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26 January 2010

Hon. John Key  
Prime Minister  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear Prime Minister,

The Climate Defence Network wishes to express its deep concern at the outcome of the Copenhagen Conference. We are dismayed that two years after the Bali Action Plan was agreed, world leaders were unable to conclude negotiations that would have put in place measures to prevent dangerous levels of climate change.

CDN appreciated your comments at Copenhagen in urging the world's major economies to listen to the voices of vulnerable nations facing climate change and for saying progress on a new climate deal would take "commitment, compromise and cash". This was a welcome improvement from government statements earlier in week slamming vulnerable countries in the Pacific and Africa.

Although there are many reasons for the failure in Copenhagen, we would note that developed countries, including New Zealand, did not meet the deadlines promised at Poznan for agreeing on aggregate and individual targets and that New Zealand was one of the last to propose an individual target. CDN further notes that aggregate ambition from developed countries is clearly inadequate and implies a disproportionate burden on poorer developing countries if the 2 degrees goal is to be achieved, let alone 1.5 degrees.

The onus remains on industrialised countries like New Zealand to demonstrate a level of ambition commensurate with achieving the objective of preventing dangerous climate change worldwide. The next steps now are the same as they were before Copenhagen. We call on the Government to:

- Commit to a responsibility target of at least 40% by 2020
- Provide financing for 2010-2012 for both mitigation and adaptation

- Agree to fund a fair proportion of the of US\$100 billion needed for developing country mitigation and the US\$100 billion needed for adaptation by 2020
- Commit to negotiating a binding treaty (now to be agreed in Mexico in December 2010)

The 40% by 2020 target accounts for our historical emissions and capability to mitigate, calculated specifically for New Zealand relative to other Annex I countries. The basis for the 40% was detailed recently in the New Zealand Medical Journal, which we attach for your information. This is alongside issues of fairness and New Zealand's responsibilities as a global citizen (please see pages 2-4 and 6-8 of that NZMJ Special Article).

In addition, CDN expresses concern over, and opposition to, any attempt to move away from the UNFCCC process. Of course the process should be reviewed and improved but, as experience in the World Trade Organisation has shown, less transparency and more back-room deals between small groups of powerful countries does not result in efficient or effective decision-making. Bridging the current gaps between countries requires a new emphasis on the global common good and equity. New Zealand would, in all likelihood, be a casualty of any move away from an inclusive approach to climate change negotiations.

Now is a good time to commit to the 40% target, compromise on the conditions attached to the target and offer the cash needed.

Yours sincerely

Don Locke  
 Climate Defence Network  
[www.climatedefence.org.nz](http://www.climatedefence.org.nz)

**Climate Defence Network - Supporting Organisations**

ATLA (Alternative Transport and Lifestyle Association)  
 CAN (Cycling Advocates' Network)  
 Christian World Service  
 ECO (Environmental and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand)  
 EDS (Environmental Defence Society)  
 Engineers for Social Responsibility  
 Forest & Bird  
 Friends of the Earth NZ  
 Gecko  
 Greenpeace New Zealand  
 Nelson Environment Centre  
 NZ CAP (NZ Climate Action Partnership)  
 OraTaiao (New Zealand Climate and Health)  
 Oxfam NZ  
 Pacific Institute for Resource Management (PIRM) and Pacific Ecologist  
 Public Health Association of NZ  
 The Sustainable Energy Forum  
 WWF - New Zealand

cc Hon. Murray McCully  
 Minister of Foreign Affairs

cc Hon. Dr. Nick Smith  
Minister for the Environment, Minister Responsible for Climate Change Issues

cc Hon Tim Groser  
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues (International Negotiations)

Attachment: Metcalfe S, Woodward A, Macmillan A, et al. Why New Zealand must rapidly halve its greenhouse gas emissions. N Z Med J. 2009;122:U3827. <http://www.nzma.org.nz/journal/122-1304/3827/>,  
<http://nzchg.webs.com/files/Metcalfe%20et%20al%20NZMJ%202009.pdf>