

The Role of the Heinrich Böll Foundation in International Climate and Energy Policy

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1. The Foundation as actor in international climate and energy policy

We are witnessing an unprecedented concentration of global problems: In addition to the crises of climate and resources, of poverty and malnutrition, there are now also the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis. It is always the poor and the poorest who suffer the most from these crises. As a Green-allied political foundation with a presence in all of the world's regions, we support efforts to bring about a just form of globalization.

Accordingly, long before the current convergence of crises, we set the issue of climate and energy policy at the top of our priority list. We pursue an explicitly multilevel approach—one that involves actors from politics, business and civil society at the global, regional, national and local levels. Our aim is to achieve a greater political and social dynamic in confronting the crisis and to contribute concretely to democratic, sustainable, just and gender-equitable approaches to solving these problems.

The effects of climate change on a given location are determined in large part by its specific social, ecological, cultural and political structures. Climate policy strategies and campaigns therefore must always take specific regional factors into account and be tailored to local conditions. Simultaneously, we want the climate policy contributions from the various regions to become more visible in international climate policy.

We stand for:

- » A global energy policy transformation, to limit the global temperature rise to less than 2°C above the preindustrial level. We fight against politically and ecologically dangerous courses and for the social and ecological treatment of our natural resources.
- » Just effort sharing in the climate regime. Guiding principles in this area are responsibility for, and the corresponding ability to advance climate protection.
- » Comprehensive support for the vulnerable population groups and countries worldwide that are already suffering the consequences of climate change. They must be helped to adjust to the now inevitable climate change and at the same time provided improved chances for their human development.

Moreover, we work actively for a coherent financial architecture, gender equity, a sustainable policy of adaptation, as well as a cooperatively conceived, comprehensive energy policy transformation in the North and a sustainable resource policy by which to achieve climate goals.

2. Our strategy

Without a global accord on climate protection, adaptation and financing, it will be impossible to prevent dangerous climate change and deal with its unavoidable consequences. In turn, a global accord will only be achieved if it both protects the climate and guarantees development opportunities for the majority of the world's population. There can be no climate protection without justice and no justice without climate protection.

Due to the high priority of global-level negotiation, we have made the process toward an agreement for the period after 2012 the focus of our supraregional climate policy work. We therefore have in place an international team—made up of employees from our headquarters and from offices in key climate policy countries—that works parallel to the UN negotiations and other important international forums.

Additionally, our work in the areas of climate and energy focuses on the national and regional levels. Here we pursue the aim of monitoring national policies and positions, exerting influence, and, above all, enabling our partners at the local level to influence their national governments. Along with our headquarters in Berlin, our offices in Brussels and Washington function as dialogue offices with a focus on monitoring the policies of international institutions.

As a political foundation we support civil society in all parts of the world, especially in the East and the South, regularly and directly with political and financial contributions. We see ourselves as a climate policy actor with our own clear political agenda and strategy, which we implement jointly with others. We enter the political fray and bring our influence to bear—indirectly through cooperation with a broad network of partner organizations and directly through our own publications and events. We provoke thought on issues and offer concepts by which to address them, and through our outreach we contribute to international educational and campaign efforts.

Through our worldwide regional positioning and our own strong presence and cooperation with partner organizations from the South and East, we have great political reach as an advocate for global climate justice and for reform proposals that are both sustainable and gender-equitable.

The international network of the Heinrich Böll Foundation consists of numerous partner organizations and individuals from Green-allied movements, nongovernmental organizations, think tanks and academic institutions, universities, parties, parliaments and ministries that share our values—sustainability, democracy and human rights, self-determination, justice and gender-equity—and pursue similar aims.

3. What we do—specifics

» We promote knowledge transfer and information flow, for example through regional analyses and perspectives on climate change. One such example is “Africa speaks up on Climate

Change,” supported by Wangari Maathai: In an appeal and film addressed to governments in Africa and the North, African activists, experts and people affected by climate change demand a greater voice for Africa in international climate policy... Another striking example is the Foundation-initiated translation of the standard work by German climate scientists Hans Joachim Schellnhuber and Stefan Rahmstorf, into Arabic and Russian. This is complemented by numerous regional and local studies on climate protection and on adaptation, including from a gender-equity perspective.

» We enable selected partners to take part in climate negotiations, and we also promote such participation locally through Capacity Building Workshops and accompanying programs. This applies to state as well as civil society actors. In advance of the climate summit in Poznan, for example, members of the Nigerian delegation received training in negotiating techniques. A pan-African project, “Building Consensus and Capacity in Africa for a Fair Climate Policy,” is currently planned.

» We give impetus and orientation for climate policy action, for example for greater justice in the climate regime. The Greenhouse Development Rights Framework is one such innovative concept. It attempts to bring together climate protection, justice and the right to development. First introduced in Bali to a positive response, this publication has since found great resonance and is being discussed in the UN climate negotiations. Alongside regional translations and debates on the concept, the Greenhouse Development Rights Framework provides impetus for fair sharing in international climate financing.

» With the European Community for Renewable Energy (ERENE), the Foundation put forth its own proposal for the implementation of the necessary energy policy transformation in the North. The proposal has become the subject of broad-based political discussion and been positively received.

» We analyze and comment on research and policy: Our website and especially the blog www.klima-der-gerechtigkeit.de have become leading sources for background information and current commentary on national as well as international climate policy decisions.

» With the website www.ClimateFundsUpdate.org the Foundation offers a unique source of information on the monitoring of the many new climate funds as well as current background documents and sound analysis. The information presented is complemented by well-founded work on gender criteria and fair effort sharing in climate financing.

» We have a clear stance on nuclear energy: With the publication Nuclear Power – Myth and Reality the Foundation has delivered a widely sought reference work that contains arguments against a dangerous nuclear course.

» We organize dialogues: In our transatlantic climate work we inject European experiences with the expansion of renewable energies or the introduction of emissions trading into the current debates in the US. In new energy policy issues such as the large-scale expansion of energy networks or electromobility on the basis of renewable energies, exciting developments are

taking place on both sides of the Atlantic. We are accompanying these with the Transatlantic Climate Dialogue Program.

» We believe in new media: The locally produced film *Nigeria under Attack*, in which documentary elements alternate with typical “Nollywood” scenes, ran in Nigerian regional buses as well as on national television.

» We support the Lebanese organization *Indyact* in their efforts to produce broad public awareness of the impacts of climate change and to create an Arab alliance against climate change. Organisations and activists allied in Egypt, Bahrein, Jemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates to jointly promote advocacy for significant emission reductions and energy efficient practices in the member states of the Arab League. Since then the Arab Climate Alliance stands for a radical political change in national and regional energy policy as well as for a unified Arab position to meet the climate crisis.

» We support Russian NGOs, send them to the negotiations, we issue a bulletin “Less than 2 degrees” in Russian, help the NGOs in building a national climate coalition and organize regular meetings of NGO-representatives and members of the official delegations to the negotiations.