

## ARAB CLIMATE CAMPAIGN

### Position Paper – October 2007

Climate change is already harming people and ecosystems. Its reality can be seen in melting glaciers, disintegrating polar ice, thawing permafrost, dying coral reefs, rising sea levels, changing ecosystems and fatal heat waves. However, all of this is only the beginning. We are already experiencing dangerous climate change. What we need to do is to avoid catastrophic climate change.

The climate is a global common, and the high contribution of industrialized and oil producing countries to climate change are bound to have global impacts.

Countries have common, but differentiated responsibility towards this problem. What is needed is a global greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of at least 50% by 2050 in order to limit global temperature rise below 2°C (recent reports say that we need at least 60 to 80% reduction to achieve this target). This is necessary to avoid extreme climate change impacts. To achieve this target, greenhouse gas emissions should peak not later than 2015.

Since burning fossil fuels is the main source of greenhouse gases, we need to decrease our dependence on oil as our energy source, by adopting renewable energy and energy efficiency policies and technologies. Renewable energy and energy efficiency are the only possible solution for climate change. The underlying advantage of renewable energy is that the fuel is free, abundant and inexhaustible. For example, the total amount of energy irradiated from the sun to the earth's surface is enough to provide for annual global energy consumption around 3000 times over. The benefit of renewable energy is not only limited to climate change, but also environmental protection, economic growth, job creation and diversity of fuel supply.

IndyAct believes in the principle of "producer responsibility". Therefore, not only industrialized countries, but also fossil-fuel producing ones are the countries directly responsible for climate change, and must cut their emissions and their fossil-fuel extraction drastically, with a set time frame.

Negotiations for the post-Kyoto or second commitment period have already started, and we still need to insure that the right commitments are adopted in this new process. This means that some countries, especially the US and Saudi

Arabia, should stop hindering climate negotiations on the regional and international level.

Also, in order to reach a global greenhouse gas reduction of at least 50% by 2050, means industrialized countries must cut global greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80%, while developing countries should not be allowed to increase global greenhouse gas emissions more than 30%.

So every country has a role to play, including developing countries. With the upcoming post-Kyoto negotiations, developing countries should set clear emissions caps and resort to clean development mechanisms in their energy policy in the future.

This also applies to the Arab World, which has a big role to play in the global climate change issue, due the following reasons:

- The Arab World region is one of the most impacted region by climate change, especially in the water and agricultural sectors, which will threaten our food security and livelihood
- The Arab World shares a major responsibility to the problem due to its oil producing countries
- Oil-rich Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, have been actively hindering climate negotiations
- The Arab World is rich with renewable energy and can play an active role in the solution, especially in CSP technology and exporting solar energy to Europe (trans-Med project) and Africa.
- With a combined population of 325 million people in 23 countries, the Arab World voice can heavily impact the global climate change debate and policies.

Up until now, there is no concrete climate change campaign in the Arab World, and it is up to the Arab civil society to achieve the required change in their region. Therefore, IndyAct launched its Arab Climate Campaign to insure that:

1. The Arab World supports and commits towards a global greenhouse gas reduction goal of at least 50% by 2050, while actively and positively engaging the global climate change debate / negotiation to meet that target.

2. Rich oil producing countries in the Arab World recognize and accept their responsibility for climate change according to their historic oil trade, and establish commitments to mitigate climate change accordingly.
3. The Arab League supports and ratifies a new protocol for the second commitment period, which includes specific CO2 emission caps for developing countries and specific obligations on rich fossil-fuel producing countries.