



February 2010

This is first edition of the EWG newsletter in 2010.

We welcome your contributions. **Remember to share** your resources and reports with others in the EWG. Send links and examples to Lorraine Mirham - lmirham@hotmail.com

In this Edition

We look back at Copenhagen and forward to this years' work on Climate issues and much more. First we would like to thank Susi Snyder so much for her huge support of the Environment Working Group and the enormous energy she took to ensure that our newsletters reached the international website and that relevant matters and information were referred effectively to the Conveners. We have nothing but admiration for her and wish her all the best of fortune as she takes her, already sorely missed, talents to another lucky organisation. Thank you, Susi.

Please look at the **Resources Section** and where possible use these to inform work in Sections on Environmental matters. WILPF's knowledge and unique perspective is interconnected with all our work and themes. There are links to WILPF policy as well as good quality argument and facts produced by WILPF members and allies.

You will also see '**Action**' in this e-news and this lets you know we need your participation, thank you. Please look at a very interesting proposal from the President of Bolivia about an alternative to the Mexico UNFCCC meeting this year. We want your comments.

Climate – COP 15 Copenhagen

The UN Climate Change Conference, UNFCCC, was held in Copenhagen on 7-18 December 2009. Edel Havin Beukes raises concerns about what was NOT discussed at the event but first, here is what WILPF achieved.

WILPF Co-President Annelise Ebbe led the WILPF delegation. WILPF held a side event in partnership with WECF, International Forum on Globalisation, Sortir du nucleaire, NIRS, the Environmental Institute of Munich Greenpeace, Ecodefense and WISE to unmask the true face of nuclear energy and present a proposal, supported by citizens from all over the world, for a nuclear-free post-Kyoto regime. The theme was "False promises of nuclear energy".

Edel Havin Beukes from the Norwegian Section and convenor of the Working Group on Environment introduced the theme and Dr Helen Caldicott world-renowned Australian



author, anti-nuclear activist and WILPF member delivered the excellent and frightening key note speech entitled “Nuclear Power is not the Answer to Global Warning.” WILPF- Norway were granted economic support, from the Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment, to enable Dr Caldicott to attend.

In May 2009, at the annual Nordic WILPF meeting in Oslo, it was decided that WILPF should engage in NGO activities at the UNFCCC at the Klimaforum09 – the parallel NGO arrangement in Copenhagen. Ida Harslof was WILPF’s contact person in Denmark. Ida managed to get a 3 hour slot for WILPF at the Klimaforum09 on December 8, but she had to undergo a back operation that left her temporarily unable to move out of her house. In spite of this she produced a beautiful WILPF pamphlet about our meetings.

Helen Caldicott spoke again about nuclear energy. Eva Fidjestøl, also from the Norwegian Section, contributed information and experience about “The Truth about Chernobyl” and “Radiological Weapons.” Kerstin Grebäck, WILPF Co-President gave the WILPF perspective on nuclear matters.

During the Summit, WILPFers attended and held meetings and side events, lobbied their governments, consulted on the draft of ‘A Peoples Declaration from Klimaforum09’ and our co-presidents managed to get most of our concerns into the Declaration from the Klimaforum09.

Some WILPFers also managed to speak directly to their national negotiators at contact meetings to voice our concern that the pro-nuclear lobby would try to get nuclear power into the text as an acceptable energy source. Edel Havin Beukes also attended the meetings of the anti-nuclear energy groups that are preparing the “ Don’t nuke the climate” actions These are the French Sortir du nucléaire, WISE , Greenpeace International, Ecodefense (from Russia), International Forum on Globalization and INOCHI Plutonium Free Future from the US, NIRS, WECF, and the Environmental Institute of Munich. WILPF hopes to maintain the cooperation that we have established with them.

When the other anti-nuclear organisations learned that we had Helen Caldicott in Copenhagen, she was asked to be one of the speakers at the demonstration where an estimated 100,000 people took part in a 6km march from Christiansborg in the City centre to the Bella Conference Centre. WILPF participated in the huge demonstration under the banner of the Danish Section.

What was NOT discussed in Copenhagen?

Edel Havin Beukes explains that important themes not discussed at international environmental meetings, at this as well as at its predecessors, are

1. The effects of the activities of the military industrial complex, the enormous amount of resources used for armaments and wars by key nations to obtain control over resources belonging to others and to mankind as a whole.
2. The mockery of a democracy where more than 50 % of the world's population, women, have no or little say, in keeping with their numbers, at all levels of governance.
3. The threat posed to the very survival of humankind and nature, such as we know it, by the nuclear industry – from the mining of uranium ore, its processing and the production of nuclear power and weapons to the final phasing out of such plants and the disposal of radioactive waste materials and of course the release of radioactive gases.

U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change 2010 (UNFCCC) Mexico

Are any Sections; US, Canada, LIMPAL Latin America planning to engage in November 2010?

There will be a number of pre-meetings.

