

## A Call to Action to Defend Humanity and the Planet

Today, a day after the anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, adopted in Paris on 10 December 1948, civil society is highly disappointed that references to the protection of rights, equality and ecosystems have been removed from the core of the climate agreement. Throughout the negotiations, civil society has been and remains united in our call for human rights, the rights of Indigenous peoples, gender equality and the full and equal participation of women, a just transition of the workforce that creates decent work and quality jobs, food security, intergenerational equity, and integrity of ecosystems be included in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement.

Civil society organizations around the world are calling for a fair and ambitious deal, reflecting the rights and needs of all individuals and peoples in addressing this climate crisis. President Hollande declared that COP21 would be a ‘new step for human rights’, and yet the French Presidency of COP21 has excluded human rights from the operative text of the most recent draft. We call on France—the birthplace of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights—to uphold its fundamental values and historical commitments by explicitly recognizing the need to protect human rights in all climate actions in Article 2.

As recently as this week, Article 2 of the draft agreement included strong language on human rights and gender equality, and previous versions included all of the seven essential elements. Despite the urging of many Parties to ensure these cross-cutting principles are reflected not only in the Preamble, but also in the operative part of the Paris Agreement, they are now missing. The French Presidency and Parties must take a strong stand for inclusion of these rights in Article 2.

We support the leadership of Mexico, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Peru and the Philippines on human rights in the climate negotiations. Mexico and its allies have prepared the attached letter and formed the “Friends of Principles” made up of key champions of rights and equality. Now is the time for countries to stand up, speak up, and defend individuals, peoples, and ecosystems as central to this historic agreement.

We came here for a deal that would protect people and the planet, ensuring that any actions taken to address climate change do not cause further harm and deliver a safe world for our children. This is the moment to set the right path, and build on precedent already set within the UNFCCC, to not only signal recognition in the Preamble to the agreement, but also operationalize it in Article 2 of the Agreement.

A handful of reluctant countries cannot be allowed to silence human rights or diminish the weight of their importance in climate change, including the rights of Indigenous peoples, gender equality and the full and equal participation of women, a just transition of the workforce that creates decent work and quality jobs, food security, intergenerational equity, and ecosystems integrity.

We call on the French Presidency and all Parties to the UNFCCC to show true leadership, by ensuring that these essential elements are restored at the core of this Agreement.

## **Signatories**

### **Civil Society Constituencies and Networks:**

Climate Action Network  
Indigenous Peoples Caucus  
Trade Unions Non-governmental Organizations  
Women and Gender Constituency  
Human Rights & Climate Change Working Group  
REDD+ Safeguards Working Group

### **Individual Organizations:**

3BL Associates  
Abibimman Foundation  
ACF (Action Contre la Faim)  
ACTION VOLONTAIRE POUR LA LUTTE CONTRE LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES ET  
LES EFFETS NEGATIFS DU SOUFRE DU DIESEL "AVOCHACLISD"  
Action Pour Enfants Oubliés  
ActionAid International  
ActúaDF  
ACV-CSC  
Adéquations  
AFEPEC Association Féministe pour l'Epanouissement de la Personne et l'Exercice de la  
Citoyenneté  
AFHON COTE D'IVOIRE  
AFL-CIO  
Agronomes et Vétérinaires sans frontières  
Aimee Maron  
AJGF  
Alaska Institute for Justice  
Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN)  
Alianza Internacional de Habitantes  
All pakistan Trade union congress  
ALLAYOU GIE [www.heavi-fem.org](http://www.heavi-fem.org)  
Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU)  
Amazon Watch  
Ambet Yuson  
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations  
Amicale Panafricaine  
Amnesty International  
Amnesty International USA  
AMPDI  
Aotearoa New Zealand Human Rights Foundation  
Aotearoa New Zealand Human Rights Lawyers Association  
APEO  
APWLD  
Arab Youth Climate Movement - Bahrain

