

## United Nations Climate Change Talks in Bali— A New Climate Deal?

### INTRODUCTION

With a backdrop of mounting public attention and pressure, as well as intensified political dialogue over the past several months, representatives from over 180 UN Member States met from 3–15 December 2007 in Bali (Indonesia) for the first of a series of discussions to secure a “Bali roadmap” that will lead to a new global climate change treaty as the first stage of commitments under the Kyoto Protocol comes to an end in 2012.

Hosted by the Government of Indonesia, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali drew almost 11,000 participants, including government delegations (3,500), observers from UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs (5,800) and the media (1,500 accredited journalists) as governments sought to launch negotiations, set the agenda for them and to reach agreement on when these negotiations will have to be concluded.

The Bali conference included the thirteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the third Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 3). It also included the twenty-seventh sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 27) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 27) which met from 3–12 December, as well as the resumed fourth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG 4), which met from 3–15 December. A joint COP and COP/MOP ministerial segment was held from 12–15 December, which saw the adoption of the Bali Action Plan.

While discussions centred mainly on a negotiating process to finalize a post-2012 regime, these meetings also resulted in the adoption of

fifteen COP decisions and thirteen COP/MOP decisions and the approval of a number of conclusions by the subsidiary bodies, including finalizing the Adaptation Fund under the Protocol to fund projects in developing countries to help people cope with the impacts of climate change over the next four years, and a decision on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries. Outcomes on technology transfer, capacity building, the Kyoto Protocol’s flexible mechanisms, and the adverse effects of combating climate change were also negotiated, amongst several others.

A number of issues figured at the core of the talks: the mitigation of climate change, adaptation to the changes caused by rising temperatures, technology transfer from the rich countries to poor, and incentives to fight against deforestation. But other problems, which were not on the main agenda, were also debated, such as the 25 million “climate refugees” in the world who are not recognized by international law. A number of participants warned that combating climate change will become central to peace policy in the 21st century.

### OPENING SESSION

COP 13 opened with Parties electing Rachmat Witoelar, Minister of Environment of Indonesia, as COP 13 President. Mr. Witoelar urged delegates to begin negotiations on the future of the climate regime, noting broad support for agreeing the agenda for negotiations in Bali and concluding talks in 2009. “The scientific debate has been conclusively laid to rest by the latest scientific findings from the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — climate change is unequivocal and accelerating,” he stressed. “Countries now have to agree on the agenda for the negotiations. This will cover the key areas for the new climate change deal and what the organizational and procedural arrangements are to get to this result.”

Stressing that the Bali conference had a huge responsibility to deliver concrete results, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer listed areas requiring urgent agreement, including adaptation actions, the Adaptation Fund, a framework for technology cooperation, and initial actions to reduce emissions from deforestation. He highlighted the need for leadership in creating a new energy future; bold action in the North to fuel clean growth in the South; collective responsibility in using fossil fuels without destroying the environment; and the prioritization of adaptation. He suggested that delegates first consider the right tools, followed by a focus on the type of instrument, and finally consideration of the instrument’s legal nature as a way forward.



UNFCCC Executive Secretary and COP 13 President following the adoption of the Bali roadmap. Photo and part of information throughout this Roundup courtesy of IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin.

A number of government delegates also made opening statements. Noting that an increase of two degrees centigrade in global temperature would have devastating impacts on small island developing States (SIDS), the representative from Grenada, for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), stressed the need for a global comprehensive response within the UNFCCC framework and building on the Kyoto Protocol, leading to stabilization well below 445 parts per million (ppm). Nigeria, for the African Group, urged developed countries to fulfill existing commitments.

Switzerland, for the Environmental Integrity Group, highlighted the *Fourth Assessment Report (AR4)* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and called for urgent action. Maldives, for the least developed countries (LDCs), highlighted the Adaptation Fund, suggesting application of the levy to other flexible mechanisms, not just the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM, which aims to assist developing countries in sustainable development), and to international maritime and air transport. Portugal, for the European Union, said growth in global emissions must be halted in the next 10-15 years and urged a comprehensive global agreement by 2009.

## NEGOTIATIONS

Negotiations were conducted through the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. Under the Convention, the discussions focused on how to follow up on the "Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention." Under the Protocol, the AWG considered a timetable for determining Annex I commitments for the post-2012 period. Numerous contact groups were formed and informal discussions were held to help move negotiations forward.

