

## **Save the Climate – Stop Coal!**

**We come from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific, as witnesses of climate change. We call upon Germany to accept its responsibility in the field of global climate policy and not to build any new coal-fired power plants.**

We have come to Germany to bear witness, as representatives of all those people who are suffering as a result of climate change. We are doing this because for the people in our countries and regions climate change is already a question of survival. This applies, in particular, to the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized population groups in special need of protection.. Whether it is a shortage of water in Kyrgyzstan, the failure of the monsoon in India, floods in Bolivia, the spread of malaria in Tanzania or the rise in the sea level which threatens to engulf the Pacific islands, we are all suffering from the consequences of global warming, which we ourselves have not caused.

We have come to Germany to express our deep concern that whilst the continued burning of fossil fuels for industry, transport and private households may generate wealth in industrial countries, it is destroying our cultures and traditions and threatening our existence. Although we also come from very different countries and cultures, we are united and firmly believe that we are all responsible for the continued existence and the future of our planet and we must protect and preserve it for future generations.

Reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published in 2007 proved that comprehensive measures will make a significant and effective difference in the long term. This means that the model of industrial countries based on fossil fuel related growth cannot continue as it has in the past. It cannot be a model for sustainable development, either in the industrial countries themselves or in our countries.

We have come to Germany knowing firstly that Germany is one of the main countries causing climate change, and secondly, in recognition of the fact that Germany acknowledges the responsibility this entails. To date, it has played a leading role in the international negotiations on climate change.

The timing of our journey to Germany is no coincidence: Europe will decide on the climate change policy it will adopt until 2020 by the time the climate negotiations take place in Poznan (Poland) in December and we will assess the seriousness and credibility of Europe's efforts to protect the climate on the basis of the decisions taken.

We call upon Germany not to undermine the target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout Europe by at least 30% by 2020 as compared to the figure in 1990. This is the only way of preventing the most serious consequences of climate change – a change which will affect us first.

We call upon you to ensure that the targets of reducing emissions by 40% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 are achieved in Germany itself and not set against carbon offset certificates for projects in the countries of the global South.

These reduction targets represent the appropriate and necessary contribution of Germany to keep the rise in the world's temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius. Only if we do this will we succeed in preserving our shared vision so that all our children will have a future and a life of dignity.

Not only is it clear that it is essential for all our futures to meet the targets to reduce emissions in Germany: it is clear that this will also require a new energy policy that is suitable for future needs.

We therefore call on Germany to:

- ⇒ Agree on a moratorium to the construction of new coal-fired power plants.
- ⇒ Actively pursue the development of renewable energy.
- ⇒ Establish the political parameters to save energy and promote energy efficiency .

By adopting an energy policy along these lines, Germany will not only accept its responsibility in accordance with the “polluter pays” principle but it will provide a credible low carbon pathway model out of the climate crisis. Germany must commit to decentralised sustainable energy structures, technological transfer, capacity development and funding mechanisms to assist the global south in addressing the consequences of climate change.

Energy policies will be an important determining factor in limiting the effects of accelerated climate change. Which direction will the industrial countries and Germany adopt? If Germany decides to build more than 25 new coal-fired power plants as currently planned, it will destroy any chance of a future that will protect the climate. This is because these 25 power plants alone will emit more than 180 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2050. This figure is more than twice what Germany is allowed to release in the entire energy sector by 2050 (85 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>), if the goal to achieve a reduction of 80% by 2050 is to be reached.

Let’s protect our climate together – speak out against new coal-fired power plants! Let us start on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September in Jänschwalde near Cottbus and in Großkrotzenburg near Hanau by speaking out against the construction of new power plants at these two sites. This is because energy generation in Germany will have an effect on everybody – and that includes us. Let’s prevent this together.

Berlin, 11 September 2008

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who are not in a position to adapt to the consequences of climate change without outside help