



To: Governments and negotiators, media and civil society,

**COP25: KEEP CARBON MARKETS OUT OF THE PARIS RULEBOOK!**

**We, the undersigned, write to demand that carbon markets are kept out of the Paris Rulebook. We say NO to a resolution on carbon markets at COP25.**

At our current rate of emissions globally, we are likely to exceed a 1.5 degree carbon budget before 2025<sup>12</sup>. According to the science, we simply don't have the atmospheric space for any more carbon, we must demand rich countries stop shirking their historical responsibilities and help drastically cut emissions at their source now<sup>3</sup>. The current commitments made by Parties under the Paris Agreement already put us on course for a disastrous 3-5 degrees of warming<sup>4</sup>.

International rules for carbon markets will be a key item on the negotiating table in Madrid, and under Article 6 we may see carbon markets becoming part of the Paris rulebook this year. This would lock us in to even more emissions, further temperature rise, continued fossil fuel use and decades of inaction, distraction, and corporate power-grabbing.

A resolution on Article 6, especially 6.2 and 6.4, would further weaken the (already feeble) national plans of rich countries, and give those governments the *carte blanche* to continue polluting. This, in turn, would place a greater burden on developing countries to implement offsetting activities and would revoke their right to a fair share of atmospheric space—to use the remaining carbon budget to meet peoples' basic needs.

Carbon markets do not work. Cap and trade schemes have failed to reduce emissions or deliver real climate action. Under carbon market schemes, global emissions have continued to rise. Intrinsic flaws and loopholes render them unworkable. Offsetting requires scientifically dubious assumptions: mixing credits from different offsetting schemes mean that carbon offsets from different sources are counted as 'equal'. Burning carbon from fossil fuels in one part of the world cannot be 'balanced out' by offsetting carbon from natural land carbon cycles—that's not how ecosystems work.

It has proven near impossible to track whether offsetting projects have actually taken place, and how much carbon has truly been offset. Furthermore, offsetting counts hypothetical emissions: 'what would have been emitted had this activity not taken place.' This approach has incentivised cheating—e.g. fraudulently predicting or producing more pollution initially,

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-how-much-carbon-budget-is-left-to-limit-global-warming-to-1-5c>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-only-five-years-left-before-one-point-five-c-budget-is-blown>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srcc/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-climate-change-un/global-temperatures-on-track-for-3-5-degree-rise-by-2100-u-n-idUSKCN1NY186>

so that extra credits can be accrued<sup>5</sup> when pollution is then reduced. Creative accounting might make things look good on paper, but we cannot negotiate with the science. **Instead of reducing emissions, carbon trading increases emissions<sup>6</sup>.**

As well as increased emissions, the legacy of carbon offsetting schemes so far has included conflict, corporate abuse, forced relocation, and threats of cultural genocide, particularly for Indigenous Peoples, smallholder farmers, forest dwellers, young people, women and people of colour. Carbon offsetting schemes are responsible for atrocities inflicted upon vulnerable populations around the world, and we reject them as a form of climate colonialism<sup>7</sup>.

If a resolution on Article 6 is passed in December, there is a real danger that carbon markets will be allowed to become a significant part of a country's efforts to implement their NDC. This would mean many governments handing control of much of their national climate policy to corporate-led carbon markets. The corporate capture<sup>8</sup> of our democratic decision-making institutions (such as our governments and the UNFCCC)<sup>9</sup> sidelines credible and people-led solutions in favour of planet-wrecking corporate interests.

This is unacceptable. We demand that rich countries stop shirking their responsibilities, and that all Parties commit to their fair share of the climate effort. We demand solutions that deliver emissions reductions at source and lead us toward a more just and equitable world. We demand real, additional, public finance from rich countries so that developing countries can transition towards just energy systems, adapt to climate impacts and be compensated for irreparable loss and damage.

Article 6.8 discusses non-market approaches. This should be pursued instead of market based approaches.

