



National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSF) National Conference 2022 Resolution on Climate Justice

It is now quite evident that the adverse impacts of climate change are increasing and affecting huge numbers of communities in more vulnerable geographies. As the increasingly warmer and more acidic oceans and seas are some of the most impacted ecosystems, the coastal communities, and specifically the Fish-workers are being regularly impacted by both Climate extreme events, and comparatively slowly changing climate change impacts like increasing sea surface temperature, sea water acidification, and the resulting decline in fisheries etc. Recurrent cyclones and inclement weather drastically reduce fishing time and wreck havoc on dry fish business of small scale fishing communities. Simultaneously, due to continuously increasing temperature of most inland water bodies, increased loss of water due to higher evaporation rates and de-oxygenation, fish availability and abundance in inland water bodies are also being adversely impacted. Draughts and floods are becoming more and more unpredictable. These multiple climate change impacts are made worse by the combined effects of chemical and additional thermal pollution of these water bodies and over withdrawal of water by industries, power-plants and fast expanding urban centres as well as interventions on natural water catchment and drainage systems. Overfishing and destructive fishing are also making the climate impact on fisheries more severe and are telling on community resilience.

Considering the large number of Fish-workers in India - both coastal and inland, and the multiple contributions they make to both the nutritional security of a large population and the local and state economies, along with providing large numbers of livelihoods, it's imperative that these multiple crises are addressed on an urgent action agenda basis. Fish-workers are also involved in one of the least foot-print livelihood enterprises, being non consumptive users of water bodies.

The NPSSF national Conference held on November 8-10 in ISS, New Delhi, resolves that –

1. The small scale fish worker communities (and such other communities), by having negligible Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, are not significantly responsible for contributing to climate change, and yet they are left to be the worst sufferers – a travesty of justice;
2. The large corporations, specifically the fossil fuel companies and big consumers of fossil fuels like aviation companies and power plants are primarily and mostly responsible for creating the crisis, but least affected by the impacts of Climate Change.
3. In the international Climate Negotiations, as well as in determining National and sub-national climate policies and plans, the voices of these same “profit-from-pollution” corporate entities are given much more prominence while the small scale artisanal fish-workers and similar other working class communities do not find any significant representation or consideration;
4. The rich nations and societies and the large corporations have profited enormously from extraction-burning-waste dumping over the past one and half centuries, and must bear the dual responsibilities of – drastically reducing their emissions in this decade itself and provide sufficient financial resources to the low consumption societies and nations to address the impacts of climate change crisis, for adaptation and already visible losses and damages due to increasingly climate change impacts.

5. The international, national and sub-national climate change policies and action plans must strictly regulate the corporate sector and immediately put a complete stop to continuation of profiteering from climate crisis and utilising new business opportunities in mitigation and adaptation projects with Government support while the common people are being taxed for relief and rehabilitation measures relating to climate crisis;

In view of the above, the National Conference resolves that NPSSF and small scale fish worker organisations affiliated to it will –

- A. Raise the demand for **Climate Justice** that needs to make the main culprits for the present climate crisis, the GHG releasing big business and corporate sectors, pay for the mitigation and adaptation measures including the relief, rehabilitation and reparation measures necessary to protect the small scale fish workers as well as the other working people from the impacts of climate crisis and compensate them for the damages suffered, both globally and nationally;
- B. Urge the Union and State Governments to come out with plans and schemes on **climate resilient livelihood practices and habitat reconstruction** for small scale fish workers in general and particularly in the floodplains, coastal areas and wetlands;
- C. Address **Climate Change Impacts** by **informed actions of small scale fish workers** at multiple levels including individual and community levels along with strong and effective **community interventions** in the policy and governance of water bodies and all activities that affect these.
- D. Take up the challenges related with **Climate Crisis** with all **urgency and seriousness, build community capacities** through better understanding, stronger policy positions and more effective interventions regarding local, regional, national and international policies and governance structures.
- E. Build **national and international alliances** to bring broader coalitions, as well as to bring central the matter of **Small Scale Fisheries (SSF)** in climate negotiations.

Dt. November 9, 2022