

# **Conference against Warming the Globe 2011 – Tamilnadu**

**(A Journey towards Nature – Human Friendly Development)**

## **MADURAI DECLARATION**

**(Draft Report)**

**22, 23, 24 July 2011,**

**Tamukkam Grounds, Madurai**

**TAMIL NADU**

# **MADURAI DECLARATION**

## **TNCCC 2011 STATEMENT**

1. We are the participants of the) held on 22, 23, 24 July 2011, at Tamukkam Grounds, Madurai came out with this **Conference Against Warming the Globe (A Journey towards Nature – Human Friendly Development Declaration**, which from now on will be called as **The Madurai Declaration**.

### **1.1 Representation of Marginalised Masses:**

We are the members representing civil society organizations, people's movements, peasants, tribals, coastal communities, organic farmers, unorganized workers, students, researchers, academicians, lawyers and citizens who are concerned about the emerging threat brought out by warming the Globe and Climate Destruction.

We express deep concern on the whole processes of Warming the Globe and Climate change that is all pervading destruction to the eco-bio system of The Earth.

#### **1.1.1 Nature and Society: The urgency of the problem:**

The adverse impact of climate change is experienced globally. The climate is so damaged that there is no option to face the crisis with urgency to resolve. Increase in temperature results in chain of undesirable actions such as melting of polar ice, rise in sea levels, floods in coastal belts and change in rainfall patterns. All these factors end up in frequent droughts, heat waves, wind storms, damage to physical infrastructure like homes, water supply, sanitation and health.

### **1.1.2 It is time to take a position for sustainability of Life on Earth:**

Climate change is now a planetary emergency. The crisis of the environment brought about by the destructive and unsustainable practices of profit driven, aggressive economic pattern. The development agenda by the corporates have now put the entire planet in peril. We could have less than a decade to fundamentally alter the way we treat nature and begin to live with it in harmony before irreversible climate change threatens the very existence of majority life on earth.

### **1.1.3. Process of the Conference:**

This conference culminated to this end point for a new beginning in the days to come. The culmination of this conference in with almost one year of long, consistent efforts of various ecologically and socially concerned people in all districts of TamilNadu. The conference was earlier planned in March 2011 but postponed to July due to TamilNadu Legislative Assembly elections. Village level, union level and district level meetings were held in all districts and issues related to climate crisis were discussed in detail in all gatherings. This conference itself is the felt need of the people in different gatherings to make their understanding wider and sensitize all about the urgency of the problem and the need for local action for this global problem.

The conference is planned and organised by the people with shared responsibilities. The economic support to hold the conference is from the people themselves and the entire conference is organised by sensitized, ecologically concerned socially conscious group of people. People from all over the state share the responsibilities and contributed their financial, moral and social support at all possible levels. The decentralised, democratic and joint efforts of the people in

different committees have resulted in this massive conference in the State of TamilNadu and the process itself is learning for a new way of life.

#### **1.1.4. Need to address the issue in Masses:**

One may think that climate changes are beyond our control and nothing can be done against that. It is true that climate change and global warming is quite a natural process. **The present situation is NOT climate change and global warming *BUT CLIMATE DESTRUCTION AND WARMING THE GLOBE.***

1.1.5. The participants of this conference strongly feel that the human induced changes in the Nature had resulted in these adverse impacts. **The present Unjust, Unfair, Inequitable, Market oriented, Profit driven, Exploitative and Aggressive Economic system is solely responsible for Climate Destruction and for Warming the Globe.**

#### **1.1.6. Exploitative Economic System:**

The growing process of industrialisation and the mad race of corporates and multinational companies in the name of development had destroyed the symbiotic relationship of human beings with Nature. The biodiversity is at threat today. The Land, Air and Water are polluted to the core and the poor, powerless, voiceless marginalised majorities are paying the heavy price for this massive destruction by a few for want of more and more power, profit and sheer luxury. 15% of the World riches have control over 80% of the world material and financial resources and 85% of the people living in over 130 countries have no say on the utility and distribution. The gap between the rich and the poor have widened from 3:1 in 1820 to 74:1 in 1997. 300 years of globalised corporate system has systematically made many countries poor, weak and dependant.

Therefore, it is time for the masses who are the victims of this brutal exploitative economic system to raise their voice against it. Though the climate destruction and warming the Globe is done by a few, the unbiased Nature gives the consequences to all in this Universe. It is time for the vulnerable masses to unite and respond to the victimisation; otherwise the entire human race itself will become extinct in the days to come.

