promote the integration of the three components of sustainable development — economic development, social development and environmental protection — as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development. 3. We recognize that the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit should benefit all, particularly women, youth, children and vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the implementation should involve all relevant actors through partnerships, especially between Governments of the North and South, on the one hand, and between Governments and major groups, on the other, to achieve the widely shared goals of sustainable development. As reflected in the Monterrey Consensus, 6 such partnerships are key to pursuing sustainable development in a globalizing world. 4. Good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development. At the domestic level, sound environmental, social and economic policies, democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, the rule of law, anti-corruption measures, gender equality and an enabling environment for investment are the basis for sustainable development. As a result of globalization, external factors have become critical in determining the success or failure of developing countries in their national efforts. The gap between developed and developing countries points to the continued need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade and full and effective participation of developing countries in global decision-making, if the 1 Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June**

1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda). 2 Ibid., vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annexes I and II. 3 General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex. 4 General Assembly resolution 55/2. 5 Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigend), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I. 6 Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex. Page 3 momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased. 5. Peace, security, stability and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as well as respect for cultural diversity, are essential for achieving sustainable development and ensuring that sustainable development benefits all. 6. We acknowledge the importance of ethics for sustainable development and, therefore, emphasize the need to consider ethics in the implementation of Agenda 21. II. Poverty eradication 7. Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries. Although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty - related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of other United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This would include actions at all levels to: (a) Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than 1 dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water; (b) Establish a world solidarity fund to eradicate poverty and to promote social and human development in the developing countries pursuant to modalities to be determined by the General Assembly, while stressing the voluntary nature of the contributions and the need to avoid duplication of existing United Nations funds, and encouraging the role of the private sector and individual citizens relative to Governments in funding the endeavours; (c) Develop national programmes for sustainable development and local and community development, where appropriate within country -owned poverty reduction strategies, to promote the empowerment of people living in poverty and their organizations. These programmes should reflect their priorities and enable them to increase access to productive resources, public services and institutions, in particular land, water, employment opportunities, credit, education and health; (d) Promote women's equal access to and full participation in, on the basis of equality with men, decision-making at all levels, mainstreaming gender perspectives in all policies and strategies, eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and improving the status, health and economic welfare of women and girls through full and equal access to economic opportunity, land, credit, education and health -care services;

(e) Develop policies and ways and means to improve access by indigenous people and their communities to economic activities and increase their employment through, where appropriate, measures such as training, technical assistance and credit facilities. Recognize that traditional and direct dependence on renewable resources and ecosystems, including sustainable harvesting, continues to be Page 4 essential to the cultural, economic and physical well-being of indigenous people and their communities; (f) Deliver basic health services for all and reduce environmental health threats, taking into account the special needs of children and the linkages between poverty, health and environment, with provision of financial resources, technical assistance and knowledge transfer to developing countries and countries with economies in transition; (g) Ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and will have equal access to all levels of education; (h) Provide access to agricultural resources for people living in poverty, especially women and indigenous communities, and promote, as appropriate, land tenure arrangements that recognize and protect indigenous and common property resource management systems; (i) Build basic rural infrastructure, diversify the economy and improve transportation and access to markets, market information and credit for the rural poor to support sustainable agriculture and rural development; (j) Transfer basic sustainable agricultural techniques and knowledge, including natural resource management, to small and medium-scale farmers, fishers and the rural poor, especially in developing countries, including through multistakeholder approaches and public-private partnerships aimed at increasing agriculture production and food security; (k) Increase food availability and affordability, including through harvest and food technology and management, as well as equitable and efficient distribution systems, by promoting, for example, community-based partnerships linking urban and rural people and enterprises; (l) Combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and floods through measures such as improved use of climate and weather information and forecasts, early warning systems, land and natural resource management, agricultural practices and ecosystem conservation in order to reverse current trends and minimize degradation of land and water resources, including through the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,<sup>7</sup> as one of the tools for poverty eradication; (m) Increase access to sanitation to improve human health and reduce infant and child mortality, prioritizing water and sanitation in national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies where they exist. 8. The provision of clean drinking water and adequate sanitation is necessary to protect human health and the environment. In this respect, we agree to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water (as outlined in the Millennium Declaration) and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, which would include actions at all levels to: (a) Develop and implement efficient household sanitation systems; (b) Improve sanitation in public institutions, especially schools; \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1954, No. 33480. Page 5 (c) Promote safe hygiene

practices; (d) Promote education and outreach focused on children, as agents of behavioural change; (e) Promote affordable and socially and culturally acceptable technologies and practices; (f) Develop innovative financing and partnership mechanisms; (g) Integrate sanitation into water resources management strategies.

**\*\*\*\*In Conclusion**

**Energy must be seen in a holistic concept with the independence principle. The interdependence principle affirms the interdependence of respect for human rights, fulfillment of social justice and equity, achievement of environmental protection, preservation and conservation and attainment of peace. These issues will be perceived to be interdependent facets of a potentially viable solution. It is no longer possible to consider in isolation: threats and impacts of war; the use of ecologically unsafe and unsound energy; the loss of ecological integrity; the disposal of toxic and hazardous wastes, including nuclear waste, the disregard for intergenerational and gender equality/equity; the ignoring of health issues related to population and environmental degradation; the perpetuation of the current model of development; the inequitable distribution of resources; the disenfranchised and the enfranchised gap etc. can no longer be considered in isolation**

Last Updated on Thursday, 08 October 2015 14:52

1138 readings

## **SDG GOAL 9 INFRASTRUCTURE - TRANSPORTATION- MOVING AWAY FROM CAR DEPENDENCY**



**Earth News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Wednesday, 23 September 2015 16:16

SDG GOAL 9 INFRASTRUCTURE - TRANSPORTATION- MOVING AWAY FROM  
CAR DEPENDENCY

By Joan Russow  
Global Compliance Research Project



A review of previous references in international instruments advocating policies on transportation and communication should promote desired patterns of development to satisfy the needs of the majority of the population, b to assure the distribution of activities to favour mass transportation, and to reduce congestion and pollution by motor vehicles.....

In the Annex will be references to infrastructure as proposed in Habitat II

The active development of a system of public transportation with adequate incentives for its use in preference to individual use of motor vehicles;....(vi) Provide for the separation of pedestrian and motor circulation, as well as separate paths for bicycles, and other categories of vehicular traffic;

The references to transportation are in green and the instruments introduced by \*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* 1976 HABITAT

Recommendation C.5 Energy

(a) Human settlements are consuming more and more energy just when mankind has become aware of the need to cease environmentally degrading and wasteful use of non-renewable energy resources.

(b) the efficient utilization of energy and its various mixes, should be given special consideration in the choice of designs and technologies for human settlements, especially the relative location of work places and dwellings.

(c) This may be achieved by:

(i) Reducing energy consumption by changes in land-use planning, building design, living patterns and appropriate transportation systems including emphasis on mass transportation;

Recommendation C.14 Transportation and communication

(a) Consideration should be given to the radical reversal of current trends,

both in terms of facilities for and modes of transport in order to prevent further deterioration of the situation where large cities are congested with private vehicles which in most countries cater only to a minority while adequate public transport is unavailable to urban and rural residents.

( ) policies on transportation and communication should promote desired patterns of development to satisfy the needs of the majority of the population, b to assure the distribution of activities to favour mass transportation, and to reduce congestion and pollution by motor vehicles.

(c) This could be achieved through:

(i) A more deliberate use of land-use planning and policies for the location of traffic generating activities, in order to minimize the need for travel:

(ii) A comprehensive approach to the planning and development of transportation networks;

(iii) The active development of a system of public transportation with adequate incentives for its use in preference to individual use of motor vehicles;

(iv) The provision of public subsidies for modes of transport suitable for serving isolated settlements;

(v) The consideration of innovative modes of transport and communications suited to the needs of children, the elderly and the handicapped;

(vi) Provide for the separation of pedestrian and motor circulation, as well as separate paths for bicycles, and other categories of vehicular traffic;

(vii) Over the short-term, transportation improvements should be designed to make more efficient use of existing highways and transit systems;

(viii) Innovative transportation systems need to be encouraged for reducing energy consumption and conserving resources and avoiding pollution;

(ix) The integration of communications and transport networks to enable the former to assume many of the responsibilities carried by the latter;

(x) The study of new techniques to avoid the air and environmental pollution caused by the present automobile system.

\*\*\*\*UNFCCC NIL

\*\*\*\*1992 AGENDA 21 UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT  
Agenda 21 - Chapter 4

## CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

4.1. This chapter contains the following programme areas:

- a. Focusing on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption;
- b. Developing national policies and strategies to encourage changes in unsustainable consumption patterns.

4.2. Since the issue of changing consumption patterns is very broad, it is addressed in several parts of Agenda 21, notably those dealing with energy, transportation and wastes,

## Agenda 21 – Chapter 6

### PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

#### Objectives

6.33. The health and well-being of all urban dwellers must be improved so that they can contribute to economic and social development. The global objective is to achieve a 10 to 40 per cent improvement in health indicators by the year 2000. The same rate of improvement should be achieved for environmental, housing and health service indicators. These include the development of quantitative objectives for infant mortality, maternal mortality, percentage of low birth weight newborns and specific indicators (e.g. tuberculosis as an indicator of crowded housing, diarrhoeal diseases as indicators of inadequate water and sanitation, rates of industrial and transportation accidents that indicate possible opportunities for prevention of injury, and social problems such as drug abuse, violence and crime that indicate underlying social disorders)

E. Reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards

#### Basis for action

6.39. This is, inter alia, due to past and present developments in consumption and production patterns and lifestyles, in energy production and use, in industry, in transportation etc., with little or no regard for environmental protection.

In many locations around the world the general environment (air, water and land), workplaces and even individual dwellings are so badly polluted that the health of hundreds of millions of people is adversely affected. This is, inter alia, due to past and present developments in consumption and production patterns and lifestyles, in energy production and use, in industry, in transportation etc., with little or no regard for environmental protection. There have been notable improvements in some countries, but deterioration of the environment continues. The ability of countries to tackle pollution and health problems is greatly restrained because of lack of resources. Pollution control and health protection measures have often not kept pace with economic development. Considerable development related environmental health hazards exist in the newly industrializing countries. Furthermore, the

recent analysis of WHO has clearly established the interdependence among the factors of health, environment and development and has revealed that most countries are lacking such integration as would lead to an effective pollution control mechanism.....

Agenda 21 – Chapter 7

#### PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

7.24. Developing countries should also encourage technological training and research through joint efforts by donors, non-governmental organizations and private business in such areas as the reduction of waste, water quality, saving of energy, safe production of chemicals and less polluting transportation.

7.52. Promoting efficient and environmentally sound urban transport systems in all countries should be a comprehensive approach to urban-transport planning and management. To this end, all countries should:

- a. Integrate land-use and transportation planning to encourage development patterns that reduce transport demand;
- b. Adopt urban-transport programmes favouring high-occupancy public transport in countries, as appropriate;
- c. Encourage non-motorized modes of transport by providing safe cycleways and footways in urban and suburban centres in countries, as appropriate;
- d. Devote particular attention to effective traffic management, efficient operation of public transport and maintenance of transport infrastructure;
- e. Promote the exchange of information among countries and representatives of local and metropolitan areas;
- f. Re-evaluate the present consumption and production patterns in order to reduce the use of energy and national resources.

(b) Developing pre-disaster planning

7.61. Pre-disaster planning should form an integral part of human settlement planning in all countries.

The following should be included:

- a. Undertaking complete multi-hazard research into risk and vulnerability of human settlements and settlement infrastructure, including water and sewerage, communication and transportation networks, as one type of risk reduction may increase vulnerability to another (e.g., an earthquake-resistant house made of wood



will be more vulnerable to wind storms);

## Agenda 21 – Chapter 8

### INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

#### A. Integrating environment and development at the policy, planning and management levels

##### Basis for action

8.2. Prevailing systems for decision-making in many countries tend to separate economic, social and environmental factors at the policy, planning and management levels. This influences the actions of all groups in society, including Governments, industry and individuals, and has important implications for the efficiency and sustainability of development. An adjustment or even a fundamental reshaping of decision-making, in the light of country-specific conditions, may be necessary if environment and development is to be put at the centre of economic and political decision-making, in effect achieving a full integration of these factors. In recent years, some Governments have also begun to make significant changes in the institutional structures of government in order to enable more systematic consideration of the environment when decisions are made on economic, social, fiscal, energy, agricultural, transportation, trade and other policies, as well as the implications of policies in these areas for the environment. New forms of dialogue are also being developed for achieving better integration among national and local government, industry, science, environmental groups and the public in the process of developing effective approaches to environment and development. The responsibility for bringing about changes lies with Governments in partnership with the private sector and local authorities, and in collaboration with national, regional and international organizations, including in particular UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank. Exchange of experience between countries can also be significant. National plans, goals and objectives, national rules, regulations and law, and the specific situation in which different countries are placed are the overall framework in which such integration takes place. In this context, it must be borne in mind that environmental standards may pose severe economic and social costs if they are uniformly applied in developing countries.

## Agenda 21 – Chapter 9

### PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

#### 2. Transportation

##### Basis for action

9.13. The transport sector has an essential and positive role to play in economic and social development, and transportation needs will undoubtedly increase. However, since the transport sector is also a source of atmospheric emissions, there is need for a review of existing transport systems and for more effective design and management of traffic and transport systems.

## Objectives

9.14. The basic objective of this programme area is to develop and promote cost-effective policies or programmes, as appropriate, to limit, reduce or control, as appropriate, harmful emissions into the atmosphere and other adverse environmental effects of the transport sector, taking into account development priorities as well as the specific local and national circumstances and safety aspects.

## Activities

9.15. Governments at the appropriate level, with the cooperation of the relevant United Nations bodies and, as appropriate, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, should:

- a. Develop and promote, as appropriate, cost-effective, more efficient, less polluting and safer transport systems, particularly integrated rural and urban mass transit, as well as environmentally sound road networks, taking into account the needs for sustainable social, economic and development priorities, particularly in developing countries;
- b. Facilitate at the international, regional, subregional and national levels access to and the transfer of safe, efficient, including resource-efficient, and less polluting transport technologies, particularly to the developing countries, including the implementation of appropriate training programmes;
- c. Strengthen, as appropriate, their efforts at collecting, analysing and exchanging relevant information on the relation between environment and transport, with particular emphasis on the systematic observation of emissions and the development of a transport database;
- d. In accordance with national socio-economic development and environment priorities, evaluate and, as appropriate, **promote cost-effective policies or programmes, including administrative, social and economic measures, in order to encourage use of transportation modes that minimize adverse impacts on the atmosphere;**
- e. Develop or enhance, as appropriate, mechanisms to integrate transport planning strategies and urban and regional settlement planning strategies, with a view to reducing the environmental

impacts of transport;

f. Study, within the framework of the United Nations and its regional commissions, the feasibility of convening regional conferences on transport and the environment.

#### Agenda 21 – Chapter 11 COMBATING DEFORESTATION

j. Adopting new initiatives at national, subregional and regional levels for controlling the input of non-point source pollutants, which require broad changes in sewage and waste management, agricultural practices, mining, construction and transportation.

\*\*\*\*1993 WORLD SUMMIT ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
NIL

\*\*\*\*1994 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
NIL

\*\*\*\*1995 WORLD SUMMIT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

B. Improved access to productive resources and infrastructure

31. The opportunities for income generation, diversification of activities and increase of productivity in low-income and poor communities should be enhanced

by:

(a) Improving the availability and accessibility of transportation, communication, power and energy services at the local or community level, in particular for isolated, remote and marginalized communities;

34. Urban poverty should further be addressed by:

(a) Promoting and strengthening micro-enterprises, new small businesses, cooperative enterprises, and expanded market and other employment opportunities

and, where appropriate, facilitating the transition from the informal to the formal sector;

(b) Promoting sustainable livelihoods for people living in urban poverty through the provision or expansion of access to training, education and other employment assistance services, in particular for women, youth, the unemployed

and the underemployed;

(c) Promoting public and private investments to improve for the deprived the overall human environment and infrastructure, in particular housing, water

and sanitation, and public transportation;

#### \*\*\*\* 1995 BEIJING PLATFORM OF ACTION

Actions to be taken

166. By Governments:

(e) Create and modify programmes and policies that recognize and strengthen women's vital role in food security and provide paid and unpaid women producers, especially those involved in food production, such as farming, fishing and aquaculture, as well as urban enterprises, with equal access to appropriate technologies, transportation, extension services, marketing and credit facilities at the local and community levels;

#### \*\*\*\*1996 HABITAT II

9. In the process of globalization and growing interdependence, rural settlements represent a great challenge and opportunity for renewed developmental initiatives at all levels and in all fields. Many rural settlements, however, are facing a lack or an inadequacy of economic opportunities, especially employment, and of infrastructure and services, particularly those related to water, sanitation, health, education, communication, transportation and energy. Appropriate efforts and technologies for rural development can help to reduce, inter alia, imbalances, unsustainable practices, poverty, isolation, environmental pollution and insecure land tenure. Such efforts can contribute to improving the linkage of rural settlements with the mainstream of economic, social and cultural life, to assuring sustainable communities and safe environments, and to reducing pressures on urban growth.

10. In order to sustain our global environment and improve the quality of living in our human settlements, we commit ourselves to sustainable patterns of production, consumption, transportation and settlements development;

pollution prevention; respect for the carrying capacity of ecosystems; and the preservation of opportunities for future generations. In this connection, we shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of different contributions to global environmental degradation, we reaffirm the principle that countries have common but differentiated responsibilities. We also recognize that we must take these actions in a manner consistent with the

precautionary principle approach, which shall be widely applied according to the capabilities of countries. We shall also promote healthy living environments, especially through the provision of adequate quantities of safe water and effective management of waste.