**NO to carbon markets! NO to false solutions and dangerous distractions! NO to climate colonialism! NO to corporate power and impunity! COP25: Real, equitable action now!**

### **Español**

**Para: Los gobiernos y negociadores, los medios y la sociedad civil**

### **COP25: QUE EL REGLAMENTO DE PARÍS NO INCLUYA LOS MERCADOS DE EMISIONES DE CARBONO**

**Los abajo firmantes exigimos que los mercados de emisiones de carbono no se admitan como parte del Reglamento de París. Nos oponemos a que se apruebe una resolución sobre los mercados de emisiones de carbono en la COP25.**

Con la tasa actual de emisiones a nivel mundial, es probable que agotemos el presupuesto de carbono para mantener el aumento de la temperatura por debajo de 1,5 grados Celsius antes de 2025. Según la ciencia, simplemente no tenemos más espacio atmosférico para

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.foei.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Carbon-Markets-Briefing-for-web.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/aug/24/kyoto-protocols-carbon-credit-scheme-increased-emissions-by-600m-tonnes>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ienearth.org/carbon-offsets-cause-conflict-and-colonialism/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.corporateaccountability.org/resources/polluting-paris-big-polluters-undermining-global-climate-policy/>

<sup>9</sup> Recently acquired data shows that the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA), representing energy companies such as BP, Chevron and Shell, has sent over 1800 representatives to the UN climate talks since 2000.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/amphtml/thousands-big-energy-reps-un-climate-talks-monitor-142443244--spt.html?guccounter=2>

liberar más carbono y debemos exigirles a los países ricos que dejen de eludir sus responsabilidades históricas y ayuden a reducir drásticamente las emisiones en origen de forma inmediata. Los compromisos actuales asumidos por las Partes en el marco del Acuerdo de París ya nos encaminan a un calentamiento desastroso de 3 a 5 grados Celsius.

Un punto clave en la mesa de negociación en Madrid serán las normas internacionales para los mercados de emisiones de carbono, y en el marco del Artículo 6 quizás veamos cómo los mercados de emisiones de carbono se incluyen como parte del Reglamento de París. Esto implicaría incluso más emisiones, con un mayor aumento de la temperatura, uso continuado de combustibles fósiles y décadas de inacción, distracción y acaparamiento del poder y la energía por las grandes empresas.

Una resolución sobre el Artículo 6, especialmente 6.2 y 6.4, debilitaría aún más los (ya tímidos) planes nacionales de los países ricos y le daría a los gobiernos carta blanca para seguir contaminando. Esto a su vez implicaría mayor presión sobre los países en desarrollo para que ejecuten actividades de compensación de emisiones, y les negaría su derecho a la cuota parte justa que les corresponde del espacio atmosférico, es decir, a usar el presupuesto de carbono restante con el fin de satisfacer las necesidades básicas de sus pueblos.

Los mercados de emisiones de carbono no funcionan. Los esquemas de topes y comercio no han logrado reducir las emisiones y no representan una acción verdadera frente al cambio climático. Bajo estos esquemas las emisiones mundiales continuaron aumentando. Están llenos de fallas intrínsecas y vacíos legales que los hacen inviables. La compensación de emisiones exige hacer suposiciones científicamente dudosas: mezclar derechos de emisión derivados de distintos esquemas de compensación implica que las compensaciones de emisiones de carbono de distintas fuentes se cuentan como "iguales". El carbono resultante de la quema de combustibles fósiles en un lugar del mundo no se puede "contrarrestar" compensándolo con el carbono de los ciclos naturales del carbono terrestre, ya que no es así como funcionan los ecosistemas.

Se ha demostrado que es casi imposible llevar registro de si realmente se llevaron a cabo los proyectos de compensación de emisiones y de cuánto carbono se ha compensado en realidad. Es más, la compensación de emisiones contabiliza emisiones hipotéticas: "lo que se habría emitido si esta actividad no se hubiera llevado a cabo". Este enfoque incentiva hacer trampa, por ejemplo, hacer predicciones fraudulentas o producir más contaminación al inicio, para poder acumular derechos de emisión adicionales cuando la contaminación se reduce. Este tipo de contabilidad creativa puede hacer que las cosas luzcan bien en teoría, pero no se puede negociar con la ciencia. **En lugar de reducir las emisiones, el comercio de emisiones de carbono las aumenta.**

Tales esquemas han generado conflictos, abusos empresariales, relocalización forzada y amenazas de genocidio cultural, particularmente contra los Pueblos Indígenas, agricultoras/es de pequeña escala, habitantes de los bosques, jóvenes, mujeres y sectores de la población no blancos. Los esquemas de compensación de emisiones de carbono son responsables por las atrocidades cometidas contra poblaciones vulnerables en todo el mundo, y los rechazamos por considerarlos una forma de colonialismo climático.

