

## **Glencore re petition with Philippines Human Rights Commission on human rights & climate change impacts**

10 Oct 2016

*Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Glencore to respond to the following items:*

- “World’s largest carbon producers ordered to respond to allegations of human rights abuses from climate change”, Greenpeace Philippines, 27 Jul 2016, <http://www.greenpeace.org/seasia/ph/press/releases/Worlds-largest-carbon-producers-ordered-to-respond-to-allegations-of-human-rights--abuses-from-climate-change/>
- “Full petition: Requesting for Investigation of the Responsibility of the Carbon Majors for Human Rights Violations or Threats of Violations Resulting from the Impacts of Climate Change”, [http://www.greenpeace.org/seasia/ph/PageFiles/735232/Climate\\_Change\\_and\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Petition.pdf](http://www.greenpeace.org/seasia/ph/PageFiles/735232/Climate_Change_and_Human_Rights_Petition.pdf)

*Glencore sent us the following response:*

“Glencore acknowledges that it has received a request from the Commission on Human Rights (Philippines) to respond to a petition filed by Greenpeace Southeast Asia (Philippines) requesting an investigation regarding the impacts of climate change.

While we take this matter seriously, we believe that our annual and sustainability reports as well as our publication ‘Climate change considerations for our business’, which set out our approach towards climate change and our performance, provide a full response to the issues raised by the Petition.

Everybody has a right to decent living standards and the opportunity to access reliable, cost effective energy. In developed countries we take for granted having lights at night, appropriate food storage and safe cooking facilities, yet many families working for a better life are currently facing energy poverty; 1.3 billion don’t have access to electricity and 2.7 billion still rely on solid fuel, such as charcoal and fuel wood, for cooking. The Global Burden of Disease study showed that some 3.5 million die annually worldwide from respiratory diseases caused by burning of dung, brush and wood for fuel use. The research also noted that deaths from the emission of the material above are more than twice than the recorded deaths from AIDS or Malaria.

A lack of reliable energy compounds problems of ill health, poor education and missed opportunities for a better quality of life. It is only by using all available energy sources, including coal, oil and gas, that we can have the reliable, safe and affordable power needed to lift people out of poverty and into security. The sole use of renewables cannot address the energy needs of developing countries for a number of reasons, but principally due to affordability, technical capability, reliability and the timeliness required to address energy needs.

Glencore fully supports the need to reduce emissions and achieve global climate targets. Coal currently provides more than 40% of the world’s electricity and demand for energy is going to increase. The right approach is to supply reliable and affordable energy to communities requiring it, whilst minimising emissions, through the use of an appropriate balance of baseload power sources and renewables. The base load power should include either High Efficiency Low Emissions coal or gas fuelled generation, depending on availability and economics. In time, the use of carbon capture and storage can too be considered to further reduce emissions. Such technologies are already in use and are supported by the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).”