

MEDIA ADVISORY

Women's Environment & Development Organization

**Contact:
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CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ALL, BUT NOT EQUALLY

WEDO and Partners Promote Fair Climate Agenda at New Orleans Regional Summit

New Orleans, April 17— The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)—together with social justice advocates, youth, women leaders, faith leaders, community members, and environmentalists—will hold the first in a series of events today in New Orleans in the lead-up to this year's major international climate change meeting in Copenhagen.

“Today's meeting represents the convergence of the women's and environmental justice movements,” said Thanh Xuan Nguyen, WEDO Executive Director. “As individual organizations we may represent different interests, but together we are united in a common climate change agenda.”

The summit, which is part of WEDO's campaign *From Katrina to Copenhagen: Women Demand U.S. Action on Climate Change*, calls for equal access to fair climate and energy policies to safeguard our natural resources and prioritize the most vulnerable communities, which includes women. It is co-sponsored by National Wildlife Federation, Advocates for Environmental Human Rights and Deep South Center for Environmental Justice.

“As an organization that is advocating for better climate change policies to safeguard our communities and natural resources, we know that the impacts of rising temperatures are already felt in many parts of the country and that the most vulnerable, especially women, are affected,” said Nguyen.

Worldwide, women are disproportionately impacted by climate change. In the city of New Orleans over 83 percent of poor single mothers were displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Almost four years later, many women and girls remain unable to return home.

“We are optimistic that our collective efforts will lead to meaningful U.S. action and signal a change in our present course,” said Nguyen. “The stakes at home and abroad are enormous. Unless the U.S. takes concrete legislative action, other countries will have less incentive to follow and the costs to human lives will grow.”

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