Si en diciembre se aprueba una resolución sobre el Artículo 6, existe el riesgo muy real de que se permita que los mercados de carbono se conviertan en un componente significativo de los esfuerzos de un país para cumplir con sus contribuciones determinadas a nivel

nacional. Esto llevaría a que muchos gobiernos entreguen el control de gran parte de su política nacional climática a mercados de emisiones de carbono controlados por grandes empresas. La cooptación empresarial de nuestras instituciones democráticas de toma de decisiones (tales como nuestros gobiernos y la CMNUCC) margina las soluciones creíbles lideradas por los pueblos, para favorecer en cambio los intereses empresariales que destruyen el planeta.

Esto es inaceptable. Exigimos que los países ricos dejen de eludir sus responsabilidades y que todas las Partes se comprometan a cumplir con la cuota parte justa que les corresponde de los esfuerzos climáticos. Exigimos soluciones verdaderas que tengan como resultado la reducción de las emisiones en origen y nos conduzcan a un mundo más justo y equitativo. Exigimos financiamiento público real y adicional de los países ricos para que los países pobres puedan hacer la transición hacia sistemas energéticos justos, adaptarse a los impactos del clima y que se les indemnice por las pérdidas y daños irreparables.

El Artículo 6.8 discute los enfoques no relacionados con el mercado. Esto debería llevarse a cabo en lugar de enfoques basados en el mercado.

**¡No a los mercados de emisiones de carbono! ¡No a las falsas soluciones y las distracciones peligrosas! ¡No al colonialismo climático! ¡No al poder e impunidad de las grandes empresas! COP25: ¡Acciones verdaderas y equitativas ya!**

**Initial Signers / Signatarios iniciales:**

1. Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development
2. Friends of the Earth International
3. Indigenous Environmental Network
4. La Via Campesina
5. Grassroots Global Justice Alliance

**Contact info / Contacto:**

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- Paula Gioia, La Via Campesina, [paula.gioia@eurovia.org](mailto:paula.gioia@eurovia.org)
- Tom Goldtooth, Indigenous Environmental Network, [ientomg@gmail.com](mailto:ientomg@gmail.com)
- Lidy Nacpil, Asian Peoples Movement on Debt and Development, [lnacpil@gmail.com](mailto:lnacpil@gmail.com)

**Additional signatories / Signatarios adicionales:**

| S. No | Name of the organisation/ Nombre de la organización | Country (or international or regional) / País (o internacional o regional) |
|-------|---|--|
| 1     | Amigos de la Tierra                                 | Spain  |
| 2     | Friends of the Siberian Forests                     | Russia   |
| 3     | Corporate Europe Observatory                        | Europe   |

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| 4  | Korea Federation for Environmental Movements (KFEM/FoE Korea)                      | South Korea            |
| 5  | Les Amis de la Terre-Togo  | Togo                   |
| 6  | Amigu di Tera (FoE Curaçao)  | Curaçao                |
| 7  | Centre for Environmental Justice/FoE Sri Lanka                                     | Sri Lanka              |
| 8  | Juana Vera Delgado   | Peru                   |
| 9  | Water Justice and Gender   | The Netherlands        |
| 10 | Bolivian Platform on Climate Change/Plataforma Bolivian frente al Cambio Climático | Bolivia                |
| 11 | Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal                                      | Nepal                  |
| 12 | Amigos de la Tierra Argentina  | Argentina              |
| 13 | Friends of the Earth Scotland  | Scotland, UK           |
| 14 | Food & Water Action  | US                     |
| 15 | EcoNexus   | UK                     |
| 16 | Green Finance Observatory  | BE                     |
| 17 | Friends of the Earth US  | US                     |
| 18 | GRAIN  | international          |
| 19 | JA! Justica Ambiental/ FoE Mozambique  | Mozambique             |
| 20 | Attac France   | France                 |
| 21 | Aitec  | France                 |
| 22 | CESTA Amigos de la Tierra  | El Salvador            |
| 23 | Kesatuan Nelayan Tradisional Indonesia/Indonesia Traditional Fisherfolk Union      | Indonesia              |
| 24 | Climate Emergency Institute  | International          |
| 25 | Centar za životnu sredinu/ Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina             | Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| 26 | Online Knowledge Society   | Bangladesh             |
| 27 | Seeds Action Network Germany   | Germany                |
| 28 | Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment                                  | Liberia, West Africa   |

