



"Climate Change as a Challenge for Poverty Reduction"

Conference Announcement

Date: 18 November 2005, 9:30 until 17.00

Location: Gustav-Heinemann-Haus, Bonn

Organisers: Germanwatch and Brot fuer die Welt

Background

It gets more and more obvious that global climate change will have deep impacts on the people living in developing countries. The consequences of the global rise in temperature can effect massively the food and water supply in different regions e.g. by changing precipitation and by an increase or an intensification of extreme weather events. A growing number of scientific studies show possibly disastrous effects on regions like the Sahel, coastlines or the tropical rainforest. Climate change may undermine achieving the so called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) pursued by the international community, even if there are great efforts to achieve specific goals and targets.

German and international development organisations consider poverty reduction as a key objective of their development cooperation. The poorest people in developing countries being also the main target group of development cooperation suffer most from global climate change. On the one hand poverty increases the vulnerability of individuals, groups in societies or regions towards a changing climate, extreme weather events, floods and so on. On the other hand the growing climate stress increases poverty of more and more people. The International Red Cross has already reported that presently there are more environmental than war refugees. A growing number of extreme weather events can also have consequences for the resources intended for long-term development assistance if they are more and more absorbed by disaster help and recovery then needed.

Therefore, it is extremely relevant to identify the links between poverty reduction and the consequences of global climate change for development cooperation. Development organisations together with environmental and disaster NGOs from Great Britain and the Netherlands have already formed coalitions in order to address that problem more targeted. Their experiences will contribute to the conference.

During the conference we are going to show visible changes among others in developing countries by satellite photos.

Objectives of the conference

Against this background, the conference aims at:

- perspectives for poverty reduction and climate change after the 2005 United Nations World Summit reviewing the MDGs' process and after the G8 Summit 2005 in Gleneagles with special focus on Africa and climate change;
- a discussion of the links between climate change and food security;

- an analysis concerning the need for action on the part of affected persons in developing countries;
- sharing ideas and exchanging experiences of German and European development organisations regarding their activities with respect to adaptation to climate change;
- exchange about the political role of development cooperation in the climate debate, e.g. by concerted activities with environmental organisation, like this has already taken place in Great Britain and the Netherlands;
- identifying and making recommendations and demands for the national and international climate and development policy.

Throughout the conference German-English translation will be provided.

The conference is sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

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