IV

30. The quality of life of all people depends, among other economic, social, environmental and cultural factors, on the physical conditions and spatial

characteristics of our villages, towns and cities. City lay-out and aesthetics, land-use patterns, population and building densities, transportation and ease of access for all to basic goods, services and public amenities have a crucial bearing on the liveability of settlements. This is particularly important to vulnerable and disadvantaged persons, many of whom

face barriers in access to shelter and in participating in shaping the future of their settlements. People's need for community and their aspirations for more liveable neighbourhoods and settlements should guide the process of design, management and maintenance of human settlements. Objectives of this

endeavour include protecting public health, providing for safety and security, education and social integration, promoting equality and respect for diversity and cultural identities, increased accessibility for persons with disabilities, and preservation of historic, spiritual, religious and culturally significant buildings and districts, respecting local landscapes and treating the local environment with respect and care. The preservation of the natural heritage and historical human settlements, including sites, monuments and buildings, particularly those protected under the UNESCO Convention on World Heritage Sites, should be assisted, including through international cooperation. It is also of crucial importance that spatial diversification and mixed use of housing and services be promoted at the local

level in order to meet the diversity of needs and expectations.

43. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(n) Improving access to work, goods, services and amenities, inter alia, by promoting effective and environmentally sound, accessible, quieter and more energy-efficient transportation systems and by promoting spatial development

patterns and communications policies that reduce transport demand, promoting

measures, as appropriate, so that the polluter bears the cost of pollution, taking into account special needs and requirements of developing countries

61 c (vii) Promoting sustainable spatial development patterns and transportation systems that improve accessibility of goods, services, amenities and work;

119. In order to promote gender-sensitive planning and management of human

settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in collaboration with women's groups and other interested parties, should:

(a) Adopt, where appropriate, by-laws, standards and norms and develop

planning guidelines that take into consideration the needs and situations of women and men and girls and boys in relation to human settlements planning, development and decision-making, and in the provision of and access to basic services, including public transportation, health and educational facilities;

## 6. Sustainable energy use

145. The use of energy is essential in urban centres for transportation, industrial production, and household and office activities. Current dependence in most urban centres on non-renewable energy sources can lead to climate change, air pollution and consequent environmental and human health problems, and may represent a serious threat to sustainable development. Sustainable energy production and use can be enhanced by encouraging energy efficiency, by such means as pricing policies, fuel switching, alternative energy, mass transit and public awareness. Human settlements and energy policies should be actively coordinated.

146. In order to promote efficient and sustainable energy use, Governments at the appropriate levels, in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and consumer groups, should, as appropriate:

(h) Support programmes for the reduction and neutralization of emissions of polluting gases originating in the generation, transportation and use of energy;

(l) Encourage and promote the development and dissemination of new and environmentally sound technologies, including the reduction of metal compounds as part of transportation fuels, and good practices in the use of energy.

## 7. Sustainable transport and communication systems

147. Transport and communication systems are the key to the movement of goods, people, information and ideas, and to access to markets, employment, schools and other facilities and land use, both within cities and between cities, and in rural and other remote areas. The transportation sector is a major consumer of non-renewable energy and of land and is a major contributor to pollution, congestion and accidents. Integrated transport and land-use policy and planning can reduce the ill effects of current transport systems. People living in poverty, women, children, youth, older persons and people with

disabilities are particularly disadvantaged by the lack of accessible, affordable, safe and efficient public transport systems.

#### Actions

151. In order to achieve sustainable transport in human settlements, Governments at the appropriate levels, in partnership with the private sector, the community sector and other relevant interested parties, should:

(c) Encourage the use of an optimal combination of modes of transport, including walking, cycling and private and public means of transportation, through appropriate pricing, spatial settlement policies and regulatory measures;

#### actions

186. To address the special needs of metropolitan areas and the needs of all people living in those areas, Governments at the appropriate level, including local authorities, should:

(g) Develop or, where necessary, create a core of professional staff that includes women, trained in the areas of urban planning, environmental management, engineering, transportation, communications, social services, development of primary infrastructure, and emergency planning, and with the skills to work together to address major planning issues in an integrated way;

204. The full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in particular in all developing countries, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries, will require the mobilization of additional financial resources from various sources at the national and international levels and more effective development cooperation in order to promote assistance for shelter and human settlements activities. This will require, inter alia:

#### REPORT FROM DIALOGUE ON TRANSPORT

The participants in the "Dialogue on transport in the city of tomorrow" recognized that cities had substantially different transport systems and transport-related problems. What they have in common is that as they grow richer and bigger their transport problems get worse because the number of motorized vehicles and their level of use grows faster than the population and income, while the amount of road space to accommodate this demand grows little if at all. This imbalance leads to increasing congestion and air pollution, more accidents and negative social income, as the poor and women suffer disproportionately from deteriorating public transport.

Several strategic instruments can be used to address the problems concerning transport. Land-use densification, less rigorous separation of local land uses and multinuclear urban forms can all reduce the demand for private transport. In addition, a number of cleaner technologies and

fuels are available or are in prospect. These are capable of substantially reducing both local and global air pollution impacts. Public transport, a more space efficient and potentially less environmentally polluting mode of transportation, should be encouraged. Fuel taxation policies should reflect the full costs of use of road space, including the environmental and infrastructure costs associated with road use.

\*\*\* 2002 WSSD WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

21. Promote an integrated approach to policy -making at the national, regional and local levels for transport services and systems to promote sustainable development, including policies and planning for land use, infrastructure, public transport systems and goods delivery networks, with a view to providing safe, affordable and efficient transportation, increasing energy efficiency, reducing pollution, congestion and adverse health effects and limiting urban sprawl, taking into account national priorities and circumstances. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Implement transport strategies for sustainable development, reflecting specific regional, national and local conditions, to improve the affordability, efficiency and convenience of transportation as well as urban air quality and health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including through the development of better vehicle technologies that are more environmentally sound, affordable and socially acceptable;

(b) Promote investment and partnerships for the development of sustainable, energy efficient multi-modal transportation systems, including public mass transportation systems and better transportation systems in rural areas, with technical and financial assistance for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

ANNEX

In the Annex will be references to infrastructure as proposed in Habitat II

4. To improve the quality of life within human settlements, we must combat the deterioration of conditions that in most cases, particularly in developing countries, have reached crisis proportions. To this end, we must address comprehensively, inter alia, unsustainable consumption and production



patterns, particularly in industrialized countries; unsustainable population changes, including changes in structure and distribution, giving priority consideration to the tendency towards excessive population concentration; homelessness; increasing poverty; unemployment; social exclusion; family instability; inadequate resources; lack of basic infrastructure and services; lack of adequate planning; growing insecurity and violence; environmental degradation; and increased vulnerability to disasters.

6. Rural and urban development are interdependent. In addition to improving the urban habitat, we must also work to extend adequate infrastructure, public services and employment opportunities to rural areas in order to enhance their attractiveness, develop an integrated network of settlements and minimize rural-to-urban migration. Small- and medium-sized towns need special focus.

8. To overcome current problems and to ensure future progress in the improvement of economic, social and environmental conditions in human settlements, we must begin with a recognition of the challenges facing cities A/CONF.165/14 page 14 and towns. According to current projections, by the turn of the century, more than three billion people - one half of the world's population - will live and work in urban areas. The most serious problems confronting cities and towns and their inhabitants include inadequate financial resources, lack of employment opportunities, spreading homelessness and expansion of squatter settlements, increased poverty and a widening gap between rich and poor, growing insecurity and rising crime rates, inadequate and deteriorating building stock, services and infrastructure, lack of health and educational facilities, improper land use, insecure land tenure, rising traffic congestion, increasing pollution, lack of green spaces, inadequate water supply and sanitation, uncoordinated urban development and an increasing vulnerability to disaster. All of these have seriously challenged the capacities of Governments, particularly those of developing countries, at all levels to realize economic development, social development and environmental protection, which are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development - the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people.

9. In the process of globalization and growing interdependence, rural settlements represent a great challenge and opportunity for renewed developmental initiatives at all levels and in all fields. Many rural settlements, however, are facing a lack or an inadequacy of economic opportunities, especially employment, and of infrastructure and services, particularly those related to water, sanitation, health, education, communication, transportation and energy. Appropriate efforts and technologies for rural development can help to reduce, inter alia, imbalances, unsustainable practices, poverty, isolation, environmental pollution and insecure land tenure.

10. Cities, towns and rural settlements are linked through the movements of goods, resources and people. Urban-rural linkages are of crucial importance

for the sustainability of human settlements. As rural population growth has outpaced the generation of employment and economic opportunities, rural-to-urban migration has steadily increased, particularly in developing countries, which has put enormous pressure on urban infrastructure and services already under serious stress. It is urgent to eradicate rural poverty and to improve the quality of living conditions, as well as to create employment and educational opportunities in rural settlements, regional A/CONF.165/14 page 15 centres and secondary cities. Full advantage must be taken of the complementary contributions and linkages of rural and urban areas by balancing their different economic, social and environmental requirements.

Equitable human settlements are those in which all people, without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, have equal access to housing, infrastructure, health services, adequate food and water, education and open spaces. In addition, such human settlements provide equal opportunity for a productive and freely chosen livelihood; equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance, the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; equal opportunity for personal, spiritual, religious, cultural and social development; equal opportunity for participation in public decision-making; equal rights and obligations with regard to the conservation and use of natural and cultural resources; and equal access to mechanisms to ensure that rights are not violated. The empowerment of women and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, whether rural or urban, are fundamental to sustainable human settlements development.

43 (d) Providing adequate and integrated environmental infrastructure facilities in all settlements as soon as possible with a view to improving A/CONF.165/14 page 25 health by ensuring access for all people to sufficient, continuous and safe freshwater supplies, sanitation, drainage and waste disposal services, with a special emphasis on providing facilities to segments of the population living in poverty;

(i) Promoting the development of more balanced and sustainable human settlements by encouraging productive investments, job creation and social infrastructure development in small and medium-sized cities, towns and villages;

(46 d) Integrating a gender perspective in the design and implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable resource management mechanisms, production techniques and infrastructure development in rural and urban areas;

60. Adequate shelter means more than a roof over one's head. It also means adequate privacy; adequate space; physical accessibility; adequate security; security of tenure; structural stability and durability; adequate lighting,

heating and ventilation; adequate basic infrastructure, such as water-supply, sanitation and waste-management facilities; suitable environmental quality and health-related factors; and adequate and accessible location with regard to work and basic facilities: all of which should be available at an affordable cost. Adequacy should be determined together with the people concerned, bearing in mind the prospect for gradual development. Adequacy often varies from country to country, since it depends on specific cultural, social, environmental and economic factors. Gender-specific and age-specific factors, such as the exposure of children and women to toxic substances, should be considered in this context.

(g) Make full use of existing infrastructure in urban areas, encouraging optimal density of the occupation of available serviced land in A/CONF.165/14 page 42 accordance with its carrying capacity, at the same time ensuring the adequate provision of parks, play areas, common spaces and facilities, and plots of land for home gardening, as appropriate;

76(g) Make full use of existing infrastructure in urban areas, encouraging optimal density of the occupation of available serviced land in A/CONF.165/14 page 42 accordance with its carrying capacity, at the same time ensuring the adequate provision of parks, play areas, common spaces and facilities, and plots of land for home gardening, as appropriate;

82 (d) Support partnerships between such cooperative institutions and public and other financing institutions as an effective means of mobilizing local capital and applying it to local entrepreneurial and community activity for housing and infrastructure development;

83. To facilitate access to housing for those not served by existing finance mechanisms, Governments should review and rationalize, where appropriate, systems of subsidies through policies that will ensure their viability, equity and transparency, thus allowing many people without access to credit and land to enter the market.

(e) Ensuring access to basic infrastructure and services 84. Basic infrastructure and services at the community level include the delivery of safe water, sanitation, waste management, social welfare, transport and communications facilities, energy, health and emergency services, schools, public safety, and the management of open spaces. The lack of adequate basic services, a key component of shelter, exacts a heavy toll on human health, productivity and the quality of life, particularly for people living in poverty in urban and rural areas. Local and state/provincial authorities, as the case may be, have the primary responsibility to provide or enable delivery of services, regulated by appropriate legislation and standards. Their capacity to manage, operate and maintain infrastructure and basic services must be supported by central Governments. There are, however, a host of other

actors, including the private sector, communities and A/CONF.165/14 page 47 non-governmental organizations, that can participate in service provision and management under the coordination of Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities.

85. To safeguard the health, safety, welfare and improved living environment of all people and to provide adequate and affordable basic infrastructure and services, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should promote: (a) The supply of and access to adequate quantities of safe drinking water;

(b) Adequate sanitation and environmentally sound waste management;

(c) Adequate mobility through access to affordable and physically accessible public transport and other communications facilities;

(d) Access to markets and retail outlets for selling and purchasing basic necessities;

(e) The provision of social services, especially for underserved groups and communities;

(f) Access to community facilities, including places of worship;

(g) Access to sustainable sources of energy;

(h) Environmentally sound technologies and the planning, provision and maintenance of infrastructure, including roads, streets, parks and open spaces;

(i) A high level of safety and public security;

(j) The use of a variety of planning mechanisms that provide for meaningful participation to reduce the negative impacts on biological resources, such as prime agricultural land and forests, that may arise from human settlements activities;

(k) Planning and implementation systems that integrate all of the above factors into the design and operation of sustainable human settlements.

86. To ensure more equitable provision of basic infrastructure and service delivery systems, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should:

(a) Work with all interested parties in providing serviced land and in allocating adequate space for basic services as well as for recreational and open spaces in the development of new schemes and the upgrading of existing ones;

A/CONF.165/14 page 48

(b) Involve local communities, particularly women, children and persons with disabilities, in decision-making and in setting priorities for the provision of services;

(c) Involve, encourage and assist, as appropriate, local communities, particularly women, children and persons with disabilities, in setting standards for community facilities and in the operation and maintenance of those facilities;

(d) Support the efforts of academic and professional groups in analysing the need for infrastructure and services at the community level;

(e) Facilitate the mobilization of funds from all interested parties, especially the private sector, for increased investment;

- (f) Establish support mechanisms to enable people living in poverty and the disadvantaged to have access to basic infrastructure and services;
- (g) Remove legal obstacles, including those related to security of tenure and credit, that deny women equal access to basic services;
- (h) Promote dialogue among all interested parties to help provide basic services and infrastructure.

87. To ensure the efficiency of infrastructure and the provision of services and their operation and maintenance practices, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should: (a) Create mechanisms to promote autonomous, transparent and accountable management of services at the local level; (b) Create an enabling environment to encourage the private sector to participate in the efficient and competitive management and delivery of basic services; (c) Promote the application of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies for infrastructure and delivery of services on a cost-effective basis;

Last Updated on Thursday, 15 October 2015 05:14

1569 readings

## The Dutch Sue Over Climate



**Justice News**

*Posted by Administrator*

Monday, 21 September 2015 10:50

886 Dutch citizens under a foundation called Urgenda sued the government of the Netherlands for not doing enough to address climate change and they won.

In an unprecedented decision the court in Den Haag ruled that current action on reducing climate change is insufficient and ordered an increase in reductions of greenhouse gas.

Now Belgium, Norway and the Philippines are following suit.

Through tort law Canadians could sue the government. Canadians are suffering a loss in the quality of life through unusual weather events such as floods, fires storms, droughts and direct impacts from ongoing pollution of the air, water and land.

"The Dutch lawsuit sends a loud signal that people have legal recourse to protect themselves and they don't have to be the victims of wanton negligence, even if this negligence is by their own governments" - Island Tides -Sept 3, 2015

Last Updated on Tuesday, 22 September 2015 05:11

1069 readings

# **International Day of Peace 2015: Ending Militarism and Redefining Security**



**Peace News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Sunday, 20 September 2015 11:46

**By Joan Russow**

**Global Compliance Research Project**

**A. To fulfill commitments to reallocate the military budget**

**B To prevent war and conflict**

**C. To redefine what constitutes true security- common security**

## **A. TO FULFILL COMMITMENTS TO REALLOCATE MILITARY EXPENSES**

At the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations the state leaders must finally fulfill years of commitments to reallocate the military budget, and cancel the long standing crippling third world debt.

Throughout the years, through international agreements, member states of the United Nations have recognized that the military budget has been a waste and misuse of resources. Currently the Global Community is now spending 1.75 trillion per year on the military budget at a time when many basic and fundamental rights have not been fulfilled.

Throughout the years, through international agreements, member states of the United Nations have recognized that the military budget has been a waste and misuse of resources. Unfortunately, institutional memory is either short or member states ignore precedents.

a. In 1976 at Habitat 1, member states of the United Nations affirmed the following in relation to the military budget:

"The waste and misuse of resources in war and armaments should be prevented. All countries should make a firm commitment to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament. Part of the resources thus released should be utilized so as to achieve a better quality of life for humanity and particularly the peoples of developing

countries" (II, 12 Habitat 1).

b. In 1981, in the General Assembly resolution entitled Resolution on the reduction of the military budget, the member states

(i) reaffirmed "the urgent need to reduce the military budget, and agreed to freeze and reduce the military budget";

(ii) recognised that "the military budget constitutes a heavy burden for the economies of all nations, and has extremely harmful consequences on international peace and security";

(iii) reiterated the appeal "to all States, in particular the most heavily armed States, pending the conclusion of agreements on the reduction of military expenditures, to exercise self-restraint in their military expenditures with a view to reallocating the funds thus saved to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of developing countries" (Resolution on the Reduction of Military Budgets, 1981).

c. These appeals were further reinforced in a 1983 General Assembly Resolution on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development that curbing the arms build-up would make it possible to release additional resources for use in economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries." Also in the 1993 resolution, member states considered that "the magnitude of military expenditures is now such that their various implications can no longer be ignored in the efforts pursued in the international community to secure the recovery of the world economy and the establishment of a new international economic order."

