



13 October 2018

Open letter to multinational development banks: STOP supporting waste incineration!

TO:

Mr. Akinwumi Adesina, President, African Development Bank
Mr. Takehiko Nakao, President, Asian Development Bank
Mr. Liqun Jin, President, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
Sir Suma Chakrabarti, President, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Mr. Werner Hoyer, President, European Investment Bank
Mr. Luis Alberto Moreno, President, Inter-American Development Bank
Mr. James P. Scriven, Chief Executive Officer, Inter-American Investment Corporation
Dr. Bandar M. H. Hajjar, President, Islamic Development Bank
Mr. K. V. Kamath, President, New Development Bank
Mr. Jim Yong Kim, President, World Bank

We, the undersigned organizations from national, regional and international NGOs, grassroots and community groups, and individuals from 54 countries, are alarmed by the support of multilateral development banks (MDBs), for waste incinerators, including so-called “waste-to-energy” (WTE) incinerators.

We maintain that waste incinerators, in any form, are part of a failed system that is putting the planet and societies in the wrong path. These facilities:

Threaten people and the environment

Incineration endangers people’s health and well-being, destroys livelihoods and harms the environment. Incinerators generate toxic ash and sludge and emit toxic chemicals such as dioxins, furans and mercury.

Contribute to climate change

Incinerators emit significant quantities of greenhouse gases. Burning waste is not renewable energy and takes investments away from renewable energy solutions; waste is from non-renewable resources, and plastics are from fossil fuels.

Damage local and national economies

Incineration is the most expensive way to manage waste and produce electricity, and it prevents the implementation of Zero Waste solutions that create jobs and invigorate local economies.

Obstruct resource sustainability

Incineration perpetuates the unsustainable “take, make, waste” linear economic model that abets wasting and the continuous extraction of natural resources.

We believe that:

- support of waste incinerators runs counter to the stated mission of development banks,
- waste incinerators are not “sustainable, accessible, resilient”, nor “quality infrastructure” that should be considered for developing countries, and
- waste burning detracts from the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris climate goals.

We further assert that public money should not be used to fund nor promote these facilities in the Global South.

Communities and local governments in the Global South are struggling to improve the management of their natural resources, address growing pollution and waste in cities, and cope with climate change impacts.

Many cities and communities have proven that a transition into Zero Waste systems is a viable solution, providing a key opportunity for them to decouple economic growth from excessive resource extraction, consumption and wastage. Their efforts, however, are under threat from lack of financing and investments wasted on building and maintaining destructive infrastructure, such as trash incinerators.

We strongly believe that Zero Waste is the direction that MDBs should be advancing in order to protect the environment and public health, help communities and cities build robust local economies, generate productive jobs and livelihoods, and help mitigate climate change.

We call on the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Inter-American Investment Corporation, Islamic Development Bank, New Development Bank and World Bank, together with the UN and governments of wealthy countries, to:

Halt the aggressive promotion of, and phase out all financing for waste incineration, including so-called “waste-to-energy” incineration in borrowing countries; and stop promoting waste incineration as “renewable energy.”

Prioritize waste and resource management approaches at the top of the waste hierarchy, which address the waste problem at root—primarily through reduction, reuse and redesign; refrain from endorsing waste incineration projects; and stop advocating waste incineration in all publications and statements.

Support borrowing countries in pursuing and funding sustainable, just and equitable Zero Waste solutions that effectively addresses their unique contexts and needs, supports local economies and livelihoods, and respects and integrates the informal waste sector.

Signed,

ORGANIZATIONS

5RZeroSprechi	Hogar
A cambio de nada (Asociación medioambiental para el desarrollo humano)	Humusz Szövetség
AgroNativo	IIT Madras
Ahora Arganda	INECC
Aldamar Ediciones	Institute for Circular Economy
All India Kabadi Mazdoor Mahasangh (AIKMM)	Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Alliance for Zero Waste Indonesia (AZWI)	Institute for Policy Studies Climate Justice Program
American Environmental Health Studies Project, Inc (AEHSP)	IRTECO
Amigos de la Tierra	Isde italia
Amigos en acción Hmo	Jal Biradari
Asilia Convivium	Jivit Mati Kisan Samiti
Asociación Cultural de Intercambios	Kentucky Environmental Foundation
Asociacion Nacional de Recicladores de Colombia	Kickapoo Peace Circle
Asociación para la Promoción y el Desarrollo de la Comunidad "CEIBA"	Korea Zero Waste Movement Network
Associação de Combate aos Poluentes (ACPO)	La Maison de la Zéro Déchet
Association de l'Education Environnementale pour les Futures Générations	La Mía
Atotonilli y Asesores Ecologistas SLP	Lernu circo social
BaliFokus/Nexus3 Foundation	Libera Radio
Bandera azul ecológica comunitaria	Libertas, AC
Bierzo Airelimpio	LIDECs
Biofuelwatch	Live Debris
BIOS Argentina	Local Futures
Bond Beter Leefmilieu	Mexicali Resiste
Both ENDS	Miami Worker's Center
Break Free From Plastic	Mother Earth Foundation
Cambiemos Parla	Moviment Contra la Incineració a Uniland
CEDD - Centrul de Excelenta pentru Dezvoltare Durabila	Movimento 5 Stelle
Center for Consultancy on Sustainable Development (Da Nang)	Municipality of Tirana
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)	Nagrik Chetna Manch
Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology (CREST)	National Toxics Network Australia
Centre For Earth Works (CFEW)	Naturskyddsforeningen
Centre for Environment Justice and Development	Nipe Fagio
Centre for Zero Waste & Development	NO CARBONNEXT
Centro de Análisis y Defensa de Derechos	Objectif Zéro Déchet
CEPTA	ODESC- Organização de Desenvolvimento Sustentável e Comunitário
Circular Economy Institute	ONG no Alineadas del Estado de Sonora
Circular Economy Wales CIC	ONG Susténtate
Citizen consumer and civic Action Group	Pacific Environment
Citizens Against Pollution	Partido EQUO
Ciudadanos por el cambio democrático	Partnership for Policy Integrity