### **1.1.7. Prioritise local solutions:**

The fatal climate crisis is global but this global problem has to be addressed both locally and globally at the same time to find a better solution for the future generations to live in this planet.

### **1.1.8. Plea from the participants**

Recognizing the seriousness of the problem, the conference brought out passionate pleas from the participants to protect and safeguard our environment against the dangers of warming the globe.

## **2. Understanding the Present Condition:**

### **2.1. FROM DISASTER TO CATASTROPHE:**

**Rising to 2<sup>o</sup> Celsius:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – IPCC which comprised of more than 2000 scientists from all over the world have declared that since the age of Industrial revolution the average temperature of the earth has increased upto 0.74<sup>o</sup> Celsius.

The melting of glaciers in a faster rate, frequent floods, irregular rainfall pattern and all other related calamities in Nature are due to this 0.74<sup>o</sup> Celsius rise of

temperature. This 0.74<sup>o</sup> Celsius rise of temperature had brought in these calamities and destructions. As per IPCC report, if the Earth experience 2<sup>o</sup>celsius increase of the temperature, we will experience a total catastrophe. In such a situation, the entire situation will be in total chaos. The adaptive techniques of the Earth to set itself right will be totally failed. In 2008 conference in Italy, it was decided that all the countries should take initiatives to contain the Earth temperature within this 2<sup>o</sup>celsius increase. All countries accepted this level and India is one among them.

Though some countries felt that this should be reduced to 1.5<sup>o</sup> Celsius but the existing scenario warns us that we will cross the limit of 2<sup>o</sup>celsius. The alarm signals from the scientists, environmentalists, academicians and researchers warn us that the situation is worse than the earlier years.

### **2.2.1 Green House gases are the causes for Global warming:**

The Earth is warming up every day and some scientists perceive that as a normal rise but the majority feels that it is due to the increase in the emissions of green house gases in the atmosphere. The major reason ascertained for global warming is the emission of green house gases in the atmosphere.

The reasons for increasing emission of green house gases are due to the increasing use of fossil fuels and massive destruction of forests. The civilization which depends on fossil fuel is the cause for present day disasters. Cutting down trees for farming and industrial purposes paves way for the increasing density of carbon in atmosphere. When the forest cover decreases, the absorbing capacity of carbon in the atmosphere also reduces to a greater extent leading to global warming. Carbon is an essential gas for our survival but when the limit in the atmosphere exceeds, ends in a major catastrophe.

### **2.2.2 Corporate Companies are responsible for emission of Green House Gases:**

Global warming is not just because of the emission of the green house gases but the root cause is in our development perspective. The 500 years long journey of economic development in the world history is not symbiotic, eco friendly but anthropocentric, profit oriented and violent. Today, the world economy is controlled, directed, and manipulated by corporate houses without any concern for people and nature.

This market oriented, profit driven economic growth had led us to the situation that we are facing today. The destructive economic paradigm of the MNCs has led the entire world towards a total catastrophe. The present economic paradigm is violent and against global peace.

### **2.2.3 Present development Model is Violent:**

The increase in the density of carbon in the atmosphere and global warming are the consequences of present economic trend and the so called civilization we have built based on the present development agenda. If we have limited ourselves in the exploitation of forest covers and fossil fuels, we would not have been facing such a major climate crisis now. The profit oriented, market centered economy is carefully and strongly built by the MNCs and this economic agenda is violent. GDP is considered as the indicator of Growth and every nation is so particular in raising the GDP.

### **2.2.4. Do we have answers for these questions?**

There are certain important questions we pose to the entire world, especially to the policy makers and the general public to understand the present pattern of development. To increase the GDP, what kinds of goods are produced? Who produce them? Who are the consumers of those goods? What kinds of discrepancies are created because of these production and products? Who have lost their livelihood resources to produce these goods? What is the value of their loss? Does the production process have any impact on the Environment? What will be the future consequences of these impacts? What is their gross value? – These questions are never raised in any of the development projects. The silence that remains behind every development has led us towards development with violence. This violent road has led us to destruction and total catastrophe today.

#### **2.2.5. Globalisation is the Cause for the destruction of Livelihood resources:**

Today, all over the world, in the name of globalisation, people have lost their traditional livelihood rights and poorer have become much poorer. The land is usurped from the hands of the marginalised in the name of Special Economic Zones; Water is privatized, commoditized and owned by a few whereas millions of marginalised have no access to clean drinking water; Air is polluted by the big industries and corruption at all levels go hand in hand with unchecked polluting process in water, land and air. The increasing rate of tuberculosis, water borne and air borne diseases affect the poor and the pharmaceutical industry is thriving sucking the blood of the poor masses. There is ever increasing number of poor people. The discrepancy between people and between nations is on unprecedented increase. The traditional knowledge systems and actions are made futile and meaningless today.