While climate change is increasingly recognized as one of the world's greatest crises, the consensus on how to tackle it is often seen through the lens of national self-interest, with a divide between developed and developing countries on who should bear greater responsibility for fighting climate change. As such, negotiations in Bali proved to be protracted, difficult and tense as many countries sought to protect their own best interests.

A major sticking point in negotiations was the proposed inclusion in the ministerial declaration that developed countries would have to cut greenhouse gas emissions by between 25%-40% by 2020. The IPCC's latest report, which synthesizes past research and analyses, said such cuts were needed to stop temperatures rising globally by two degrees centigrade. The United States, which has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol, vehemently opposed the inclusion, noting that it was "not willing to accept" language calling on industrialized nations to deliver "measurable, reportable and verifiable" assistance. These comments set off sharp rebukes from representatives of developing countries who accused the US of pressing them for commitments while refusing to make its own. Other countries also objected to the mention of cuts, including Canada and Japan, who pushed for less specific commitments. Russia repeatedly questioned the emissions reduction targets outlined by the IPCC and India resisted any pledge to make emissions commitments under the new pact, insisting that it should be compensated for forests it has protected in the past.

On 15 December Mr. Ban and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono returned to the meeting in Bali with both of them strongly exhorting delegates to make a final effort to reach consensus. "Frankly, I am disappointed with the lack of progress," Mr. Ban told the delegates. "The hour is late. It is time to make a decision. Seize the moment, this moment, for the good of all humanity," he urged.

Following Mr. Ban's speech, delegates continued to debate in plenary, with the US maintaining its position that it could not accept

the latest text as it stood. However, the European Union, which had strongly backed the 25%-40% reductions, said it could accept compromise text that was being drafted, which refers to cuts in greenhouse gas emissions only in a footnote that speaks of the "urgency" of addressing climate change. The consensus text also provides language pledging industrialized countries to provide quantifiable technological and financial aid to less well-off nations, including the economically burgeoning China, India and Brazil. Developing countries also agreed to take specific steps to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions with the assistance of wealthier nations. The text also establishes a mechanism for giving tropical nations financial compensation for preserving their rain forests and calls for expanding financial aid for countries struggling to adapt to climate change.

The negotiations continued among the small groups of ministers trying to work out the remaining differences. After several hours, most of the differences had been resolved although some critical issues remained outstanding.

In particular, negotiators disagreed on the actions that developing countries, and especially large emerging economies such as China and India, should take. The Group of 77 developing countries and China (G-77/China) rejected an earlier draft calling for measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions by developing countries. In the end, the Bali Action Plan was amended by the developing-country grouping to say that emerging economies should make "nationally appropriate mitigation actions. . . in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner." This language, which developing countries claimed was necessary to ensure that they would be able to maintain space for development policy and obtain the technological and financial backing they need, was hotly debated. The US preferred an earlier formulation of the text. Many developing country delegations made strong statements calling upon the US to accept the text after the EU had agreed. Several representatives of African and small-island Pacific countries, already affected by the impact of climate change, spoke out in favour of global consensus. In an emotionally charged intervention, a delegate from Papua New Guinea challenged the US to "either lead, follow or get out of the way." Finally, the US did join in the consensus.

Twenty-four hours after the conference's scheduled conclusion, ministers and other high-level officials adopted the new framework—the Bali roadmap—that calls on both the industrialized world and rapidly developing nations to commit to measurable, verifiable steps. However, some delegates pointed out that it also postpones many tough decisions and provides more incentives than penalties when it comes to addressing global warming.

"What we've seen disappear today is what I would call 'the Berlin Wall of climate change,'" Mr. de Boer said. "This document opens up the possibility of countries who are seeing their economies grow rapidly move into a new spectrum level of commitment, supported by developed countries."

Antonio Hill, senior climate change policy advisor for Oxfam, said after the conference's close on 15 December, "At long last the UN climate talks have started to grapple with the devastating impacts climate change is already having on the world's poorest people. Coping with these impacts comes at a price that rich polluters must pay. Under pressure from developing countries, Bali has delivered clear progress: a fund for adaptation is now in place and all countries agree that more money must be raised. But with estimated costs exceeding US\$50 billion annually, we now need to see rich countries put some serious money forward."