Cnte sonora	Philippine Women's University Environmental Science Program
Colectivo Viento Sur	Piacenza per Aria
Colectivo Voces Ecológicas COVEC	PLAN: The Post-Landfill Action Network
Collettivo Exit	Plataforma Aire Limpio Residuo Cero Madrid
Color tierra	Plataforma antiincineracion
Comitato Basta Nocivita' in Val D'Arda, Lugagnano Val d'Arda (PC)	Plataforma Córdoba Aire Limpio
Comitato cittadino Basta nocività in Val d'Arda	Plataforma en contra ka incineracion de residuos es los alcoces
Comitato no inceneritore Matera	Polish Zero Waste Accodiation
Comitato popolare "lasciateci respirare"	Política y Rock & Roll Radio
Comite de Solidaridad Internacionalista Zaragoza	Por un pais limpio
Consumers' Association of Penang	PPLH Bali
Coordinadora Andaluza de Plataformas y grupos contra la incineración de residuos y por un aire limpio	Pragya Seeds Nepal
Coordinadora de Pueblos y Organizaciones del Oriente del Estado de México en Defensa de la Tierra, el Agua y su Cultura	Reciclador de Base.
Coordinadora Ecoloxista d'Asturies	Red de Acción por los Derechos Ambientales
Darbar Sahitya Sansad	Red de Accion por los Derechos Ambientales RADA
Development Indian Ocean Network (DION)	Red Societal Agencia de conocimiento
DLR Prerna	Redbiolac
Don't Waste Arizona	REMPA
Eco Sitio	Returning Organics To Soil
Ecobali	Sahabat Alam (Friends' of the Earth) Malaysia
Eco-Cycle International	Salam institute
Ecologistas En Acción - Lora Del Rio	Salute e Ambiente - Comitato No Inceneritore a Matera NIM
Ecologistas en Acción Córdoba	SGAB CONSEIL
Ecology Center	Sierra Club
Ecos de la sociedad	Socialist Party(India)-Telangana
Ecoteca NGO	Sociedad Ecologista Alwadi-ira / Ecologistas en Acción
ECOTON	societa' civile
Ecowaste Coalition of the Philippines	Society for Earth
Ekologi brez meja	South Durban Community Environmental Alliance
Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO)	Sredina-Association of Citizens
Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria	Stree mukti Sanghatana
Equo	STRM
EQUO Cantabria	Surabaya zero waste community
Europe and We	Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Youth
European Environmental Bureau	Taller de Comunicación Ambiental (Rosario)
Familiamigos union de cooperativas	Taller Ecologista
Fluoride Action Network	Tax Justice Network Africa
FMVz	Terra Advocati
FOF	Texas Campaign for the Environment
Forum Peduli Laut	Thanal
France Nature Environnement	The 5 Gyres Institute

Frente Auténtico del Trabajo	The Doubting Thomases
Frente de Comunidades en Contra de la Incineracion	This Is Rubbish
Fronteras Comunes	Toledo Aire Limpio
FUNAM, Environment Defense Foundation	ToxicsWatch Alliance (TWA)/Ban Asbestos Network of India (BANI)
Fundació ENT	UCR
Fundacion Aguaclara	UNAM
Fundación Ambiental Bios Colombia	Unison
Fundación Basura	United Kingdom Without Incineration Network (UKWIN)
Fundación el Árbol	United Workers
GAIA Africa	Universidad de Costa Rica
GAIA Asia Pacific	Universidad de Sonora
GAIA US	Volgograd-Ecopress Information Center
Gerakan Indonesia Diet Kantong Plastik	WALHI Jawa Barat
GGJ	WALHI/FoE Indonesia
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition	Wellington Association Against the Incinerator (WAAI)
Green Africa Youth Organization	West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition
Green Indonesia Foundation	YPBB Bandung
Green Knowledge Foundation	Zero Plastic Lembongan
Greeners Action	Zero Waste BC
Greenpeace Argentina	Zero Waste Europe
groundWork	Zero Waste France
Grupo Ecológico de Occidente	Zero Waste Himalaya
Grupo ecologista Alwadi-ira	Zero Waste International Trust
Hacia basura cero	Zero Waste Italy
Hazards Centre	Zero Zbel
Healis Sekhsaria Institute for Public Health	ZeroWaste4ZeroBurning.ca
Health and Environment Justice Support International	Žiedinė ekonomika
Health Care Without Harm Asia	
HermosiArte	
Hnutí DUHA - Friends of the Earth Czech Republic	

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