

OUTLINE OF ONEWORLD SOUTH ASIA POSITION DOCUMENT ON CLIMATE JUSTICE

Presented at the end of
7th Annual Regional Meeting
8-9 February 2008, New Delhi

Deliberations through these last two days have served to further strengthen and clarify the position of OneWorld South Asia on Climate Justice.

Climate change is a global challenge, the current and future impacts of which will be faced by all populations, the developed and the developing world alike. The developed world remains primarily responsible for the level of greenhouse gas emissions that have contributed to global warming. At the same time there is the reality that the developing countries and emerging economies (including the countries of South Asia) would continue to add to greenhouse gas emissions on account of their pressing development needs.

There is also the growing recognition of the fact that it is the marginalised and the poor communities, and the least developed countries that are rendered the most vulnerable, and are the least able to adapt or cope with the impact of climate change. These current and projected impacts are understood to further compound their economic, social and cultural deprivations.

There is complete agreement (supported by scientific evidence and projections) that both approaches – mitigation and adaptation – are indispensable to short, mid, and long-term climate stabilisation; and the potential of ICT assisted knowledge facilitation is especially relevant in this context. At the same time we need to underline the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in mitigating and adapting to climate change, supported by assertions of differentiated per capita contributions to greenhouse gas emissions from the developed and the developing countries. For instance, the per capita contributions of rapidly developing countries like India and China remain fairly low in comparative terms.

South Asia then is confronted with concerns and issues such as the reconsideration of the current development model and its climate linkages, especially when combined with problems related to the population density in South Asia; and questioning the non-differentiation of responses to the global problem, both in the continuing global discourse and in practice. Information, analyses, advocacy, and continued engagement for equitable dialogue are constant requirements to address the concerns and development dilemma being faced by South Asia.

We (OWSA and our partners) come forward to advocate for a global solution to the global challenge of meeting climate change demands, underpinned by global institutional and financial mechanisms. At the same time, we also maintain that the

developed world is to be accountable for taking on the bigger burden of mitigation, and of financing adaptation efforts in developing countries of global south. We also seek the inclusion of the voices from the South, of the poor, the marginalised, and the grassroots communities in the climate change dialogue, and in formulating appropriate and just strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate change challenges. Here, we do press forward the need to harness all possible tools and technologies for facilitating two-way knowledge flow – to enable grassroots inclusion in addressing the challenges posed by climate change in South Asia