

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, 11th December 2015

### **Don't nuke the climate – Nuclear is no solution to the climate crisis NGOs at COP21 call for abandonment of false solutions to reach emissions targets**

Paris - On the last day of the official negotiations at the COP 21 in Le Bourget (Paris), an international coalition of NGOs calls upon world leaders not to let nuclear lobbies subvert the just and necessary energy transition away from harmful fuels for the planet towards a clean and renewable future. 524 organisations worldwide have signed the petition "Don't nuke the climate." The number includes 162 NGOs from the United States, 41 from France, and 38 from the United Kingdom, all countries which have advocated for nuclear to have a central role in climate mitigation strategies at the conference.

A nuclear industry lobby group, "Nuclear for Climate", has been actively pushing for nuclear projects to be funded through the Green Climate Fund that is to come into effect from 2020. Nuclear power is and never has been economically competitive, yet now the proponents are turning vividly "green" in their ambition for subsidies and financial incentives to fund their dirty and unsafe projects.

"We call upon environment ministers of nuclear-free countries to speak up against this attempted hostage taking of the Green Climate Fund by a failed technology from a bygone age. Nuclear power is the problem for many generations to come, not part of any solution", state the NGOs involved in the coalition: BI Lüchow-Dannenberg (Germany), Ecodefense (Russia), FMKK (Sweden), GLOBAL 2000/Friends of the Earth Austria, Nuclear Information and Resource Service (USA), Résau "Sortir du Nucléaire" (France), Women in Europe for a Common Future (Germany) and World Information Service on Energy (Netherlands).

A direct action inside the COP 21 venue exposed the lies of the nuclear lobby by introducing "Mr. Pi Nokkio", who on behalf of the world's largest operator of nuclear power plants, French energy giant EDF, held a short speech about the "blessings" of nuclear at 9:30 in the central area of the venue. EDF was awarded the Pinocchio Award last week for its false advertising campaign, promoting nuclear power as a clean energy solution to the climate crisis. The NGOs debated Mr. Pi Nokkio and presented him with the "Don't Nuke the Climate Petition" and demanded that he abandon his dirty, dangerous, obsolete and expensive technology, and to get on board with the clean energy transition.

The protesters also called on climate negotiators to abandon false solutions to the climate crisis and demonstrated that nuclear power can and must be phased out along with fossil fuels to reduce emissions sufficiently to cap warming at a 1,5C level. Continued reliance on nuclear is incompatible with a warming climate, presents disruptive and unacceptable risks to achieving emissions reductions, and manifests a wide range of human rights violations, from the rights to life and health, to disproportionate impacts on indigenous peoples, women, children, and future generations.

The petition details four primary reasons nuclear is a false solution and should not be included in the Green Climate Fund:

- **Too dangerous:** It will inevitably lead to more Fukushimas and Chernobyls, and increases global security and nuclear proliferation risks.
- **Too dirty:** It produces vast amounts of lethal waste throughout its fuel cycle with no proven means of mitigation, from uranium extraction and nuclear fuel production, through routine reactor operation, to nuclear waste storage and radioactive decommissioning and "cleanup".

- **Too expensive:** It is the costliest means possible of generating electricity, diverting financial resources that can more efficiently and effectively be used to deploy clean energy technologies and other vital climate mitigation measures. Investors and banks are not willing to finance nuclear projects in any market economy without significant, anti-competitive government backing and guarantees. Even then, the pace of nuclear construction cannot keep up with retirement of aging, uneconomical reactors.
- **Too slow:** It takes an average of 10 years to build a nuclear power reactor, too long to play a meaningful role in reducing fossil fuel emissions within the necessary time frames. China is building reactors faster than nearly every other country, but is still deploying several times more new generation from wind and solar than nuclear every year.

The rally concluded with presentation of a petition addressed to climate negotiators at COP21, signed by 524 organisations from all over the world with the simple message: “Don’t nuke the climate”. The petition details the above reasons nuclear is not an acceptable technology for addressing the climate crisis and calls upon world leaders to recognize that nuclear is no part of the climate solutions we need as the outcome of the Paris agreement.

Contact persons within the COP venue:

- Peer de Rijk (WISE) +31 620 000 626 [director@wiseinternational.org](mailto:director@wiseinternational.org)
- Tim Judson (NIRS) +1 212 729 1169 [timj@nirs.org](mailto:timj@nirs.org)
- Reinhard Uhrig (GLOBAL 2000) +43 699 14 2000 18 [reinhard.uhrig@global2000.at](mailto:reinhard.uhrig@global2000.at)