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| 29 | SOBREVIVENCIA, amigos de la Tierra PY                                       | Paraguay                |
| 30 | Ole Siosiomaga Society Incorporated (OLSSI)                                 | Samoa/Pacific           |
| 31 | groundWork, Friends of the Earth, South Africa                              | South Africa            |
| 32 | Sahabat Alam Malaysia   | Malaysia                |
| 33 | Third World Network   | International/ Malaysia |
| 34 | Carbone Guinée  | Guinée Conakry          |
| 35 | Abibiman Foundation   | Ghana                   |
| 36 | Jordens Vänner - FOE Sweden   | Sweden                  |
| 37 | Masifundise   | South Africa            |
| 38 | London Mining Network   | United Kingdom          |
| 39 | Food & Water Action Europe  | Europe                  |
| 40 | Mouvement Ecologique (FoE Lux)  | Luxembourg              |
| 41 | 350.org   | Global                  |
| 42 | GLOBAL 2000   | Austria                 |
| 43 | The Corner House  | United Kingdom          |
| 44 | Global Justice Ecology project  | United States           |
| 45 | Movement for Advancing Understanding on Sustainability And Mutuality MAUSAM | South Asia              |
| 46 | Acción por la Biodiversidad   | Argentina               |
| 47 | ETC Group   | international           |
| 48 | Institute for Policy Studies Climate Justice Program                        | United States           |
| 49 | Friends of the Earth  | Brisbane, Australia     |
| 50 | Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)                                | Palestine               |
| 51 | KRuHA Indonesia<br>(People's Coalition for the Right to Water)              | Indonesia               |
| 52 | Ecologistas en Acción   | Spain                   |
| 53 | Estonian Green Movement - FOE Estonia                                       | Estonia                 |
| 54 | CENSAT Amigos de la Tierra Colombia   | Colombia                |

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| 55 | Asociación Comunidades Ecologistas la Ceiba - Amigos de la Tierra    | Costa Rica      |
| 56 | Re:Common  | Italy           |
| 57 | OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon                                    | United States   |
| 58 | PODER  | United States   |
| 59 | Sunflower Alliance   | United States   |
| 60 | UCSB EJ/CJ Hub   | United States   |
| 61 | World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP)                                  | International   |
| 62 | Jongeren Milieu Actief, Young Friends of the Earth The Netherlands   | The Netherlands |
| 63 | Milieudefensie   | The Netherlands |
| 64 | REDES - Amigos de la Tierra Uruguay                                  | Uruguay         |
| 65 | Alianza Mexicana contra el Fracking                                  | México          |
| 66 | Environmental Human Rights Care and Gender Organization (Envirocare) | Tanzania        |
| 67 | Just Transition Alliance   | United States   |
| 68 | Global Forest Coalition  | International   |
| 69 | International Oil Working Group[                                     | International   |
| 70 | School of Democratic Economics                                       | Indonesia       |
| 71 | En Defensa de la Naturaleza (EDENAT)                                 | México          |
| 72 | Cambiamos el sistema No el clima - Movimiento México                 | México          |
| 73 | White Rabbit Grove RDNA  | USA             |
| 74 | Colectivo de Geografía Crítica                                       | Ecuador         |
| 75 | Movimiento Ecologista Popular  | Ecuador         |
| 76 | Friends of the Earth Japan   | Japan           |
| 77 | Corporate Accountability   | International   |
| 78 | Biofuelwatch   | UK/US           |
| 79 | Grassroots International   | US              |
| 80 | Center for Biological Diversity                                      | USA             |

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| 81  | Movement Generation  | US              |
| 82  | Amigos da Terra Brasil   | Brasil          |
| 83  | Fórum Mudanças Climáticas e Justiça Socioambiental - FMCJS                 | Brasil          |
| 84  | SustainUS  | USA             |
| 85  | Protect the Forest   | Sweden          |
| 86  | Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy   | USA- Gulf South |
| 87  | Earth in Brackets  | USA             |
| 88  | Environmental Association "Za Zemiata" / Friends of the Earth Bulgaria     | Bulgaria        |
| 89  | Mladi Za Zemiata   | Bulgaria        |
| 90  | Adéquations  | France          |
| 91  | CODEFF Amigos de la Tierra Chile   | Chile           |
| 92  | White Rabbit Grove RDNA  | Estados Unidos  |
| 93  | Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy                                 | U.S.            |
| 94  | FÍS NUA  | Ireland         |
| 95  | KEEP IRELAND FRACKING FREE   | Ireland         |
| 96  | Climate Change Ireland   | Ireland         |
| 97  | Idle No More SF Bay  | United States   |
| 98  | Citizen's Oil & Gas Council  | Canada          |
| 99  | Unite Union [New Zealand]  | New Zealand     |
| 100 | Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center-Friends of the Earth Philippines | Philippines     |
| 101 | Earth Guardians Bay Area Crew  | U.S.            |
| 102 | ACCION ECOLOGICA   | ECUADOR         |
| 103 | The Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth-Georgia                | Georgia         |
| 104 | Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association                               | Bangladesh      |
| 105 | Fresh Eyes - People to People Travel, UK                                   | Andy Rutherford |



