

**KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives**  
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*A Call for Climate Justice*  
A statement to Canada and  
the United Nations Climate Change Conference -  
Bali, Indonesia  
December 5, 2007

As world leaders, scientists, and civil society representatives prepare to gather in Bali, Indonesia for a United Nations Climate Change Conference, KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives calls on the Canadian government to provide strong progressive leadership in advocating for a just climate change agreement.

KAIROS has identified the fossil fuel crisis and climate change as critical justice issues that must be urgently addressed in order to eliminate the scandalous gap between rich and poor in the world, reduce human conflict and prevent irreparable damage to the Earth's ecosystems.

While the theological underpinnings for addressing climate change in many churches vary, the fundamental concept regarding the integrity and care of God's creation is basic to an understanding of all Christian faiths. The unbreakable bond between social justice and ecological wholeness impels Canadian churches to address the issue of climate change and to call on the government of Canada to take a leadership role in Bali, which will set out the framework for negotiations of the second phase of the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012.

The position and record of actions on climate change the Canadian government is taking to the UN talks in Bali are cause for deep concern in relation to these priorities. The Kyoto Protocol, to which Canada is a signatory, recognized that initial action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must come from those countries that have historically produced the most emissions, both in absolute terms and on a per capita basis.

However, it is also critical to recognize that the Kyoto Protocol is not only an environmental agreement but also an economic one. It recognizes that the climate crisis is also a crisis reflecting the gap between rich and poor. The provisions in Kyoto that allow low GHG emitting countries to sell credits to countries that fail to meet their reduction targets, and that provide for a transfer of wealth and technology to the global South are meant to address global poverty, and to provide countries in the global South with a different path to development than the fossil fuel intensive course taken by the North over the last century. These provisions also recognize the historically unequal consumption of energy between rich and poor countries.

Prime Minister Harper's rejection of the Kyoto Protocol is therefore also a rejection of a significant instrument to address the gap between rich and poor. A climate change

agreement beyond 2012 must continue to recognize the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” affirmed in the Kyoto Protocol. Ironically, even as Prime Minister Harper insists on similar hard targets for both the global South and North, the Canadian government’s failure to implement the Kyoto Protocol, which was designed to assist developing countries in the transition to the post 2012 phase, will make it all the more difficult for these countries to participate in a new global climate change agreement.

The process in Bali must develop the key elements of a prospective agreement among the participating nations, set up an effective process and set a firm end date of 2009 in order to allow enough lead time for countries to endorse the agreement and enter into the legal framework by 2013.

As a participating member of the Climate Action Network (CANet), KAIROS joins with other civil society organizations in calling on the Canadian government to:

- Reassure the global community that Canada will honour its legal obligations under the Climate Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, and will thus accept the penalties set out in the Kyoto Protocol in the event that it fails to meet its emissions target;
- Support the objective of keeping global average warming to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, in order to prevent the most catastrophic and irreversible impacts of climate change in line with the scientific consensus and the position of the European Union;
- Support deeper emission reductions for industrialized countries in the post-2012 period under the Kyoto Protocol in line with the objective of keeping warming to below 2°C and with the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which found that reductions of at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 are required from industrialized countries;
- Support a process for negotiation of differentiated commitments for developing countries, such as sectoral targets or other policies and measures;
- Contribute to the development of an effective adaptation strategy in response to those impacts that are now unavoidable, especially in the least developed and most vulnerable countries.

In light of the Canadian government’s position at the recent Commonwealth meetings in Uganda, KAIROS is concerned that this stance will be replicated in Bali. Our government has failed to recognize the historical culpability of industrialized countries and the ecological debt it owes to the rest of the world.

The Kyoto framework clearly outlines the obligations and moral leadership that must initially be shouldered by the developed world. We call on Canada to honour its commitments as a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol. Taking into consideration the historical factors involved in the present climate change crisis, we urge the government to contribute to just and equitable negotiations at the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali as it attempts to forge a post-2012 global agreement that expands and strengthens the Kyoto Protocol.

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