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**SUBMISSIONS:** Welcome from all civil society groups. Email to [jdempsey@cbdalliance.org](mailto:jdempsey@cbdalliance.org)

## Indigenous Representatives Denounce Canada's Obstructionist Position at COP10

*Adapted from Press Statement*

*Canada stands alone in its shameful opposition to preambular text "Taking into account the significance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (UNDRIP) in the proposed ABS Protocol.* Reminding parties that it did not endorse the UNDRIP, Canada insisted that the reference to the UNDRIP be both bracketed and deleted. Indigenous Peoples insist the ABS Protocol must take into account the significance of the UNDRIP.

Armand MacKenzie, Executive-Director of the Innu Council of Nitassinan (Innu Nation), stated that, "You cannot claim to be a champion of human rights on the one hand and at the same time oppose the most widely accepted international charter in relation to Indigenous Peoples' rights. With such strong arm tactics undermining Indigenous Peoples' human rights, it is no wonder Canada lost their bid for a seat on the UN Security Council."

"Canada has contradicted its speech from the throne when it stated it would take steps to endorse the UNDRIP. The apology from the Prime Minister of Canada for the Residential School system was a positive move towards reconciliation between Canada and Aboriginal Peoples. This obstructionist position is an enormous step backwards, is unacceptable and undermines all Indigenous Peoples' collective rights" states Ellen Gabriel, president of Quebec Native Women.

"The Canadian government has been undermining the human rights of the world's Indigenous Peoples since 2006, both at home and internationally", emphasized Paul Joffe, lawyer representing the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee). "Such conduct severely tarnishes Canada's reputation globally and puts in serious doubt Canada's stated intention to endorse the UNDRIP in good faith."

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## Dodo Award

On Monday October 25, civil society organizations will present the first week's Dodo Awards to countries at the COP10. The Dodo Bird is the quintessential symbol of biodiversity loss. Found in the Indian Ocean islands (Mauritius), the Dodo went extinct in the 1700s. According to Wikipedia,

*The phrase "dead as a dodo" means undoubtedly and unquestionably dead, whilst the phrase "to go the way of the dodo" means to become extinct or obsolete, to fall out of common usage or practice, or to become a thing of the past.*

### WHICH PARTIES WILL BE NAMED 'DODO OF THE WEEK'?

**Which parties behaved badly, obstructing or delaying processes, and need to evolve?**

**Find out on Monday!**

**ECO wishes all COP 10 delegates a sleep-filled weekend.**



# What exactly IS the ‘Green Economy’?

*Chee Yoke Ling and Saradha Iyer, Third World Network*

*[An earlier version of this article was first published in SUNS #6928, 21 May 2010.]*

The first preparatory meeting (17-19 May) of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development saw lively debate and interactive exchanges between UN Member States, UN agencies and Major Groups on their understanding of what a “green economy” means in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

The idea of making national economies more environmentally sound or “greening” an economy was accepted. However, there was a wide range of views with some fundamental differences, particularly between developed and developing countries, on how the “green economy” concept is understood in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and how it should be addressed at the international level to prevent “green protectionism” in trade and new conditionalities in financing for developing countries.

After a statement by UNEP head Achim Steiner, Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaidi of Yemen, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, kicked off the debate by outlining in detail the Group’s concerns regarding the concept of green economy. The thrust of the statement was on the need to understand the scope and possible benefits and the need to assess the risks and costs and to clarify the limits of the concept.

Expanding on the Group’s initial comment on green economy Ambassador Alsaidi said “there is no need to redefine sustainable development. No valid argument can be sustained for abandoning the concept of sustainable development and replacing it with an imprecisely defined, abstract concept”.

The Group stressed that in this preparatory process leading up to the 2012 Conference, UN Member States must assess if this new concept could lead to duplication of efforts or an attempt to sideline the concept of sustainable development and its requirements. The limits of the concept of “green economy” should be clarified in full.

A number of questions were raised by the Group: Does an approach based on “a green economy” add value to the paradigm of sustainable development? Or does it compete with the agreed multilateral conceptual framework for sustainable development? Moreover, how does it relate to the fundamental principles agreed in Rio (Agenda 21, Rio Declaration) and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Declaration, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)?

According to the Group of 77, “up to now, the approach offered by ‘green economy’ does not reflect clearly the disparity between countries, which translates as different development challenges and the many possible interactions among environmental, economic and social factors.

The underlying differences in the development processes and the structures of the economies and societies between the developed and developing countries have been captured in the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. This distinction also points to the fact that there is not one single model for sustainable development, much less for a ‘green economy’ that would fit all countries.

‘Green economy’ definitions would thus require a certain degree of flexibility and the consideration of the different levels of economic, social and environmental development in different countries. A universalist and uniform approach to the concept of ‘green economy’ is not warranted”.

Clearly the Green Economy needs more thinking in relation to the above concerns, but also in relation to the market-based approaches (existing and proposed) that are meant to generate resources. There is significant evidence that the market-based approach is not working and in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, developing countries are openly challenging this. CBD Parties must exercise full caution and not contribute to the disturbing trend of undermining multilateralism at the UN.