*Reaffirming that there is a close relationship between  
disarmament and  
development and that progress in the field of disarmament  
would considerably  
promote progress in the field of development and that*



*resources released*

*through disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social*

*development and well-being of all peoples and, in particular, those of the*

*developing countries, (1986, Declaration on the Right to Development)*

d. Also in 1992, all member states recognized that "Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development" (Rio Declaration. Principle 24, UNCED, 1992), and in Chapter 33, of Agenda 21, member states of the United Nations made a commitment to the "the reallocation of resources presently committed to military purposes" (33.18e)

e. In 1994, in adopting the statement from the International Conference on Population and Development, the member states of the United Nations concurred that the attainment of "quantitative and qualitative goals of the present Programme of Action clearly require additional resources, some of which could become available from a reordering of priorities at the individual, national and international levels. However, none of the actions required nor all of them combined is expensive in the context of either current global development or military expenditures." (Article 1.19)

f. In 1995, similarly, states in adopting the statement from the Social Development Summit endorsed the calling for "the reallocation of military spending to ensure a greater pocket of resources to expand public services. Again, in 1995, member states of the United Nations reconfirmed these commitments by adopting the Platform of Action at the UN conference on Women, Equality, Development and Peace. In the Platform of Action, States have made a commitment to maintain peace and security at the global, regional and local levels, together with the prevention of policies of aggression ... and the resolution of armed conflict" (Art. 14) and to reduce "...military expenditures" (Art. 15), states have also made a commitment to the "prevention and resolution of conflicts" (Art.15) and to increase and hasten, ... the conversion of military resources

and related industries to development and peaceful purposes" (145a).

g. In the 1984 General Assembly Resolution entitled the Right of Peoples to Peace, there were "Appeals to all States and international organizations to do their utmost to assist in implementing the right of peoples to peace through the adoption of ...measures at both the national and the international level." (4. Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace approved by General Assembly resolution 39/11 of 12 November 1984)

It is time for the member states of the United Nations to give substance to the years of commitment to substantially reduce the military budget.

Currently the Global Community is now spending 1.7 trillion per year on the military budget at a time when many basic and fundamental rights have not been fulfilled: the right to affordable and safe housing; the right to unadulterated food (pesticide-free and genetically engineered-free food); the right to safe drinking water; the right to a safe environment; the right to universally accessible, not for profit health care; and the right to free and accessible education.

At the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nations, the state leaders must finally fulfill years of commitments to reallocate the military budget, and cancel the long standing crippling third world debt.

**To demilitarize the economy by reallocating resources presently committed to military purposes to provide for the needs of citizens to pass on the peace dividend to the developing countries as undertaken through numerous UN Conference Action Plans and UN General Assembly Resolutions and Declarations.**

## **B. TO PREVENT WAR AND CONFLICT**

a. Delegitimize war- Given the social, environmental, health, human rights, economic consequences of war, under no conditions or circumstance is war legal or just.

b. End any attempt to undermine the international resolve to prevent the scourge of war; this would include not engaging in intimidation, in cajoling or in offering economic incentives in exchange for support, at the UN Security Council, for military interventions.

c. End the practice of invoking Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations rather than invoking Chapter VI - the peaceful resolutions of disputes – and refusing to be judged by the International Court of Justice.

d. End the misconstruing of Article 51 (self-defence) of the Charter of the United Nations to justify premeditated non-provoked military aggression, or to use various such pretexts for invading other sovereign states.

e. End the guises for military intervention "human security" (Iraq 1991), "Humanitarian intervention" (Kosovo, 1999), " "self-defence" (Afghanistan 2001), "Pre-emptive/ preventive" attack (Iraq, 2003) "Responsibility to Protect (Haiti, 2004, Libya, 2011) or "will to intervene" (Mali, 2013)

f. End the practice of mollifying public opposition to war by couching aggressive acts in euphemistic "operations" such as "Operation Just Cause", "Operation Iraqi Freedom", "Operation Enduring Freedom

g. Stop ignoring the commitment to Reallocate military spending as agreed to under Chapter 33 16e of Agenda 21, UNCED and under many previous commitment under UNGA resolutions and Declarations

h. Abandon the guise of the pre-emptive/preventive attack policy that has resulted in aggressive attacks on sovereign states and that has been in violation of the Article 2 of United Nations and international law as being the 'supreme' international crime of a war of aggression.

j. End the disrespect for the jurisdiction and decisions of the

International Court of Justice.

k. End occupation of sovereign states.

l. End the trumping of health, environment, civil and political and human rights for the sake of "militarized security,

m. End the practice of targeting or assisting in the assassination of leaders of other sovereign states, and of engaging in "regime change".

n. End the destabilization of states and regions through the sale of arms, including through the guise of "foreign aid" or through infiltration of NGOs, such as USAID, NED, Freedom House or through fundamentalist Christians in groups such as Operation Rescue.

o. End the production of land mines, as required in the convention against landmines and end the procrastination, by those responsible, to remove land mines from all areas of the world where land mines are known to exist.

p. End the reluctance of nuclear arms states to comply with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by failing to implement Article VI of the Treaty, (Article VI: commits all parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on measures to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve disarmament.).

q . (i) End the production of all weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical, and biological, as agreed to in UNCHE in 1972, and in specific conventions. And discontinue the gutting of the Treaty on Cluster bombs and other arms reduction treaties

(ii) End the use of weapons that are prohibited under Article 36, which reads.

In the study, development, acquisition or adoption of a new weapons, means or method of warfare, states are under an

obligation to determine whether its employment would, in some or all circumstances, be prohibited by this Protocol or by any other rule of international law (Art 36. New weapons provision) Also in the additional Geneva protocol there are imposed limitations on the development of new weapons. Determine whether drones are prohibited by the Geneva Protocol on prohibited weapons

r. (i) Suffocate the production of uranium, end importing and exporting of uranium, prohibit the use of weapons such as those with depleted uranium and cluster and end the continued profit-making from the sale of arms and trade in small arms.

(ii) End the use of weapons that are prohibited under Article 36, which reads.

In the study, development, acquisition or adoption of a new weapons, means or method of warfare, states are under an obligation to determine whether its employment would, in some or all circumstances, be prohibited by this Protocol or by any other rule of international law (Art 36. New weapons provision) Also in the additional Geneva protocol there are imposed limitations on the development of new weapons. Determine whether drones are prohibited by the Geneva Protocol on prohibited weapons

s. End "War Games" or "Military Exercises" such as Exercise Trident Fury or Northwest Training Range complex.

Prohibit propaganda for war as per International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including establishing military bases, engaging in war games, producing and selling of armaments, and holding arms exhibition. End government investment in weapons systems:

t. (i) No longer oppose the implementation of regional nuclear arms free areas around the world.

(ii) End the production, circulation and berthing of nuclear powered or nuclear arms-capable vessels throughout the world.

v. End the disregard for the obligations under the 1967 Outer Space Treaty to ensure that exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind [humanity].

w. End the practice of "rendering"- sending "persons of interests" to countries which are known to condone torture.

x. (i) End the refusal to be judged by an international tribunal for any actions that might be deemed to violate international law related to crimes against the peace, to war crimes, or to genocide.

(ii) End the discriminatory application of the ICC investigations "Some states are seen to be more Equal than others"

y. End the reluctance to abide by the 1975 Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of humanity.

z. End the disregard for the UNESCO Declaration that affirms that science and technology should be used in peace and for the benefit of humanity

## **C. TO REDEFINE WHAT CONSTITUTES SECURITY**

### **COMMON SECURITY MUST TRUMP MILITARIZED SECURITY**

True security is not militarized security, or collective security or "human security which has been used as various pretexts for war.

For years states have used various pretexts to justify the invasion of and aggression against other states; For example, the pretext of "human security" was used to justify the invasion of Iraq in 1991, then "humanitarian intervention" was used to justify the invasion of Kosovo; so-called "self Defense" (Art. 51 of the UN Charter), to justify the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, then "Pre-emptive/

preventive" attack to justify the invasion of Iraq in 2003, finally it was "the responsibility to protect" to justify the intervention in Haiti in 2004, and the invasion of Libya in 2011. Even in 2013, after all the previous pretexts had been discredited, a new pretext was proposed, the "Will to Intervene" which had just been waiting to be used to justify an intervention into Mali in 2013.

True security is Common Security; Common security through the adherence to the rule of international law

In 1982, Olaf Palme, in the Palme Commission Report on Disarmament and Security, report introduced the concept of common security which could be extended to embody the following objectives:

- a. to achieve a state of peace, and disarmament; through reallocation of military expenses and the delegitimization of war
- b. to create a global structure that respects the rule of law and the International Court of Justice;
- c. to enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and ensure the right to development and social justice;
- d. to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, women's rights civil and political rights, indigenous rights, social and cultural rights – right to food, right to housing, right to safe drinking water and sewage treatment, right to education and right to universally accessible not for profit health care system;
- e. to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, the respect for the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, the reduction of the ecological footprint moving away from the current model of unsustainable and excessive overconsumption

[Monsanto knew all along! Secret studies reveal the truth of Roundup toxicity](http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2985458/monsanto_knew_all_along_secret_studies_reveal_the_truth_of_roundup_toxicity) 

Posted by Joan Russow

Sunday, 20 September 2015 10:31

## By Richard Gale & Gary Null / Progressive Radio Network

[http://www.theecologist.org/News/news\\_analysis/2985458/monsanto\\_knew\\_all\\_along\\_secret\\_studies\\_reveal\\_the\\_truth](http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2985458/monsanto_knew_all_along_secret_studies_reveal_the_truth)

18th September 2015

**Forty years ago** Monsanto carried out detailed studies of glyphosate and Roundup toxicity, write Richard Gale & Gary Null. But they have remained buried in filing cabinets ever since. Now a determined scientist has breached the wall of secrecy - and all the evidence is that Monsanto knew just how toxic its products were all along, while claiming they were 'safe as lemonade'.

What busted the tobacco companies was not the scientific evidence piling up outside the industry. Rather it was its crimes of omission about cigarettes' health risks within the industry. The industry's own research prosecuted itself.

Last Updated on Sunday, 20 September 2015 10:34

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967 readings

**SDG GOAL 6: MUST INCLUDE THE  
HUMAN RIGHT TO SAFE WATER**





# AND SANITATION

## Earth News

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Friday, 18 September 2015 15:50

By Joan Russow

Global Compliance Research Project

2010 water March in Cochabamba

<http://ayya2cochabamba.wordpress.com/2010/04/16/april-15th-march-to-commemorate-10-years-since-the-water-wars/>

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management and sanitation for all

At the 2010 Conference On Water, in Cochabamba, there was not only discussion of the human right to water but the right of water itself.

**In 2010, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly agreed to a resolution declaring the human right to "safe and clean drinking water and sanitation"**

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS and OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO RIGHT TO WATER**

### **PREAMBLE**

MINDFUL THAT FOR YEARS STATES COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO DECLARE THE RIGHT TO WATER,(FOR HUMANS AND FOR THE ECOSYSTEM, TO PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING WATER, TO SATISFY THE BASIC NEED FOR WATER.

**In 1974, member states of the United Nations acknowledged in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the failure to satisfy basic requirements including "water"**

**inequitable economic growth, reflected in the wide disparities in wealth which now exist between countries and between human beings and which condemn millions of people to a life of poverty, without satisfying the basic requirements for food, education, health services, shelter, environmental hygiene, water and energy; (Principles, Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 1974).**

(II 17, I, Hábitat I, 1976).

**IN 1976 All member states of the United Nations decried the increasing degradation of life-supporting resources of air water and land**

social economic, ecological and environmental deterioration which are exemplified at the national and international levels by inequalities in living conditions, social segregation, racial discrimination, acute unemployment, illiteracy, disease and poverty, the breakdown of social relationships and traditional cultural values and the increasing degradation of life-supporting resources of air , water and land; (Principles Habitat I, 1976)

**The member states of the United Nations have for years made commitments to ensure the right and access to safe drinking water, and to sewage treatment:.**

**CONCERNED ABOUT THE FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENT MADE IN 1977 TO ENSURE THE RIGHT TO ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER**

**In 1977, in Mar del Plata, an international action plan was developed and member states of the United Nations agreed that**

**all peoples, whatever their stage of development and their social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs.**

**CONCERNED AS WELL THAT THE COMMITMENT MADE TO PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION BY 1990 HAS BEEN IGNORED**

**In 1981 the United Nations launched the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade whose**

**"target of the decade was to provide safe drinking-water and sanitation to underserved urban and rural areas by 1990."**

**NOTING AGAIN THAT while the goal in 1981 had not been achieved, this goal was reaffirmed In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), , when every members state of the United Nations adopted Chapter 18, Freshwater, in Agenda 21,**

**... The most outstanding of these efforts was the launching in 1981 of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, which resulted from the Mar del Plata Action Plan adopted peoples, whatever their stage of development and their social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs". 2/ The target of the Decade was to provide safe drinking-water and sanitation to underserved urban and rural areas by 1990, but even the unprecedented progress achieved during the Decade was not enough. One in three people in the developing world still lacks these two most basic requirements for health and dignity. (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.4, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992).**

**NOTING FURTHER THAT IN 1992 THROUGHOUT AGENDA 21 THERE WERE OVER 150 COMMITMENTS MADE TO ADDRESS THE ACCESS TO WATER AND THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER FOR THE ECOSYSTEM**

- To make certain that adequate supplies of water of good quality are maintained for the entire population of this planet, while preserving the hydrological, biological and chemical functions of ecosystems, adapting human activities within the capacity limits of nature and combating vectors of water-related diseases. Innovative technologies, including the improvement of indigenous technologies, are needed to fully utilize limited water resources and to safeguard those resources against pollution. (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.2)**
- To have ensured, by the year 2000, that all urban residents have access to at least 40 litres per capita per day of safe water and that 75 per cent of the urban population are provided with on-site or community facilities for sanitation; (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.58.a)**

**)**

- To have, by the year 2000, established and applied quantitative and qualitative discharge standards for municipal and industrial effluents; (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.58. b Agenda 21, UNCED)
- To have, by the year 2000, ensured that 75 per cent of solid waste generated in urban areas are collected and recycled or disposed of in an environmentally safe way. (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.58. c Agenda 21, UNCED)
- [To acknowledge that] Freshwater resources are an essential component of the earth's hydrosphere and an indispensable part of all terrestrial ecosystems. The freshwater environment is characterized by the hydrological cycle, including floods and droughts, which in some regions have become more extreme and dramatic in their consequences. Global climate change and atmospheric pollution could also have an impact on freshwater resources and their availability and, through sea-level rise, threaten low-lying coastal areas and small island ecosystems. (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.1)
- **There is uncertainty with respect to the prediction of climate change at the global level. Although the uncertainties increase greatly at the regional, national and local levels, it is at the national level that the most important decisions would need to be made. Higher temperatures and decreased precipitation would lead to decreased water-supplies and increased water demands; they might cause deterioration in the quality of freshwater bodies, putting strains on the already fragile balance between supply and demand in many countries. Even where precipitation might increase, there is no guarantee that it would occur at the time of year when it could be used; in addition, there might be a likelihood of increased flooding. Any rise in sealevel will often cause the intrusion of salt water into estuaries, small islands and coastal aquifers and the flooding of low-lying coastal areas; this puts low-lying countries at great risk.(Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.82.)**
- To protect Groundwater (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources)
- To prevent aquifer pollution through the regulation of toxic substances that permeate the ground and the establishment of protection zones in groundwater recharge and abstraction areas; (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:d iii)
- To promote.. the construction of treatment facilities for domestic sewage and industrial effluents and the development of appropriate technologies, taking into account sound traditional and indigenous practices; (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.40. b ii)
- To initiate effective water pollution prevention and control programmes, based on an appropriate mixture of pollution reduction-at-source strategies, environmental impact assessments and enforceable standards for major point-source discharges and high-risk non-point sources, commensurate with their socio-economic development; (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.29.c)
- **{To recognize that } The complex interconnectedness of freshwater systems demands that freshwater management be holistic (taking a catchment management approach) and based on a balanced consideration of the needs**

**of people and the environment. The Mar del Plata Action Plan has already recognized the intrinsic linkage between water resource development projects and their significant physical, chemical, biological, health and socio-economic repercussions. The overall environmental health objective was set as follows: "to evaluate the consequences which the various users of water have on the environment, to support measures aimed at controlling water-related diseases, and to protect ecosystems". (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.36).**

**• To introduce ...the precautionary approach in water-quality management, where appropriate, with a focus on pollution minimization and prevention through use of new technologies, product and process change, pollution reduction at source and effluent reuse, recycling and recovery, treatment and environmentally safe disposal; (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.40.b iv)**

water is needed in all aspects of life. (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.2)

• In many locations around the world the general environment (air, water and land), workplaces and even individual dwellings are so badly polluted that the health of hundreds of millions of people is adversely affected. This is, inter alia, due to past and present developments in consumption and production patterns and lifestyles, in energy production and use, in industry, in transportation etc., with little or no regard for environmental protection. (Chapter 6 Protection and promotion of human health 6.39.)`

• To protect water resources from depletion, pollution and degradation:(Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.59 a Agenda 21, UNCED):.

• To introduce sanitary waste disposal facilities based on environmentally sound low-cost and upgradable technologies; (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.59. a i Agenda 21, UNCED)

• To recognize Atmospheric changes can have important impacts on forests, biodiversity and freshwater and marine ecosystems. (Chapter 9: protection of the atmosphere 9.19).

