

The President
White House
Washington, DC

Mr. Luis Inácio Lula da Silva
President of Brazil

Dear Messrs. President:

On March 14th, you will meet for the first time, in Washington, D.C., to discuss joint measures the United States and Brazil may take to address the global financial crisis. Greenpeace welcomes this meeting as a demonstration of the kind of joint leadership that will be needed not only to solve the financial crisis, but to simultaneously meet the urgent challenge of global climate change. We respectfully urge you to set aside part of your meeting to discuss how the United States and Brazil can work together to address that challenge and move the world toward a clean energy economy.

Climate scientists meeting in Copenhagen this week issued a dire warning that climate impacts are unfolding with a speed and severity far greater than previously projected. To have any hope of avoiding truly catastrophic climate change, the nations of the world must act now and must act together. The window for timely action is small and closing rapidly.

As two of the world's largest economies and two of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, the United States and Brazil have both a shared responsibility to avert climate catastrophe and a shared opportunity to create a new, more vibrant and more sustainable global economy. To do so, they can and must work together to eliminate tropical deforestation and the greenhouse emissions it creates, and adopt economic revitalization measures that promote real climate solutions and replace fossil fuels and nuclear energy with renewable energy and sustainable jobs.

In recent months, each country has taken important steps in the right direction, but much more remains to be done.

Under the leadership of President Lula, Brazil recently announced clear and objective national targets to reduce deforestation in the Amazon. In doing so, the Lula administration has committed to confront and dramatically reduce Brazil's largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions. We call on President Lula to deliver on this commitment and guarantee that Brazil will meet its deforestation reduction targets. The need for environmental protection and emission reduction must inform and guide every action of his government.

During his campaign, President Obama pledged to restore the United States to its historic leadership role in the fight against climate change. President Obama took important steps toward that goal by including huge investments in renewable energy and energy conservation in his economic stimulus plan, thus demonstrating that we can rebuild the global economy with green jobs that are good for workers and for the environment. He took further steps by calling for a cap and 100% auction system for carbon dioxide in his 2010 budget, and by moving to regulate those same emissions under existing U.S. law, signaling that the era of unregulated carbon emissions is coming to a close.

At the same time, however, President Obama suggested targets for near term emission reduction that fall short of what is needed and of what is possible—causing many in the international community to question whether the U.S. is truly ready and able to lead. We call on President Obama to demonstrate America's commitment to the international process by setting a target for achieving overall U.S. emission reductions of 25% below 1990 levels by 2020. Greenpeace's new Energy [R]evolution report shows that the U.S. can reduce its carbon dioxide emissions to at

least 12.5% below 1990 levels by increasing energy efficiency and reducing its reliance on fossil fuels. Further cuts can be achieved through the phase-out of flourocarbons, changes in domestic agriculture and land use practices, and through international measures.

Even as each country acts alone, however, our countries can achieve much more by acting together, both bilaterally and on the world stage. Strong joint leadership from Brazil and the United States this year can help bridge the North-South divide and catalyze unprecedented global cooperation.

At the bilateral level, cooperation between Brazil and the United States has enormous potential. Brazil is extremely rich in natural resources, such as wind, sun and biomass that are key to a new energy economy. By combining Brazil's immense capacity for renewable energy with America's technological capacity and global influence, our countries can revolutionize the world's energy landscape, with benefits both within and beyond our borders.

As with the economic crisis, however, solving the climate crisis will require political will and significant financial resources from all countries. Therefore, it is fundamental that Brazil and the United States support the establishment of an international fund to support measures to fight climate change. President Obama must call on the US Congress to lead by deploying \$16 billion a year in funding to protect tropical forests worldwide, in addition to funding for climate adaptation and to support developing countries in taking on technologies they need to leap frog directly into the clean energy economy that the economic stimulus package will help to build. Brazil must commit to use those resources to achieve substantial departures from business-as-usual emissions and must call on other rapidly industrializing countries to do the same.

Finally, we call on both presidents to attend the UN climate conference in Copenhagen this December. By doing so, you will demonstrate that you have committed yourselves and your respective nations to achieving an international agreement that meets the challenge of climate change, and send a clear message to the world that there is no time to waste on saving peoples' lives, jobs and planet.

Respectfully,

Mike Clark
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