## **Indigenous Peoples emphasize capacity-building, FPIC and protection of traditional knowledge with Sui Generis systems in 8(J) discussions**

*selected excerpts ....*

"We welcome the support given by Spain for capacity building of indigenous peoples and local communities in Latin America and the Caribbean; it is of great importance to continue these efforts, extend them to other regions and to promote the participation of indigenous youth and women and relate it together with the implementation of the Gender plan adopted in COP9. We urge Spain to continue support this initiative and call upon all other Parties to follow this initiative", in the IIFB Statement presentation at today’s 8(j) Working Group discussion.

"Sui Generis systems must be developed for the protection of traditional knowledge, these should be monitored and assessed with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and they must be based on their customary law and community protocols."

The IIFB Statement included, "We strongly encourage the adoption of the code of ethical conduct and we restate our position that our rights as indigenous peoples and local communities, to the lands and waters that we have traditionally occupied or used, must be fully recognized in these negotiations as language which has previously been negotiated in the Akwe:Kon guidelines. We also request that the code applies the principle to free, prior and informed consent." Please follow the IIFB on [iifb.indigenousportal.com](http://iifb.indigenousportal.com)

# First Global Discussion on Geoengineering Kicks Off - Paragraph 8(w) may be only the beginning

ETC Group

One of the hottest issues under Climate Change and Biodiversity has proven to be paragraph 8 (w), which arrived from SBSTTA in bracketed form:

[(w) Ensure, in line and consistent with decision IX/16 C, on ocean fertilization and biodiversity and climate change, and in accordance with the precautionary approach, that no climate-related geoengineering activities take place until there is an adequate scientific basis on which to justify such activities and appropriate consideration of the associated risks for the environment and biodiversity and associated social, economic and cultural impacts;]

COP10 is the first UN inter-governmental negotiating forum that is openly debating the issue and that is prepared to take a decision on geoengineering as a whole. Not surprisingly, there are different opinions about what the term “geoengineering” entails. This debate exists outside the CBD as well. The issue of scope is central, but should not be difficult to resolve.

## What is really at stake in this debate?

Whether or not the precautionary principle will be applied to high-risk and large-scale interventions in the climate system lies at the heart of the debate. Deletion of paragraph 8(w), as proposed by some delegations, would send the wrong signal to those states and private entities that want to engineer the climate by manipulating the very ecosystems the CBD was designed to protect.

## Will this decision prevent research and discussion?

Geoengineering proponents claim that the proposed wording of the moratorium could prevent people from talking about geoengineering, undertaking research and computer modeling. Such claims are ludicrous. The word “activities” may indeed be broad, but that is the same wording that was applied to ocean fertilization in 2008 and the two subsequent years saw vigorous debate in scientific, political and civil society circles, as well as continued lab research and modeling. The result: ocean fertilization is increasingly discredited as an effective response to climate change and the prospects for making money off ocean fertilization carbon credits is now rightly remote. This is good news for oceans and the people who depend upon them for their livelihoods.

## Will this decision prevent companies from developing geoengineering schemes?

It will not prevent research, but it should prevent commercialization. If geoengineering is an “emergency response” then it cannot be handed over to private entities whose primary goal is to make money! Nevertheless, all kinds of patents on these technologies have been awarded or are awaiting approval. The 2008 decision on ocean fertilization explicitly prohibited research that was “used for generating and selling carbon offsets or any other commercial purposes”. The same should be made clear in this decision about geoengineering as well.

## Why are some countries opposing 8(w)?

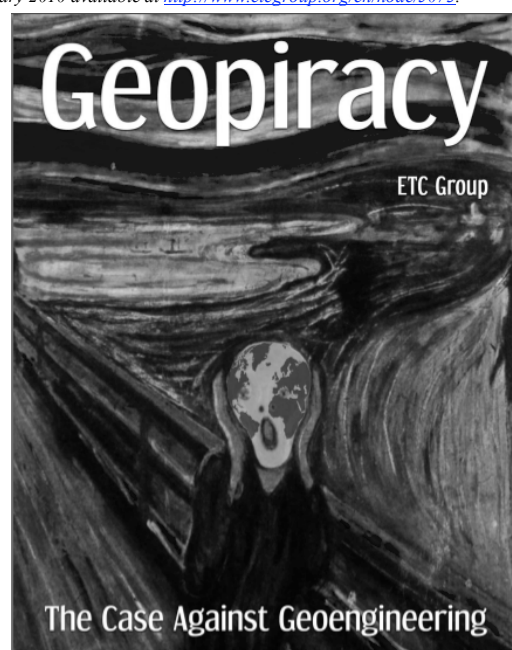
Some countries are anxious to move forward with geoengineering - not only with research in computer modeling and laboratories, but in the real world. Thus far, only Russia has experimented with Solar Radiation Management techniques but a small group of geoengineers in Canada, the UK and the US (amongst others) is also anxious to move forward with such tests. They want to experiment with cloud whitening, altering the alkalinity of our oceans and more. We know that altering the sun’s radiation will affect precipitation patterns, potentially threatening the food supplies of up to 2 billion people. (1) Such experiments cannot be allowed to proceed in the absence of inter-governmental consensus and oversight and a careful consideration of the intended and unintended impacts. However, no such information or even a risk assessment to do so exist now. Rushing ahead with climate engineering interventions could be disastrous.