Articulación Feminista Mercosur  
Asamblea Veracruzana de Iniciativas y Defensa Ambiental  
Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights  
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development  
Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)  
Asociación Regional Centroamericana para el Agua y el Ambiente. ARCA  
Association AQAFI  
Association pour le developement et de la promotion des droits humains  
Aster-International  
ATD Fourth World  
Ateneo School of Government  
Audition Solidaire Sénégal  
Australian Council of Trade Unions  
AWID  
Balance  
Bangladesh Labour Federation-BLF(Affiliated with ITUC)  
BENOUDJI  
Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation  
BlueGreen Alliance  
Burness Communications  
C 47 Trade Union Federation  
C.F.F.  
Campaña Latinamericana por el Derecho a la Educación (CLADE)  
Canadian Union of public employees  
CapSAS  
Carbon Market Watch  
CARE International  
Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand  
CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS  
Caritas Norway  
CBF  
CCFD-Terre Solidaire  
CCOO  
Center for climate risk and opportunity management of bogor agricultural university  
Center for International Environmental Law  
Center for Rural Empowerment and the Environment  
Center for Sustainable Communities  
Central Autónoma de Trabajadores del Perú - CATP  
Centro de Investigacion para la Accion Femenina  
CENTRO MUJERES A.C.  
CENTRO MUJERES GRACIELA HIERRO A.C.  
CFDT  
CGIL  
Cgt  
Change Partnership  
CHERNI MANSOUR

Cherni Mansour Coordinateur Region MENA travailleurs energie  
CIDSE  
CLEAN (Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network)  
Climate and Health Alliance  
Climate Justice Programme  
Climate Reality Project  
Climate Solutions  
Climate Wise Women  
CO2.cr  
Coalition Eau  
Collectif des Associations Citoyennes de l'Est Val d'Oise (CAC-EVO)  
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE INITIATIVE (CERI)  
Confederacion Sindical CCOO  
Confédération des syndicats nationaux  
Connecticut Fund for the Environment  
Conseil Des Béninois de France  
Conseil régional Rhône-Alpes  
Consortio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad  
Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas, North Region  
Convergences Pour un Bénin Emergent (CPBE)  
Coordination SUD  
COSIM AQUITAINE  
Cotidiano Mujer  
CTA-Autónoma  
Ddeser Puebla  
DEJEANT-PONS Maguelonne, Executive Secreatry of the European Landscape Convention,  
Council of Europe  
DEMI-E  
Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales  
DIB  
Diverse Voices and Action for Equality  
Drowning Islands  
Earthjustice  
Echoes of Women in Africa Initiative( ECOWA)  
Ecosur  
Education International  
EKOenergy Secretariat  
Elise Buckle  
ENDA Europe  
ENDA Tiers Monde  
Enfoca  
Environment-People-Law  
EPSU  
Equality Bahamas  
Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia  
Equilibres & Populations

Espolea A.C.  
ETUC  
European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO)  
European Association of Geographers EUROGEO  
Federation of Young European Greens  
Fédération Syndicale des Travailleurs des Transports du Togo (FESYTRAT)  
FEIM Fundacion para Estudio e investigación de la Mujer  
Feminist Task Force  
Féministes pour une autre EUROPE  
FGTB  
FNC  
FNV  
FNV  
FNV  
Forests of the World  
Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations (FORIM)  
Foundation Development YES Open-Pit Mines NO  
Foundation for GAIA (GAIA)  
Franciscan Action Network  
Franciscans International  
Freshwater Action Network Mexico  
Freshwater Action Network FAN  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Friends of the Earth - U.S.  
Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación  
GABRIELA  
Gabriela García  
GCAP-Ghana  
Gender and Water Alliance  
Gender Equity: Citizenship, Work and Family  
GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice  
Genre en Action  
Georgia Climate Change Coalition  
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
GMB Trade Union  
Greek General confederation of labour  
Green America  
Green Belt Movement  
Handcrafted films  
HAURRALDE FUNDAZIOA  
Haut conseil à l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes  
Hawaii Institute for Human Rights  
Health Aid For All Initiative  
Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America  
Hélène Guetat Ecole Nationale de Formation Agronomique  
HETSIKA DIASPORA

