

## **MEMORANDUM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA**

We, the NGOs and Parties endorsing this Memorandum, would like the US Government to know that we find several of the policies and actions of the US Government totally unacceptable. Among them are -

### **1.0 Stance on Climate Change**

- the US remains the largest emitter of greenhouse gases;
- the US refuses to recognize the gravity of climate change and global warming;
- the US has yet to ratify the Kyoto protocol;
- the US does not accept the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”, but attempts to shirk its responsibilities by insisting that poorer countries also cut emissions by a similar percentage.

### **2.0 US Intervention in the Middle East**

- Unqualified US support has allowed Israel to take a hardline stance to the Palestinian issue;
- The US told a lot of lies about weapons of mass destruction to start the war against Iraq;
- US military involvement has destabilized the entire middle east and created the spectacle of failing states;
- many of the US military actions in the Middle East are illegal – they were not in response to aggression from those countries, nor were they sanctioned by the UN.

### **3.0 US Intervention in Other Countries**

- The continuing US embargo on Cuba is unacceptable;
- The US deliberately organized the overthrow of Salvador Allende, the President of Chile in 1973;
- The US-funded “Contras” mined the harbours of Nicaragua in the 1980’s in an attempt to topple the left wing “Sandinista” government there;
- The US is currently attempting to undermine the legitimate government of Venezuela.

### **4.0 US promotion of Corporate Interests**

- the US government has become the mouth-piece of large corporate interests. This has led to the erosion of the rights and living standards of ordinary people all over the world including in the US;
- the “Intellectual Property Rights” regime that the US government is trying to promote through the FTAs and the TPPA will make many medicines too expensive for the people in poor countries. It will also make access to knowledge more expensive;

- The “National Treatment Policy”, the restriction of State Owned Enterprises, the restrictions on Government Procurement, and the “Investor State Dispute Settlement” regime being promoted by the US through the TPPA will greatly reduce the policy space of our government. The ability of our government to bring development to marginalized groups will be seriously compromised.

5.0 **The US stance on nuclear weapons.** We do not see any reason why

- the US should continue to maintain a huge stockpile of nuclear weapons;
- the acquisition of nuclear weapons by countries like Israel is encouraged while the possibility of Iran developing the bomb is being used as a pretext for taking military action on Iran.

At the same time we would like to assure the American People that we do not see you as the “enemy”. We fully understand that your government has been taken over by corporate interests and that many among you are suffering too. The living standards of ordinary Americans has been deteriorating over the past 20 years, and your life has become increasingly difficult.

We call upon you to take a stand against the various interventions of your government throughout the world that is causing much suffering of the people in those countries. Specifically we call upon you to lobby your government not to intervene militarily in any part of the world unless such an intervention is called for by the UN. We would also ask you to pressure your government to stop the TPPA negotiations which essentially represents a “Bill of Rights” for large corporate interests and serious problems for the rest of us!

Together we can build a better world – but we have to take back the control of our governments first!