

It's Sink or Adapt: Financing for Climate Change Adaptation

**- International Workshop at the World Social Forum in Belém, Brazil -
January 31, 2009 – 12:00-15:00 hrs – Prédio Central – Room B 003**

Being least responsible for climate change, the countries of the global South are most vulnerable to its impact. Developing countries thus urge the industrialized world to face its historic responsibility and meet the promises made. Urgent action needs to be taken to cut green house gas emissions and mitigate the impact of climate change. However, even if efficient steps to reduce emissions would be taken today, we still have to expect a rise in average global temperatures of 2°C, leading to effects such as rising sea levels, an increase of natural disasters, desertification, and, as a likely consequence, increased conflict over scarce natural resources, food and water in many parts of the world. Most developing countries lack financial means and livelihood alternatives to effectively adapt to these changes. In 2008 the World Bank put in place two new climate investment funds (CIFs). Although potentially promising, this initiative is perceived to be torpedoing the work of the UNFCCC adaptation fund board established at the 2007 Bali conference to monitor financial support for adaptive measures in developing countries. While the adaptation fund aims at providing adaptation financing additionally to the Official Development Assistance (ODA), the World Bank initiative provides loans for adaptation to the developing world.

The workshop discusses new policy options to raise money for adaptation. A number of innovative financing mechanisms such as carbon taxing or auctioning of emission rights were presented at the UNFCCC Climate Talks in June 2008 in Bonn. Another possibility could be the taxation of international air traffic. The workshop explores the feasibility of different financing paths.

PROGRAMME:

Welcome: Sarah Ganter, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Germany

Kjeld Jacobsen, Brazil Chapter of the Helsinki Process, Brazil

Djimingué Nanasta, ENDA Third World, Dakar, Sénégal

Lesley Masters, Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa

Nicola Bullard, Focus on the Global South

Sascha Raabe, MoP, SPD Parliamentary Group, Germany

Moderator: Sarah Ganter, FES