• To [carry out] mandatory environmental impact assessment of all major water resource development projects potentially impairing water quality and aquatic ecosystems, combined with the delineation of appropriate remedial measures and a strengthened control of new industrial installations, solid waste landfills and infrastructure development projects; (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.40.b v)

• To use of risk assessment and risk management in reaching decisions in this area and

ensuring compliance with those decisions; (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.40.b vi)

- To apply preventive and precautionary approaches in project planning and implementation, including prior assessment and systematic observation of the impacts of major projects; (Chapter17 protection of the oceans,17.5. d)

**•To provide health and hygiene education and to ensure universal access to safe drinking water and universal access to sanitary measures of excreta disposal, thereby markedly reducing waterborne diseases such as cholera and schistosomiasis and reducing: (Chapter 6: Protection and promotion of human health6.12 e)**

### **Combating Poverty**

- **To Provide the poor with access to fresh water and sanitation**

**Government with the assistance of and in cooperation with appropriate international, non-governmental and local community organizations should establish measures that will directly or indirectly Provide the poor with access to fresh water and sanitation (Chapter 3: Combating Poverty 3.8)**

- Safe water-supplies and environmental sanitation are vital for protecting the environment, improving health and alleviating poverty. Safe water is also crucial to many traditional and cultural activities. An estimated 80 per cent of all diseases and over one third of deaths in developing countries are caused by the consumption of contaminated water, and on average as much as one tenth of each person's productive time is sacrificed to water-related diseases. Concerted efforts during the 1980s brought water and sanitation services to hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people. (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.47).

- Access to land resources is an essential component of sustainable low-impact lifestyles. Land resources are the basis for (human) living systems and provide soil, energy, water and the opportunity for all human activity. In rapidly growing urban areas, access to land is rendered increasingly difficult by the conflicting demands of industry, housing, commerce, agriculture, land tenure structures and the need for open spaces. Furthermore, the rising costs of urban land prevent the poor from gaining access of Governments to respond adequately. (Chapter 7: Promoting sustainable human settlement development 7.27).

- To apply.. the "polluter pays" principle, where appropriate, to all kinds of sources, including on-site and off-site sanitation;

(Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.40.(b) (i)

### **AWARE OF FORTHCOMING RELEVANT CELEBRATIONS**

**THAT 2010 IS THE YEAR CELEBRATING BIODIVERSITY AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THAT WATER IS ESSENTIAL TO BIODIVERSITY  
THAT IN APRIL 2010 THERE IS THE PEOPLES CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**AND RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH**

**THAT IN MEXICO 2010 THERE WILL BE COP 16**

**THAT IN 2012 WILL BE THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEGOTIATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**THAT IN 2012 THERE WILL BE THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF AGENDA 21, AND THE RIO DECLARATION**

**CONCERNED THAT AT THE COP 15, THE ISSUE OF THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WATER ECOSYSTEMS AND SUPPLY OF WATER AS WELL AS THE CONTRIBUTION OF DESTRUCTIVE WATER PRACTICES TO CLIMATE CHANGE ITSELF**

**WE COMMIT**

**TO FINALLY ABIDE BY THE YEARS OF COMMITMENTS MADE AND OBLIGATIONS INCURRED RELATED TO WATER AND DO THE FOLLOWING:**

**1. TO INCLUDE THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**2. TO INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER IN OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT OF SOCIAL ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, AND THE COVENANT OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

**to protect watershed and the water commons**

**3 AT THE CONFERENCE IN BOLIVIA TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPACT ON WATER SYSTEMS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS WELL AS THE CONTRIBUTION OF DESTRUCTIVE WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**It is widely acknowledged that climate change is having a profoundly negative impact on fresh water systems around the world, - desertification, melting glaciers and more, and these impacts are disproportionately burdening the poor and marginalized in the South. In addition, the collective abuse and mismanagement of fresh water is also a contributing cause of climate change .**

**4. TO COMMIT AT THE CONFERENCES IN BOLIVIA IN MEXICO AND COP 16 TO A TEMPERATURE RISE OF NOT MORE THAN 1 DEGREE FROM PRE-INDUSTRIAL LEVELS, AND TO A RETURN TO 300PPM, AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE SERIOUS IMPACT OF WATER AND WATER SYSTEMS OF FAILING TO ADHERE TO THIS COMMITMENT**

**5 TO FULFILL ALL THE COMMITMENTS, RELATED TO WATER, MADE AT UNCED BY THE ANNIVERSARY 2012**

# The Great Quake and the Great Drowning



Earth News

Posted by Joan Russow

Friday, 18 September 2015 03:45

4.3k

## Indigenous people's terrifying tsunami stories are a history and a warning.

By **Ann**

**Finkbeiner** [http://www.slate.com/articles/health\\_and\\_science/science/2015/09/earthquakes\\_and\\_tsunamis\\_in\\_the\\_pacific\\_northwest\\_native\\_american\\_myths.single.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2015/09/earthquakes_and_tsunamis_in_the_pacific_northwest_native_american_myths.single.html)

Thunderbird and Whale had a terrible fight.

Illustration by Jeffrey Veregge

This article is from **Hakai magazine**, an online publication about science and society in coastal ecosystems.

In the year 1700, on Jan. 26 at 9 at night, in what is now Northern California, Earthquake was running up and down the coast. His feet were heavy, and when he ran, he shook the ground so much it sank down and the ocean poured in. "The earth would quake and quake again and quake again," said the Yurok people. "And the water was flowing all over." The people went to the top of a hill, wearing headbands of woodpecker feathers, so they could dance a jumping dance that would keep the earthquake away and return them to their normal lives. But then they looked down and saw the water covering their village and the whole coast; they knew they could never make the world right again.

That same night, farther up the coast in what is now Washington, Thunderbird and Whale had a terrible fight, making the mountains shake and uprooting the trees, said the Quileute and the Hoh people; they said the ocean rose up and covered the whole land. Farther north still, on Vancouver Island, dwarfs who lived in a mountain invited a person to dance around their drum; the person accidentally kicked the drum and got earthquake-foot, said the Nuu-chah-nulth people, and after that every step he took caused an earthquake. The land shook and the ocean flooded in, said the Huu-ay-aht people who are part of the Nuu-chah-nulth, and people didn't even have time to wake up and get into their canoes, and "everything then drifted away, everything was lost and gone."

Here's what geologists say: The earthquake that almost certainly occurred on the night of Jan. 26, 1700, ruptured North America's Pacific Northwest coast for hundreds of kilometers, from northern California, through Oregon and Washington, to southern Vancouver Island. Along this coast, the Juan de Fuca plate was pushing under the larger North American plate, had gotten stuck—locked—but kept pushing until it released, abruptly and violently. The earthquake that resulted was probably a magnitude 9, about as big as earthquakes get. The coast dropped by as much as 2 meters (6.5 feet), and a tsunami brought floods more than 300 meters (984 feet) inland.

Geologists now know that the Pacific Northwest has been having these earthquakes and tsunamis irregularly every 500 years or so; their oldest record in sediments goes back at least 10,000 years. The evidence is massive: subsided marshes, drowned forests, sediment layers showing enormous landslides that flowed out on the ocean floor, seismic profiles of the Juan de Fuca plate, and satellite measurements of a coast deforming from the stress of a plate that's once again locked. In the next 50 years, the chance of another magnitude 9 earthquake there is 1 in 10.

In the cities of the Pacific Northwest, the impact will be terrible. Many buildings were built before architects knew the area had earthquakes; later buildings were built with short, sharp California earthquakes in mind, not the Northwest's longer, larger ones. "The ground's going to shake for 3 minutes," says Thomas Heaton, geophysicist at the California Institute of Technology and one of the first to propose the area's earthquake potential. "And [in simulations] it's easy to come up with ground motion that would collapse tall buildings." Then comes the tsunami, and "with magnitude 9 earthquakes," says Heaton, "you always get tsunamis."

Governments of course know this: Seismic networks and a tsunami warning system are in place; governments and institutions in the Pacific Northwest have emergency plans, are educating the public in how to respond, and have published evacuation maps; and buildings and bridges that fail to meet the modern earthquake building codes are being retrofitted.

But all this—the governments' plans for the next earthquake and geologists' understanding of the ancient ones—happened only in the past few decades. For the same 10,000-plus years that the Pacific Northwest has been having the earthquakes, indigenous groups have been living there. They have known forever that what the ground did was sudden and violent, that it came accompanied with catastrophic floods, and that it made people die. The questions for us, living in the present, are obvious. What was it like? And what was the impact of millennia of repeated catastrophes on the indigenous groups of the region? The answers seem obvious too, but they aren't; this turns out to be a story about stories—how they merge into histories, how fragile they are, and how urgent.

\* \* \*

What the indigenous people knew all along, geologists have known only since 1984. Thomas Heaton was still in college in 1970 when geologists, who knew that the world's largest earthquakes occurred where one tectonic plate descended under another one, first recognized that one of these subduction zones ran between the Juan de Fuca and North American plates. But the so-called Cascadia subduction zone had no record of ever producing large earthquakes. So, says Heaton, "they thought it was aseismic, just creeping."

The two of them did something un-geoscientific: They decided to take the Makah story not as myth, but as history.



Then in the early 1980s, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was considering whether to locate nuclear power plants in Washington and Oregon, and just to be sure, asked the U.S. Geological Survey whether the Cascadia subduction zone was safe from earthquakes. Heaton, then at the USGS, knew about subduction zones because he'd consulted for Exxon on oil platforms in earthquake-prone Alaska. He compared the Cascadia zone with known earthquake areas and told the NRC, "Well, maybe it is aseismic, but another interpretation is, it looks like Chile—which is also aseismic, except for the big ones." Perhaps, Heaton suggested, the Cascadia zone had escaped earthquakes only because it was currently locked.

Heaton published his surmise in 1984, and within a few years, Brian Atwater, also at the USGS, and other geologists found evidence of moving ground and great floods. But building geological evidence into a credible theory can take decades, and in the meantime, a colleague of Atwater and Heaton's named Parke Snavelly had been reading stories from the Makah people in Washington that described what sounded like floods. One Makah story in particular resembled the 1700 tsunami. "A long time ago but not at a very remote period," the story began, the ocean receded quickly, then rose again until it submerged Cape Flattery; canoes were stranded in trees and many people died.

Snavelly told Heaton about the stories, and the two of them did something un-geoscientific: They decided to take the Makah story not as myth, but as history. That is, they assumed the Makah were describing a geologically recent tsunami, compared the Makah narrative with their understanding of Cape Flattery's geology, found the similarity between story and geology "noteworthy," and published their findings in the scientific literature. After that, other scientists also went looking in the stories for history. A team of anthropologists, geologists, and indigenous scholars led by geologist Ruth Ludwin of the University of Washington took 40 stories collected from native groups along the entire Cascadia subduction zone. They compared the narratives to what was known of the 1700 earthquake and tsunami and found in effect that the whole coast had been telling stories about it.

Map by Mark Garrison

Alan McMillan and Ian Hutchinson—archaeologist and geographer, respectively, from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia—found other stories, most of them undateable, that were probably about even earlier earthquakes. The two scientists systematically plotted these coastal stories on a map of the archaeological and geological evidence of all Cascadian earthquakes and tsunamis. Along the coast—from the Yurok and Tolowa in northern California, the Tillamook in Oregon, the Quileute in Washington, to the Nuu-chah-nulth on Vancouver Island—were stories of Earthquake, Thunderbird, and Whale, or the mountain dwarfs and their earthquake drum. The Cowichan people on Vancouver Island, the Squamish in southern British Columbia, and the Makah in Washington each had stories about the earth shaking so violently that no one could stand, or the houses falling apart, or rock slides coming out of the mountains and burying villages. The Nuu-chah-nulth, like the Makah, told stories of the ocean receding suddenly, then flooding back powerfully and killing many, many people.

\* \* \*

From the Tolowa people in northern California: One autumn, the earth shook, and the water began rising. People began running, and when the water reached them, they turned into snakes. But a girl and a boy from the village, both adolescents, outran the water by running to the top of a mountain where

they built a fire to keep themselves warm. After 10 days, they went back down, and the houses they lived in were gone—all that was left was sand, and all the people and animals were lying on the ground dead. The boy found food for the girl and then set out to look for people and a place to live. But the only people he found were dead ones. The boy came back and said he could find no one else for either of them to marry, so they'd better marry each other. They built a house and after a time had babies. And many years and many generations later, there were many people who were "scattered everywhere and in every place there was a man living with his wife."

\* \* \*

Many scientific papers say that the indigenous stories are reasonable records, covering an unknowable amount of time, of earthquakes and tsunamis along the entire Cascadia subduction zone. They also add that so much destruction repeated for so long must have had a terrific impact on the indigenous groups' worlds—that given their history, the indigenous people of the Pacific Northwest would have taken catastrophe to heart. You might expect that they'd arranged their culture and lives around disaster. And further, you might hope that the impact on them would have some message, some advice, for us in the 21st century, waiting for our own disaster. But here's where this storyline goes cold. Any such impact ought to show up in archaeological and anthropological evidence, and it just doesn't.

The people must have lost their houses and villages and livelihoods—they must have been ruined; but afterward they went back to living in the ruined places. McMillan went looking in the archaeological record for evidence of habitation and abandonment over the past 3,000 years in 30 excavated villages along the Washington and Vancouver Island coasts. "The seismic events were catastrophic but short term," McMillan says. "The evidence is all that the sites were reoccupied afterward."

Southeastern end of South Pender Island, southern British Columbia,  
Jan. 16, 2010.

Photo courtesy [Scazon/Flickr](#)

Nor did the people ultimately change the ways they lived. Robert Losey, an anthropologist at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, looked for evidence that after the 1700 earthquake the Tillamook people of Oregon changed what they hunted, what they ate, how their houses were built, and where they lived. "In the short term, the earthquake must have been horribly traumatic," Losey says. But in the long term, "I don't think it made a difference."

Anthropologists and archaeologists seem to agree that not only was it normal to return to the life you already know how to live, but as Losey says, it was also reasonable. The catastrophes came generations apart. The food that was gathered and hunted apparently rebounded quickly. And the architecture designed for seasonal mobility was generally single-story, made of flexible wood tied with cord, and might as well have been built to modern earthquake codes. "The First Nations did an entirely human thing," Losey says. "They went right back and settled in harm's way." The Pacific Northwest turns out to be, in the long run, a place conducive to resilience.

\* \* \*

So the clearest evidence of the impact of earthquakes and tsunamis on the coast's indigenous people has to be in the stories. Maybe the stories explain how to be resilient, how to outsmart disaster. Maybe they warn the children to

warn their own children. The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake that killed more than 100,000 people in the Indonesian province of Aceh killed only seven of the 78,000 people living on the island of Simeulue because the Simeulueans had been telling stories for generations of what to do during tsunamis. That may well have been the case in the Pacific Northwest, but the fact is, nobody knows for sure.

The reason is that the indigenous people of the Pacific Northwest didn't write down their earthquake stories; the stories were told only face to face. And apparently they're not told much, if at all, any more.

"The First Nations did an entirely human thing: They went right back and settled in harm's way."

*anthropologist Robert Losey*

The only stories that we know for certain still exist are the ones collected and written down by ethnographers—the Yurok stories by A.L. Kroeber, for instance, or the Makah stories by Judge James Swan—a century and more ago. Deborah Carver, an independent scholar, followed up the collected Yurok stories by tracking down the descendants of one storyteller and asking if they had heard the stories. "Nobody in the present had," she says, except for someone's grandmother.

David Lewis, an anthropologist, independent scholar, and a member of the Grand Ronde tribe, never heard the old stories growing up, "only in my adult life," he says, "since I've been working for the tribe." And when someone did tell the stories, it was only "because I asked." So the existing stories have the same caveats that archeological artifacts do: They're incomplete, depend on what happened to be collected, and may not accurately represent the folklore at all.

The stories are incomplete in another more fundamental way: Stories not written but told depend on having a culture that keeps telling them. In the late 1700s, Europeans began turning up regularly in the Pacific Northwest, bringing with them waves of epidemics, most notably smallpox. Since no one knew how many indigenous people lived there then, no one knows for sure how many died, but the estimates are shocking: They range from 30 to 95 percent.

Later Europeans continued what disease began. They wanted the coastal land, the fur of its animals, and the gold underneath it, and thus began the long indigenous history of resettlement onto reservations, re-education in government- and church-run boarding schools, and outright slaughter in warfare. Whatever the motives or intents of European explorers, government agents, fur traders, gold miners, and educators, their result was cultural scorched earth. Jason Younker is an anthropologist at the University of Oregon and a member of the Coquille tribe: Growing up, he explains, "my father said to forget what I knew about being Coquille because it will do you no good."

Kill the culture and the stories die. "If you think about the history of First Nations in the last couple hundred years," says Losey, "huge amounts of the population were lost even before ethnographers could get to them. We have no idea how many stories existed—ethnographers published a few thousand—but certainly [there were] far more than were written down." Ruth Ludwin, the geologist at the University of Washington who collected earthquake and tsunami stories, wrote that 95 percent of the stories were lost.

\* \* \*

But even in the few stories that are left, earthquakes and tsunamis are still so vivid that the complete range of stories must have been full of them. "There was a great storm and hail and flashes of lightning in the darkened, blackened sky, and a great and crashing 'thunder-noise' everywhere," said the Hoh people of Washington. "There were also a shaking, jumping up and trembling of the earth beneath, and a rolling up of the great waters."

Yunker himself had heard at least one of the stories. He was about to leave home to begin a decade of graduate work in anthropology when his uncle took him to Sundown Mountain along the Oregon coast and up to a high plateau, where they watched the fog coming off the ocean and moving up through a river valley. "You see, Jason, how the fog is coming in?" the uncle said, and told him a story. Not all that long ago, a great tide came in the same way, the water rushed up the valleys, drowned the villages, and covered the trees. Some people climbed into their canoes, along with long ropes they'd prepared, tied themselves to the tops of the trees, and rode out the flood. The people who hadn't prepared long ropes were swept away and were never seen again. Yunker thinks his uncle told him that story partly so that Yunker could tell even younger people how to prepare, and partly to say, "Make sure you keep your ropes long and your connections to home are well-maintained so you can pull yourself back to home. Because you really can't separate the past from the present."