**NGLS: How would you describe the Bali roadmap? What does it mean for the future?**

*In terms of the future, Bali has delivered what it needed to deliver — a very ambitious agenda going forward. What I'm especially pleased about is the fact that that road forward is transparent and that it's flexible.*

*It's ambitious because the roadmap very clearly refers to the ranges and the underlying level of ambition that goes with those ranges that the IPCC has been pointing to. I see it as transparent because the process that in the past has always been a closed intergovernmental process is now opening up to the participation of business, civil society, international financial institutions and the UN system to bring their expertise to this process over the coming year. And I think it's flexible — what you see in this document is much more similarity between how no longer Annex 1 and non-Annex 1, but developed and developing countries intend to move forward into the future.*

**NGLS: What are some of the key elements contained in the Bali roadmap that can help developing nations?**

*We've managed to adopt decisions that relate to technology, to reducing emissions from deforestation, which for the first time has found its way onto the agenda, whereby demonstration activities will be*

*started and whereby we will be examining the drivers for deforestation that need to be addressed if we're to come to grips with this issue.*

*On the CDM, we've taken important decisions that are of key importance to African countries and to small developing countries in the sense that we've been able to double the size limit of small-scale afforestation/reforestation projects and also we've taken important decisions on CCS [carbon capture and share] to look at technical, legal, policy and financial aspects related to CCS, and that is a critical advance for countries like China and India that will continue to use coal going into the future, but also offers a prospect for oil-producing nations to become part of the solution rather than part of the problem.*

*We've launched the Adaptation Fund which many developing countries were waiting for, and we've made progress on decisions regarding the LDCs where the mandate of the LDCs expert group has been extended and that will allow that group to go much deeper into assessing the adaptation needs of developing countries. So I think that this COP has made an important contribution in setting a very ambitious agenda going into the future, but I also think that this COP has delivered real balance by addressing many of the direct needs today that developing countries have.*

**BALI ROADMAP**

The series of outcomes contained in the Bali roadmap provide guidance and direction for a series of meetings over the next two years under both the Convention and Protocol, with the aim of concluding a comprehensive framework for the post-2012 period at COP 15 and COP/MOP 5 in Copenhagen (Denmark) in 2009. It also provides a clear agenda for the key issues to be negotiated over the next two years, including: action for adapting to the negative consequences of climate change, such as droughts and floods; ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; ways to widely deploy climate-friendly technologies and financing both adaptation and mitigation measures. While a new global deal is envisioned for 2013, countries also agreed on a number of steps that need to be taken immediately to further implement the existing commitments of Parties to the UNFCCC and four negotiating sessions are scheduled in 2008, starting in March or April.

In his closing address to the plenary session, President Witoelar hailed the “number of forward-looking decisions” in the text, saying, “We now have a Bali roadmap, we have an agenda and we have a deadline. But we also have a huge task ahead of us and time to reach agreement is extremely short, so we need to move quickly.”

The Bali roadmap has drawn mixed opinions from civil society. Elliot Diringer, Pew Center on Global Climate Change in the US, said the deal “puts no one on the hook right now for emission reductions. What’s important, though, is that it lets no one off the hook either. It challenges all governments to confront the tough issues ahead and opens the way for the first time to a comprehensive negotiation of post-2012 commitments.”

Sunita Narain, who heads the Centre for Science and Environment in New Delhi (India), said, “As an environmentalist, I am not satisfied. I think what we have seen at Bali is what we saw at [previous meetings in] Rio and Berlin. I see this as a replay... I don't see the world growing up,” she stressed.

Noting that it was good news to see decision makers and the public in industrialized countries taking note again of the fate of forests after a decade of neglect, Jutta Kill, from the Forests and that European Union Resource Network (FERN), commented that the Bali decision, “[r]ecognizing the complexity of the problem, different national circumstances and the multiple drivers of deforestation and forest deg-

radation,” acknowledges that whatever actions and financial mechanisms are adopted in the end to avoid deforestation — they must take firm consideration of social issues if they are to cut deforestation in the long-term.

