



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THOUSANDS OF CLIMATE DEMONSTRATIONS BACK ISLAND NATIONS
AND CALL FOR "REAL DEAL" IN COPENHAGEN THIS WEEKEND**

**Citizens in Over 130 Countries Will Unite During Candlelight Vigils to Call for
Progress in Copenhagen Climate Talks**

This weekend, from the 11th to the 13th of December, millions of people will hold rallies and candlelight vigils in over 130 countries to support the survival of small island nations and call for progress in the Copenhagen climate talks. The thousands of events, co-ordinated by hundreds of civil society groups under the banner of the TckTckTck campaign, are intended as a strong show of support for a "Real Deal" in Copenhagen, such as the text put forward today by the Association of Small Island States."

"Some people will say these are small nations. But they have an army behind them," said Bill McKibben, one of the organizations driving the global day of action said. "This weekend millions of people at three thousand vigils in every corner of the world will back this draft text to the hilt. Because everyone on earth lives on a small and endangered island, and these countries are simply ahead of the curve."

At a special vigil at the culmination of a giant march in Copenhagen on Saturday the 12th, Nobel Peace Prize winner, Desmond Tutu will send a strong message to world leaders. "Millions of people, especially the very poor, are already suffering due to changing weather patterns, droughts and floods," said Tutu. "None of us will be immune from climate change – we are all in this together and there is no time to lose."

These demonstrations will draw a line between success and failure at the ongoing Copenhagen Climate Conference by calling for a 3-point "Real Deal". Supporters are asking for all countries to urgently sign a climate agreement that is:

a) Fair – by securing \$200 billion in climate financing for poorer countries

b) Ambitious – by peaking global carbon emissions by 2015, and returning atmospheric carbon dioxide levels below 350 parts per million

c) Binding - legally enforceable

Ricken Patel, Executive Director of global campaign network Avaaz.org, one of the organizations driving the global day of action says "The day of action shows the huge level of public concern that negotiations are falling short of the Real Deal that is needed to avert climate catastrophe."

At many vigils, citizens will be forming the number 350 out of candlelight. Many scientists, climate experts and progressive national governments are now saying that 350 parts per million is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. The number 350 has become a symbol of climate action since a massive global day of demonstrations organised by the environmental group 350.org on October 24th.

350.org Founder Bill McKibben said, "People of every faith, rich and poor, on every continent have spoken clearly in the last few months, rallying around the 350 target. Ordinary citizens understand the science. Our leaders have no excuse for not producing a deal that meets the scale of the crisis."

So far over 10 million people have signed on to the "Real Deal" as part of the online TckTckTck campaign. Kumi Naidoo, Chair of TckTckTck said "This weekend pressure on global leaders will rise as people gather on every continent in a massive global day of action on climate change."

As rallies begin across Australia and the Pacific, 350.org and Avaaz will hold a press conference inside Bella Center with AOSIS Ambassadors to launch the weekend of action and demonstrate the massive civil society support for the survival pact put forward by island nations.

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Note to editors:

High-resolution photos will be available at: <http://www.tcktcktck.org/photos>

Broadcast-quality video will be available from here: <http://www.tcktcktck.org/video>

For general media information on the "World Wants a Real Deal," visit:
<http://www.tcktcktck.org/realdeal-media>

TckTckTck is a coalition of major environmental and anti-poverty organizations as well as faith, civic and youth networks campaign, named for the ticking-clock urgency of climate change: <http://www.tcktcktck.org>

350.org is an international climate campaign working for a real deal that meets the latest science. According to many scientists, climate experts and progressive national governments, the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere must be reduced from its current level of 389 ppm to 350 ppm in order to avoid the worst effects of climate change. For more information about 350.org and to connect with spokespeople around the world, please visit: <http://www.350.org>