Last Updated on Friday, 18 September 2015 03:50

## **SDG GOAL 3: A REVIEW OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH**



**Earth News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

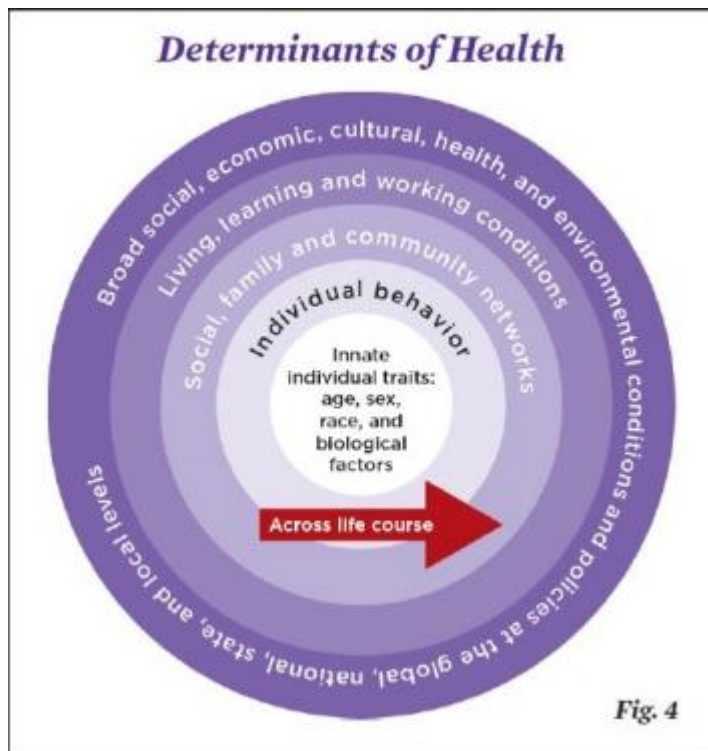
Wednesday, 16 September 2015 05:58

## **SDG GOAL 3: A REVIEW OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH**



**By Joan Russow**

**Global Compliance research Project**



### **GOAL 3: ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES;**

The indicators are important but what has been left out are the means of achieving these indicators. For years from ICESCR, through UNCED to WSSD, commitments have been made to act on the links of health and the social and environmental determinants of health.

#### **NATIONAL INDICATORS FOR SDG GOAL 3:**

- 3.1. Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel (MDG Indicator)
- 3.2. Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits) (MDG Indicator)
- 3.3. Post-natal care coverage (one visit) (MDG Indicator)
- 3.4. Coverage of iron-folic acid supplements for pregnant women (%)
- 3.5. Incidence rate of diarrheal disease in children under 5 years
- 3.6. Percentage of 1 year-old children immunized against measles (MDG Indicator)
- 3.7. Percent HIV+ pregnant women receiving PMTCT

- 3.8. Condom use at last high-risk sex (MDG Indicator)
- 3.9. Percentage of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (MDG Indicator)
- 3.10. Percentage of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs (MDG Indicator)
- 3.11. Percentage of people in malaria-endemic areas sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets (modified MDG Indicator)
- 3.12. Percentage of confirmed malaria cases that receive first-line antimalarial therapy according to national policy
- 3.13. Percentage of suspected malaria cases that receive a parasitological test
- 3.14. Percentage of pregnant women receiving malaria IPT (in endemic areas)
- 3.15. Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) cure rate
- 3.16. Incidence and death rates associated with hepatitis
- 3.17. Percentage of women with cervical cancer screening
- 3.18. Percentage of adults with hypertension diagnosed & receiving treatment
- 3.19. Harmful use of alcohol
- 3.20. Healthy life expectancy at birth
- 3.21. Waiting time for elective surgery
- 3.22. Prevalence of insufficient physical activity
- 3.23. Fraction of calories from added saturated fats and sugars
- 3.24. Age-standardized mean population intake of salt (sodium chloride) per day in grams in persons aged 18+ years
- 3.25. Prevalence of persons (aged 18+ years) consuming less than five total servings (400 grams) of fruit and vegetables per day
- 3.26. Percentage change in per capita [red] meat consumption relative to a 2015 baseline
- 3.27. Age-standardized (to world population age distribution) prevalence of diabetes (preferably based on HbA1c), hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and chronic respiratory disease
- 3.28. [Mortality from indoor air pollution] – to be developed
- 3.29. Percentage of health facilities meeting service specific readiness requirements
- 3.30. Percentage of population with access to affordable essential drugs and commodities on a sustainable basis
- 3.31. Percentage of new health care facilities built in compliance

with building codes and standards

3.32. Public and private R&D; expenditure on health (% GNP)

3.33. Ratio of health professionals to population (MDs, nurse midwives, nurses, community health workers, and caregivers)

3.34. Percentage of women and men aged 15–49 who report discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV

3.35. Stillbirth rate

## **A REVIEW OF OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS RELATED TO THE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH**

### **\*\*\*\*INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

#### *Article 7*

The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work which ensure, in particular:

(a) Remuneration which provides all workers, as a minimum, with:

(i) Fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind, in particular women being guaranteed conditions of work not inferior to those enjoyed by men, with equal pay for equal work;

(ii) A decent living for themselves and their families in accordance with the provisions of the present Covenant;

**(b) Safe and healthy working conditions;**

3. Special measures of protection and assistance should be taken on behalf of all children and young persons without any discrimination for reasons of parentage or other conditions. Children and young persons should be protected from economic and social exploitation. Their employment in work harmful to their morals or health or dangerous to life or likely to hamper their normal development should be punishable by law. States should also set age limits below which the paid employment of child labour should be prohibited and punishable by law.

#### *Article 11*

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of

everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent.

2. The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually and through international co-operation, the measures, including specific programmes, which are needed:

(a) To improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, by disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition and by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources;

(b) Taking into account the problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries, to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need.

#### *Article 12 ICESCR*

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

2. The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for:

(a) The provision for the reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child;

(b) The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene;

(c) The prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases;

(d) The creation of conditions which would assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness.

\*\*\*\*1984 Nations Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace approved by General Assembly resolution 39/11 of 12, 1984)



Convinced *that life without war* “**peace with justice**” and not just **the absence of war** serves as the primary international prerequisite for the material well-being, development and progress of countries, and for the full implementation of the rights and fundamental human freedoms. (United Nations Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace approved by General Assembly resolution 39/11 of 12, 1984)

## SECTION I. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

\*\*\*\*1992 agenda 21

**. Chapter 1 PREAMBLE 1.1 We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health**

**Continuing deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being.**

. Humanity stands at a defining moment in history. We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being. However, integration of environment and development concerns and greater attention to them will lead to the fulfilment of basic needs, improved living standards for all, better protected and managed ecosystems and a safer, more prosperous future. No nation can achieve this on its own; but together we can - in a global partnership for sustainable development. Chapter 1 PREAMBLE 1.1

## COMBATTING POVERTY

**3.2. cover demographic issues, enhanced health care and education**

**An effective strategy for tackling the problems of poverty, development and environment simultaneously should begin by focusing on resources, production and people and should cover demographic issues, enhanced health care and education,**

While managing resources sustainably, an environmental policy that focuses mainly on the conservation and protection of resources must take due account of those who depend on

the resources for their livelihoods. Otherwise it could have an adverse impact both on poverty and on chances for long-term success in resource and environmental conservation. Equally, a development policy that focuses mainly on increasing the production of goods without addressing the sustainability of the resources on which production is based will sooner or later run into declining productivity, which could also have an adverse impact on poverty. A specific anti-poverty strategy is therefore one of the basic conditions for ensuring sustainable development. An effective strategy for tackling the problems of poverty, development and environment simultaneously should begin by focusing on resources, production and people and should cover demographic issues, enhanced health care and education, the rights of women, the role of youth and of indigenous people and local communities and a democratic participation process in association with improved governance. (3.2 Combating Poverty, Agenda 21, UNCED)

**3.8 e. Set up an effective primary health care and maternal health care system accessible to all;**

Set up an effective primary health care and maternal health care system accessible to all;

**3.8 j. Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services**

Implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions and legal systems, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and have access to the information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values,

taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months postpartum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness

(3.8 j Combating Poverty, Agenda 21, UNCED)

#### Agenda 21 - Chapter 4 Changing Consumption Patterns

##### **4.22. Making consumers aware of the health and environmental impact of products, through such means as consumer legislation and environmental labelling;**

They should also encourage the emergence of an informed consumer public and assist individuals and households to make environmentally informed choices by:

- a. Providing information on the consequences of consumption choices and behaviour so as to encourage demand for environmentally sound products and use of products;
- b. Making consumers aware of the health and environmental impact of products, through such means as consumer legislation and environmental labelling; (4.22 Agenda 21 - Chapter 4 Changing Consumption Patterns)

##### **5.16. combine environmental concerns and population issues within a holistic view of development whose primary goals include the alleviation of poverty; secure livelihoods; good health**

**good health; quality of life; improvement of the status and income of women and their access to schooling and professional training**

Existing plans for sustainable development have generally recognized demographic trends and factors as elements that have a critical influence on consumption patterns, production, lifestyles and long-term sustainability. But in

future, more attention will have to be given to these issues in general policy formulation and the design of development plans. To do this, all countries will have to improve their own capacities to assess the environment and development implications of their demographic trends and factors. They will also need to formulate and implement policies and action programmes where appropriate. Policies should be designed to address the consequences of population growth built into population momentum, while at the same time incorporating measures to bring about demographic transition. They should combine environmental concerns and population issues within a holistic view of development whose primary goals include the alleviation of poverty; secure livelihoods; good health; quality of life; improvement of the status and income of women and their access to schooling and professional training, as well as fulfilment of their personal aspirations; and empowerment of individuals and communities. Recognizing that large increases in the size and number of cities will occur in developing countries under any likely population scenario, greater attention should be given to preparing for the needs, in particular of women and children, for improved municipal management and local government.

(Agenda 21 - 5.12 Chapter DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY)

**5.23. special attention should be given to critical resources, such as water and land, and environmental factors, such as ecosystem health and biodiversity.**

An assessment should also be made of national population carrying capacity in the context of satisfaction of human needs and sustainable development, and special attention should be given to critical resources, such as water and land, and environmental factors, such as ecosystem health and biodiversity. (Agenda 21 - 5.23 Chapter Demographic Dynamics and Sustainability)

**5.29. In formulating human settlements policies, account should be taken of resource needs, waste production and ecosystem health.**

(b) Raising awareness of demographic and sustainable development interactions

**5.37. Special emphasis should be placed on the linkage between**

**these programmes, primary environmental care and the provision of primary health care and services.**

Understanding of the interactions between demographic trends and factors and sustainable development should be increased in all sectors of society. Stress should be placed on local and national action. Demographic and sustainable development education should be coordinated and integrated in both the formal and non-formal education sectors. Particular attention should be given to population literacy programmes, notably for women. Special emphasis should be placed on the linkage between these programmes, primary environmental care and the provision of primary health care and services. (Agenda 21 - 5.37 Chapter Demographic Dynamics and Sustainability)

**5.49. good health; quality of life; improvement of the status and income of women and their access to schooling and professional training**

Reproductive health programmes and services, should, as appropriate, be developed and enhanced to reduce maternal and infant mortality from all causes and enable women and men to fulfil their personal aspirations in terms of family size, in a way in keeping with their freedom and dignity and personally held values.

**5.51. . Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities**

Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities that include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values and taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and

improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness.

### **6.1. Health and development are intimately interconnected.**

#### **The linkage of health, environmental and socio-economic improvements requires intersectoral efforts**

Both insufficient development leading to poverty and inappropriate development resulting in overconsumption, coupled with an expanding world population, can result in severe environmental health problems in both developing and developed nations. Action items under Agenda 21 must address the primary health needs of the world's population, since they are integral to the achievement of the goals of sustainable development and primary environmental care. The linkage of health, environmental and socio-economic improvements requires intersectoral efforts. Such efforts, involving education, housing, public works and community groups, including businesses, schools and universities and religious, civic and cultural organizations, are aimed at enabling people in their communities to ensure sustainable development. Particularly relevant is the inclusion of prevention programmes rather than relying solely on remediation and treatment. Countries ought to develop plans for priority actions, drawing on the programme areas in this chapter, which are based on cooperative planning by the various levels of government, non-governmental organizations and local communities. An appropriate international organization, such as WHO, should coordinate these activities. (6.1 Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health)

### **6.2. (e) Reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards.**

The following programme areas are contained in this chapter: (a) Meeting primary health care needs, particularly in rural areas (b) Control of communicable diseases; (c) Protecting vulnerable groups (d) Meeting the urban health challenge; (e) Reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards.

e. Reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards

(6.2e Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health).

**6.3. it is the very lack of development that adversely affects the health condition of many people,**

Health ultimately depends on the ability to manage successfully the interaction between the physical, spiritual, biological and economic/social environment. Sound development is not possible without a healthy population; yet most developmental activities affect the environment to some degree, which in turn causes or exacerbates many health problems. Conversely, it is the very lack of development that adversely affects the health condition of many people, which can be alleviated only through development. The health sector cannot meet basic needs and objectives on its own; it is dependent on social, economic and spiritual development, while directly contributing to such development. It is also dependent on a healthy environment, including the provision of a safe water supply and sanitation and the promotion of a safe food supply and proper nutrition. Particular attention should be directed towards food safety, with priority placed on the elimination of food contamination; comprehensive and sustainable water policies to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation to preclude both microbial and chemical contamination; and promotion of health education, immunization and provision of essential drugs. Education and appropriate services regarding responsible planning of family size, with respect for cultural, religious and social aspects, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values and taking into account ethical and cultural considerations, also contribute to these intersectoral activities. (6.3 Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

**Objectives**

**6.4. Within the overall strategy to achieve health for all by the year 2000**

Within the overall strategy to achieve health for all by the year 2000, the objectives are to meet the basic health needs of rural peri-urban and urban populations; to provide the necessary specialized environmental health services; and to coordinate the involvement of citizens, the health sector, the health-related sectors and relevant non-health sectors

(business, social, educational and religious institutions) in solutions to health problems. As a matter of priority, health service coverage should be achieved for population groups in greatest need, particularly those living in rural areas. Within the overall strategy to achieve health for all by the year 2000

(6.4 Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health  
Agenda 21

**Activities 6.5. strengthen their health sector programmes, with special attention to rural needs, to**

National Governments and local authorities, with the support of relevant non-governmental organizations and international organizations, in the light of countries' specific conditions and needs, should strengthen their health sector programmes, with special attention to rural needs, to:

(a) Build basic health infrastructures, monitoring and planning systems:

6.5 a

**i. Develop and strengthen primary health care systems that are practical, community-based, scientifically sound, socially acceptable and appropriate to their needs and that meet basic health needs for clean water, safe food and sanitation;**

**ii. Support the use and strengthening of mechanisms that improve coordination between health and related sectors at all appropriate levels of government, and in communities and relevant organizations;**

**iii. Develop and implement rational and affordable approaches to the establishment and maintenance of health facilities;**

iv. Ensure and, where appropriate, increase provision of social services support;

v. Develop strategies, including reliable health indicators, to monitor the progress and evaluate the effectiveness of health programmes;

vi. Explore ways to finance the health system based on the assessment of the resources needed and identify the various financing alternatives;

vii. Promote health education in schools, information



- exchange, technical support and training;
- viii. Support initiatives for self-management of services by vulnerable groups;
- ix. Integrate traditional knowledge and experience into national health systems, as appropriate;
- x. Promote the provisions for necessary logistics for outreach activities, particularly in rural areas;
- xi. Promote and strengthen community-based rehabilitation activities for the rural handicapped.
- (b) Support research and methodology development: i. Establish mechanisms for sustained community involvement in environmental health activities, including optimization of the appropriate use of community financial and human resources;
- (6.5 Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

(b) Support research and methodology development:

- i. Establish mechanisms for sustained community involvement in environmental health activities, including optimization of the appropriate use of community financial and human resources;
- ii. Conduct environmental health research, including behaviour research and research on ways to increase coverage and ensure greater utilization of services by peripheral, underserved and vulnerable populations, as appropriate to good prevention services and health care;
- iii. Conduct research into traditional knowledge of prevention and curative health practices.

**Objectives 6.12. (Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s).**

A number of goals have been formulated through extensive consultations in various international forums attended by virtually all Governments, relevant United Nations organizations (including WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP and the World Bank) and a number of non-governmental organizations. Goals (including but not limited to those listed below) are recommended for implementation by all countries where they are applicable, with appropriate adaptation to the specific situation of each

country in terms of phasing, standards, priorities and availability of resources, with respect for cultural, religious and social aspects, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values and taking into account ethical considerations. Additional goals that are particularly relevant to a country's specific situation should be added in the country's national plan of action (Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s).