Hollaback! Bahamas  
House of Colours Fiji  
HuMa  
Human Rights Advocates  
Human Rights and Legal Aid Network  
Human Rights Watch  
If Not Us Then Who  
Igualdad, Justicia Socio Ambiental  
Indigenous Information Network  
IndustriALL Global Union  
INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN  
International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change  
International Movement ATD Fourth World  
International Network of Women's Fund  
International Society of Doctors for the Environment  
International Trade Union Confederation  
International Transport Workers Federation  
International Women's Health Coalition  
Isabelle Ménard  
ITUC  
ITUC-AFRICA  
ITUC-AFRICA  
JOVENES EN ACCION LA PAZ MEXICO  
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KADOS Kadikoyu Friends of Science Culture and Art Association  
La PERDC /Ong/locale et le Tam\_Tam  
La Red Xicana Indigena  
Laus Jacques  
Le Planning Familial  
Leadafricaines  
Les effronté-e-s  
Les Jeunes Ecologistes  
LIFE -Education | Environment | Equality  
LO Norway  
MADRE  
Manitoba Wildlands  
Marcela Eduarte  
Marche Mondiale des femmes  
María Gabriela solano  
MDF.22  
MISEREOR - the German Catholic Bishops' Organisation for Development Cooperation  
Movimiento de Jóvenes Latinoamericanos y Caribeños Frente al Cambio Climático - CLIC!  
Musonet / COGECLIMA  
National Organization for Women (NOW) First Virtual Chapter Young Feminists & Allies  
Nature Code  
NAWO

NDJOY Agency  
New Zealand Youth Delegation  
Niger Delta women's movement for peace and development  
Nordic Federation of Building and Wood Workers  
Norwegian Union for Municipal and General Employees  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
NYDSA - Fiji  
Oceania Human Rights  
OPED  
Organisation Laotienne des Ressources Edifiées pour la Coopération (OLREC)  
Pacific Calling Partnership  
Pacific Feminist SRHR Coalition  
Pacific Partnerships on Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development (PPGCCSD)  
Pawa Law Group PC  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Tennessee Chapter  
Planetary Association for Clean Energy (PACE)  
Pobladores AC  
POLIS - International Network for Environmental Education  
Population and Sustainability Network (PSN)  
Prabha Khosla Consulting  
Pro Natura  
Progresale A. C.  
Public Interest Law Center  
PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION  
Public Services International (PSI)  
PUSH Sweden  
Rachel Carson Council  
Rainforest Action Network  
Rainforest Foundation Norway  
Rainforest Foundation USA  
Red Centroamericana de Acción del Agua. FANCA  
Red Educacion Popular Entre Mujeres (REPEM-LAC)  
Red Latinoamericana sobre Industrias Extractivas  
Red por los derechos sexuales y reproductivos en México (ddeser)  
Renato Fernandes Pereira  
REPEM  
Réseau Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme (RECODH)  
Réseau Climat & Développement  
Réseau Féministe "Ruptures"  
RESURJ - Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice  
Saraswati Rodriguez  
Seko, service and communication union  
Serge Cadieux  
SERR  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Sheffield Trade Union Council  
Shirley Cascante  
Show Up! America  
Sierra Club  
Siglo XXIII  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team  
Sisters of Mercy, Mercy International Global Action  
Sloan & Company  
Southwest Native Cultures  
Spatium Libertas  
Spire  
STES-i  
Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN)  
Sustainlabour  
SustainUS  
TARIM ORMAN-IS  
Temple of understanding  
The Cayman Institute  
The Climate Mobilization  
The Guides and Scouts of Sweden  
The Hunger Project Mexico  
Tlalocan Alliance a.c.  
Trades Union Congress  
Transport Workers Union local 3  
TUAC  
TUCA - Trade Union Confederation of the Americas  
UIL  
UKYCC  
UNHRC  
UNI Global Union  
Unifor  
Unifor Canada  
UNISON  
United Federation of Danish Workerd  
United Steelworkers (USW)  
University and College Union  
Utility Workers Union of America, AFLCIO  
Vanishing Earth  
Vietnam General Confederation of Labour  
Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
WECF  
WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future  
WECF/AUP/SHE  
WEDO  
Women Environmental Programme Burkina  
Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR-NEW WAYS)



Paris, 11 December 2015

Women's Environment and Development Organization  
Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)  
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)  
World Future Council  
World Merit Bahamas  
WWF-Canada  
Y las mujeres qué?