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| 106 | WoMin African Alliance                                   | Samantha Hargreaves   |
| 107 | Support Centre for Change (SCLC)                         | South Africa          |
| 108 | Development Education and Leadership Teams in Action     | South Africa          |
| 109 | Les Amis de la Terre                                     | France                |
| 110 | Pro Natura   | Switzerland           |
| 111 | Rural Women's Assembly Southern Africa                   | Southern Africa       |
| 112 | People's Dialogue  | South Africa / Brazil |
| 113 | Trust for community Outreach and Education               | South Africa          |
| 114 | Inyanda Land Rights Movement                             | South Africa          |
| 115 | SONIA for a Just New World                               | Italy                 |
| 116 | Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland | UK                    |
| 117 | CJS Climat et justice sociale                            | BE                    |
| 118 | Vzw Climaxi  | BE                    |
| 119 | ARA  | Germany               |
| 120 | Action from Ireland (Afri)                               | Ireland               |
| 121 | Intersindical Valenciana                                 | Spain                 |
| 122 | Code Pink Western Massachusetts                          | USA                   |
| 123 | Upper Valley Affinity Group-Vermont                      | USA                   |
| 124 | Council of Canadians                                     | Canada                |
| 125 | Blue Planet Project                                      | International         |
| 126 | Europe solidaire sans frontières (ESSF)                  | France                |
| 127 | Local Futures  | International         |
| 128 | CCFD-Terre Solidaire                                     | France                |
| 129 | Econservancy   | Colombia-Spain        |
| 130 | What the Frack?!! Arapahoe                               | USA                   |
| 131 | Transition Capitale Nationale                            | Québec, Canada        |
| 132 | Friends of the Earth Europe                              | Europe                |
| 133 | Plataforma por un Nuevo Modelo Energético                | Spain                 |

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| 134 | Communities for a Better Environment                   | USA               |
| 135 | FIAN International                                     | International     |
| 136 | indigenous Climate Action                              | canada            |
| 137 | Forum Ceará no Clima                                   | Brasil            |
| 138 | Asociación de Cultura Popular Alborada -Gallur         | Spain             |
| 139 | Plataforma Ciudadana Zaragoza sin Fractura             | Spain             |
| 140 | global social justice                                  | belgium           |
| 141 | Environnement Vert Plus                                | Québec, Canada    |
| 142 | National Association for Women's Action in Development | Uganda            |
| 143 | Uranium network  | Germany           |
| 144 | Partito della Rifondazione Comunista-Sinistra Europea  | ITALY             |
| 145 | Young Friends of the Earth Macedonia                   | North Macedonia   |
| 146 | Eco Justice Valandovo                                  | North Macedonia   |
| 147 | Academia Cidadã/Citizenship Academy                    | Portugal          |
| 148 | Debt Observatory in Globalisation (ODG)                | Catalunya (Spain) |
| 149 | LEFT ECOLOGICAL FORUM                                  | Belgium           |
| 150 | ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria                              | Austria           |
| 151 | A Sud - Ecologia e Cooperazione                        | Italy             |
| 152 | MENSCHENRECHTE (HumanRights) 3000 e.V.                 | Germany           |
| 153 | Les AmiEs de la Terre de Québec                        | Canada            |
| 154 | <i>The Land</i> magazine                               | UK                |
| 155 | Action Environnement Basses-Laurentides (AEBL)         | Québec, Canada    |
| 156 | GenderCC-Women for Climate Justice                     | International     |
| 157 | Landworkers Alliance                                   | UK                |
| 158 | Scottish Farm Land Trust                               | Scotland (UK)     |
| 159 | World Economy, Ecology and Development (WEED) e.V.     | Germany           |
| 160 | Swift Foundation                                       | USA               |
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