1/ Such national level action plans should be coordinated and monitored from within the public health sector. Some major goals are:

- a. By the year 2000, to eliminate guinea worm disease (dracunculiasis);
- b. By the year 2000, eradicate polio;
- c. By the year 2000, to effectively control onchocerciasis (river blindness) and leprosy;
- d. By 1995, to reduce measles deaths by 95 per cent and reduce measles cases by 90 per cent compared with pre-immunization levels;
- e. By continued efforts, to provide health and hygiene education and to ensure universal access to safe drinking water and universal access to sanitary measures of excreta disposal, thereby markedly reducing waterborne diseases such as cholera and schistosomiasis and reducing:
  - i. By the year 2000, the number of deaths from childhood diarrhoea in developing countries by 50 to 70 per cent;
  - ii. By the year 2000, the incidence of childhood diarrhoea in developing countries by at least 25 to 50 per cent;
- f. By the year 2000, to initiate comprehensive programmes to reduce mortality from acute respiratory infections in children under five years by at least one third, particularly in countries with high infant mortality;
- g. By the year 2000, to provide 95 per cent of the world's child population with access to appropriate care for acute respiratory infections within the community and at first referral level;
- h. By the year 2000, to institute anti-malaria programmes in all countries where malaria presents a significant health problem and maintain the transmission-free status of areas freed from endemic malaria;

- i. By the year 2000, to implement control programmes in countries where major human parasitic infections are endemic and achieve an overall reduction in the prevalence of schistosomiasis and of other trematode infections by 40 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, from a 1984 baseline, as well as a marked reduction in incidence, prevalence and intensity of filarial infections;
- j. To mobilize and unify national and international efforts against AIDS to prevent infection and to reduce the personal and social impact of HIV infection;
- k. To contain the resurgence of tuberculosis, with particular emphasis on multiple antibiotic resistant forms;
  - l. To accelerate research on improved vaccines and implement to the fullest extent possible the use of vaccines in the prevention of disease.

**Activities 6.13. i. Programmes to identify environmental hazards in the causation of communicable diseases;**

Each national Government, in accordance with national plans for public health, priorities and objectives, should consider developing a national health action plan with appropriate international assistance and support, including, at a minimum, the following components: a. National public health systems: i. Programmes to identify environmental hazards in the causation of communicable diseases; (6.13 i Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

- ii. Monitoring systems of epidemiological data to ensure adequate forecasting of the introduction, spread or aggravation of communicable diseases;

**6.22. Indigenous people ... tend to feature disproportionately in unemployment, lack of housing, poverty and poor health.**

Indigenous people and their communities. Indigenous people and their communities make up a significant percentage of global population. The outcomes of their experience have tended to be very similar in that the basis of their relationship with traditional lands has been fundamentally changed. They tend to feature disproportionately in unemployment, lack of housing, poverty and poor health. In many countries the number of indigenous people is growing faster than the general population. Therefore it is important to target health initiatives for indigenous people. (6.22 Chapter 6 Protecting

and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

**6.23. The general objectives of protecting vulnerable groups are to ensure that all such individuals should be allowed to develop to their full potential (including healthy physical, mental and spiritual development);**

The general objectives of protecting vulnerable groups are to ensure that all such individuals should be allowed to develop to their full potential (including healthy physical, mental and spiritual development); to ensure that young people can develop, establish and maintain healthy lives; to allow women to perform their key role in society; and to support indigenous people through educational, economic and technical opportunities.

**6.26. take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities**

**support women's productive and reproductive roles and well being**

Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values and taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness. (6.26 Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

**6.31 c i,ii,iii. Women: Strengthen, through resources and self-management, preventative and curative health services;**

i. Involve women's groups in decision-making at the national and community levels to identify health risks and incorporate health issues in national action programmes on women and

development;

ii. Provide concrete incentives to encourage and maintain attendance of women of all ages at school and adult education courses, including health education and training in primary, home and maternal health care;

iii. Carry out baseline surveys and knowledge, attitude and practice studies on the health and nutrition of women throughout their life cycle, especially as related to the impact of environmental degradation and adequate resources;

(6.31 c i,ii.iii Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

**6.31 d I ii Indigenous people and their communities: i. Strengthen, through resources and self-management, preventative and curative health services;**

ii. traditional knowledge and experience into health systems.

(6.31 d i ii Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

D. Meeting the urban health challenge Basis for action

**6.32. For hundreds of millions of people, the poor living conditions in urban and peri-urban areas are destroying lives, health, and social and moral values.**

For hundreds of millions of people, the poor living conditions in urban and peri-urban areas are destroying lives, health, and social and moral values.

For hundreds of millions of people, the poor living conditions in urban and peri-urban areas are destroying lives, health, and social and moral values. Urban growth has outstripped society's capacity to meet human needs, leaving hundreds of millions of people with inadequate incomes, diets, housing and services. Urban growth exposes populations to serious environmental hazards and has outstripped the capacity of municipal and local governments to provide the environmental health services that the people need. All too often, urban development is associated with destructive effects on the physical environment and the resource base needed for sustainable development. Environmental pollution in urban areas is associated with

excess morbidity and mortality. Overcrowding and inadequate housing contribute to respiratory diseases, tuberculosis, meningitis and other diseases. In urban environments, many factors that affect human health are outside the health sector. Improvements in urban health therefore will depend on coordinated action by all levels of government, health care providers, businesses, religious groups, social and educational institutions and citizens.

## Objectives

### **6.33. The health and well-being of all urban dwellers must be improved**

#### **The same rate of improvement should be achieved for environmental, housing and health service indicators**

The health and well-being of all urban dwellers must be improved so that they can contribute to economic and social development. The global objective is to achieve a 10 to 40 per cent improvement in health indicators by the year 2000. The same rate of improvement should be achieved for environmental, housing and health service indicators. These include the development of quantitative objectives for infant mortality, maternal mortality, percentage of low birth weight newborns and specific indicators (e.g. tuberculosis as an indicator of crowded housing, diarrhoeal diseases as indicators of inadequate water and sanitation, rates of industrial and transportation accidents that indicate possible opportunities for prevention of injury, and social problems such as drug abuse, violence and crime that indicate underlying social disorders). (6.22 Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

#### **Activities 6.34. emphasize "doing with" rather than "doing for" and create supportive environments for health**

Local authorities, with the appropriate support of national Governments and international organizations should be encouraged to take effective measures to initiate or strengthen the following activities:

- a. Develop and implement municipal and local health plans:
  - i. Establish or strengthen intersectoral committees at both the political and technical level, including active collaboration on linkages with scientific, cultural, religious, medical,

business, social and other city institutions, using networking arrangements;

ii. Adopt or strengthen municipal or local "enabling strategies" that emphasize "doing with" rather than "doing for" and create supportive environments for health; (6.34 Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

#### **E. Reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards Basis for action**

**6.39. In many locations around the world the general environment (air, water and land), workplaces and even individual dwellings are so badly polluted that the health of hundreds of millions of people is adversely affected. This is, inter alia, due to past and present developments in consumption and production patterns and lifestyles, in energy production and use, in industry, in transportation etc., with little or no regard for environmental protection. There have been notable improvements in some countries, but deterioration of the environment continues. The ability of countries to tackle pollution and health problems is greatly restrained because of lack of resources. Pollution control and health protection measures have often not kept pace with economic development. Considerable development related environmental health hazards exist in the newly industrializing countries. Furthermore, the recent analysis of WHO has clearly established the interdependence among the factors of health, environment and development and has revealed that most countries are lacking such integration as would lead to an effective pollution control mechanism.**

**2/ Without prejudice to such criteria as may be agreed upon by the international community, or to standards which will have to be determined nationally, it will be essential in all cases to consider the systems of values prevailing in each country and the extent of the applicability of standards that are valid for the most advanced countries but may be inappropriate and of unwarranted social cost for the developing countries.**

**(6.39 Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)**

#### **Objectives**

**6.40. The overall objective is to minimize hazards and maintain**

the environment to a degree that human health and safety is not impaired or endangered and yet encourage development to proceed. Specific programme objectives are:

- a. By the year 2000, to incorporate appropriate environmental and health safeguards as part of national development programmes in all countries;
- b. By the year 2000, to establish, as appropriate, adequate national infrastructure and programmes for providing environmental injury, hazard surveillance and the basis for abatement in all countries;
- c. By the year 2000, to establish, as appropriate, integrated programmes for tackling pollution at the source and at the disposal site, with a focus on abatement actions in all countries;
- d. To identify and compile, as appropriate, the necessary statistical information on health effects to support cost/benefit analysis, including environmental health impact assessment for pollution control, prevention and abatement measures.

(6.40 Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

#### Activities

6.41. Nationally determined action programmes, with international assistance, support and coordination, where necessary, in this area should include: a. Urban air pollution:

- i. Develop appropriate pollution control technology on the basis of risk assessment and epidemiological research for the introduction of environmentally sound production processes and suitable safe mass transport;
- ii. Develop air pollution control capacities in large cities, emphasizing enforcement programmes and using monitoring networks, as appropriate;

#### b. Indoor air pollution:

- i. Support research and develop programmes for applying prevention and control methods to reducing indoor air pollution, including the provision of economic incentives for the installation of appropriate technology;
- ii. Develop and implement health education campaigns, particularly in developing countries, to reduce the health impact of domestic use of biomass and coal;



**c. Water pollution:**

**i. Develop appropriate water pollution control technologies on the basis of health risk assessment;**

**ii. Develop water pollution control capacities in large cities; d. Pesticides: Develop mechanisms to control the distribution and use of pesticides in order to minimize the risks to human health by transportation, storage, application and residual effects of pesticides used in agriculture and preservation of wood;**

**e. Solid waste:**

**i. Develop appropriate solid waste disposal technologies on the basis of health risk assessment;**

**ii. Develop appropriate solid waste disposal capacities in large cities;**

**f. Human settlements: Develop programmes for improving health conditions in human settlements, in particular within slums and non-tenured settlements, on the basis of health risk assessment;**

**g. Noise: Develop criteria for maximum permitted safe noise exposure levels and promote noise assessment and control as part of environmental health programmes;**

**h. Ionizing and non-ionizing radiation: Develop and implement appropriate national legislation, standards and enforcement procedures on the basis of existing international guidelines;**

**i. Effects of ultraviolet radiation: Undertake, as a matter of urgency, research on the effects on human health of the increasing ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth's surface as a consequence of depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer;**

**ii. On the basis of the outcome of this research, consider taking appropriate remedial measures to mitigate the above-mentioned effects on human beings;**

**i. Industry and energy production:**

**i. Establish environmental health impact assessment procedures for the planning and development of new industries and energy facilities;**

**ii. Incorporate appropriate health risk analysis in all national programmes for pollution control and management, with particular emphasis on toxic compounds such as lead;**

**iii. Establish industrial hygiene programmes in all major industries for the surveillance of workers' exposure to health**

**hazards;**

**iv. Promote the introduction of environmentally sound technologies within the industry and energy sectors;**

**j. Monitoring and assessment: Establish, as appropriate, adequate environmental monitoring capacities for the surveillance of environmental quality and the health status of populations;**

**k. Injury monitoring and reduction:**

**i. Support, as appropriate, the development of systems to monitor the incidence and cause of injury to allow well-targeted intervention/prevention strategies;**

**ii. Develop, in accordance with national plans, strategies in all sectors (industry, traffic and others) consistent with the WHO safe cities and safe communities programmes, to reduce the frequency and severity of injury;**

**iii. Emphasize preventive strategies to reduce occupationally derived diseases and diseases caused by environmental and occupational toxins to enhance worker safety;**

**l. Research promotion and methodology development:**

**i. Support the development of new methods for the quantitative assessment of health benefits and cost associated with different pollution control strategies;**

**ii. Develop and carry out interdisciplinary research on the combined health effects of exposure to multiple environmental hazards, including epidemiological investigations of long-term exposures to low levels of pollutants and the use of biological markers capable of estimating human exposures, adverse effects and susceptibility to environmental agents.**

**(6.41 Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)**

**6.42.**

The Conference secretariat has estimated the average total annual cost (1993-2000) of implementing the activities of this programme to be about \$3 billion, including about \$115 million from the international community on grant or concessional terms. These are indicative and order-of magnitude estimates only and has not been reviewed by Governments. Actual costs and financial terms, including any that are non-concessional, will depend upon, inter alia, the specific strategies and programmes Governments decide upon for implementation. (b) Scientific and technological means

(6.4.2 Chapter 6 Protecting and Promoting Human Health Agenda 21)

**6.43. setting of priorities and strategies in relation to health and development.**

Although technology to prevent or abate pollution is readily available for a large number of problems, for programme and policy development countries should undertake research within an intersectoral framework. Such efforts should include collaboration with the business sector. Cost/effect analysis and environmental impact assessment methods should be developed through cooperative international programmes and applied to the setting of priorities and strategies in relation to health and development.

d. To identify and compile, as appropriate, the necessary statistical information on health effects to support cost/benefit analysis, including environmental health impact assessment for pollution control, prevention and abatement measures.(d)

**Capacity-building**

**6.46. Basic capacity requirements must include knowledge about environmental health problems**

**Each country should develop the knowledge and practical skills to foresee and identify environmental health hazards, and the capacity to reduce the risks.**

Each country should develop the knowledge and practical skills to foresee and identify environmental health hazards, and the capacity to reduce the risks. Basic capacity requirements must include knowledge about environmental health problems and awareness on the part of leaders, citizens and specialists; operational mechanisms for intersectoral and intergovernmental cooperation in development planning and management and in combating pollution; arrangements for involving private and community interests in dealing with social issues; delegation of authority and distribution of resources to intermediate and local levels of government to provide front-line capabilities to meet environmental health needs. Notes 1/ A/45/625, annex. 2/ Report of the WHO Commission on Health and Environment (Geneva, forthcoming)

**Basis for action 7.6. Access to safe and healthy shelter is essential to a person's physical, psychological, social and**

## **economic well-being**

### **The right to adequate housing as a basic human right is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

Access to safe and healthy shelter is essential to a person's physical, psychological, social and economic well-being and should be a fundamental part of national and international action. The right to adequate housing as a basic human right is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Despite this, it is estimated that at the present time, at least 1 billion people do not have access to safe and healthy shelter and that if appropriate action is not taken, this number will increase dramatically by the end of the century and beyond.

#### **7.16 d. thereby promoting employment generation that is environmentally sound and protective of human health**

Developing local strategies for improving the quality of life and the environment, integrating decisions on land use and land management, investing in the public and private sectors and mobilizing human and material resources, thereby promoting employment generation that is environmentally sound and protective of human health. (b) Strengthening urban data systems

#### **7.20. the Healthy Cities Programme of WHO, should be intensified**

All cities, particularly those characterized by severe sustainable development problems, should, in accordance with national laws, rules and regulations, develop and strengthen programmes aimed at addressing such problems and guiding their development along a sustainable path. Some international initiatives in support of such efforts, as in the Sustainable Cities Programme of Habitat and the Healthy Cities Programme of WHO, should be intensified. Additional initiatives involving the World Bank, the regional development banks and bilateral agencies, as well as other interested stakeholders, particularly international and national representatives of local authorities, should be strengthened and coordinated. Individual cities should, as appropriate:

7.30

#### **g. Accelerate efforts to promote access to land by the urban and**

**rural poor, including credit schemes for the purchase of land and for building/acquiring or improving safe and healthy shelter and infrastructure services;**

**7.35. , the inadequacy and lack of environmental infrastructure is responsible for widespread ill-health and a large number of preventable deaths each year.**

The sustainability of urban development is defined by many parameters relating to the availability of water supplies, air quality and the provision of environmental infrastructure for sanitation and waste management. As a result of the density of users, urbanization, if properly managed, offers unique opportunities for the supply of sustainable environmental infrastructure through adequate pricing policies, educational programmes and equitable access mechanisms that are economically and environmentally sound. In most developing countries, however, the inadequacy and lack of environmental infrastructure is responsible for widespread ill-health and a large number of preventable deaths each year. In those countries conditions are set to worsen due to growing needs that exceed the capacity of Governments to respond adequately.

**implement environmentally sound technology to ensure that environment, human health and quality of life are protected.**

All countries should assess the environmental suitability of infrastructure in human settlements, develop national goals for sustainable management of waste, and implement environmentally sound technology to ensure that the environment, human health and quality of life are protected. Settlement infrastructure and environmental programmes designed to promote an integrated human settlements approach to the planning, development, maintenance and management of environmental infrastructure (water supply, sanitation, drainage, solid-waste management) should be strengthened with the assistance of bilateral and multilateral agencies. Coordination among these agencies and with collaboration from international and national representatives of local authorities, the private sector and community groups should also be strengthened. The activities of all agencies engaged in providing environmental infrastructure should, where possible, reflect an ecosystem or metropolitan area approach to settlements and should include monitoring, applied research, capacity-building,

transfer of appropriate technology and technical cooperation among the range of programme activities.

7.48. Transport accounts for about 30 per cent of commercial energy consumption and for about 60 per cent of total global consumption of liquid petroleum. In developing countries, rapid motorization and insufficient investments in urban-transport planning, traffic management and infrastructure, are creating increasing problems in terms of accidents and injury, health, noise, congestion and loss of productivity similar to those occurring in many developed countries. All of these problems have a severe impact on urban populations, particularly the low-income and no-income groups. Objectives 7.49. The objectives are to extend the provision of more energy-efficient technology and alternative/renewable energy for human settlements and to reduce negative impacts of energy production and use on human health and on the environment.

G. Promoting sustainable construction industry activities Basis for action 7.67. The activities of the construction sector are vital to the achievement of the national socioeconomic development goals of providing shelter, infrastructure and employment. However, they can be a major source of environmental damage through depletion of the natural resource base, degradation of fragile eco-zones, chemical pollution and the use of building materials harmful to human health.

Objectives 7.68. The objectives are, first, to adopt policies and technologies and to exchange information on them in order to enable the construction sector to meet human settlement development goals, while avoiding harmful side-effects on human health and on the biosphere, and, second, to enhance the employment generation capacity of the construction sector. Governments should work in close collaboration with the private sector in achieving these objectives.

**All countries should: a. Promote the free exchange of information on the entire range of environmental and health aspects of construction**

All countries should: a. Promote the free exchange of information on the entire range of environmental and health aspects of construction, including the development and dissemination of databases on the adverse environmental effects of building

materials through the collaborative efforts of the private and public sectors; b. Promote the development and dissemination of databases on the adverse environmental and health effects of building materials and introduce legislation and financial incentives to promote recycling of energy-intensive materials in the construction industry and conservation of waste energy in building-materials production methods; c. Promote the use of economic instruments, such as product charges, to discourage the use of construction materials and products that create pollution during their life cycle; d. Promote information exchange and appropriate technology transfer among all countries, with particular attention to developing countries, for resource management in construction, particularly for non-renewable resources; e. Promote research in construction industries and related activities, and establish and strengthen institutions in this sector.