“The lesson FERN takes home from the Bali climate talks on forests is that while recognition has grown that approaches to reduce deforestation which ignore indigenous peoples rights and social issues will be short-lived, there is still a long way to go before governments are willing to address the well-known drivers of deforestation and focus on the politically expensive actions like demarcating indigenous lands, resolving land rights conflicts, promoting good forest governance and forest management that benefits communities rather than large concession holders; or addressing illegal logging and agrofuel policies that provide a powerful incentive for deforestation. The decisions taken at Bali call for a couple more years of trial and error before finding the best way to keep forests standing. But the chainsaws won't stand still. Indonesian NGO Whali called for a moratorium on peat forest conversion — similar moratoria on forest destruction in Paraguay for example have proven an effective instrument to halt deforestation while lasting and just solutions to the deforestation crisis are sought,” Ms. Kill stressed.

Stephanie Long, FOEI International Climate Coordinator, commented, “Ministers from some industrialized countries meeting in Bali have let down the people of the world. They reached agreement on a way forward, but with little to guide them along the way. Future talks will now face a serious uphill battle to reach a strong agreement by the end of 2009. Around the world millions of people are already suffering the effects of climate change. People outside the talks have sent a strong message demanding climate justice. This message must no longer fall on deaf ears. We only have two years to build on this weak outcome and develop a just deal which ensures tough action from industrialized countries and assistance for people in the developing world.”

This frustration was echoed by Nnimmo Bassey, of Environmental Rights Action in Nigeria, “The major challenge I see is that some major contributors to global warming are either unable or unwilling to de-link economic growth and wellbeing from climate change. As long as some leaders see high carbon emission levels as synonymous with development, there will continue to be talks with little progress.”

## BEYOND BALI

An agreement on a post-2012 climate regime will need to be negotiated and put in place following the COP 15, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. This ensures that climate change will be at the forefront of the international agenda for the coming two years.

Based on the outcomes of the Bali meeting and the UNFCCC calendar, 2008 will be an important year for governments to learn more about the impacts of climate change, build trust with one another and develop their position and national strategies while 2009 will be taken up by what will likely be intense negotiations at the international level. This makes 2008 an important year for civil society organizations to inform and lobby their national governments on their positions before they take a firm position going into 2009.

Opposite is a list of a few important dates on the UNFCCC and UN calendar for the coming two years. Article 7, paragraph 6, of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides for the admission of NGOs to sessions of the Convention bodies as observers. New applicant organizations are formally admitted by the Conference of the Parties following the successful completion of the admission process. Further information is available online:

([http://unfccc.int/parties\\_and\\_observers/ngo/items/2370.php](http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/ngo/items/2370.php)).

### UN:

- GA Thematic Debate, New York, 11-12 February 2008
- 10th Session of UNEP GC/GMEF, Monaco, 20-22 February 2008
- CSD16, New York, 5-16 May 2008

### UNFCCC:

- AWG on Long-Term Cooperative Action, March/April 2008
- AWG on Long-Term Cooperative Action (in conjunction with SB28), June 2008
- Meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, Bonn, 2-13 June 2008
- AWG on Long-Term Cooperative Action, August/September 2008
- Conference of the Parties to the Convention, 14th session and meetings of subsidiary bodies, Poznan, Poland, 1-12 December
- First sessional period, 1-12 June 2009
- Conference of the Parties, 15th session, Copenhagen, 30 November-11 December 2009

For further information on the Bali conference, see the special Bali section of the NGLS *Civil Society Observer*, Volume 4, Issue 6 (available online: [www.un-ngls.org/index.html](http://www.un-ngls.org/index.html)).

---

### Interview with Meena Raman, Chair, Friends of the Earth International

---

**NGLS: Are there any specific challenges ahead in the lead up to 2012 that you would like to highlight?**

*The challenges are many. What is critical is for the massive diffusion and deployment of technology, financial resources and capacity building in the developing countries, to ensure that they are able to adapt to a low carbon pathway which does not constrain their ability to meet their sustainable development goals of fulfilling the basic needs of the poor, reducing poverty and inequality, provision of secure livelihoods and incomes, etc.*

*Another challenge is the lack of coherence of policies at the international level that result in the promotion of climate vulnerability in the developing world instead of climate resilience. For instance, in the area of trade, mercantilist policies pursued through the WTO [World Trade Organization] and the bilateral free trade agreements lead to the displacement of small farmers which cannot compete with cheaply*

*subsidised agricultural products from the North. Such policies make the poor even more vulnerable as they lose their livelihoods and cannot withstand climate impacts. Policy coherence from a climate lens would necessitate the elimination of such trade policies, so that the poor are not victimized further. Also, intellectual property rights which are entrenched in the WTO's TRIPs [Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights] agreement would also need to be reviewed and relaxed so that technology transfer is affordable and enabled.*