### **2.3 International Initiatives**



**2.3.1.** All the International conferences from Rio de Genera to Cancun have not brought any meaningful discussions or tangible results. The main reason for this set back is that that all these conferences sought solutions within the existing system which is inherently exploitative, unjust and Not Nature Friendly. The National, Regional and Local initiatives too do not bring in desired results since the root cause of the problem is not addressed and the political will to solve the crisis is ultimately lacking. Millions of money is spent for these conferences, workshops and seminars but adding up to warming the globe by more utilization of fossil fuel and emission of aerosol.

**2.3.2.** Voices of the people from the grassroots have to be heard and time tested indigenous methods of sustainable livelihood models have to be replicated. United Nations and all International, National and Regional conferences, planning and discussions should provide enough space for grassroot voices and give due importance to them to make the efforts more meaningful.

### **3. DEMANDS OF THE PARTICIPANTS:**

#### **3.1.1. Political will is needed:**

Climate change mitigation must not be viewed in isolation from other highly important challenges, such as equitable access to energy, clean water, alleviating poverty and achieving economic growth in emerging markets. A very strong uncompromising political will is needed to combat the problem.

### **3.1.2. There should be equitable sharing of resources:**

The proposed Nature-Human centric system acknowledges human beings as bio social by Nature. Its development model is based on the value of sustainability and biodiversity. It maintains the cycle of natural resources, ensures social security and equitable sharing of resources. It promotes people based democracy at the global, regional and local level. With the above said position and perspective, we, the participants of the conference put forth following demands:

### **3.2. Control MNCs and Induced Consumeristic culture:**

We insist that a nature and human friendly development system is the only way out from the chaotic climate crisis. Widening economic inequity and triggered efforts by the MNCs with the support of State towards uncontrolled consumerism should be controlled immediately to save the Earth from further destruction. Consumerism and materialism are deadlier than armed occupation. We call on all States to discourage economic globalisation and liberalization.

### **3.3 Encourage and promote local economies:**

The state should take serious efforts to free the local market from clichés of globalisation and encourage locally acquired knowledge systems, particularly in areas inhabited by the forest dwellers, tribals, indigenous communities and scheduled tribes and Dalits or other marginalised communities. We are against the TNCs' efforts to create market for their products in non-rich countries. We actually do not need the products that only aggravate consumerism and that have nothing to do with the basic human or non-human needs. We call on the people to question not only consumerism but also the money economy or authority of money. In brief, money power has to be immunised to discourage consumerism.

### **3.4. New system of Production is needed:**

The proposed new system should be built on the principles of people led democracy, fair equality, need based productivity, social security to all, all round transparency, universal brotherhood & sisterhood, universal citizenship and peaceful negotiated settlement methods of any global, national and local issues.

3.5. We call for the creation and implementation of a mitigation strategy that will get us to 350 PPM of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere which is widely accepted as the sustainable concentration level.

### **3.6. Enhance participation of civil societies:**

We call for meaningful and enhanced participation of civil society (environmental, humanitarian, faith groups and other active relevant groups) in local, national and international social (climate, economic, political and cultural) deliberations and decision making across the globe. Civil society groups should work together in gaining better consensus and identifying common lobbying and pressure points to influence decision making.

The participants of the conference strongly demand participation of all civil society organisations right from Gram sabhas to legislative Assembly before finalising the State Action Plan on Climate Change. The draft of Action Plan is being done by Anna University and this draft has to be widely discussed by farmers organisation, trade unions, environmental activists, right based organisations, women's organisations, child rights organisations to ensure the fullest participation of all people in the state to combat the issue of warming the globe and climate destruction.

Impacted communities and marginalized voices should be heard and raised at all levels of governance from United Nations to Local Panchayat level.

### **3.7. Close down all Armaments and Ammunition Industries:**

We emphasize that disarmament should be considered as vital to addressing the issue of global warming since war is inhuman, anti nature and unaffordable in an era when investment needs to be made in renewable energy and climate adaptation instead of armaments. Therefore all industries associated with production of armaments and ammunition should come to a halt immediately.

### **3.8. Ban Completely atomic, chemical and biological weapons:**

We ask for the complete ban of atomic, chemical and biological weapons that have caused so much destruction of human life and bring the existing arms under the control of the UNO.

