

Press release, May 30, 2007

## **Memorandum „To Have and Have not“**

### **The Heinrich Böll Foundation demands binding rules and regulations for a new, global resource policy**

Less than a week before the G8-summit in Heiligendamm the Heinrich Böll Foundation, together with the German Federal Minister Wieczorek-Zeul, launched its Memorandum “To Have and Have Not” concerning the world-wide challenges in the resource sector.

The memorandum, written by an international expert group, outlines the challenges of resource governance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, focusing on Africa where natural resource wealth has failed to create wealth for local populations, and in fact has resulted in increased corruption, human rights abuses and even violent conflict. The Memorandum describes the economic, social and ecological implications of resource exploitation and relates that to other challenges such as preventing dangerous climate change, improving investment conditions and promoting democracy. The Memorandum analyses initiatives, standards and mechanisms of current global resource-policy and makes specific political demands and recommendations to the G8 to provide a coherent response to these challenges. The impact of the increasing international competition for access to and control of natural resources and the topic “Transparency in the natural resources sector” are also on the agenda of the official G8 summit.

The Memorandum of the Heinrich Böll Foundation is supported internationally by Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the US-investment banker and founder of the Open Society Institute George Soros, Ed Zwick, the director of the film “Blood Diamonds” and Peter Eigen, the founder of Transparency International and president of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

On behalf of the Heinrich Böll Foundation president Barbara Unmüßig stated: “A responsible approach to dealing with natural resources is now part of the agenda of the G8 states. From our perspective there has been a lack of real reform strategies. It is not sufficient to symbolically repeat support for already agreed upon standards and voluntary commitments. It is necessary to create a set of binding rules, which have to be negotiated with all the relevant parties - including emerging economies such as China, India and Brazil. With this memorandum therefore we want to give a strong civil society stimulus for the G8 process and a tangible contribution to future political debate concerning the management of natural resource wealth. With this Memorandum we put forward a proposal for a political program, which rests upon common principles and suggestions for a fair, just and ecologically orientated resource-policy”

The Federal Minister Heidemarie Wiecezorek-Zeul stated at today's presentation of the Memorandum: "Many developing countries are rich in natural resources. Yet they don't manage to use them for the benefit of their people. The income generated from natural resource exploitation has to be used for the fight against poverty. We need to prevent the illegal exploitation of and trade in natural resources. Good Governance and transparency are essential preconditions for that. I am personally committed to the transparency initiatives in the different resource sectors. The idea of transparency has to be promoted everywhere. In addition to that we need worldwide binding standards for all actors involved."

To coincide with the German G8-presidency this year the Heinrich-Boell Foundation initiated a dialogue and process to ensure that civil society perspectives and recommendations are made public and in order to enhance ecological, just and transparent resource-policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"Such a broad spectrum of civil society dialogue on resource policies is unprecedented in the world", said the foundation's president Barbara Unmüßig, "for the first time representatives from civil society and scientists from countries like Nigeria, Kenya, Angola, Cameroon, Chad, South Africa, Liberia, China, India, Brazil, Russia, Mexico, North America and Europe have come together and agreed upon common recommendations. This Memorandum also acts as a guidebook bringing together critical but diverse topics in one document which can be used by civil society and other actors worldwide," Unmüßig continued.

The authors of the Memorandum "To Have And Have Not" call on the G8 to push for binding standards, which should be negotiated with all players, including China and India. Other main demands are: A coherent response to the problem of conflict resources is needed, including a UN security council definition of what a conflict resource is. Bilateral investment agreements should be designed with development linkages. Transparency in the awarding of concessions and in contracts should be addressed beyond the current scope of the existing Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). Regarding the forest sector, the authors demand to abandon the paradigm of industrial logging as it does not contribute to sustainable development in tropical forest rich countries. With its detailed compendium of already existing standards and initiatives the Memorandum is a unique reference tool and handbook for civil society actors worldwide.

The memorandum can be downloaded at [www.boell.de/resource\\_governance](http://www.boell.de/resource_governance). This site also gives you the option to support the demands by signing the Memorandum. A web dossier and background texts and materials concerning the issue of "resource governance" and sustainable resource policy can also be found there.

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