

McPlanet.com 2009 „Game Over – Restart“ - Final Declaration

Game Over for the Globalised Finance-Market Capitalism - Restart for environmental protection and social justice!

Game Over. Climate chaos, crash of the financial market, hunger crisis, advancing destruction of the environment, vanishing oil supplies – the globalised finance-market capitalism is operating on the edge of a total system crash. All over the world, crisis summits are taking place, lots of things have been set in motion. But at this point, cosmetic corrections will not be enough anymore. The course for the future has to be set now. So far, real alternatives and fundamental solutions have been hindered by the resistance of the political and economic elites who profit from the status quo. We are going to interfere and together we will create pressure for a true **Restart!**

Enforce Global Justice – Regulate Financial Markets – Democratise the World Economy!

Game Over. The effects of the current crisis are hurting the most those who played no part in its creation. More and more people are consigned to climate chaos, economic crisis and the destruction of the environment, but their rights have no weight on the international stage. In the global South, the spread and consolidation of poverty is threatening because the developing countries are pulled into the undertow of the crisis. In the North, the gap between the rich and poor is getting bigger as well.

Restart. A worldwide protective shield has to be positioned above those whose survival is threatened. It is high time to enforce social rights globally in order to lay the foundation for a fair world economy. The damages have to be paid by the beneficiaries of the unhindered liberalism instead. Surtaxes will gain large sums to pay for the handling of the crisis' effects and the sustainable restructuring of our society.

Game Over. The dictum of the “free game of the powers” in unregulated financial markets has proven to be an illusion. For decades, powerful financial actors have benefited at the expense of the general public. Even after the melt-down, managers still receive millions in bonuses. The politicians have advocated this development and closed their eyes to its effects.

Restart. The present suggestions of the G20 do not go far enough. Capital needs democratically-set boundaries instead of half-hearted supervision. Tax havens have to be dried out, hedge funds and highly speculative financial products have to be prohibited. Banks are service providers of society and have to be publicly controlled. A tax for financial transactions has to check speculation and finance the effects of the crisis. The casino has to be closed down.

Game Over. The global economic crisis is the result of a world economy bent on competition without alternatives. It has shaken the tectonics of international relations heavily. The leading role of the USA is in jeopardy; developing countries are gaining importance. The dominance of the North has been broken.

Restart. Global crises can only be solved collectively. The IMF and the World Bank have to be democratized and their programmes have to be aligned to prioritize socio-economic criteria. Crisis handling and the re-regulation of world economy have to be negotiated within the framework of the United Nations. The world needs a new, multi-lateral monetary system. Free trade has to be checked in favor of social rights and economic sustainability. We demand global co-operation instead of international competition.

No Sacrifice of Environmental Protection to the Financial Crisis – Climate Justice Now!

Game Over. As if climate change could be stopped by determinedly ignoring it, efforts for the protection of climate and environment are delayed or watered-down to the face of the bad economy. Damages to the financial system can be repaired – the effects of global warming and the loss of biodiversity are irreversible. Even today millions of people flee the effects of climate change.

Restart. Only a few years remain for us to avert a catastrophic climate chaos – the global CO₂-emissions have to reach their climax in less than a decade. To achieve this, the industrial countries have to reduce their emissions by at least 40% before 2020. By 2050 they even have to be reduced by 100%. Due to the industrial countries' historic responsibility for global warming they are obligated to a massive transfer of finances and technologies to both developing and newly industrialising countries to enable them to develop in more climate protecting ways. Additionally, at least 50 billion US\$ per year have to be allocated for the adjustment to the effects of climate change. Without climate justice there will be no climate protection.

Game Over. Growth rates worldwide are collapsing as a result of the financial crisis. The first global recession since the Second World War is under way – with dramatic social effects. Scores of entrepreneurs are facing bankruptcy – foremost the automobile industry. Millions of people are threatened by unemployment. Everywhere public expenditures in the billions are spent to help boost growth while they are actually pumping money into outdated structures.

Restart. Our planet needs a type of crisis management that takes the future into consideration. The required billions for saving the economy have to flow into areas that at the same time drastically reduce emissions, resource consumption and environmental pollution. The development of regenerative energies, the use of building insulation, the strengthening of public transport and the promotion of ecological agriculture are examples for forward-thinking investment areas that create jobs and at the same time respond to the ecologic crisis. Instead of more car-scrap bonuses, the automobile industry needs a fundamental reconstruction that focuses on the implementation of sustainable and social mobility services.

Protecting the Environment – Achieving Nutritional Sovereignty – Sharing Resources Fairly

Game Over. The environment has become the playing field of the corporations. They profit from the large-scale exploitation and destruction of woods, savannahs, oceans and other habitats. The industrial exploitation of natural resources, water supplies and agricultural areas destroys our natural livelihood.

Restart. The world is not a commodity. Our common goods must be protected, our resources must be shared justly, biological reserves must be financially secured. The rights of local communities have priority. The loss of biodiversity must be stopped.

Game Over. Globally, almost a billion people suffer from hunger and malnutrition. Agriculture has changed from the human livelihood into a business field for big agricultural corporations. Food has even become a means for speculation at the financial markets.

Restart. Access to food is a human right. Small farm-structures and ecological agriculture have to be strengthened worldwide. Farmers need access to land and water as well as free access to seeds. Export subsidies of industrial countries must be abolished and the speculation with food must be prohibited. The trade with agricultural goods must be negotiated outside of the World Trade Organisation. We demand nutritional sovereignty instead of bargains with hunger!

Restart! A Call for Social Intervention

The current financial crisis is the declaration of bankruptcy of the neoliberal ideology that subdued humanity and nature to the logic of profit. A new era is about to begin. Now is the time to make this

change a chance for ecology and global justice. A broad social intervention is necessary that sets the course for changes. Therefore, environmental, alter-globalisational and development-political organisations will interfere in these discussions jointly.

Intervention. Together we will take various actions to interfere in the public discussions. We will use the approaching elections to bring forth our alternatives into the debate and to gain new allies for a restart.

Intervention. Together we will publicly demand that the responsible G20-states align their crisis handling to the future of the whole of humanity instead of the profit interests of just a few. We will not pay for your crisis!

Intervention. Together we will take to the streets on September 5 in Berlin to advocate energy change and the onset into the solar era and to make clear that we oppose the extension of operational life-span of nuclear power plants for the profit expansion of energy corporations.

Intervention. Together with our partners from all over the world we will advocate an international climate treaty that effectively protects the climate and respects the right of development. On December 12, at the World Climate Summit in Copenhagen, we will demand: Climate Justice Now!

This is the final declaration of the McPlanet.com conference “Game Over. Restart!” (Berlin, April 24-26, 2009). McPlanet.com is a conference of attac, BUND (German section of Friends of the Earth), Church Development Service, Greenpeace and the Heinrich-Boell-Foundation.