

Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

November 28, 2008

Prime Minister,

The undersigned environmental and international development organizations wish to thank you for your recent announcement of funding for adaptation to climate change in developing countries, a step in the right direction that we hope will be followed by further commitments by Canada on ambitious action to fight climate change.

We also write to express our belief that the best destination for Canada's contribution is the Adaptation Fund of the Kyoto Protocol. A contribution to the Adaptation Fund would send a strong signal of Canada's commitment to effective climate adaptation, a key issue in the negotiations for a post-2012 global climate deal.

The Fourteenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which gets underway on December 1 in Poznan, Poland, is expected to fully operationalize the Adaptation Fund, building on successful negotiations in Nairobi in 2006 and Bali in 2007. This Fund is designed to reduce the vulnerability of developing countries to climate change by financing adaptation projects aligned with countries' needs and priorities, and designed to provide transparent decision-making and an equitable governance structure. The Adaptation Fund is designed to receive a share of proceeds from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), but is capable of accepting contributions from other sources of funding as well.

As the share of the proceeds from the CDM has not yet been monetized, contributions to this Fund are crucial to allow it to expeditiously start supporting adaptation activities in the most vulnerable countries. Furthermore, contributions are necessary as the expected scale of resources from the CDM is nowhere near the level of funding needed.

As you know, the world's adaptation needs are massive: the UNFCCC Secretariat has estimated that the world will face adaptation needs amounting "to several tens of billion United States dollars" annually. The same study notes that additional contributions of public dollars are needed, particularly for adaptation needs in developing and least developed countries. Unfortunately, it is the world's poorest people — those who have done the least to contribute to climate change — who feel the effects of global warming first and hardest. The Adaptation Fund can be a key mechanism to begin meeting these needs; of course, adaptation funding must be increased by a few orders of magnitude as part of the post-2012 climate deal.

Prime Minister, we believe that the Poznan meeting presents Canada with an ideal opportunity to show leadership in fighting global warming by contributing the \$100 million to the Adaptation Fund instead of the other multilateral alternatives, such as the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds. Developing countries and civil society groups have expressed concerns about the governance arrangements and funding track record of the World Bank. In contrast, developing countries have pushed hard to make the Adaptation Fund operational and to ensure that its governance is equitable.

A Canadian contribution to the Adaptation Fund would help to build goodwill among the Parties at the negotiation table, a step towards a successful outcome of the negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009. This contribution would also help Canada to begin fulfilling its UNFCCC obligation to "assist the developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting costs of adaptation to those adverse effects." Finally, dedicating Canada's contribution to the Adaptation Fund would help to address a crisis that you have rightly called "perhaps the biggest threat to confront the future of humanity today."

Thank you for your consideration of this timely and important matter.

Sincerely,

Canadian Council for International Co-operation  
Canadian Foodgrains Bank  
Climate Action Network – Réseau Action Climat  
David Suzuki Foundation  
The Halifax Initiative Coalition  
KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives  
One Sky  
Pembina Institute  
Sierra Club of Canada  
The United Church Of Canada

CC:

Hon. Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment  
Hon. Beverley Oda, Minister of International Cooperation  
Hon. Stéphane Dion, Leader of the Official Opposition  
Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Québécois  
Hon. Jack Layton, Leader of the NDP  
Michael Martin, Chief Negotiator and Ambassador for Climate Change