**NGLS: What are some of the better projects relating to climate change being undertaken that you are aware of?**

*Some positive projects in climate mitigation and adaptation include community reforestry, mangrove forests regeneration and ecological farming that replaces fossil fuel based agriculture with chemical free agriculture. Many of these projects are undertaken by civil society and, in some cases, are supported by the governments.*

## SIDE EVENTS

Over 200 parallel and side events were held around the Bali conference on an impressive array of topics, including adaptation post 2012—reducing vulnerability and risk; biofuels, climate change and climate justice; human and food security; climate change and children; green jobs and skills, climate change and poverty alleviation; integrating development in climate change; and the voices of communities affected by climate change, amongst several others.

In a number of side events, affected communities, Indigenous Peoples, women and peasant farmers called for alternative solutions to the climate crisis, which include: reduced consumption; financial transfers from North to South based on historical responsibility and ecological debt for adaptation and mitigation costs paid for by redirecting military budgets, innovative taxes and debt cancellation; leaving fossil fuels in the ground and investing in appropriate energy-efficiency and safe, clean and community-led renewable energy; rights-based resource conservation that enforces Indigenous land rights and promotes peoples' sovereignty over energy, forests, land and water; and sustainable family farming and peoples' food sovereignty.

During the "Voices from affected communities" workshop, an Indonesian woman from the People's Alliance of the Archipelago talked about the dispossession of Indigenous People from their land as it was turned into palm oil plantations. Various speakers from Pacific islands talked about the impacts of rising sea levels on their livelihoods and homes and an increasing number of them are in the process of securing funding so that they can relocate.

On 6 December a discussion entitled "Women in the forest: no fairy tale" and organized by **gendercc**, a worldwide coalition of women, looked at how women use forest resources, how they need to adapt to climate change, and how they contribute to forest conservation. On 7 December, **gendercc** presented their positions to the Bali conference, in which they called upon governments: to recognize the urgency of gender equality in the growing climate crisis; to integrate gender aspects into adaptation plans and tools, focusing on specific adaptation needs, and ensuring women's participation in developing the plans; and to make full use of the knowledge and capacity of women, amongst a number of other issues.

### *The Continuing Challenge on Development and Climate Change Beyond Bali\**

The outcomes of the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 15 December 2007 were collectively a major step forward in some respects for the international community's effort to address climate change. However, in other respects, they also reflected continuing differences of perspectives of countries — especially between developed and developing countries — over how best to effectively implement and improve on existing commitments under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol in ways that are equitable, sustainable, and promote the development prospects of developing countries.

The two weeks of intense and last-minute dramatic climate talks in Bali resulted, among other things, in the Bali Action Plan which established the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperation Action under the Convention tasked to complete its work by 2009. This working group will undertake an intergovernmental process leading to an agreed outcome on the "full, effective and sustained implementation" of the UNFCCC from now to beyond 2012 in the following "building block" areas of the climate talks: climate change mitigation (including emissions reductions), climate change adaptation, technology development and transfer, and financial flows and investment.

The working group will have to grapple with crucial unresolved issues that bedeviled the Bali talks. For example, it will have to determine exactly what kind of process — e.g. formal negotiations, informal dialogues, or both — will be undertaken. It will also have to deal with the fact that the objectives to be achieved for each "building block" are also vague — especially with respect to the global emissions target, and to developed countries' emissions reductions targets and obligations and commitments on adaptation finance, technology transfer and financing and investment. Most importantly, the issue of whether the process would focus on coming up with new treaty provisions — such as changes to the Kyoto Protocol or the UNFCCC (which developed countries pushed for) that could weaken developed countries' existing commitments especially on financing and technology transfer — or on focusing on new and additional actions by Parties to strengthen the implementation of existing commitments (especially on emissions reductions, financing, and technology transfer) under the Kyoto Protocol and UNFCCC (which is what developing countries stress) will also need to be addressed.

