As we write this to the Government of India, different country governments are busy with intense climate negotiations at the ongoing UNFCCC sessions in Bangkok. As people all over the world have realised, the face of climate negotiation has been dramatically altered with the call given by a large number of developing country Governments in their official submission to the UNFCCC, demanding that the climate debt of developed countries must be repaid, and this payment must begin with the outcomes to be agreed in Copenhagen.

For example, the Bolivian country government submission clearly states that “Developed countries climate debt - the sum of their emissions debt and adaptation debt - are part of a broader ecological debt reflecting their heavy environmental footprint, excessive consumption of resources, materials and energy and contribution to declining biodiversity and ecosystem services.” Within the same climate justice understanding, many poor states and communities - all victims of the reckless over-consumption of the northern countries and the overconsuming elite of the south, leading to a historical injustice in the form of the accumulation of wealth by the overconsumers and deprivation for the forced under-consumers -- are also demanding drastic cuts in the emissions by these overconsumers. We call upon the Indian government to fully support these demands.

This view is gaining ground amongst many developing countries. Seven of them have already signed the official call for reparations and 49 countries have inserted the phrases ‘climate / ecological debt’ and ‘historical responsibility’ in their official submissions to the UNFCCC. While India has very recently used ‘historical responsibility’ in its official submission, we feel it is not enough. India needs to strongly support the call for reparations against climate and ecological debt in the ongoing negotiations and stand solidly with the other developing countries.

We appreciate that the Government of India has taken a stand for using public finance for climate funds as against World Bank, GEF and other IFI funds. This stand needs to be reiterated and we strongly call upon the Government to stand firm on its stand against climate funds being sourced from IFIs and GEF.

We urge the Government of India to endorse the Bolivian government demand\(^1\). The developed north should be ready to pay reparations against their climate and ecological debt. Any effort to bring in the private sector into climate funding needs to be strongly resisted by developing countries. We also urge the developing countries, including India to ensure that the principle of common but differentiated responsibility is taken beyond the currently employed narrow interpretation only at international levels and should be taken right up to the community and household levels. Similarly, mechanisms needs to be put in place to ensure that the real ecological solutions are decided in a democratic way and that such steps directly benefit the poor rather than bring additional costs to them.

We, concerned citizens and organisations from India demand that India along with other developing countries should play a historical role in the climate negotiations, making sure that environmental and climate justice becomes the key instead of ‘false solutions’ in the road to Copenhagen.

\(^1\) Contained in the provisional agenda of the UNFCCC’s ad hoc working group on long term cooperative action under the convention, for the sixth session in Bonn during June 1-12, 2009
ORGANISATIONS:

1. Nadi Ghatti Morcha - Chhattisgarh
2. National Forum of Forest peoples and Forest Workers (NFFPFW)
3. Jharkhand Mines Area Coordination Committee (JMACC) - Jharkhand
4. National Fishworkers Forum (NFF)
5. Water Watch Alliance, India
6. National Hawker Federation
7. South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and Peoples (SANDRP)
8. Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha
9. People’s Campaign for Socio - Economic Equity in the Himalayas (PCfSEEiH)
10. Asha Parivar
11. Kaimur Kshetra Mahila Mazdoor Kisan Morcha, Uttar Pradesh
12. Hawker Sangram Committee, Kolkatta, West Bengal
13. Focus on Global South
14. Intercultural Resources
15. North East Peoples Alliance
16. Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) – Hazaribagh Chapter, Jharkhand
17. Jan Chetana, Raigarh, Chhattisgarh
18. Samata, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
19. Environment Research and Action Collective, Himachal Pradesh
20. Programme for Social Action
21. Partners in Justice Concerns (PJC-India)
22. mines, minerals and Peoples (mm&P), India
23. Vikalp, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh
24. MATU Jan Sanghathan, Uttarakhand
25. Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM), West Bengal
26. Lok Shakti Abhiyan, Orissa
27. Earth Equity Institute, India
28. Kerala Independent Fishworkers Federation (KSMTF)
29. Arunachal Citizens Rights, Arunachal Pradesh
30. Save the Forest Movement, Jharkhand
31. Burma Centre Delhi
32. River Basin Friends, Assam
33. All Idu Mishmi Student’s Union
34. NESPON, West Bengal
35. Affected Citizens of Teesta, Sikkim
36. Speak out Salem, Tamil Nadu
37. Shwe Gas Movement
38. Indian Social Action Forum
39. Forum for Better Visakha
40. Delhi Platform
41. Equations, Bangalore, Karnataka
42. KABANI
43. Environics Trust, Delhi
44. Orissa Dalit Women Forum
45. Kalahandi Mahila Mahasangha, Orissa
46. Critical Action Centre in Movement (CACIM, New Delhi)
47. Delhi Forum
48. CORE

INDIVIDUALS:

1. Prof. Amit Bhaduri, Economist
2. Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty, Senior Academic and Social Scientist
3. E.A.S. Sarma, Former Secretary to Government of India
4. Dr. Satinath Choudhury
5. Adv. Ashok Agrwaal, Lawyer, Supreme Court
6. Anuradha Bhasin Jamwal, Senior Journalist & Executive Editor, Kashmir Times
7. Dr. S.G. Vombatkere, Mysore
8. Nityanand Jayaraman, Independent Journalist and Researcher
9. Suresh Bhat B
10. Manoj Misra
11. Bijulal M.V., Researcher, Indian Social Institute
12. Ramana Kumar Kandula, Andhra Pradesh