

CCDS positions on Climate Change:

[Prepared 4/11/2010]

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- A. Goals and Principles (CCDS Founding document)**
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A. Goals and Principles:

A search of the web site reveals references to the document and only found this copy. Maybe there elsewhere, but is not obvious. [I do think we need a more prominent and easily accessible posting.]

Third Revision June 30, 2009

For a Democratic and Socialist

Future: CCDS Goals and Principles

In CCDS-Discussion section, listed under Blogroll and as "Goals & Principles Document V3 - PDF Format at: <http://tinyurl.com/ccds-gpv3>

References to Environment and Climate Change issues:

1. Paragraph 3 on pg 1.

"An environmental catastrophe looms. Scientists warn that the world may have already passed a point of qualitative climate change from carbon emissions – with alterations of weather patterns causing deep irreversible ecological damage. The inexorable demand of capitalism to put profit before all else aggravates the economic crisis and underlies the system's resistance to confronting the consequences of its environmental pollution. States that catastrophic climate change [tipping points] may already have been breached, and that capitalism's drive for profits underlies the resistance to confronting environmental problems.

2. Paragraph 4 on pg. 1.

A costly military establishment is undermining national security. Militarism has impeded democracy, undermined peace and security, and caused incalculable suffering around the world. The military-industrial complex has contributed heavily to the present economic crisis by wasting precious funds needed to create jobs in a new economy based on ecological survival, sustainable growth, and social development. Expenditures for the largest military in history have run to trillions of dollars. The military is a prime polluter and despoiler of the environment. The "sole superpower" must yield to a new global policy based on abolishing nuclear weapons, reducing conventional forces, closing of foreign bases, and reliance on diplomacy over confrontation."

States that MIC is a major cause of environmental problems and an economic impediment to "ecological survival."

3. Section E. on page 8.

"E. The Crisis of Climate Change and Unsustainable Resources

Two decades of detailed study by scientists from all over the world has ended in stark consensus: the climate crisis is real, urgent, and threatens massive human misery and habitat destruction. Three hundred and fifty parts per million of CO₂ in the atmosphere is what many scientists, climate experts, and progressive national governments are now saying is the safe upper limit. Our current level is 387 parts per million. Consumption of fossil fuels, melting of the polar ice caps, increased frequency of devastating hurricanes, and wrenching changes in weather patterns – are all inextricably linked.

The depth of the climate crisis demands an end to the exceptional waste of natural and human resources under capitalism. The crisis demands that billions be invested and tens of thousands employed replacing 19th century carbon based fuels with energy drawn from sun, wind, and geothermal sources. The country needs new energy grids, nonpolluting mass transportation, homes retrofitted to curb carbon emissions, and new global agreements to end the emission of pollutants, to reduce deforestation, and to share the world's energy resources efficiently and equitably.

Inherently wasteful capitalist growth is not consistent with sustaining human life. The wealthy countries, led by the United States have consumed the bulk of the world's resources. Justice demands that those who have gorged on consumption bear the greatest burden in the rationing of non-renewable resources in a finite world where emerging nations now aspire to greater consumption.

Billions of people are stripped of resources by global capitalism. A quarter of all deaths in the world are linked to environmental destruction, to the disruption of indigenous agriculture by global agribusiness, and to political pressure for developing countries to end subsidies to their own farmers. As energy resources shrink, food prices rise - causing widespread malnutrition and disease among three quarters of the world's rural poor.

Disruption of traditional agriculture by global agribusiness has brought huge migrations to cities around the world where displaced rural masses are forced to fight for survival. At the core of such upheavals is the persistent racism reflected in the indifference of political leaders, the silence of media, and the continuing destructive activities of capitalists. The sense of justice and the self-interest of all human beings demand international cooperation to address and solve those basic violations of human rights and dignity."

This section states clearly the cause of C3 as capitalism and that it will require a major reorganization of the world economy to produce both environmental and social justice and sustainability.

4. Part II. Paragraph 1, Pg 10

Contains "The systemic basis of the interconnected crises of social life, the economy, climate, and empire makes the solution of any one crisis dependent upon progress in solving the others."

5. Part II. Paragraph 6, Pg 12

States that preventing climate catastrophe requires an end of "the projection of military power in support of a fading empire," obviously the MIC.

6. Part II. Paragraph 4, Pg 16

States that to deal with climate change, we need more than "A socialism that simply reproduces the wasteful expansion of an earlier capitalism [and] creates more problems than it solves.

B. Proposals adopted by CCDS:

1. First Climate Change Proposal passed at the NCC of CCDS on 12/2/2006.

Proposed by Walter Teague.

On the CCDS web site at: http://www.cc-ds.org/discussion/prevent_ccc_proposal.html

[Even though it was a resolution passed by the NCC, it was posted on the discussion section.]

Prevent Climate Change Catastrophe, Si Se Puede!