### **3.9. Encourage decentralised local markets:**

We ask for the enhancement of decentralised local markets for food products to ensure food security of the majority. There should be immediate curb on the monopoly of food marketing by international companies. Move for establishing SEZs should be banned. Instead, people based SEZs can be built with local people to protect local resources and ensure the livelihood of the local people.

### **3.10: Ban SEZs Immediately:**

In the name of SEZs , big corporates and MNCs exploit the land, water and air the natural livelihood resources of the masses. The traditional rights of the farmers over land, water, forests, seeds should be ensured and it is the responsibility of the State.

### **3.11. Give Priority to Sustainable Organic farming:**

Sustainable organic farming practices should be given utmost priority and we have to be self reliant with our own seed management and seed banks. GM seeds and chemical fertilisers should be banned immediately.

### **3. 12. Close Down all Nuclear Power Plants:**

All nuclear power plants in the State have to come to an end in a phased manner with the learning from Japan's experience. Learned people have claimed already that if climate change is the problem, nuclear power is not the answer just as poisoned Earth cannot be the answer for polluted air. Nuclear energy installations require enormous amount of cement, steel, energy for the construction process and all of it come from Carbon-producing sources. The whole nuclear cycle from Uranium mining and milling to decommissioning and waste management consumes so much polluting energy for transportation, maintenance, and management. Nuclear power is still a very small portion of the world's total energy output. To claim that nuclear power that gives rise to deadly radioactive waste is the answer for the Carbon woes of humanity is utterly irresponsible and misleading.

**3.13.** Unconventional, sustainable and renewable energy sources should be increased. More funds for research and development in this area have to be allotted by the State to ensure clean energy.

**3.14. Stop efforts encouraging bio fuel production:**

The efforts to produce bio-fuels at the cost of poor people have to be stopped immediately.

### **3.15. Stop Carbon Trading:**

It is regrettable that the carbon trading is becoming a business and has opened up doors for technology bazaar. Carbon trading is a dubious deal put forth by the developed countries to perpetuate the interest of their industries and profit-centered, exploitative production processes. This trend needs to be nipped in the bud.

### **3.16. Build Small check dams but not mega dams:**

The State needs to focus on small dams of less than 15-metre height as dams higher than 15-metres are considered as high dams by the international dams commission and also the large dams only add to the emission of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and also remain constant threats to the people living downstream. Even small dams must not be allowed to come up without consensus among the local people.

### **3.17. Conserve Biodiversity:**

To conserve biodiversity in accordance to the international commitments, protected areas should also be established and managed through approval and participation of indigenous and local communities not by evicting and resettling them without their consent and involvement.

**3.18.** We lose billion of rupees annually due to forest fires. In view of this, effective mechanisms have to be evolved to tackle the increasing incidents of forest fires due to dry deciduous forests caused by reduction in rainfall, loss in

moisture regime and other man-made reasons. We are of the opinion that the indigenous ecological knowledge systems need be incorporated into the whole mechanism to deal with the forest fires that have become quite frequent lately. Besides, the local ecological groups and environment activists need to be involved in the efforts to fight forest fires or any response mechanism.

### **3.19. Save coastal community and coastal eco system:**

The rise in the temperature of the deep sea and in shallow waters due to increased carbon absorption have resulted in extinction of good number of fish species and reduction in fish breeding. Coastal communities are under severe threat due to the rise in the sea level and in the near future, there will be mass exodus from coastal areas to inland. Immediate efforts with futuristic vision have to be planned and executed.

### **3.20. Separate pathway for Cyclists:**

Public transport should be made user friendly and people should be encouraged to use public transport to greater extent. Cyclists should be given safe, separate pathway on all roads. Special subsidies should be given to encourage cycling.

### **3.21. Control Automobile industries and car companies:**

The State should control the unwanted growth of car companies and automobile industries. Strict rules and regulative measures have to be laid on the MNCs producing automobiles and cars and creating artificial needs in the market.



### 3.22. Initiate new development paradigm:

In the past few decades, the prevalent land use practices such as water diversions, deforestation, mining and industrialisation have caused large-scale impacts on the eco-system of different parts of the country. In view of these impacts, there is an urgent need to combine diversity, productivity and livelihood security by banking on the indigenous biodiversity, knowledge and agro-eco systems.

The participants unanimously decided to join forces and work towards building a road map to achieve the new world vision communicated by the above statement.

**WE STRONGLY BELIEVE A NEW WORLD IS POSSIBLE!!**

(Draft prepared by Conference organising and resolution committee)