Bolivia is calling for an alternative meeting, see below. **Action** - Please let us know edel@beukes.net

Information - http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php

Bolivia calls for Alternative World Climate Change Meeting

PEOPLES' WORLD CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND MOTHER EARTH'S RIGHTS

Considering that climate change represents a real threat to the existence of humanity, of living beings and our Mother Earth as we know it today;

Noting the serious danger that exists to islands, coastal areas, glaciers in the Himalayas, the Andes and mountains of the world, poles of the Earth, warm regions like Africa, water sources, populations affected by increasing natural disasters, plants and animals, and ecosystems in general;

Making clear that those most affected by climate change will be the poorest in the world who will see their homes and their sources of survival destroyed, and who will be forced to migrate and seek refuge;

Confirming that 75% of historical emissions of greenhouse gases originated in the countries of the North that followed a path of irrational industrialization;

Noting that climate change is a product of the capitalist system;

Regretting the failure of the Copenhagen Conference caused by countries called "developed", that fail to recognize the climate debt they have with developing countries, future generations and Mother Earth;

Affirming that in order to ensure the full fulfilment of human rights in the twenty-first century, it is necessary to recognize and respect Mother Earth's rights;

Reaffirming the need to fight for climate justice;

Recognizing the need to take urgent actions to avoid further damage and suffering to humanity, Mother Earth and to restore harmony with nature;

Confident that the peoples of the world, guided by the principles of solidarity, justice and respect for life, will be able to save humanity and Mother Earth, and

Celebrating the International Day of Mother Earth,

The Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia calls on the peoples of the world, social movements and Mother Earth's defenders, and invites scientists, academics, lawyers and governments that want to work with their citizens to the Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth's Rights to be held from 20th to 22nd April 2010 in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

The Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth's Rights has as objectives:

- 1) To analyze the structural and systemic causes that drive climate change and to propose radical measures to ensure the well-being of all humanity in harmony with nature
- 2) To discuss and agree on the project of a Universal Declaration of Mother Earth Rights
- 3) To agree on proposals for new commitments to the Kyoto Protocol and projects for a COP Decision under the United Nations Framework for Climate Change that will guide future actions in those countries that are engaged with life during climate change negotiations and in all United Nations scenarios, related to:

- Climate debt
- Climate change migrants-refugees
- Emission reductions
- Adaptation
- Technology transfer
- Finance
- Forest and Climate Change
- Shared Vision
- Indigenous Peoples, and
- Others

- 4) To work on the organization of the Peoples' World Referendum on Climate Change

- 5) To analyze and develop an action plan to advance the establishment of a Climate Justice Tribunal

- 6) To define strategies for action and mobilization to defend life from Climate Change and to defend Mother Earth's Rights.

Bolivia, January 5th, 2010
Evo Morales Ayma
President of the
Plurinational State of Bolivia

Action - Pam Punttenney and Bremley Lyngdoh are the UN CSD Education Caucus Co- Coordinators and have circulated an email asking for responses to this proposal. For example, on Women and in particular the Gender CC group, Environmental Education and building well-prepared societies. If you are from Mexico, Central and/or Latin America, would you like to respond? We think it is important to have offer WILPF's views, so please let us have your responses and we will collate those and send them on

from WILPF. We look forward to hearing from you. Email: imirham@hotmail.com or edel@beukes.net

Nuclear Energy is NOT the answer

Very interesting news article from Truthout, discussing Dr Helen Caldicott's argument that nuclear industry are using Global Warming to promote nuclear as a solution.

"Dr. Helen Caldicott, the pioneering Australian anti-nuclear activist and pediatrician who spearheaded the global nuclear freeze movement of the 1980s and co-founded Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), has joined with left-leaning environmental groups here in an uphill fight to halt nuclear power as a "solution" to the global warming crisis. "Global warming is the greatest gift the nuclear industry has ever received," Dr. Caldicott told Truthout. Read more here: "Helen Caldicott Slams Environmental Groups on Climate Bill, Nuclear Concessions" - <http://www.truthout.org/1222096>

CSD-18

4th Implementation Cycle: Review Session 3 - 14 May 2010, New York

This Review Session will focus on the following thematic issues:

- Transport
- Chemicals
- Waste Management (Hazardous & Solid Waste)
- Mining
- 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns

For more information go to: http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18.shtml

Please note, at the same time in New York will be the NPT – meetings look at www.reachingcriticalwill.com

Millennium Development Goals

A helpful summary can be found here:

http://www.undg.org/docs/9099/MDG_News_Update_Issue_38.pdf

Resources

Remember WILPF's POSITION & BACKGROUND PAPER ON CLIMATE SECURITY 2008 - you will find it here: <http://www.wilpf.int.ch/PDF/2008ClimateChange.pdf>

Also, WILPF statement on Climate Security

http://www.wilpf.int.ch/statements/24nov08_on_climate_security.html

Dr Helen Caldicott has produced a number of books including: "The New Nuclear Danger: George Bush's Military Industrial Complex" (2001) "Nuclear Power is not the answer" (2006), "War in heaven" (2007) and "If you love this planet" (2009). Dr.

Caldicott has also been a driving force in organizing physicians against nuclear weapons in Australia, the US and internationally.

A book about **"Water, Life and Women"** that WILPF-Norway has produced is now on sale, available from the WILPF- Norway office in the Norwegian language.

A book about **Nuclear Energy** that WILPF- Norway is producing will be completed during 2010 (in Norwegian and may be later in English)

WILPF EWG E-newsletters and other useful information can be found on the International Website: <http://www.wilpf.int.ch/environment/index.htm>

WEDO (Women's Environment & Development Organisation) news release: Women Discouraged by COP Outcome–But Committed to Hope and Action in 2010
<http://www.wedo.org/learn/campaigns/climatechange/press-release-women-discouraged-by-cop-outcome-but-committed-to-hope-and-action-in-2010>

For an excellent source of information about Dismantling the War Economy see the DISARM website also with links to Keep Space for Peace initiatives
<http://www.disarm.wilpf.org/about>

PLEASE JOIN to receive your EWG e- Newsletter, ESPECIALLY IF YOUR SECTION IS NOT REPRESENTED! To email the group and/or receive the e-news, the address is: environment@wilpf.ch

REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AND IDEAS TO: Lorraine Mirham or Edel Havin Beukes
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