

Campaign update: Climate justice

Still no money for the UNAF

At the end of March the 13th UN Adaptation Fund (UNAF) meeting was held in Bonn. The UK government is still pushing for World Bank loans to help countries adapt to the effects of climate change instead of supporting grants channelled through the UN.

WDM director Deborah Doane wrote a blog post for the WDM website about the UN meeting and highlights the role WDM supporters have had in highlighting the injustice of climate change grants for adapting to climate change. She also explains how we have found that, contrary to what DfID told WDM, there were in fact no legal barriers to delivering the donations to the UN Adaptation Fund. The reality is that DfID is still refusing to support grants through the UN Adaptation Fund, and is instead pushing for loans through the undemocratic World Bank, which is still firmly part of the problem with its continued support for fossil fuel lending. You can read the blog post on the WDM website.

The UK has still not given a single penny to the adaptation fund, and was in fact discussing with other UN members the idea of setting a cap on how much money projects can ask for, because of the lack of money in the fund. In response to the lack of support from northern governments, the UN Adaptation Fund has now set up an online giving website so that individuals can donate to the fund (perhaps inspired by the £1500 given by WDM supporters?).

Deborah also wrote a great blog post for the New Internationalist about the implications of the UK government's lack of support for the UN Adaptation Fund. You can read it here www.newint.org/blog/2011/03/17/britains-broken-promises/

'Free us from fossil fuels' action

On 1 March NGOS, individuals and activists took part in a global day of action against the World

Bank's lending of money to disastrous fossil fuel projects.

Actions were organised in places such as Paris and South Africa, and WDM helped organise an action in London.

WDM staff and supporters joined Christian Aid, People and Planet and the Jubilee Debt Campaign in a stunt at the World Bank offices in London. People dressed up as prisoners and were chained together with balls representing carbon dioxide and coal. The stunt highlighted the World Bank's continued role in causing climate change with its lending for coal power, which has increased 40 fold in the last five years, even at the same time as it trying to become the climate bank. We made a short video of the action which you can watch on WDM's 'youtube' channel.

The online takeover

This coincided with an online day of action in which people flooded the World Bank's Facebook, Twitter and blog with comments telling them to stop financing fossil fuel projects, and to pull out of climate finance itself. It was a great way of getting our message heard and raising awareness about how the World Bank is funding projects that are damaging for both the environment and the world's poor.

Moving forwards with the campaign

Over the coming months, the climate debt campaign will continue to focus on the issue of loans for climate adaptation. We will also be broadening its focus to look across the implications of the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds (of which the loans for adaptation through the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience is a part). These World Bank funds, which are being pushed by the UK government, demonstrate some concerning issues for the global south and its struggle for climate justice. It will be critical to ensure the worst aspects of these are highlighted to prevent them from becoming the basis for the new Green Climate Fund.