

Delegation Statement:

We, waste pickers and other recycling workers in the informal economy are highly-efficient environmental entrepreneurs. We are owed a climate debt for our historical and current contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and solid waste management costs.

Materials recovery and recycling is the preferred option for all waste management programs. We do not consider landfill gas-to-energy projects, incineration projects, and refuse derived fuel to be recycling or recovery operations.

Industrialized countries must reduce consumption of natural resources, limit waste generation, increase in-country recycling, and avoid all export of waste and technologies that contribute to climate change.

We call upon the UNFCCC and our national governments to:

1. Recognize the critical and productive role that the informal recycling sector contributes to climate change mitigation, and invest in resource recovery programs that ensure decent livelihoods for all workers and traders in the recycling economy.

2. Review and end support for all waste projects and technologies that divert waste from recycling into incineration and landfilling.

3. Establish mitigation mechanisms that are directly accessible to waste workers in the informal sector, and result in significant financial and technical support.

4. Establish adaptation mechanisms that take into account the human costs of waste disposal, compensate communities for negative impacts, and consult with existing recyclers and wastepickers prior to the approval of any waste-to-energy proposal.

5. Support projects and technologies that divert organic waste from landfills into composting and biomethanation, which will eliminate waste-based methane emissions and should be the preferred option.

Bonn, June 8th. 2009



**UNFCCC SIDE EVENT
JUNE 10TH WEDNESDAY
18:00-19:30
(METRO room-Ministry of Transport)**

Wastepickers: unseen entrepreneurs on the frontline of climate change

The informal waste sector currently contributes considerable, unacknowledged mitigation. But it is threatened by CDM-backed waste-to-energy projects which would increase GHG emissions and reduce employment.