

CLIMATE JUSTICE FAST!



Media Release

20 November 2009

For immediate release

Climate hunger strike enters third week

As they enter the third week of a global hunger strike, Climate Justice Fast members remain steadfast in calling for a binding resolution to come out of the Copenhagen climate summit, despite recent statements by world leaders that such an agreement is unlikely to eventuate.

Negotiators and politicians around the world have lowered expectations for the summit, with some stating that only a 'political agreement' can be expected.

"This is a political cop-out," 23-year-old Australian hunger-striker Anna Keenan said from Copenhagen. "The nations negotiating within the UN framework have been delaying real action on climate change for the last 15 years."

Paul Connor, leading the hunger-strike from Canberra, Australia, agreed, "The announcement of negotiators willing to settle for a 'politically binding' agreement is all the more reason for citizens like us to be taking extreme actions like a hunger-strike, or engaging in civil disobedience."

"If, by lowering expectations for the summit now, they are trying to soften the blow, or drive us into hopelessness so we give up, it's not working. It just makes us more resolute."

"More than ever, we need more people to join the climate movement," said Connor. "The future of our children, and our nations, is at stake. We should be willing to do whatever it takes to get politicians to finally act."

The head of the UN's Climate Change Support Team, Janos Pasztor, has pointed to the US Congress' inability to pass a climate bill, as well as industrialised nations' refusal to set targets to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions, as major impediments to getting a deal in Copenhagen. Funding to help developing countries limit their emissions is also a stumbling block, he noted.

Ms Keenan also pointed out that the delay "defied economic logic", as every year of inaction increases the human and ecological damage from climate impacts, especially to the poorest and most climate-vulnerable nations. Costs to mitigate climate change damage escalate annually, with last week's International Energy Agency's *World Energy Outlook 2010* estimating that each year of political delay increases the cost of reducing greenhouse emissions by a further US\$500 billion per year.

www.climatejusticefast.com

cjfmedia@gmail.com

tel 61 02 6685 3683

“If the politicians aren’t negotiating a detailed, legally binding treaty anymore, then they should at least commit to getting the basics right - emissions stabilisation at 350ppm, \$160 billion in international climate finance, the end of overconsumption, and the phase-out of fossil fuels.

“Whether it's engaging in civil disobedience, joining our hunger strike, or something as simple as calling your political representatives, or writing letters, we need people to get active.” said Ms Keenan. “Every year of political delay brings scientific tipping points closer to home.”

The global hunger strike has now entered its third week, and Climate Justice Fast members show no sign of abandoning their fasts or easing call for immediate, effective action on climate change. Further information on the strike, as well as a profile of international involvement, can be found by visiting www.climatejusticefast.com.

Ends

Images available

Information contact: Mark Langan +61 02 6685 3683

www.climatejusticefast.com

cjfmedia@gmail.com

tel 61 02 6685 3683