

Cooling the Planet: Frontline Communities lead the struggle *A public meeting by the Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles*

“We, social movements, grassroots organizations and civil society organizations engaged in the defense of the rights to land and water are fighting back, asserting our rights and providing real solutions. We believe that peoples’ access to and control of land and water is essential to peace, to stopping climate change, as well as to fulfilling fundamental human rights and guaranteeing a dignified life for all.”

Dakar to Tunis: Declaration of the Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles.

The Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles is an initiative initiated and led by grassroots organizations and social movements in order to link and strengthen the struggles for food and peoples’ sovereignty and human rights. This process started in October 2014, as several social and grassroots movements from Africa as well as civil society organizations gathered at the African Social Forum in Dakar to protest against all forms of natural resource grabbing and the systematic human rights violations that accompany them. Sharing their ideas, they recognized the essential solidarity between their struggles and decided to meet again at the World Social Forum to continue this dialogue with movements and organizations from all over the world. The declaration “*Rights to Water and Land, a Common Struggle. Dakar to Tunis Declaration of the Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles*”¹ sets out the vision, principles and aspirations of the Convergence and is intended to serve the process of building a strong and united movement struggling for the enforcement of public policies based on food and peoples’ sovereignty in order to realize the human rights to food and nutrition, water, land and territories, seeds, and others. The Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles is a response by local communities and grassroots organizations around the world who assert their rights, provide real solutions and resist and struggle against the threats to their lives and well-being, particularly through the appropriation of natural resources by companies, governments, elites, and speculators.

The social movements and organizations promoting this Declaration invite you to join their space of convergence during the COP21 in Paris.

Thursday 10 December @1-5pm in Paris, join the conversations with *frontline communities*

Venue: Salle Olympe de Gouge, Metro Voltaire (line 9): <https://goo.gl/maps/aYfLwb7j9W82>
<http://www.mairie11.paris.fr/mairie11/>

Languages: French, English, Spanish (simultaneous interpretation)

Small-scale food producers and consumers, including peasants, indigenous peoples, hunters and gatherers, family farmers, rural workers, herders and pastoralists, fisherfolk and urban people – the *frontline communities* – are increasingly confronted by the grabbing of natural resources and by systematic violations of human rights. They are also directly affected by the impacts of climate destruction. The climate change mitigation schemes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which are presented as “solutions” to the man-made climate crisis are false solutions given that they are intrinsically linked to these resource grabs and human rights violations.

¹ Rights to Water and Land, a Common Struggle. Dakar to Tunis: Declaration of the Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles, available at http://viacampesina.org/en/images/stories/pdf/2015-04-Dakar%20to%20Tunis%20Declaration_EN_finalfinal.pdf.

At this public event, you will get the unique opportunity to listen to and engage in conversations with representatives of frontline communities from all regions of the world. These leaders of the struggle for climate justice participate in panel sessions and will discuss the *false* solutions to the climate crisis of the UNFCCC, the *real* solutions which are rooted in peoples' knowledge and experiences, and how the Global Convergence on Land and Water Struggles can advance the struggle for systemic change.

Why this meeting?

Double impact: One of the most immediate effects of the *false* solutions to the current man-made climate crisis is people's loss of access to land and water – the very natural resources upon which people depend for their livelihoods and food sovereignty. Privatisation and financialisation of nature is the intended result of UNFCCC schemes such as REDD+ and it is well known to dispossess masses of people. Already pushed to the fringe, deprived of access to land and water in rural and urban settings, frontline communities also face the increasingly frequent natural disasters that are caused by the climate change – and the inability of governments to agree to *real* solutions.

Systemic changes: the *real* solutions articulated by frontline communities derive from local livelihood strategies and practices. A commonality of the diverse – and locally adapted – real solutions, is that these build on the needs and interests of the people and require a fundamental shift away from solutions that are developed by and for a minority elite. In this way, real solutions are intrinsically linked to the necessity of systemic changes.

The Global Convergence on Land and Water Struggles unpacks and further develops the real solutions through *frontline* dialogue. The public event will advance this dialogue by giving the platform to frontline communities and ensuring space for interaction with the audience. In short, the convergence will show the way forward.