## **Agenda 21 – Chapter 9 Protection of the Atmosphere**

**Better understanding and prediction of the various properties of the atmosphere and of the affected ecosystems, as well as health impacts and their interactions with socio-economic factors, are needed.**

Basis for action 9.6. Concern about climate change and climate variability, air pollution and ozone depletion has created new demands for scientific, economic and social information to reduce the remaining uncertainties in these fields. Better understanding and prediction of the various properties of the atmosphere and of the affected ecosystems, as well as health impacts and their interactions with socio-economic factors, are needed.

(Chapter 9.6 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

### **Activities**

9.8. Governments at the appropriate level, with the cooperation of the relevant United Nations bodies and, as appropriate, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, should: a. Promote research related to the natural processes affecting and being affected by the atmosphere, as well as the critical linkages between sustainable development and atmospheric changes, including impacts on human health, ecosystems, economic sectors and society; (Chapter 9.8 Protection of the

## Atmosphere Agenda 21)

1. Energy development, efficiency and consumption Basis for action

### **9.9. All energy sources will need to be used in ways that respect the atmosphere, human health and the environment as a whole**

Energy is essential to economic and social development and improved quality of life. Much of the world's energy, however, is currently produced and consumed in ways that could not be sustained if technology were to remain constant and if overall quantities were to increase substantially. The need to control atmospheric emissions of greenhouse and other gases and substances will increasingly need to be based on efficiency in energy production, transmission, distribution and consumption, and on growing reliance on environmentally sound energy systems, particularly new and renewable sources of energy. 1/ All energy sources will need to be used in ways that respect the atmosphere, human health and the environment as a whole. (Chapter 9.9 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

### **9.24 Participate actively in the continuous assessment of scientific information and the health and environmental effects**

Participate actively in the continuous assessment of scientific information and the health and environmental effects, as well as of the technological/economic implications of stratospheric ozone depletion; and consider further actions that prove warranted and feasible on the basis of these assessments; d. Based on the results of research on the effects of the additional ultraviolet radiation reaching the Earth's surface, (Chapter 9.24 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

D. Transboundary atmospheric pollution Basis for action

### **Transboundary air pollution has adverse health impacts on ans and other detrimental environmental impacts,**

Transboundary air pollution has adverse health impacts on humans and other detrimental environmental impacts, such as tree and forest loss and the acidification of water bodies. The geographical distribution of atmospheric pollution monitoring networks is uneven, with the developing



countries severely underrepresented. The lack of reliable emissions data outside Europe and North America is a major constraint to measuring transboundary air pollution. There is also insufficient information on the environmental and health effects of air pollution in other regions.

(Chapter 9.25 Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

## Activities

### 9.28.

Governments at the appropriate level, with the cooperation of the relevant United Nations bodies and, as appropriate, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and financial institutions, should:

**9.28.a. greater emphasis should be put on addressing the extent, causes, health and socio-economic impacts of ultraviolet radiation, acidification of the environment and photo-oxidant damage to forests and other vegetation;**

Establish and/or strengthen regional agreements for transboundary air pollution control and cooperate, particularly with developing countries, in the areas of systematic observation and assessment, modelling and the development and exchange of emission control technologies for mobile and stationary sources of air pollution. In this context, greater emphasis should be put on addressing the extent, causes, health and socio-economic impacts of ultraviolet radiation, acidification of the environment and photo-oxidant damage to forests and other vegetation; (Chapter 9.28.a Protection of the Atmosphere Agenda 21)

## Agenda 21 – Chapter 11 Combating Deforestation

The greening of appropriate areas is a task of global importance and impact. The international and regional community should provide technical cooperation and other means for this programme area. Specific activities of an international nature, in support of national efforts, should include the following:

**a. Increasing cooperative actions to reduce pollutants and trans-boundary impacts affecting the health of trees and forests and conservation of representative**

**ecosystems;**(11.15. Chapter 11 Combating Deforestation  
Agenda 21)

Agenda 21 – Chapter 12 Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Combating  
Desertification and Drought

Means of implementation

(a) Financing and cost evaluation

12.11. The Conference secretariat has estimated the average total annual cost (1993-2000) of implementing the activities of this programme to be about \$350 million, including about \$175 million from the international community on grant or concessional terms. These are indicative and order-of-magnitude estimates only and have not been reviewed by Governments. Actual costs and financial terms, including any that are non-concessional, will depend upon, inter alia, the specific strategies and programmes Governments decide upon for implementation.

(b) Scientific and technological means

12.12. Governments at the appropriate level, with the support of the relevant international and regional organizations working on the issue of desertification and drought, should:

**a. Undertake and update existing inventories of natural resources, such as energy, water, soil, minerals, plant and animal access to food, as well as other resources, such as housing, employment, health, education and demographic distribution in time and space;**

Agenda 21 – Chapter 13 Managing Fragile Ecosystems:  
Sustainable Mountain Development

**13.14. Poverty, unemployment, poor health and bad sanitation are widespread.**

Soil erosion can have a devastating impact on the vast numbers of rural people who depend on rainfed agriculture in the mountain and hillside areas. Poverty, unemployment, poor health and bad sanitation are widespread. Promoting integrated watershed development programmes through effective participation of local people is a key to preventing further ecological imbalance. An integrated approach is needed for conserving, upgrading and using the natural resource base of land, water, plant, animal and human

resources. In addition, promoting alternative livelihood opportunities, particularly through development of employment schemes that increase the productive base, will have a significant role in improving the standard of living among the large rural population living in mountain ecosystems.

## Chapter 13 Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development

### 13.14

13.22. Governments at the appropriate level, with the support of the relevant international and regional organizations, should:

- a. Promote a multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach in training and the dissemination of knowledge to local people on a wide range of issues, such as household production systems, conservation and utilization of arable and non-arable land, treatment of drainage lines and recharging of groundwater, livestock management, fisheries, agroforestry and horticulture;

- b. Develop human resources by providing access to education, health, energy and infrastructure;

- c. Promote local awareness and preparedness for disaster prevention and mitigation, combined with the latest available technology for early warning and forecasting.

### Agenda 21 –

Chapter 14 Chemical control of agricultural pests has dominated the scene, but its overuse has adverse effects on farm budgets, human health and the environment Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

### **14.73. Chemical control of agricultural pests has dominated the scene, but its overuse has adverse effects on farm budgets, human health and the environment**

World food demand projections indicate an increase of 50 per cent by the year 2000 which will more than double again by 2050. Conservative estimates put pre-harvest and post-harvest losses caused by pests between 25 and 50 per cent. Pests affecting animal health also cause heavy losses and in many areas prevent livestock development. Chemical control of agricultural pests has dominated the scene, but its overuse has adverse effects on farm budgets, human health and the environment, as well as on international

trade. New pest problems continue to develop. Integrated pest management, which combines biological control, host plant resistance and appropriate farming practices and minimizes the use of pesticides, is the best option for the future, as it guarantees yields, reduces costs, is environmentally friendly and contributes to the sustainability of agriculture. Integrated pest management should go hand in hand with appropriate pesticide management to allow for pesticide regulation and control, including trade, and for the safe handling and disposal of pesticides, particularly those that are toxic and persistent. (14.73 Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Agenda 21 UNCED)

#### Objectives

14.74. The objectives of this programme area are:

**information on the use of pesticides in each country and the side-effects on human health and environment,**

c. Undertake national surveys to establish baseline information on the use of pesticides in each country and the side-effects on human health and environment, and also undertake appropriate education.

(14.74 Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Agenda 21 UNCED)

14.77. Appropriate United Nations agencies and regional organizations should:

**a. Establish a system for collecting, analysing and disseminating data on the quantity and quality of pesticide used every year and their impact on human health and the environment;** (14.74

a Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Agenda 21 UNCED

#### Activities

(a) Management-related activities

14.85 d. Develop and encourage processes for the recycling of organic and inorganic waste into the soil structure, without harming the environment, plant growth and human health.

(14. 85 d Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Agenda 21 UNCED

## Agenda 21 – Chapter 15 CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Conservation of biological diversity Basis for action

## B. Improving human health Basis for action

### **16.11. The improvement of human health is one of the most important objectives of development.**

The improvement of human health is one of the most important objectives of development. The deterioration of environmental quality, notably air, water and soil pollution owing to toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, radiation and other sources, is a matter of growing concern. This degradation of the environment resulting from inadequate or inappropriate development has a direct negative effect on human health. Malnutrition, poverty, poor human settlements, lack of good-quality potable water and inadequate sanitation facilities add to the problems of communicable and non-communicable diseases. As a consequence, the health and well-being of people are exposed to increasing pressures.

Objectives 16.12. The main objective of this programme area is to contribute, through the environmentally sound application of biotechnology to an overall health programme, to:

- a. Reinforce or inaugurate (as a matter of urgency) programmes to help combat major communicable diseases;
- b. Promote good general health among people of all ages;
- c. Develop and improve programmes to assist in specific treatment of and protection from major non-communicable diseases;
- d. Develop and strengthen appropriate safety procedures based on programme area D, taking account of ethical considerations;
- e. Create enhanced capabilities for carrying out basic and applied research and for managing interdisciplinary research.

Objectives 18.36. The complex interconnectedness of freshwater systems demands that freshwater management be holistic (taking a catchment management approach) and based on a balanced consideration of the needs of people and the environment. The Mar del Plata Action Plan has already recognized the intrinsic linkage between water resource development projects and their significant physical, chemical, biological, health and socio-economic repercussions. The overall environmental health objective was set as follows: "to evaluate the consequences which the various users of water have on the environment, to support measures aimed at controlling water-related diseases, and to protect ecosystems". 1

**18.38. b. Public health protection, a task requiring not only the provision of safe drinking-water but also the control of disease vectors in the aquatic environment;**

18.39

f. To establish, according to capacities and needs, biological, health, physical and chemical quality criteria for all water bodies (surface and groundwater), with a view to an ongoing improvement of water quality;

18.47. Safe water-supplies and environmental sanitation are vital for protecting the environment, improving health and alleviating poverty. Safe water is also crucial to many traditional and cultural activities. An estimated 80 per cent of all diseases and over one third of deaths in developing countries are caused by the consumption of contaminated water, and on average as much as one tenth of each person's productive time is sacrificed to water-related diseases. Concerted efforts during the 1980s brought water and sanitation services to hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people. The most outstanding of these efforts was the launching in 1981 of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, which resulted from the Mar del Plata Action Plan adopted by the United Nations Water Conference in 1977. The commonly agreed premise was that "all peoples, whatever their stage of development and their social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs". 2/ The target of the Decade was to provide safe drinking-water and sanitation to underserved urban and rural areas by 1990, but even the unprecedented progress achieved during the Decade was not enough. One in three people in the developing world still lacks these two most basic requirements for health and dignity. It is also recognized that human excreta and sewage are important causes of the deterioration of water quality in developing countries, and the introduction of available technologies, including appropriate technologies, and the construction of sewage treatment facilities could bring significant improvement.

Objectives 18.48. The New Delhi Statement (adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, which was held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990) formalized the need to provide, on a sustainable basis, access to safe water in sufficient quantities and proper sanitation for all, emphasizing the "some for all rather than more for some" approach. Four guiding

principles provide for the programme objectives:

Objectives 18.48. The New Delhi Statement (adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, which was held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990) formalized the need to provide, on a sustainable basis, access to safe water in sufficient quantities and proper sanitation for all, emphasizing the "some for all rather than more for some" approach. Four guiding principles provide for the programme objectives: a. Protection of the environment and safeguarding of health through the integrated management of water resources and liquid and solid wastes;

\ Activities 18.50. All States, according to their capacity and available resources, and through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, including the United Nations and other relevant organizations as appropriate, could implement the following activities:

a. Environment and health: a. Establishment of protected areas for sources of drinking-water supply;

b. Sanitary disposal of excreta and sewage, using appropriate systems to treat waste waters in urban and rural areas;

18.55. Overall national capacity-building at all administrative levels, involving institutional development, coordination, human resources, community participation, health and hygiene education and literacy, has to be developed according to its fundamental connection both **with any efforts to improve health and socio-economic development through water-supply and sanitation and with their impact on the human environment**. Capacity-building should therefore be one of the underlying keys in implementation strategies. Institutional capacity-building should be considered to have an importance equal to that of the sector supplies and equipment component so that funds can be directed to both. This can be undertaken at the planning or programme/project formulation stage, accompanied by a clear definition of objectives and targets. In this regard, technical cooperation among developing countries owing to their available wealth of information and experience and the need to avoid "reinventing the wheel", is crucial. Such a course has proved cost-effective in many country projects already.

Basis for action 18.56. Early in the next century, more than half of the world's population will be living in urban areas. By the year 2025, that proportion will have risen to 60 per cent, comprising

some 5 billion people. Rapid urban population growth and industrialization are putting severe strains on the water resources and environmental protection capabilities of many cities. Special attention needs to be given to the growing effects of urbanization on water demands and usage and to the critical role played by local and municipal authorities in managing the supply, use and overall treatment of water, particularly in developing countries for which special support is needed. Scarcity of freshwater resources and the escalating costs of developing new resources have a considerable impact on national industrial, agricultural and human settlement development and economic growth. **Better management of urban water resources, including the elimination of unsustainable consumption patterns, can make a substantial contribution to the alleviation of poverty and improvement of the health and quality of life of the urban and rural poor.** A high proportion of large urban agglomerations are located around estuaries and in coastal zones. Such an arrangement leads to pollution from municipal and industrial discharges combined with overexploitation of available water resources and threatens the marine environment and the supply of freshwater resources.

18.73. It should be ensured that rural communities of all countries, according to their capacities and available resources and taking advantage of international cooperation as appropriate, will have access to safe water in sufficient quantities and adequate sanitation to meet their health needs and maintain the essential qualities of their local environments.

Activities 18.76. All States, according to their capacity and available resources, and through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, including the United Nations and other relevant organizations as appropriate, could implement the following activities: a. Water-supply and sanitation for the unserved rural poor: i. Establish national policies and budget priorities with regard to increasing service coverage; ii. Promote appropriate technologies; iii. Introduce suitable cost-recovery mechanisms, taking into account efficiency and equity through demand management mechanisms; iv. Promote community ownership and rights to water-supply and sanitation facilities; v. Establish monitoring and evaluation systems; vi. Strengthen the rural water-supply and sanitation sector with emphasis on institutional development, efficient management and an appropriate framework for financing of services;



19.9. There is international concern that part of the international **movement of toxic and dangerous products is being carried out in contravention of existing national legislation and international instruments, to the detriment of the environment and public health of all countries, particularly developing countries.**

19.10. In resolution 44/226 of 22 December 1989, the General Assembly requested each regional commission, within existing resources, to contribute to the **prevention of the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes by monitoring and making regional assessments of that illegal traffic and its environmental and health implications.** The Assembly also requested the regional commissions to interact among themselves and to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme, with a view to maintaining efficient and coordinated monitoring and assessment of the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes.

A. Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks

**19.11. Assessing the risks to human health and the environment hazards that a chemical may cause is a prerequisite to planning for its safe and beneficial use.**

Assessing the risks to human health and the environment hazards that a chemical may cause is a prerequisite to planning for its safe and beneficial use. Among the approximately 100,000 chemical substances in commerce and the thousands of substances of natural origin with which human beings come into contact, many appear as pollutants and contaminants in food, commercial products and the various environmental media. Fortunately, exposure to most chemicals (some 1,500 cover over 95 per cent of total world production) is rather limited, as most are used in very small amounts. However, a serious problem is that even for a great number of chemicals characterized by high-volume production, crucial data for risk assessment are often lacking. Within the framework of the OECD chemicals programme such data are now being generated for a number of chemicals.

19.13. The objectives of this programme area are: a. To strengthen international risk assessment. Several hundred priority chemicals or

groups of chemicals, including major pollutants and contaminants of global significance, should be assessed by the year 2000, using current selection and assessment criteria; b. To produce guidelines for acceptable exposure for a greater number of toxic chemicals, based on peer review and scientific consensus distinguishing between health- or environment-based exposure limits and those relating to socio-economic factors.

19.16. Industry should provide data for substances produced that are needed specifically for the assessment of potential risks to human health and the environment. Such data should be made available to relevant national competent authorities and international bodies and other interested parties involved in hazard and risk assessment, and to the greatest possible extent to the public also, taking into account legitimate claims of confidentiality.

19.20. Major research efforts should be launched in order to improve methods for assessment of chemicals as work towards a common framework for risk assessment and to improve procedures for using toxicological and epidemiological data to predict the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment, so as to enable decision makers to adopt adequate policies and measures to reduce risks posed by chemicals.

19.21. Activities include: a. Strengthening research on safe/safer alternatives to toxic chemicals that pose an unreasonable and otherwise unmanageable risk to the environment or human health and to those that

19.24. Adequate labelling of chemicals and the dissemination of safety data sheets such as ICSCs (International Chemical Safety Cards) and similarly written materials, based on assessed hazards to health and environment, are the simplest and most efficient way of indicating how to handle and use chemicals safely.

19.36. In order to address this issue, provisions for Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedures were introduced in 1989 in the London Guidelines (UNEP) and in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (FAO). In addition a joint FAO/UNEP programme has been launched for the operation of the PIC procedures for chemicals, including the selection of chemicals to be included in the PIC procedure and preparation of PIC decision guidance documents. The ILO chemicals convention calls for communication between exporting and importing countries when

hazardous chemicals have been prohibited for reasons of safety and health at work. Within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) framework, negotiations have been pursued with a view to creating a binding instrument on products banned or severely restricted in the domestic market. Further, the GATT Council has agreed, as stated in its decision contained in C/M/251, to extend the mandate of the working group for a period of three months, to begin from the date of the group's next meeting, and has authorized the Chairman to hold consultations on timing with respect to convening this meeting.

