

**Climate Change:
Statement of Mercy International Association
to Governments Participating in the 17th Conference of
Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Climate change epitomizes one of the greatest moral imperatives of our time. As citizens of our planet, our challenge is to advance to positive action, halt global warming and mitigate the negative impact of climate change on the future sustainability of this planet and on the entire community of life.

Clearly, our most impoverished citizens are disproportionately bearing the impact of climate change that includes lack of food, water, sanitation and energy securities. The devastating results are lost development opportunities, rising poverty, desertification, biodiversity loss, fresh water depletion and global warming.

Mercy International Association, whose members live and minister in forty-seven countries worldwide, calls upon world leaders and governments participating in the 17th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 17) to focus on "the wellbeing, justice, and sustainability of the community of life" as the center and core of their negotiations.

Thus, it is imperative at this moment of opportunity that you:

- lead decisively in effecting absolute reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and in consumption patterns;
- terminate market-based solutions to climate change such as Cap & Trade and carbon offsetting;
- undertake collaborative action to create radical, sustainable, ecological and innovative approaches to climate change.
- adopt and ratify a just and legally binding international agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol by the end of 2012; and,
- provide necessary levels of funding and technological support to developing countries to adapt and mitigate the extreme poverty and ecosystem degradation caused by climate change; and,

The planet and future generations depend upon you and upon your positive action **NOW**.

Cap & Trade can be described as "pollution credits". Air quality goals are set for a country and it is given a carbon allowance, representing the amount of pollutants that they are allowed to use. If they use under the allowance given, they can sell their leftover allowances to others on the global market. Essentially this system allows those that buy leftover allowances the ability to pollute more, because others are polluting less.

Carbon Offsetting is a reduction in carbon dioxide emission made in order to compensate for an emission made elsewhere. Carbon offset schemes allow individuals, companies and governments to invest in environmental projects around the world in order to balance out their carbon usage.