



**SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
JULY 13-14, 2009**

**From New Orleans To The Arctic: Human Rights As The Framework To
Solve The Climate Crisis**

Tuesday, July 14, 2009, 9:00 – 10:30am

Facilitator :

Monette Zard, Program Officer, The Ford Foundation

Panelists:

Tom B.K. Goldtooth, Executive Director, Indigenous Environmental Network; Monique Harden, Co-Director, Advocates for Environmental Human Rights; Julianna Malerba, Coordinator, Brazilian Environmental Justice Network

Session Organizer:

Nikhil Aziz, Executive Director, Grassroots International; Michelle DePass, Program Officer, Environmental Justice and Healthy Communities, Ford Foundation; Laura Livoti, Senior Program Officer, FACT Services

Sponsor:

Prospect Hill Foundation; The Gulf Coast Fund at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors; French American Charitable Trust; Grassroots International; Funders Network On Trade And Globalization; Ford Foundation

Widespread recognition of the realities of global warming and climate change is leading to a newfound urgency to develop climate policy. The solutions we promote will depend in part upon how we define the problem. How does situating this conversation within a human rights framework shift our perspective on the problem and possible solutions? What can we do to bring together the philanthropic community and indigenous, immigrant and environmental rights leaders to discuss ways to broaden the climate movement to include diverse voices? As human rights funders, we have the opportunity to bring the most vulnerable communities, an emphasis on community resiliency, and the enforceability i.e. the implementation of rights into a conversation that is sometimes focused only on the technical aspects of the problem. Participants discussed solutions with renowned experts seeking to create a sustainable world and resilient communities through a variety of concrete strategies, including legal, policy and advocacy.