Another major result of the Bali talks was progress on the issue of how the Kyoto Protocol's Adaptation Fund created in 2001 would be implemented. A 16-member board (with majority developing

country representation) appointed by, and under the authority and guidance of, the UNFCCC COP was created to serve as the fund's "operating entity" with its own secretariat to decide on fund disbursements (rather than the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which is only invited to serve as the "interim" secretariat for three years without any role in disbursement decisions) — something that developing countries have pressed for to ensure that such disbursements are not subject to GEF conditions. This allows it to start operating in 2008, with funds drawn from a 2% share (estimated to generate in 2012 from US\$270 million to US\$600 million) of the proceeds on all transactions under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism, effectively constituting the fund as a solidarity fund among developing countries.

The Bali talks were also notable in being the forum in which the United States, as a result of pressure from the other UNFCCC Parties (especially developing countries) and in the full view of the international public, NGOs, and media, was pulled into joining a consensus that it had strenuously resisted and sought to water down. This might mean that the US would then be seriously engaged in the post-2012 UNFCCC process.

The Bali outcomes represent another step in the global community's collective response to the challenge of promoting equitable and sustainable development especially in developing countries in the context of the reality of anthropogenic climate change and its adverse impacts on human development prospects especially among the poor.

The continuing challenge is for the UNFCCC Parties and other stakeholders to keep the process moving towards the goal of a secure and development-friendly climate future for future generations. This should be achieved through urgent present-day and near-future actions for a global shift to climate-friendly sustainable development pathways, recognizing that: developing countries are already taking concrete actions in this regard; developed countries, because of their historical responsibility, must do much more in implementing and going beyond their existing international climate and development commitments; and reflecting the development needs and priorities of developing countries in an equitable, sustainable, and climate-friendly manner will be a crucial aspect of future climate talks.

At the end of the day, the development challenge and establishing a secure climate future are simply different facets of the same global challenge — that of improving the lives of the poor in ways that are sustainable and just.

\*This article was written by Vicente Paolo B. Yu III, Programme Coordinator for Global Governance and Development at the South Centre in Geneva, and is the Centre's lead expert on development and climate change issues.

### **CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM**

A Civil Society Forum (CSF) was held from 1-13 December, organized by the Indonesian Civil Society Forum on Climate Change that also organized activities prior to, during and post Bali. It brought together a wide range of international, national and grassroots NGOs and included interactive dialogues, strategic meetings, regional discussions, working groups, national workshops on topics including poverty, environment and climate change, as well as testimonies from youth, Indigenous People's groups, women's groups and farmers.

The CSF sought to raise and build public awareness on impacts of climate change in Indonesia; strengthen solidarity amongst CSOs to respond to climate change politics at the national, regional, and international level; facilitate voices of the vulnerable communities during the Bali conference; and provide key counter arguments for putting the vulnerable community's interest first. It focused on a

number of main issues, including human security; productivity and consumption; debt, including ecological debt; and land use.

On 8 December a march was held in Bali, bringing together around 2,000 climate activists who called for social, ecological and gender justice in measures to tackle climate change. They demanded policies and practices that protect livelihoods and the environment. The Indonesian Civil Society Forum issued a declaration prior to the opening of the Bali conference calling for real action on climate change that is based on climate justice, rejecting market-based instruments and other "false solutions," such as agrofuels and nuclear power.

Further information on the Civil Society Forum is available online: (<http://english.csoforum.net>). See also the Friends of the Earth International website ([www.foei.org/en/media/climate](http://www.foei.org/en/media/climate)) and blog ([www.foei.org/en/campaigns/climate/bali/blog](http://www.foei.org/en/campaigns/climate/bali/blog)) and the Choike website on the Bali conference ([www.choike.org/nuevo\\_eng/eventos/49.html](http://www.choike.org/nuevo_eng/eventos/49.html)).

### Youth Statement

On 14 December, the International Youth delegations read their statement, written together by the Indonesian, Japanese, American, Australian, Canadian, Belgian, and French youth delegations, to the closing of the high-level plenary. Below are extracts from the statement.

