

# Keep Nuclear out of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and other UNFCCC mechanisms – nuclear power blocks our road to a new green deal and climate protection!

*Statement from the Women's major group, supported by the Indigenous, the Youth, the Local Authorities and the Environmental Major Group at the CSF<sup>1</sup> To the UNEP governing council meeting and Global Environmental Ministers Forum, Nairobi, February 2009*

In the coming months, world governments will take the decision on whether to make nuclear power eligible for the CDM, or its successor or any other financial mechanism, or technology transfer, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>2</sup>. If nuclear power becomes eligible for the CDM under the Kyoto framework or its successor, it will gain access to new sources of financing, and will be seen as having received “the blessing” of the United Nations as a “green energy” solution.

Taking into account the **2008 scenario**<sup>3</sup> which shows, that even a massive, four-fold expansion of nuclear power **by 2050** would provide only **marginal reductions (4%) in greenhouse gas emissions**, we want to express our great concern, as nuclear power is a threat to human survival at every step; from uranium mining, to production to waste. There is not one part of the nuclear power chain which is not connected to human rights violations, of **indigenous and women's rights** and the **rights of future generations**.

In times of financial crisis and job insecurity, investing thousands of billions in nuclear power expansion<sup>4</sup> to reduce CO2 emission by only 4%, stands **in total contradiction to the green economy as nuclear power creates very few and dangerous jobs**. With the same amount of investment millions of households<sup>5</sup> can be turned into net renewable energy producers, creating millions of decent and healthy jobs, saving a magnitude more CO2 emission, saving energy costs, improving living standards, in conclusion: **fighting poverty and climate at the same time**. There is a huge potential for such projects especially in LDCs, unfortunately the current CDM mechanism is not accessible for household level projects.

**We therefore recommend the UNEP governing council meeting:**

1. to make a statement to **recommend the governments of the world to keep nuclear power out of the CDM** (or its successor) or any other UNFCCC mechanism, as it is in conflict with the goals of CDM of environmental integrity and promoting sustainable development.
2. Instead, the UNEP GC should propose to **create a simplified CDM mechanism** for sustainable energy projects at household and community level, including improved funding conditions<sup>6</sup> for smaller scale and cutting-edge technology projects. Such projects should be developed in consultation with the local communities, including women, and should be accessible to them. To achieve this there should be **simplified registration procedures for micro projects (<15.000 tCO2 eq/year)** as well as the creation of specialised Designated Operational Entities (DOEs) for small communities projects.
3. The UNEP GC should however promote that **Annex 1 countries, must reduce emissions in a first step in their own countries in the range recommended by the**

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<sup>1</sup> Civil Society Forum, Nairobi, 14-15 Feb.09

<sup>2</sup> See proposal added during the Agra, Ghana, meeting, 2008

<sup>3</sup> Published by the International Energy Agency and the OECD

<sup>4</sup> An estimated 3000 billion USD for a fourfold nuclear power increase, bring only a up to 4% CO2 reductions

<sup>5</sup> At 20,000 USD per household, see presentation by WECF at the high-level gender conference, UNEP, 15 February 2009

<sup>6</sup> To address the barrier of upfront funding required, a CDM bank for upfront funding could be created, also, fixed and high prices of CERs for these small CDM projects should be assured and grants for transaction costs put in place.

**IPCC**<sup>7</sup> and use the CDM offsetting mechanism only for truly sustainable energy efficiency and renewables projects beyond this range, and should meet the Gold Standard criteria.

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<sup>7</sup> 25-40%