

AFRICA ACTION SHEET



WINTER 2009-2010

AFRICA NOW A NUCLEAR-WEAPONS-FREE ZONE

Thirteen years after it officially opened for signature, the Africa Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) has finally come into force with the 28th deposit of its ratification instrument by Burundi on 15 July 2009.

This important milestone follows concerted efforts by the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria, South Africa. This declaration means that the entire southern hemisphere is now nuclear weapons free. To date, Britain, France and China have signed and ratified these Protocols but Russia and USA have yet to ratify.

Importantly, the Treaty of Pelindaba supports the use of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes, and in this, each party undertakes to conduct all activities for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and under strict non-proliferation measures. **South Africa, Nigeria, Sudan, Egypt, Kenya and Uganda**, amongst others, have already indicated their interest in nuclear energy as a means of resolving their energy shortages and mitigating climate change. According to **Article 12 (Mechanisms for Compliance)** of the Treaty, the parties agree to establish an **African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE)** which would encourage African states to take responsibility for their natural resources, and in particular, nuclear material, and agree to protect against the dumping of toxic waste.

For more information email: nstott@issafrica.org

GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN

Every year between **1 November and 31 January** thousands of people show their solidarity with victims of human rights abuses in a simple but powerful way - by sending a card with a message of support.

Go to: www.amnesty.org.uk/gcc to order a booklet which gives 30 cases (some in Africa) of prisoners of conscience.

As well as offering encouragement, and raising spirits, these cards have an enormous impact. They are a tangible sign that people care.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The bailed-out banks received billions of taxpayers' money in 2008. Now it is being used to finance deals that cost the Earth and human lives. Since the bail-out **RBS (Royal Bank of Scotland)** has backed deals worth nearly £10bn for companies and projects linked to climate change and human rights abuses. One beneficiary is **Tallow Oil** which operates on the border between the **Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda** where conflict has recently displaced 30,000 people. The Treasury has done nothing to stop this. For more information go to:

www.peopleandplanet.org.

Ring the **World Development Movement (020-7820-4900)** and request their "**Clean up the Banks**" action cards to send to the Chancellor.



"I put all this down to global warming"

The Africa Action Sheet is produced by the:
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THE WAVE

Join the biggest ever climate rally in London on **Saturday, December 5th**. Tens of thousands of people will be out on the streets to wave support for climate justice success in **Copenhagen**.

11 am. An **Ecumenical service** of prayer and reflection in the **Methodist Central Hall**, Westminster led by **Archbishop Nichols** and **Dr Rowan Williams**. Following that, the congregation will merge with thousands of others on a march around the Thames and in the vicinity of Parliament.

The Wave is organised by the **Stop Climate Chaos Coalition** of which over 100 organisations are members. You are asked to **wear blue**. Clergy and religious are invited to wear clerical dress and habits. See: www.cafod.org.uk/take-action/climate/climate-justice

In Scotland, for the latest on the **GLASGOW WAVE** see: www.the-wave.org.uk/scotland

BOOKS

The No-nonsense Guide to the Arms Trade

This is a second and updated edition by Nicholas Gilby, a former CAAT Steering Committee member. He writes: "On many issues that are either complex or not in the headlines every day, it can be difficult for a normal member of the public to get an informed understanding of the issue." Available at **£8.75** including postage from:

CAAT, 112 Goodwin St. London N4 3HQ

The Trouble with aid: Why less could mean more for Africa by Jonathan Glennie

Published by **ZED 2008**.

This is not a book about the aid delivered by aid agencies but about the much bigger sums which rich country governments contribute to African infrastructure, governance and welfare systems on a regular basis.

"The preservation of the environment, promotion of sustainable development and particular attention to climate change are matters of grave concern for the entire human family."

Pope Benedict XVI. 1st September 2007

DIARY DATES

- Nov 7-8 G20 Finance Ministers** are meeting in St Andrews, Scotland.
- Nov 7 A counter-summit** is planned in London. For details go to: www.putpeoplefirst.org.uk
- Nov 15 Prisoners' Sunday.** PACT go to: www.prisonersadvice.org.uk
- Nov 15-21 Interfaith week.** Go to: www.interfaith.org.uk
- Dec 1 World Aids Day.** Go to: www.worldaidsday.org or www.positivecatholics.googlepages.com
- Dec 3 World Migration Day.** www.catholicchurch.org.uk
- Dec 5 The Wave** (see above)
- Dec 7-18 Copenhagen UN Climate Change Conference**

2010

- Jan 17 Peace Sunday** www.paxchristi.org.uk
- Jan 18-25 Week of prayer for Christian Unity** www.ctbi.org.uk

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Focus on Africa is a very well informed quarterly magazine from the BBC. With finest photography it will keep you abreast of all the important developments across the continent.

Visit: www.expressmag.com for news of a half-price offer. Subscribe before 30 November to receive a free book of African proverbs.