*"We speak today as part of the global youth climate movement. Half the world's population is under 30, and will live with the decisions you make today.*

*"The science is clear. We call on you to acknowledge that climate change is not bounded by economics and politics, but by science. You can't negotiate with the laws of physics and chemistry.*

*"The targets currently being discussed are not even close to protecting our future. Our best science shows clearly that 450 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent gives us a 50% chance of avoiding catastrophic and irreversible feedbacks in the climate.*

*"The climate emergency is our best and possibly last opportunity to create a global consciousness. We are inspired by those of you taking true leadership, both at home and internationally. We are ashamed of the so-called 'leaders' who are delaying action in this UN process and who are actively compromising our future.*

*"We cannot wait any longer. If you lead us on the wrong path, we have no time to find our way back and undo your decisions. The potential effects will be devastating and indiscriminant.*

*"This is not a political choice — rather, a moral imperative, and a requirement for human life. We are already inheriting the consequences of your choices. The world is watching, the youth are rising. Join us."*

*The youth statement is available online: (<http://itsgettinghotinhere.org/2007/12/15/youth-statement-to-high-level-plenary-in-bali-this-is-our-last-chance>).*

## REPORTS

### Global Environment Outlook (GEO 4)

Launched in October 2007, the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) fourth *Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4)* Environment for Development assesses the current state of the global atmosphere, land, water and biodiversity, describes the changes since 1987, and identifies priorities for action. *GEO-4* notes that carbon dioxide emissions have risen by 30% a year over the past 20 years and unchecked climate change will impact on the wider development aims, including the Millennium Development Goals. Climate

change is happening against a backdrop of declining ecosystem services in many areas as a result of impacts, such as overfishing, air pollution, land degradation and rapidly declining biodiversity. *GEO-4* identifies climate change as a global priority demanding political will and leadership as the threat is now so urgent that large cuts in greenhouse gases by mid-century are needed. It is available online: ([www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media](http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media)).

### Climate change: Impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in developing countries

A publication from UNFCCC, this book highlights the concerns and needs of developing countries in adapting to the effects of climate change and calls for concerted global action. It notes that developing countries are the most vulnerable to climate change impacts because they have fewer resources to adapt: socially, technologically and financially. Over the next decades, it is predicted that billions of people, particularly those in developing countries, face shortages of water and food and greater risks to health and life as a result of climate change. The report is available online: ([http://unfccc.int/files/essential\\_background/background\\_publications\\_htmlpdf/application/txt/pub\\_07\\_impacts.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/application/txt/pub_07_impacts.pdf)).

### Human Development Report 2007/2008

This year the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) annual *Human Development Report 2007/2008* focuses on climate changes, warning that "climate change threatens unprecedented human development reversals." It details the enormous and costly adaptation needs for dealing with rising sea levels, floods, droughts, and storms. It is available online: (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008>).

### Fourth Assessment Synthesis Report

The IPCC's *Fourth Assessment Synthesis Report Summary for Policy-makers* is based on the assessment carried out by the three Working Groups of the IPCC and provides an integrated view of climate change as the final part of the IPCC's *Fourth Assessment Report*. It is available online: ([www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4\\_syr\\_spm.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4_syr_spm.pdf)).

### For comprehensive coverage on the United Nations Climate Change Conference:

Contact: International Institute for Sustainable Development (iisd), Reporting Services, Earth Negotiations Bulletin, 300 East 56th Street #11A, New York, NY 10022, USA, telephone +1-646/536 7556, fax +1-646/219 0955, e-mail <[enb@iisd.org](mailto:enb@iisd.org)>, website ([www.iisd.ca/climate/cop13](http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop13)).

### Contact

Olivier Deleuze, Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch,  
Division of Regional Cooperation,  
UNEP, PO Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya,  
e-mail <[civil.society@unep.org](mailto:civil.society@unep.org)>,  
website ([www.unep.org/civil\\_society](http://www.unep.org/civil_society)).

Barbara Black, UNFCCC Secretariat, Haus Carstanjen,  
Martin-Luther-King-Strasse 8, D-53175 Bonn, Germany,  
telephone +49-228/815 1000, fax +49-228/815 1999,  
e-mail <[secretariat@unfccc.int](mailto:secretariat@unfccc.int)>,  
website ([www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)).

This edition of NGLS Roundup was prepared by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS). The NGLS Roundup is produced for NGOs and others interested in the institutions, policies and activities of the UN system and is not an official record. For more information or additional copies write to: NGLS, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, fax +41-22/917 0432, e-mail <[nngls@unctad.org](mailto:nngls@unctad.org)> or NGLS, Room DC1-1106, United Nations, New York NY 10017, USA, fax +1-212/963 8712, e-mail <[nngls@un.org](mailto:nngls@un.org)>. The text of this NGLS Roundup and other NGLS publications are also available online (website: [www.un-ngls.org](http://www.un-ngls.org)). The financial contribution of UNEP is gratefully acknowledged.