

CAMPAIGNERS SAY: “REJECT THE TEXTS!”

Jubilee South - Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development, Friends of the Earth International, Pan African Climate Justice Movement & the Campaign to Demand Climate Justice

Friday 7 December 2012.

[Doha, Qatar] In the dying hours of UN climate negotiations, hundreds of campaigners gathered to call on countries to “Reject the Text”.

After 2 weeks of negotiations, final texts are emerging that are “A million miles from where we need to be to even have a small chance of preventing runaway climate change,” says Lldy Nacpil of Jubilee South Asia Pacific.

Nacpil is based in the Philippines which is currently experiencing devastation as a result of Typhoon Bopha. “As civil society movements, we are saying that this is not acceptable. We cannot go back to our countries and tell them that we allowed this to happen, that we condemned our own future. We cannot go back to the Philippines, to our dead, to our homeless, to our outrage, and tell them that we accepted this.”

The campaigners put the blame for failure squarely on the shoulders of the rich countries. Many of them such as the US, Canada and Japan have refused to sign up to a new commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. But Asad Rehman, spokesperson for Friends of the Earth International also dismissed the European Union’s offers on KP2 as “An empty shell, an insult to our futures. There is literally no point in countries signing up to this sham of a deal, which will lock the planet in to many more years of inaction. What the world and its people need is more urgent action on cutting climate pollution, more help to those transforming their economies and more help to those already facing climate impacts. This text fails on every count”. The irony of this text is we have solutions for the climate crisis but no political will to enact them.

The deal on the table:

-Fails to cut emissions. The proposed cuts of 20% by 2020 are meaningless when the EU has already reduced emissions by 18%. African countries are demanding cuts of 40-50% to have a chance of limiting climate change to 2 degrees. Without this, we face runaway climate change and far greater global temperature rises.

-Rich countries have failed to make any collective financial commitments to enable developing countries to adapt to climate change and make the transition to a low emissions future.

-Instead of strengthening the regulations and rules for reducing emissions, the texts promote business interests and false solutions such as carbon markets.

“Things have got so bad that the negotiations are impossible to rescue. We cannot accept what on the table. We call on countries to stand strong and reject the texts,” said Kwesi W. Obeng of the Campaign to Demand Climate Justice.

“Our message to the world is build the transformation of our food and energy systems in every country, deliver real national emissions cuts and build a global climate justice movement that will hold world leaders accountable to their citizens and not the polluters,” said Mithika Mwenda of the Pan African Climate Negotiation.