ETC Group at the World Social Forum 2011, Dakar, Senegal, 4-11 February

This week ETC Group travels to Dakar to meet friends and partners – new, old and yet-to-be – to learn, listen and share information about corporate power and emerging technologies, including their impacts on marginalized communities. In the run-up to the Rio+20 Summit in May 2012, the international community will be confronted with a challenging list of so-called ‘green economy’ technology and policy proposals – as well as major agricultural and environmental institutional decisions. Dakar’s World Social Forum gives civil society an opportunity to share research and plan actions in the months and years ahead.

Here’s where ETC Group & friends will be over the next week and a half. Times, locations and local contact details will be updated on our website (www.etcgroup.org) as they become available!

4-5 February, Sciences and Democracy World Forum (SDWF)
Ecole Supérieure Polytechnique de Dakar

- 4 February, 9:15 - 11:15 — PLENARY SESSION: SCIENCE & CRISIS
  Pat Mooney (ETC Group, Canada), Nissim Amzallag (Israel), Geneviève Azam (ATTAC, France), Fatima Denton (ACCA, Senegal/Africa), Gus Massiah (AI-TEC, IPAM, CRID, France)
- 4 February, 15:00 - 17:30 — WORKSHOP: GOVERNANCE OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
  ETC Group with Friends of the Earth (USA & Australia), Brazilian Research Network in Nanotechnology, Society, and Environment (Brazil), Biofuelwatch (UK) and VivAgora (France). Presentations on emerging technologies followed by discussion of possibilities for democratic participation and proper governance of emerging technologies

7 February, World Social Forum

- Afternoon — EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND THE THREAT TO SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA, an event hosted by ETC Group and Pambazuka News, with Maria-José Guazzelli, Centro Ecológico (Brazil), Molly Kane and Pat Mooney, ETC Group (Canada), Anne Maina, African Biodiversity Network (Kenya), Firoze Manji, Pambazuka News (Kenya), Oduor Ong’Wen, Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI), Pablo Solon, Ambassador to the United

To contact ETC Group in Dakar: Pat Mooney: 1 613 240-0045; Diana Bronson: 1 514 629 9236 or diana@etcgroup.org; Molly Kane 1 613 797-6421, molly@etcgroup.org; Maria-José Guazzelli mariajose.guazzelli@gmail.com
Nations, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Shefali Sharma, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (Switzerland), Tidiane Kasse, Pambazuka News (Senegal)

8 February
- 12:30 - 13:30 — WORKSHOP 205: GEOENGINEERING OR GEOPIRACY? Diana Bronson, ETC Group (Canada) and Rachel Smolker, Biofuelwatch (USA) will provide a critical overview of Earth-altering schemes ostensibly designed to combat climate change plus an opportunity to join the HOME campaign against geoengineering
- 12:30 - 15:30 — WORKSHOP 340: DEMOCRATIC DECISION-MAKING AND GOVERNANCE OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES ETC Group’s Molly Kane will present at this workshop (organized by Friends of the Earth – Australia), which considers the possibilities of a socially just and democratic decision-making model related to emerging technologies.
- 16:00 - 19:00 — WORKSHOP 204: EARTH GRAB: THE NEW BIOMASTERS TARGET THE GLOBAL SOUTH We’re being told the “green economy” will end our dependence on fossil fuels, but the focus of agribusiness/big pharma/forestry, etc. on “biomass” means a demand for new feedstocks from all “accessible” living matter. What will it mean?

9 February
- 8:30 – 11:30 — WORKSHOP 259: NEW TECHNOLOGIES, THE BIO-ECONOMY, AND OTHER FALSE PROMISES organized by ETC Group, Biofuelwatch and Friends of the Earth (USA), with Maria-José Guazzelli (Centro Ecológico, Brazil), Diana Bronson (ETC Group, Canada), Georgia Miller (Friends of the Earth – Australia), Rachel Smolker (Biofuelwatch, US), Eric Hoffman (Friends of the Earth USA), Others TBC
- 12:30 -15:30 — WORKSHOP 616: WHAT NEXT? LOOKING THIRTY YEARS AHEAD: ALARMING NEW THREATS AND POSSIBLE CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONSES with Pat Mooney (ETC Group) and Niclas Hällström (WhatNext? Forum)
- 12:30 – 15:30 — WORKSHOP 243: OVERSIGHT OF SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY organized by Friends of the Earth (USA) and ETC Group
- 16:00 - 19:00— WORKSHOP 229: RIO+20: TECHNOLOGY, PRECAUTION AND EVALUATION with Pat Mooney, Naomi Klein, Others TBC

10 February
- 08:30 - 12:30 — CONVERGENCE ASSEMBLY: RIO+20: FROM EARTH SUMMIT TO EARTH GRAB: TECHNOLOGY, POWER AND THE PLANET with Africa Biodiversity Network (Kenya), Biofuelwatch (UK-US), Centre for Civil Society and Environmental Justice (South Africa), Centro Ecológico (Brazil), ETC Group, Focus on Global South (Thailand), Friends of the Earth (US), Gaia Foundation (UK), Global Justice Ecology Project (US), Indigenous Environmental Network (US-International), Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (USA-Europe), IBON Foundation (Philippines), La Via Campesina (International), Pambazuka News (Africa), Peoples’ Movement on Climate Change (Philippines), What Next? Forum (Sweden), World Rainforest Movement (International)

To contact ETC Group in Dakar: Pat Mooney: 1 613 240-0045; Diana Bronson: 1 514 629 9236 or diana@etcgroup.org; Molly Kane 1 613 797-6421, molly@etcgroup.org; Maria-José Guazzelli mariajose.guazzelli@gmail.com