



# elektron

Bulletin of the **ENERGY WORKERS' FRONT**, of **MEXICO**

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<http://ftemexico.blogspot.com> | *Volume 11, Number 19, January 19, 2011*

16th World Trade Union Congress, 6-9 April 2011, Athens, Greece  
Proposals of the FTE of MEXICO

## 19. Environment and climate

**ABSTRACT:** Capitalism is adversely changing environment and changing weather conditions. This is the environmental crisis caused by a predatory nature. Environmental protection is a task of workers and peoples.

### 1. Introduction

The consequences of capitalist development at the environment are very worrying. In the last fifty years, the burning of fossil fuels has doubled, as did the consumption of freshwater; while marine catch has increased fourfold, the wood consumption that now 40% more than 25 years ago. The per capita waste generation has nearly tripled in the last 20 years in industrialized countries.

The growing deterioration of renewable resources such as water, forests and fish affects biodiversity. These consequences have a greater impact on poor countries. The rise of emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is causing serious impacts to the climate.

Nearly one million people in 40 developing countries are in danger of losing access to the source of proteins by over-fishing; 132 million in Africa live in areas where water is scarce. In several parts the lack of drinking water is total.

As a result of deforestation in Latin America, Asia, sub-Saharan and Africa have lost millions of hectares of tropical forests. Natural food production is at risk.

### 2- Environmental crisis and climate change

The climate crisis is multi-pronged. Where amongst other causes include the consumption of fossil fuels and release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

**CO<sub>2</sub> emissions-** The increase in these emissions is in sustained rise, especially since 2000. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), in 2008, the global emissions total was 29,981 million tones (Mt) due to coal (42.9%), oil (36.8%) and gas (19.9%). Largest contribution corresponds to the OECD, with 43% of the world and China with 22.4%.

The concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) have increased considerably. The current average CO<sub>2</sub> concentration already reaches 387 ppm (parts per million) and continues to rise, the methane is 1.174 ppm, both levels well above the 650 thousand years earlier.

**Climate Alteration-** In 2007, the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported the observation of increase in land surface temperature and sea levels, as well as reduction in snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere. The increase in temperature has an effect on water availability, ecosystems,

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food production, damage to the costs and adverse health effects.

There is evidence devastating: the melting of the polar ice caps, fresh water depletion and the alteration of weather systems.

The Kyoto Protocol was proposed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 5% over 1990 levels. It was not so, emissions are increasing rapidly, especially for China and the U.S. Not even have been agreements between governments. The Copenhagen meeting (2009) ended in failure and Cancun meeting (2010) as well.

**Ocean acidification**- When raising the atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> increases the amount dissolved in water as carbonic acid, which increases the acidity of the shallow waters. The seas have a typical pH 8.2 (alkalinity) but has declined to 8.0 and continues to decline.

**Biodiversity loss**- The destruction of forests and rainforests is causing a major extinction of species on the planet, affecting terrestrial and marine and undermining biological processes at a regional and global scale.

**Nitrogen and phosphorus pollution**- The widespread use of artificial fertilizers has altered the chemical characteristics of the land, increasing flows of nitrogen and phosphorus. This is resulting in widespread water pollution, degradation of lakes and rivers, and ecological imbalance of the seas and coasts. The intensive use of bio-ethanol as a fuel from corn is aggravating the nitrogen pollution.

**Fresh water consumption**- Each year it retreats 2,600 cubic kilometers of fresh water from rivers, lakes and aquifers. 70% goes to irrigation, industrial uses 20% and 10% for domestic consumption. The availability of freshwater on the planet is 1% of total water. In several regions of the world are suffering water stress. The use of bio-fuels affects food production and availability of water for consumption by living beings.

**Ozone layer**- The use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) has caused the loss of stratospheric ozone. These are greenhouse gases. The Earth's natural ozone layer is damaged, changing the chemical composition and dynamics of the stratosphere.

### 3- Conclusions

Also contributes to environmental degradation the urban garbage, marine and aerospace, electronics and hazardous waste, as well as nuclear waste. Pollution of the seas, the voracious oil extraction, is affecting the flora, fauna and ecosystems. Mining is degrading land, air, water and health of entire populations, producing widespread disaster.

The actions of states and governments are limited to palliative, commitments are not met, standards that do not apply and agreements not assumed. Transnational corporations are dominating the environmental policy, appropriating the natural resources and affecting the environment. Geo engineering also contributes to the artificial alteration of the atmosphere.

The capitalist model has no outlet to the environmental crisis, by contrast, Malthusian measures such as zero growth, wars of aggression and the privatization of natural resources, plan for the future world of disease, hunger and thirst.

### PROPOSAL

The FTE of Mexico presents to the 16th World Trade Union Congress the following proposal:

1. The WFTU calls the world's workers to the environmental struggle against capital, for an independent environmental policy that preserves natural resources and a cleaner planet without capitalism.