



Advocacy Update

Sent November 30, 2011

The Durban UN Climate Change Conference Opens

Opening the United Nations Climate Conference in Durban South Africa, Jacob Zuma, the South African president, stated, "For most people in the developing world and Africa, climate change is a matter of life and death."

The conference, referred to as COP 17, which is being held from November 27th through December 9th, includes participants from 191 countries and the European Union who came together in an effort to reach an agreement to curb the rising climate-changing carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions.

But, as noted by Susan Paykin, an Eisendrath Legislative assistant at the Religious Action Center (RAC) in her blog on the RAC website, "the outcome of this conference . . . remains unclear. Most wealthy countries, including the United States, have said that any potential commitment to reduce harmful emissions hinge on rapidly developing nations such as India, China, and Brazil also accepting legally binding restrictions on their own emissions."

To WRJ's good fortune, David Waskow, of Oxfam America, who is at the Durban climate change conference, will be leading the "Climate Change, Global Hunger, and Sustainability" workshop at our 48th assembly. We will have the opportunity to hear an insider's view of the conference. Delegates will also have the opportunity to discuss and vote on the resolution "Sustainable Consumption and Production: Learning to Live Together," which has clear implications for climate change.

Based on our extensive prior environmental resolutions and statements, WRJ President, Lynn Magid Lazar, issued a statement on November 8, 2011, in support of the climate change conference for the opening faith-based rally on November 27th and book of messages for the leaders of the world. Read Lynn's statement, which is attached.

Don't miss the discussions on important issues at WRJ's 48th Assembly.