Activities (a) Management-related activities 19.39. Governments and relevant international organizations with the cooperation of industry should: a. Strengthen national institutions responsible for information exchange on toxic chemicals and promote the creation of national centres where these centres do not exist; b. Strengthen international institutions and networks, such as IRPTC, responsible for information exchange on toxic chemicals; c. Establish technical cooperation with, and provide information to, other countries, especially those with shortages of technical expertise, including training in the interpretation of relevant technical data, such as Environmental Health Criteria Documents, Health and Safety Guides and International Chemical Safety Cards (published by IPCS); monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks of Chemicals to Humans (published by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)); and decision guidance documents (provided through the FAO/UNEP j Activities (a) Management-related activities 19.39. Governments and relevant international organizations with the cooperation of industry should: a. Strengthen national institutions responsible for information exchange on toxic chemicals and promote the creation of national centres where these centres do not exist; b. Strengthen international institutions and networks, such as IRPTC, responsible for information exchange on toxic chemicals; c. Establish technical cooperation with, and provide information to, other countries, especially those with shortages of technical expertise, including training in the interpretation of relevant technical data, such as Environmental Health Criteria Documents, Health and Safety Guides and International Chemical Safety Cards (published by IPCS); monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks of Chemicals to Humans (published by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)); and decision guidance documents (provided

through the FAO/UNEP j

F. Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products 19.66. There is currently no global international agreement on traffic in toxic and dangerous products (toxic and dangerous products are those that are banned, severely restricted, withdrawn or not approved for use or sale by Governments in order to protect public health and the environment). However, there is international concern that illegal international traffic in these products is detrimental to public health and the environment, particularly in developing countries, as acknowledged by the General Assembly in resolutions 42/183 and 44/226. Illegal traffic refers to traffic that is carried out in contravention of a country's laws or relevant international legal instruments. The concern also relates to transboundary movements of those products that are not carried out in accordance with applicable internationally adopted guidelines and principles. Activities under this programme area are intended to improve detection and prevention of the traffic concerned.

Objectives 19.68. The objectives of the programme are: a. To reinforce national capacities to detect and halt any illegal attempt to introduce toxic and dangerous products into the territory of any State, in contravention of national legislation and relevant international legal instruments; b. To assist all countries, particularly developing countries, in obtaining all appropriate information concerning illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products. Activities (a) Management-related activities 19.69. Governments, according to their capacities and available resources and with the cooperation of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, should: a. Adopt, where necessary, and implement legislation to prevent the illegal import and export of toxic and dangerous products;

20.4. There is international concern that part of the international movement of hazardous wastes is being carried out in contravention of existing national legislation and international instruments to the detriment of the environment and public health of all countries, particularly developing countries.

Agenda 21 – Chapter 20 ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER

/ **Agenda 21 – Chapter 34 TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY,**

## **COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING**

34.25. Visits should be sponsored and, on a voluntary basis, the return of qualified experts from developing countries in the field of environmentally sound technologies who are currently working in developed country institutions should be facilitated. (f) Technology assessment in support of the management of environmentally sound technology 34.26. The international community, in particular United Nations agencies, international organizations, and other appropriate and private organizations should help exchange experiences and develop capacity for technology needs assessment, in particular in developing countries, to enable them to make choices based on environmentally sound technologies. They should: a. Build up technology assessment capacity for the management of environmentally sound technology, including environmental impact and risk assessment, with due regard to appropriate safeguards on the transfer of technologies subject to prohibition on environmental or health grounds;

### **Agenda 21 – Chapter 7 PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT**

#### **A. PROVIDING ADEQUATE SHELTER FOR ALL SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

35.7d. Develop, apply and institute the necessary tools for sustainable development, with regard to: i. Quality-of-life indicators covering, for example, health, education, social welfare, state of the environment, and the economy;

35.7 e. Collect, analyse and integrate data on the linkages between the state of ecosystems and the health of human communities in order to improve knowledge of the cost and benefit of different development policies and strategies in relation to health and the environment, particularly in developing countries;

Basis for action 35.15. Meeting scientific research needs in the environment/development field is only the first step in the support that the sciences can provide for the sustainable development process. The knowledge acquired may then be used to provide scientific assessments (audits) of the current status and for a range of possible future conditions. This implies that the biosphere must be maintained in a healthy state and that losses in biodiversity must be slowed down. Although many of the long-term environmental changes that are likely to affect people and the biosphere are global in scale, key changes can often be made at the national and local

levels. At the same time, human activities at the local and regional levels often contribute to global threats - e.g., stratospheric ozone depletion. Thus scientific assessments and projections are required at the global, regional and local levels. Many countries and organizations already prepare reports on the environment and development which review current conditions and indicate future trends. Regional and global assessments could make full use of such reports but should be broader in scope and include the results of detailed studies of future conditions for a range of assumptions about possible future human responses, using the best available models. Such assessments should be designed to map out manageable development pathways within the environmental and socio-economic carrying capacity of each region. Full use should be made of traditional knowledge of the local environment.

Activities 35.17. The following activities should be undertaken: a. Coordinate existing data- and statistics-gathering systems relevant to developmental and environmental issues so as to support preparation of long-term scientific assessments - for example, data on resource depletion, import/export flows, energy use, health impacts and demographic trends; apply the data obtained through the activities identified in programme area B to environment/development assessments at the global, regional and local levels; and promote the wide distribution of the assessments in a form that is responsive to public needs and can be widely understood;

Agenda 21 – Chapter 36 PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

36.22

e. Relevant authorities should ensure that every school is assisted in designing environmental activity work plans, with the participation of students and staff. Schools should involve schoolchildren in local and regional studies on environmental health, including safe drinking water, sanitation and food and ecosystems and in relevant activities, linking these studies with services and research in national parks, wildlife reserves, ecological heritage sites etc.;

Agenda 21 – Chapter 40 INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

40.8. Countries and, upon request, international organizations should carry out inventories of environmental, resource and developmental data, based on national/global priorities for the management of sustainable development. They should determine

the gaps and organize activities to fill those gaps. Within the organs and organizations of the United Nations system and relevant international organizations, data-collection activities, including those of Earthwatch and World Weather Watch, need to be strengthened, especially in the areas of urban air, freshwater, land resources (including forests and rangelands), desertification, other habitats, soil degradation, biodiversity, the high seas and the upper atmosphere. Countries and international organizations should make use of new techniques of data collection, including satellite-based remote sensing. In addition to the strengthening of existing development-related data collection, special attention needs to be paid to such areas as demographic factors, urbanization, poverty, health and rights of access to resources, as well as special groups, including women, indigenous peoples, youth, children and the disabled, and their relationships with environment issues.

### **Well-beingthe ecosystem on which we depend for our well being**

In 1992, at Rio, the United Nations affirmed that “Humanity stands at a defining moment in history. We are confronted with perpetuation of disparities between nations, and a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystem on which we depend for our well-being (Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992).

### **6.33 Eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries; this pattern has contributed to poverty, to the inequitable distribution of resources within countries and between countries, has increased the vulnerability to natural disasters and has threaten the well-being of future generations.**

economic and social development. The global objective is to achieve a 10 to 40 per cent improvement in health indicators in the year 2000. The same rate of improvement should be achieved for environmental, housing and health service indicators. These include the development of quantitative objectives for infant mortality, maternal mortality, percentage of low birth weight newborns and specific indicators (e.g. tuberculosis as an indicator of crowded housing, diarrhoeal diseases as indicators of

inadequate water and sanitation, rates of industrial and transportation accidents that indicate possible opportunities for prevention of injury, and social problems such as drug abuse, violence and crime that indicate

underlying social disorders).6.33.Agenda 21 UNCED

#### **\*\*\*\*1992 RIO DECLARATION**

Recognizing the integral and interdependent nature of the Earth, our home,

Proclaims that:

##### Principle 1

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

##### Principle 14

States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.

##### Principle 15

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where



there are  
threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific  
certainty  
shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures  
to prevent  
environmental degradation.

**\*\*\*\*1994** INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT,

**1.2. Ecological problems, such as global climate change, largely  
driven by unsustainable patterns of production and  
consumption, are adding to the threats to the well-being of  
future generations.**(Preamble, 1.2 International Conference on  
Population and Development, 1994)

Around the world many of the basic resources on which future  
generations will depend for their survival and well-being are being  
depleted and environmental degradation is intensifying, driven by  
unsustainable patterns of production and consumption,  
unprecedented growth in population, widespread and persistent  
poverty, and social and economic inequality (Preamble, 1.2.  
International Conference on Population and Development, 1994)

**\*\*\*\*1996 HABITAT II**

**making human settlements safer, healthier and more  
liveable, equitable, sustainable and productive.**

1. We, the Heads of State or Government and the  
official delegations of countries assembled at the United  
Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)  
in Istanbul, Turkey from 3 to 14 June 1996, take this  
opportunity to endorse the universal goals of ensuring  
adequate shelter for all and making human settlements  
safer, healthier and more liveable, equitable, sustainable  
and productive. Our deliberations on the two major  
themes of the Conference - adequate shelter for all and  
sustainable human settlements development in an  
urbanizing world - have been inspired by the Charter of  
the United Nations and are aimed at reaffirming existing  
and forging new partnerships for action at the  
international, national and local levels to improve our

living environment. We commit ourselves to the objectives, principles and recommendations contained in the Habitat Agenda and pledge our mutual support for its implementation.

5. The challenges of human settlements are global, but countries and regions also face specific problems which need specific solutions. We recognize the A/CONF.165/14 page 8 need to intensify our efforts and cooperation to improve living conditions in the cities, towns and villages throughout the world, particularly in developing countries, where the situation is especially grave, and in countries with economies in transition. In this connection, we acknowledge that globalization of the world economy presents opportunities and challenges for the development process, as well as risks and uncertainties, and that achievement of the goals of the Habitat Agenda would be facilitated by, inter alia, positive actions on the issues of financing of development, external debt, international trade and transfer of technology. Our cities must be places where human beings lead fulfilling lives in dignity, **good health, safety, happiness and hope.**

\*\*\*\*2002 WSSD

**WSSD38 Achieve the Millennium Declaration target to halve in the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people who suffer from hunger and realize the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being**

(a) Achieve the Millennium Declaration target to halve in the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people who suffer from hunger and realize the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their families, including food, including by, promoting food security and fighting hunger in combination with measures which address poverty, consistent with the outcome of the World Food Summit and, for State Parties, with their obligations under Article 11 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

**WSSD42. Biodiversity, which plays a critical role in overall sustainable development and poverty eradication, is essential to our planet, human well-being and to the livelihood and**

**cultural integrity of people. However, biodiversity is presently being lost at unprecedented rates due to human activities; this trend can only be reversed if the local people benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in particular in countries of origin of genetic resources, in accordance with Article 15 of the CBD. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the key instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from use of genetic resources. [Achieving a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss [by 2010] includes actions at all levels to]/[With a view to having instruments in place to stop the current alarming biodiversity loss [by 2010], actions are required at all levels to]:**

**Article 23. Human activities are having an increasing impact on the integrity of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activities.**

### **1.2 Increased ecological threats to future generations**

Ecological problems, such as global climate change, largely driven by unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, are adding to the threats to the well-being of future generations. (Preamble, 1.2 c WSSD)

**TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND WELL BEING, THE FOLLOWING UNSUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES SHOULD END.**

**. End the trumping of health, environment, civil and political and human rights for the sake of "militarized security,**

**. End misplaced spending priorities: on militarism, on adulterated unsafe food, on production of products and substances harmful to the environment and human health, and redirecting budgetary expenses to eradicate poverty.**

**to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, women's rights civil and political rights, indigenous rights,**

**social and cultural rights – right to food, right to housing, right to safe drinking water and sewage treatment, sanitation, right to education and right to universally accessible not for profit health care system;**

**..Prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health. (Principle 14 Rio Declaration, 1992)**

**End the defiance by industrialized states, of principle 7 of the 1992 Rio Declaration which was adopted by all states at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This principle states that:**

**“States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. (Principle 7, Rio Declaration)**

**End environmentally induced diseases, address the social determinant of health problems- such as poverty, and provide universal access to a publicly-funded not-for-profit health non-two tier health care system.**

**End the use of the notion of ‘prior consent’ to persuade the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable countries or communities within developed countries to accept the dumping of products and substances that are potentially harmful to the environment and human health. End the ruse of using extraterritorialism. - what right do we have to impose our higher standards on a developing country with lower standards. the dumping of mine tailing in lakes and other waterways.**

**. Prevent Pharmaceutical collusion between university and Pharmaceutical corporations. And end the policy of permitting Universities to sell products of research to corporations**

**.End practice of the Pharmaceutical industry in creating new health problems to create market potential for new drugs**

**.Prohibit the patenting of genes under the WTO TRIPS provision**

**.End the misguided dependency on drugs when doctors fail to offer the possibility that change in life style could effectively address the health problem**

**68. End all proposals which will result, through the practice of harmonization of standards and regulations, in arriving at the lowest common denominator for health and environmental standards.**

**71. End the privatization, including Public Private Partnerships, of public services such as water, sewage and health care, and end the opposition to the affirmation that the access to water is a human right.**

**76. Phase out sunset industries-ones that are harmful to human health and the environment and institute a fair and just transition for workers and communities affected by the phase out, and end the lucrative profits made on money trading...**

**85.End the violation of human rights including labour rights, civil and political rights, social and cultural rights- right to food, right to housing, right to water right to sewage treatment, right to a universally accessible, not-for-profit health care system, right to education and social justice.**

Last Updated on Wednesday, 16 September 2015 08:31

## **Northern First Nations band together to block Petronas' LNG plans**

**Earth News**

*Posted by Joan Russow*

Tuesday, 15 September 2015 10:16

**by Damien Gillis**

*Gitxsan leaders of Camp Madii Lii are standing behind the Lax Kw' alaams (submitted*

## **Northern First Nations band together to block Petronas' LNG plans**

September 14, 2015

Written by Damien Gillis

Several First Nations groups are banding together to block early work by contractors for Petronas' Lelu Island LNG terminal. Leaders of the Madii Lii resistance camp - situated atop several proposed pipeline routes in the Skeena Valley - are rallying behind hereditary chiefs of the Lax Kw' alaams Nation who have been occupying Lelu Island in opposition to survey work for Petronas' controversial project.

“We are standing together with the Chiefs on Lelu Island in opposition to the same LNG project. Our Madii Lii territory is on the pipeline route, and their Lelu Island territory is on the terminal site. We have both said no,” said Gitxsan Hereditary Chief Luutkudziiwus (Charlie Wright) in a statement today.

This project threatens the salmon that all Skeena River and North Coast people depend on, and we thank the Yahaan (Don Wesley) and other Tsimshian Chiefs for what they are doing for all of us.

Hereditary leaders of the Lax Kw' alaams and their supporters - a group of approximately 45 in total - **erected a camp on Lelu Island, in**

[the Skeena estuary](#), about two weeks ago in order to halt seismic and survey work by Petronas' contractors. The work reportedly stems from concerns raised by the Lax Kw'alaams' elected leadership over the initially planned location of a causeway for ships visiting the terminal - which sat in the middle of vital, sensitive habitat for salmon and other marine life. The elected leaders granted permission to the contractors to survey the area for an alternate location for the causeway, but this has not sat well with a group of hereditary chiefs now leading the occupation.

They confronted the crew of the Quin Delta drill ship and a barge which has moved into the area over the weekend.

According to [The Vancouver Sun](#), "Some equipment was set up before First Nations went out to the ship and asked the workers to stop, said Joey Wesley, a Lax Kw'alaams First Nation member. The activity ceased, but the workers appeared to have trouble removing equipment from the ocean floor, including heavy concrete blocks with surface markers, he said. The ship and barge remained in their location on Sunday just off Lelu Island, said Wesley.

Concerns have been compounded by recently revelations by [The Sun of a damning audit of Petronas' Malaysian offshore operations](#), which reveals systemic neglect of equipment and safety issues.

Moreover, while Petronas' contractors are operating under permits from the BC government and the Prince Rupert Port Authority, the federal review for the project is ongoing, after [facing multiple delays owing to unanswered questions](#) from the Canadian

Environmental Assessment Agency.

The Port Authority is nevertheless warning that it will take action against anyone who obstructs survey work for the Lelu Island project - which will likely inflame an already tense situation.

The Gitksan leaders of Camp Madii Lii are not only backing their Skeena brethren, but they have been occupying their own territory in staunch opposition to pipeline construction and are now promising legal action of their own. "We are taking the government to court over the lack of consultation, the inadequate baseline information presented, the weak and subjective impact assessment, the current cumulative effects from past development, and the massive infringement of our Aboriginal rights," says Madii Lii spokesperson Richard Wright.

"People are now on the ground blocking the Petronas project from the coast to far inland."

These actions are mirrored by the Unist'ot'en Camp in Wet'suwet'en territory to the south, which stands in the path of several planned Kitimat-bound gas pipelines and the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline. Tensions there have also grown recently, with the [spectre of an armed RCMP takedown of the camp](#).

Despite a [recent meeting between the BC Liberal government and First Nations leaders](#), aimed at reconciling historical enmity between the two groups, Premier Christy Clark's key economic vision of LNG development remains dogged by First Nations at every turn. In addition to the above conflicts, the [Fort Nelson First Nation recently won a landmark victory](#) at the Environmental Appeal Board, forcing the cancellation of a major water licence for



fracking, while the **Tsartlip First Nation** **poured cold water** on the notion of a floating LNG terminal in Saanich Inlet.