Included the following sections:

"Summary: It is proposed that CCDS, as an organization consciously and intentionally promoting democracy and socialism through corresponding our ideas and concerns with the public, recognize that the potential for the existence and growth of these values and goals requires the prevention of a Climate Change Catastrophe (CCC). Of all the "tipping points" we face, the creation of a mass movement able to demand prevention is primary. Since the imperative to prevent CCC is not yet a public demand, CCDS has the opportunity to act now and provide leadership by putting out a clear stance that CCC must be prevented. Our past position statements echoed much of what progressives agreed upon. This time we have an opportunity and responsibility to lead. Prevention, once understood, can provide a clear goal that people can demand of their leaders, organizations and governments to act upon."

"What concretely will prevent CCC?

1. Rapid creation of a renewable energy infrastructure in the U.S. and the world, consisting of concentrated solar collection in arid regions such as the Sahara, great expansion of wind power, tidal and wave power, photovoltaics.
2. Similarly, the rapid conversion of fossil-fuel intensive industrial agriculture to agro-ecological farming.
3. The required resources must come from a radical demilitarization of the US and global economies, an end to the Imperial Project that feed oil/coal addiction and resource wars."

And concluded a call for the following strategies:

"Therefore CCDS should:

1. Call for a worldwide recognition of the necessity to prevent a Climate Change Catastrophe.
2. Call for the quick development of best possible deadlines and what is needed to meet them.
3. Based on the best science available, call for the development of a worldwide plan sufficient to prevent Climate Change Catastrophe.
4. Call for all leaders to speak up, give direction and take all necessary actions to prevent a Climate Change Catastrophe.
5. And demand that we the people, be fully informed of the threats and progress in preventing the catastrophe.
6. Call for all other progressive organizations, leaders and movements to join in this effort.
7. Call on the US Congress to hold emergency hearings on preventing Climate Change Catastrophe."

2. Resolution on the Crisis of Climate Change passed at the CCDS 2009 convention.

On the CCDS web site at:

http://cc-ds.org/convention_2009/Resolution_on_Climate_Change_passed_at_Convention09.doc

or short url: <http://tinyurl.com/y7hlghw>

"On the need for an Eco-socialist perspective and leadership to prevent Catastrophic Climate Change."

Contains detailed examination of climate change and needed responses. The last two "Whereas" are:

"Whereas the primary resistance to a successful environmental program will come from the nuclear military industrial fossil fuel complex ("MIC" for short) that President Dwight Eisenhower identified 60 years ago as the great burden on humanity. Therefore avoidance of C3 requires the end of oil and fossil fuel addiction, giving up the nuclear option and a rapid conversion to a high efficiency solar energy infrastructure. Since the major obstacle to this path is MIC, especially its U.S. component, this complex and its imperial agenda must be confronted, isolated, and finally eliminated as the biggest threat to

human survival. More precisely, its material infrastructure should be solarized, with containment of its huge legacy of chemical and nuclear waste. A solarized and demilitarized world, a formidable challenge to say the least! Achievable only with a socialized or socialist approach

Whereas instead, leadership must be driven by a worldwide, mass movement that understands the need for a comprehensive, crash program and is capable of requiring governments and industry refocus national and global priorities for the sake of saving human life on earth, even if it means reducing obscene short term corporate profits. The priorities of this program must be both the immediate needs of the people most affected by the crisis and the prevention of permanent climate changes before irreversible tipping points are reached"

The resolution ends with: "This call is based on the recognition that socialists everywhere have a role to play that is specific and unique in calling for world leadership as quickly as possible to create and put forward a workable plan based on the science of tipping points and time lines and the political economic factors involved.

That CCDS asserts that a socialist response to climate change is a necessary component if we are to be at all successful in combating the damages of climate change."

3. A second resolution was also passed at the 2009 Convention

Resolution on Climate Catastrophe & Social Change

The resolution can be found on the CCDS web site at:

http://cc-ds.org/convention_2009/Resolution_on_Climate_Catastrophe.doc or at
<http://tinyurl.com/y7l8nqp>

It ends with a call for CCDS to support: "Major redirection of resources by the U.S. government for research, development and deployment of all the above proposals, starting by drastic redirection of resources from the military budget"

C. Climate Change Work of CCSS

Further, these issues have been looked at and discussed in committees, workshops, listserves, local and national conventions and passed and adopted in three different resolutions (see above) for at least last 4 years.

For examples of some of the past Workshop documents see:

<http://www.redandgreen.org/CCC/>
http://www.redandgreen.org/Climate_Change/index.htm
http://www.redandgreen.org/Climate_Change/Ecosocialism_or_Ecocatastrophe.html

D. The recent draft paper Climate Change - An Unprecedented Challenge

A PDF copy at:

http://www.redandgreen.org/Climate_Change/Climate_Change_-_An_Unprecedented_Challenge.pdf
or <http://tinyurl.com/y64zqvp>

An MS Doc, editable version at: http://www.redandgreen.org/Climate_Change/Climate%20Change_-_An_Unprecedented_Challenge.doc or <http://tinyurl.com/y8bzrvj>

An editable copy is posted on Google Docs. If you need to access and are not listed, please send me your email.

<http://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0AbVmv6kUSr-4ZGRjODNyMjhfMjRkNWlzbWtkaA&hl=en>

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