

Right Honourable John Key,
Prime Minister of New Zealand,
Parliament Buildings,
Wellington.

November 27, 2009

Dear Prime Minister,

As you know, in December the world's governments will meet in Copenhagen to take crucial decisions on one of the most fundamental challenges ever to confront humanity – climate change. **We urge you to attend this unique summit, COP15, in your personal capacity.** Together you and other world leaders can and must make the breakthrough the world desperately needs.

Time is running out for preventing catastrophic climate change. We now know that an increase in global temperature of even 1.5°C could lead to irreversible impacts, and 2°C risks triggering catastrophic runaway climate change. We need a global plan that peaks global emissions by 2015 and starts declining rapidly thereafter. Delay by even 5 years would significantly hinder the possibilities of staying below a 2°C increase, as the annual reduction rate required after the peak would become draconian. Every year of delay would increase mid term mitigation costs by hundreds of billions of US dollars in the energy sector alone.

Citizens of the world want action now. Never before have we seen such a wave of appeals for urgent and ambitious action from all sectors of civil society and from all parts of the world. Scientists, global trade unions, leaders of the largest faith groups, indigenous peoples' coalitions, progressive industry alliances, large investors, human rights organisations, youth groups, military experts, medical organisations - to name but a few - have appealed to you, our world leaders, to deliver an ambitious outcome from Copenhagen and warned about the consequences of failing to do so.

In your name, your negotiators are steering the world towards mass extinction, mass starvation and human catastrophe. Delay is no longer acceptable. There is still enough time to reach a fair, ambitious and binding deal in Copenhagen, but what is lacking is political will. We are appealing to you to do your utmost to create an environment of cooperation and mutual trust that will enable the breakthrough the world is waiting for.

We appeal to you to come to Copenhagen with a reduction target that is based on IPCC recommendations and with financial support – based on equity – to enable developing countries to act. Please increase New Zealand's target to 40% below 1990 levels. This would enable New Zealand to show environmental leadership and protect its clean green reputation.

Greenpeace is concerned at a number of decisions New Zealand has made over the last year, including scrapping a partial ban on fossil-fuel thermal power stations, raiding the public transport budget to build more roads and amending the emissions trading scheme to excessively subsidise big polluters at the expense of ordinary citizens and the climate. These actions do not align with a country that claims to be "100% Pure."

All the crunch issues must be resolved in Copenhagen and they need to be captured as legal text in an amended Kyoto Protocol and a new Copenhagen Protocol, which will require ratification.

- **Industrialised countries** as a group must commit to emissions reductions of at least 40% from 1990 levels by 2020 and agree a way to break that down into individual, legally binding obligations for a five year commitment period of 2013-2017. They must also agree to legally binding financial commitments to deliver at least \$US140 billion annually for adaptation, clean technology and forest protection in developing countries

All commitments need to be comparable, and need to be legally binding, thereby building upon and strengthening the provisions in the Kyoto Protocol.

- Enabled by financial and technological support, **developing countries** need to reduce their projected emissions growth by at least 15-30% by 2020 in the energy and industry sectors and put in place national plans to end tropical deforestation and related emissions by 2020
- The most **vulnerable countries** need to give priority to adaptation and must receive financial support to do so

The time for political declarations or politically binding handshakes is over. Copenhagen provides a unique opportunity for real change. Together you and other world leaders can make history in Copenhagen by agreeing to a fair, ambitious and binding agreement. We, with our friends from around the globe, will be there with high hopes and expectations of you.

Yours sincerely,



Kumi Naidoo

Executive Director
Greenpeace International