SHARING TECHNOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE

It is essential to establish guidelines in order to create a multilateral and multidisciplinary mechanism for participatory control, management, and evaluation of the exchange of technologies. These technologies must be useful, clean and socially sound.

People's Agreement, April 2010, Cochabamba

Key messages

- Knowledge is universal and must be freely available to all people

- A mechanism under the UNFCCC is needed to scale up technology transfer

- Technologies must be assessed to ensure they are useful, clean and socially sound

- Barriers – including intellectual property – must be removed

- We must recover and relearn traditional wisdom to live well in harmony with Mother Earth

Sharing and transferring knowledge, skills and technology – on levels never before conceived – is essential if we are to address the climate crisis. The solutions exist: ecological agriculture, renewable energy, improved public transportation, traditional practices of living well, and many others. We need a new era of cooperation to deploy these socially and environmentally sound solutions in every country, sector and location to help all people to live well in harmony with each other and with Mother Earth

The responsibility of developed countries

In recognition of their historical responsibilities for climate change developed countries are committed under the UN Climate Convention to:

- Promote technology transfer in all sectors including the energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management

- Fund the agreed "full incremental costs" of technology transfer to developing countries

- Take "all practicable steps" to promote, facilitate and finance the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and know-how to developing countries

- Enhance the endogenous capacities and technologies of developing countries

Fulfilling these responsibilities is fundamental if the developed countries are to honor their climate debts and implement their commitments under the Convention. It is also in the rich countries' self-interest in order to avoid catastrophic climate change and the crossing of irreversible tipping points.

The scale of the challenge

The scale of the challenge is unprecedented. Technology transfer and deployment must occur on a scale sufficient to enable development while pea-

king global emissions within the next decade and returning greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to well below 300ppm CO2eq, and as close as possible to pre-industrial levels in the longer-term. It must also enable effective adaptation to adverse effects of climate change by all affected communities.

Promoting the exchange of sound technologies

Solutions must be ecologically and socially sound. The use and transfer of nuclear, so-called "clean" fossil fuel, genetic engineering and other false solutions must be opposed. Geo-engineering technologies, in particular, present a grave threat. Technologies must be systematically assessed to ensure they are useful, clean and socially sound.

Overcoming barriers to technology development and transfer

Solutions must be made publicly available for the common good. Climate change represents an existential threat. So rules in other areas, including intellectual property rights, must be adjusted to reflect this. Intellectual property rights present a barrier to the availability, affordability and adaptability of existing and new technologies:

- All relevant forums must remove barriers associated with intellectual property rights

Key issues for negotiations

To support these objectives, the climate negotiations must at a minimum deliver:

- A global goal for technology transfer to developing countries

- A new Technology Mechanism and Framework including a new Subsidiary Body to oversee a Technology Network and Technology Centers

- A new Technology Transfer Fund (or window) under the Conference of Parties

- Specific commitments to transfer technologies "in all relevant sectors" under UNFCCC

- Specific commitments to enhance technologies and capacities in developing countries

- Technology assessment to ensure solutions are ecologically and socially sound

- Removal of intellectual property barriers to sharing technologies, skills and knowledge

- Full participation of all affected communities in climate-related decision-making

- Knowledge banks should be created in each country and internationally

- A platform for exchange must be established to enable sharing of solutions, managed collectively by and for the people

Ecological and communal education and creation of capacities

Underpinning these efforts must be an effort to integrate sustainability into our educational systems. These must enhance understanding about how we relate to each other and the Earth, and build on ancestral and cultural knowledge that reconnect us with nature and reflect the fundamental truth that "Mother Earth does not belong to us, we belong to it".

Recognizing and respecting technologies and ancestral knowledge

Many of the solutions to the climate crisis are to be found in traditional knowledge and practices. We must recover and relearn the principles and approaches of indigenous peoples to stop the destruction of the planet, and promote intercultural dialogue and scientific exchange between nations with the goal of achieving human rights and balance with nature.

A global goal for technology

To address the climate crisis exchange must occur in practice – it must be measurable. We need a global goal for technology transfer setting the values and volumes of technology required to curb emissions and adapt to climate change, building on recognition by the world's top scientists in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that an option for a long-term goal is "is an agreement on specific long-term actions such as a technology R&D and diffusion target".

Bold public investment strategies, such as funding for feed-in tariffs for renewable energy in developing countries, are needed to quickly set in motion a transition towards non-fossil societies while increasing access to energy for the poor.

Systems change not climate change

Technology must be part of the solution. But technology alone is not the solution. Ultimately, the spiraling crises that confront us will only be solved through a fundamental change in the system that caused them – the model of life and development that has led to climate change. As long as we do not confront these root causes, we are likely to see an escalation of new, dangerous large-scale techno-fixes – such as inherently risky geo-engineering schemes – put forth as "solutions". These must be opposed and stopped.

Technology must therefore be seen as an integral part of a broader effort to address the underlying, structural causes of climate change and reintroduce harmony among people and with Mother Earth. Just as humanity had power to push our world to the brink of disaster, we have the capacity to return it into balance. We must seize this opportunity at all levels, including at the UN climate negotiations.