## What happens next if the moratorium is agreed to?

The debate will continue, with a much diminished risk of a unilateral intervention that could go badly wrong and with assurance that any attempt to engineer the climate would be quickly condemned by the international community. The moratorium will buy the world – both governments and civil society – the time we need to debate whether or not this is the road we want to go down and how to put in place meaningful risk assessments and controls. The debate on geoengineering will not be over. It will be safer.

ETC Group’s new report: [Geopiracy: The Case Against Geoengineering](#) was published this week and is available with other background documents on our website ([www.etcgroup.org](http://www.etcgroup.org)).

(1) See Alan Robock, Martin Bunzl, Ben Kravitz, Georgiy L. Stenchikov, “A Test for Geoengineering?” *Science*, 29 January 2010, Vol. 327, no. 5965, pp. 530-31 and ETC Group news release, “Top-down Planet Hackers Call for Bottom-up Governance,” 11 February 2010 available at <http://www.etcgroup.org/en/node/5073>.



# Statement on Behalf of the Ad-Hoc Occasionally Like-Minded Bling-Bling Industry Group on ABS

*The Scarlett Bracketeer*

[to the theme of the James Bond Film, 'Die Another Day']

Thank-you my lovely comfy Co-Chairs,

I [stand][sit][lounged] meander[wobble] before you today on behalf of the occasionally like-minded bling-bling industry group. Yes us.... the people with all the money..so sit up straight and pay attention!

My delightful pair of Chaise longues I recognise that this is an unusual turnaround for the late [widely rumoured][great] dearly [mysteriously] departed [extinguished][cruelly eradicated] Dr. N.D. Bracket. But my dear Co-Chairs I am a Bracket with a plan! Yes, I am a [strategic][,] [cunning,] [well placed] [and surprising] Bracket with a pocketful of lesser brackets to [confuse,][confound,][infiltrate] and infuriate.

Today, I wish to convey a simple message to the ABS group from industry: "All you need is love" Co-Chairs "All you need is love, love" and "love is all you need." Sing it with me startled distinguished and degenerate delegates alike... and if the unwashed tree huggers at the back could just sway along... All together now.... "All you need is love, love. Love is all you need"!

Yes, exactly, Mr. Co-Chairs. Dr. N.D. Bracket has found LOVE. A few short months ago I would never have imagined that the flowers of our passions would mingle with such passion and ecstasy [and other inappropriate things whose origins could not possibly be disclosed in a patent application]... Give me some loving, Co-Chairs, give me some loving... every day. "Hang on a second...Co-Chairs...."

"What dear... is that your stiletto I feel penetrating the tender flesh of my right foot. Really, now is not quite the appropriate moment for foreplay don't you think". "Of course dear... what happens between the brackets in the privacy of our own bed is strictly between us dear... what do you mean.... the microphone is still on?"

[Aaaaargh] Distinguidos Señores Co-Asientos, far be it from me to praise [or [heaven forbid] lift] my own brackets but we have surp[re]a[re]ssed ourselves. Bracketologists of the world will one day write dense impenetrable treat[ys][ises] of several [thousand] volumes in length in praise of the phenom[en]a[o][l][ogical] bracketology we have before us. We brackets are legion... Mr. Co-chairs. Speaking purely from a[n] [p]a[es]thetic perspective we in the industry group deplore the lack of brackets in this [I can barely bring myself to speak the words,] [oh God]....[help us all][and] [incapacitate the Parties/indigenous peoples/NGOs][strictly] draft [appalling][outrageous][disgraceful][without prejudice to any possible outcome]....PROTOCOL [outbreak of generalised/sobbing/wailing/gnashing of teeth from industry delegates].

Distinguished Co-Chairs, let me [dissemble] reiterate that industry is permanently poised and stands ready [with heavy weapons][, as appropriate,] to contribute to the constructive [destruction][disintegration][evisceration][emasculat[i]on][incineration][incarceration] of the international regime. As a group, if not individually and severa[b][l]ly, we love the international regime to bits and wish we could burn it to a cinder. Lots of Love [and never, ever, say we lack a sense of humour, or you will become a][full stop]

Dr. N.D. Bracket [deceased, for tax reasons]

Industry Group

Secretariat of the Not Always Entirely Like-Minded Mega-Mega Diverse Group

The Broom Cupboard

Nagoya Congress Centre

Nagoya

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## Noticed: bully in finance

Lessons in decorum and diplomacy may be required in the Financial Resources contact group, particularly as bullying seems to be a favoured tactic of one Co-Chair.

