

Equity and Justice for All is Essential in Overcoming the Challenge of Climate Change, says New UN Publication

7 December 2009 – Justice and equity should be central in any response to climate change coming out of the Copenhagen summit, and beyond, says a new publication from the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS).

Climate Justice for a Changing Planet: A Primer for Policy Makers and NGOs shines a light on the important intersection of equity and justice in the context of the current climate change debate. The book explores *climate justice* as an emerging concept and as a key to understanding the global debate. The book demonstrates that climate justice is not only an ethical imperative, but also an economic and social one.

Co-author, Barbara Adams, will launch the book at an official side event organized by the Third World Network today at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen from 1 – 2:30pm in the Niels Bohr Room at the Bella Center.

“Climate justice acknowledges the massive contribution the world’s richest countries have historically made to the problem, and therefore have a greater obligation to take action and to do so more quickly. Many fear that whatever international agreement is reached between governments will increase the already unjust burden on the poor and vulnerable,” says Elisa Peter, Acting Coordinator of UN-NGLS.

More and more, social movements and civil society organizations across the world are advocating a climate justice agenda as central to the climate change debate. Citizens from the South and the North are drawn to this concept, in part, because many are already experiencing the impacts of climate change and they worry about the fate of their families, homes and livelihoods.

Climate Justice for a Changing Planet lays out key principles to take the climate justice agenda forward and to ensure that equity is at the core of any response to climate change. It compiles the latest research and analysis from several international organizations and by civil society and highlights the need to address climate simultaneously with the international development agenda, achieving poverty reduction and respecting international human rights. The publication is intended as a starting point to begin reframing the current climate change debate as part of a broader process of people claiming their rights to sustainable development and participation in decisions that affect their lives.

To access the publication and for more information: www.un-ngls.org/climatejustice

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