



**BONN, 21 May –
New report
by the Southern Voices programme, involving
INFORSE, Climate Action Network, CLACC and other networks:**

**REPORT REVEALS KEY ROLE
FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN POLICYMAKING
IN A CHANGING CLIMATE**

"As the international climate negotiations are moving at a slow pace, developing countries are creating new policies to deal with climate change; a new report by a coalition of NGOs demonstrates that civil society is critical to policy processes that aim to tackle climate change and protect the poorest and most vulnerable communities from its impacts."

"Civil society plays key roles in pushing for new laws, programmes, policies or strategies on climate change, in holding governments to account on their commitments; in identifying the lack of joined-up government responses to climate change; and in ensuring that national policy making does not forget the poor and vulnerable."

These are some of the findings of a report launched today at the UN climate talks in Bonn by a coalition of more than 20 civil society networks in developing countries, including INFORSE, with support from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and CARE through the Climate Capacity Consortium.

The report - "Southern voices on climate policy choices: civil society advocacy on climate change-provides an analysis of the tools and tactics advocacy groups use to influence policy responses to climate change."

The report highlights the importance to civil society networks of engaging with the media to reach the general public and key decision-makers, and of having good relations with governments to influence policy making and planning.

The report also describes how civil society advocacy efforts have influenced international processes, donors and multilateral organisations such as the World Bank, and in some cases the private sector.

The report also describes some of the challenges experienced by these coalitions. Many acknowledge that they lack the skills and resources they need to meet their advocacy objectives. And where relations between government and civil society are weak, civil society involvement in key policy making arenas has not been adequate.

The report includes contributions from more than 20 climate networks and their member organisations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific. The networks work together in the Southern Voices on Climate Change programme, which is funded by the Government of Denmark through the Climate Capacity Consortium, where Danish SustainableEnergy is participating to support INFORSE activities in Africa and South Asia

The report was launched at a press conference at 11.00am on Monday 21 May at the intergovernmental negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The is available online at <http://pubs.iied.org/10032IIED.html>. Project's web site: <http://www.climatecapacity.org/>

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