The event is divided into three panel sessions: false solutions, real solutions, and showing the way forward.

Want more?

In addition with this event, the social movements and organisations associated with this convergence have a series of other workshops in the course of these days, which also deal with water and land struggles. Join us to learn more at the following events

People's sovereignty vs. corporate impunity (Global campaign to dismantle corporate power)
Dec 5th: People's Climate Summit in Montreuil, Metro line 9 Mairie de Montreuil stop

Peasant agriculture is protecting the Earth (LVC)

Peasant leaders present how agribusiness disrupt climate and how peasant agriculture protects the Earth.

Dec 5th: People's Climate Summit in Montreuil, Metro line 9 Mairie de Montreuil stop

Free Trade Agreements: Which impacts on agriculture? (LVC)

Dec 5th: People's Climate Summit in Montreuil, Metro line 9 Mairie de Montreuil stop

Wars, Military, Climate (TNI + friends)

Launch of the book *The Secure and the Dispossessed, How the Military and Corporations are*

shaping a climate-changed world

Dec 5th: 20:00, Café Le Lieu Dit, 6, rue Sorbier, Metro Line 2 Mélinmontant stop

System change not climate change: uniting struggles for climate justice, rejecting false solutions, and changing the system (Global campaign to dismantle corporate power)

Dec 6th: Climate Space, People's Climate Summit in Montreuil, Metro line 9 Mairie de Montreuil stop

The great climate robbery (GRAIN)

Launch of the book *The great climate robbery: How the food system drives climate change and what we can do about it*

Dec 7th: 17:30, Café Zango, 15 Rue du Cygne, Metro line 4 Etienne Marcel stop

Industrial agriculture is a false solution to climate change (LVC)

Dec 7th: 12:00, Climate Action Zone at the Centquatre, 5 Rue Curial, Metro line 7 Riquet stop

Blue Carbon: ocean grabbing in disguise (WFFP, WFF + friends)

Leaders of fisher communities share insights on false climate solutions and real solutions for climate justice

Dec 8th: 15:00, Climate Action Zone at the Centquatre, 5 Rue Curial, Metro line 7 Riquet stop

Cooling the earth with peasant agriculture and food sovereignty (LVC + friends)

Peasant leaders discuss grassroots solutions to climate change born of firsthand experiences organizing some of the communities most affected by the climate crisis

Dec 8th: 13:45, Generation Climat Centre, COP21 site, Rer B Le bourget stop.

Trade, Climate and Corporate Power Convergence Assembly (ATTAC France, S2B network, AITEC, TNI, Global campaign to dismantle corporate power)

Dec 8th: Climate Action Zone at the Centquatre, 5 Rue Curial, Metro line 7 Riquet stop

Day of Peasant Agriculture and Food Sovereignty (LVC + friends)

Range of activities – conference, workshops, photo exhibit, film projection – to voice peasants' real solutions to climate change.

Dec 9th: Climate Action Zone at the Centquatre, 5 Rue Curial, Metro line 7 Riquet stop

Climate change and the threat to food, land and water resources (Asian Peoples Movement on Debt & Development)

Dec 9th: 11:00, Salle Croizat, 3 rue du château d'eau, Metro stop République

Struggle against industrial livestock and feedstock production: support for small-farmer agroecology (LVC + friends)

Representatives from communities impacted and struggling against industrial livestock and feedstock production will present testimonies.

Dec 9th: 13:00, Climate Action Zone at the Centquatre, 5 Rue Curial, Metro line 7 Riquet stop

No to agribusiness, yes to peasant agriculture to protect Earth (LVC)

Dec 9th: 16:30, Climate Action Zone at the Centquatre, 5 Rue Curial, Metro line 7 Riquet

Migrant voices in the struggle against climate change (LVC + friends)

Members of migrant communities and organizations will speak of the impact of climate change on migrants and the proposals our members have for a just transition.

Dec 10th: 17:45, Generation Climat Centre, COP21 site, Rer B Le bourget stop.