

Climate Change



Image from [Industrial Agrofules: Fuel Hunger and Poverty](#) by The Via Campesina

We are faced with a profound structural crisis as a consequence of having reached the planet's limits. We are confronted with the terminal crisis of a patriarchal development model based in the slavery and destruction of human beings and nature. The climate crisis we live in isn't only a problem of rising atmospheric temperatures, but also the global destruction of conditions that make life possible on the planet and the harmonic relationship of humans with Mother Earth.

[World's Peoples Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth](#)

The notion of climate change generally refers to global changes in temperature and weather patterns provoked by massive carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions and their negative impacts on the environment and people's livelihoods.

Climate change is also referred to as global warming. Among other effects, climate change has drastically affected the production of agriculture and food around the world, limited access to water supply, affected the health of millions of people, increased hunger and malnutrition, and intensified migration.

Top-down measures to combat climate change emphasize mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation refers to strategies to reduce carbon emission and adaptation refers to strategies to adapt to climate change once it has directly impacted people's lives. Mitigation has been mainly advocated through technological innovation and the promotion of carbon markets.

As a reaction to top-down strategies that leave unjust economic systems untouched, grassroots political actors have adopted the notion of "climate justice" and argued that climate change is fundamentally an issue of human rights and environmental justice. Through various declarations, social moments around the world have voiced their critical position towards the origins and foundation of the current environmental crisis and demanded compensation for what they define as "climate debt" or "ecological debt."

Guiding questions*

1. What are some of the structural causes of climate change?
2. How critical are the mitigation and adaptation strategies?
3. What is Climate Debt?
4. Why is it that climate change cannot be discussed without considering equity?
5. What elements make up Climate Debt?
6. How should Climate Debt be compensated?
7. What is the relationship between historical responsibility and climate debt?
8. How are the Climate Debt and the Ecological Debt related?
9. How are Climate Debt and the Copenhagen Accord related?

*Questions 3-9 are taken from [World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth](#)



Image from [The Environmental Food Crisis](#)

Climate negotiations have turned into a huge market place. Developed countries, historically responsible for most of the greenhouse gas emissions are inventing all possible tricks to avoid reducing their own emissions. For example, the “Clean Development Mechanism” (CDM) under the Kyoto protocol allows countries to continue polluting and consuming as usual, while paying low prices supposedly so that developing countries reduce their emissions. What actually occurs is that companies profit doubly: to contaminate and to sell false solutions

[Thousands of Cancuns for climate justice! La Via Campesina invites people's movements to mobilize around the world](#)

People’s Declarations

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[Justicia Climática y más: Declaración de Santa Cruz Michapa El Salvador, 2010](#)

[Pronunciamiento del Feminismo Comunitario Latinoamericano en la Conferencia de los pueblos sobre Cambio Climático](#)

[Declaration of Women in Asia on Climate Change](#)

Featured Video

[The Other Debt Crisis: Climate Debt](#)
By Fault Lines

Readings

["Introduction: Climate Change -who's carrying the burden"](#)

by L. Anders Sandberg and Tor Sandberg in *Climate Change - Who's Carrying the Burden: The chilly climates of the global environmental dilemma*.

["Food security as if women mattered: A story from Kerala \(Parl\)"](#)

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["Climate Debt: A Primer"](#)

Third World Network Briefing Paper

["Climate Debt"](#)

Worlds People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth

["Climate Debt: Final Conclusions"](#)

Worlds People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth

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["Mililani Trask: Indigenous Views"](#)

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By Anna Rooke, Programs Coordinator, Gender Action With contributions from: Elaine Zuckerman, President, Gender Action and Liane Schalatek, Associate Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation North America
With Financial Support From: Heinrich Böll Foundation North America

[Gender Toolkit for International Finance-Watchers](#)

By Gender Action, Anna Rooke, Programs Coordinator
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By Unicef

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By Marcus Colchester and Jean La Rose
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By Liane Schalatek, Associate, Heinrich Böll Foundation North America

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By Sandra Veuthey, *WRM Bulletin No 152*

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By Mario Osava, Inter Press Service