Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary and Nobel Peace Prize 2001 launches a musical campaign. With many artists he asks you to go to: http://www.timeforclimatejustice.org Watch the video and download the song for free. The clock is ticking. On 9th December of this year, the United Nations will meet in Copenhagen to decide on a defining agreement that will determine the future of our planet in the face of the climate crisis. This agreement will be crucial for the world's poorest people, who are already suffering and dying today as a result of climate change. Without our collective action, this will continue.

The song:
"Beds Are Burning" is a 1987 hit single by Australian rock band Midnight Oil. "Beds Are Burning" is a political song about giving native Australian lands back to the Pintupi, who were among the very last people to come in from the desert. Midnight Oil performed the song in front of a world audience of billions (including then Prime Minister John Howard) at the closing ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympics. The whole band were dressed in black, with the words "sorry" printed conspicuously on their clothes. This was a reference to the Prime Minister's refusal to apologize, on behalf of the government of Australia, to the Aboriginal Australians for the way they had been treated over the previous 200 years, particularly in relation to native title and the government-sanctioned removal of Aboriginal children of the Stolen Generations from their families.

I. Watch the video first.
This is what Kofi Annan says at the beginning:
Climate change is having a real impact on the lives of the individual and communities around the world. We must do something about it. In December in Copenhagen our leaders will have an opportunity to come up with a robust post-climate agreement. That is viable and we help make this planet a better place. And here is what Desmond Tutu (South African churchman who fought the apartheid, Nobel Peace Prize in 1984) says at the very end:
I support the Campaign For Climate Justice. And I'm pleased to become a climate ally. This is your campaign.
These are the artists and celebrities taking part in this project and appearing on the clip:
II. Listen again and read the lyrics of the original version.
In the new version, the artists changed the text a little. Try to find the differences from the original: underline the words you hear (the same in both versions).

III. Read the new 2009 version and sing along. You can also download the song for free and become a climate ally.

IV. Discussion: do you think words are powerful?

Out where the river broke
The blood wood and the desert oak
Holden wrecks and boiling diesels
Steam in forty five degrees

The time has come
To say fair's fair
To pay the rent
To pay our share

The time has come
A fact's a fact
It belongs to them
Let's give it back

How can we dance when our earth is turning
How do we sleep while our beds are burning
How can we dance when our earth is turning
How do we sleep while our beds are burning

The time has come
To say fair's fair
To pay the rent, now
To pay our share

Four wheels scare the cockatoos
From Kintore East to Yuendumu
The western desert lives and breathes
In forty five degrees

The time has come
To say fair's fair
To pay the rent
To pay our share
The time has come
A fact's a fact
It belongs to them
Let's give it back

How can we dance when our earth is turning
How do we sleep while our beds are burning
How can we dance when our earth is turning
How do we sleep while our beds are burning

The time has come
To say fair's fair
To pay the rent, now
To pay our share
The time has come
A fact's a fact
It belongs to them
We're gonna give it back

How can we dance when our earth is turning
How do we sleep while our beds are burning

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2009 VERSION - THE BEDS ARE BURNING - TckTckTck Campaign

[Serena Ryder & Youssou N'Dour:]
Down at the river bed
The earth is cracked and dry instead
Farms are failing, cities baking
Steam in 45 degrees

[Amadou & Mariam:] The time has come
To take a stand
It's for the earth
[Vincent Perez:] It's for our land
The time has come
[Will Lee:] A fact's a fact
The heat is on
[Tyson Ritter:] No turning back

[Serena Ryder:] How can we dance when our earth is turning?
How do we sleep while our beds are burning?

[Marion Cotillard:] How can we dance when our earth is turning?
[???:] How can we dance? How can we dance?
[Eric Serra:] How can we dance when our earth is turning?
[Guillaume Canet:] The time has come
[Guillaume Canet & Youssou N'Dour:] To take a stand
It's for the earth
It's for our land

[Jaimie Burke:] Heaven hopes we'll find a cure
From Beijing west to Timbuktu
[Klaus Meine:] The global village lives and breathes
In 45 degrees

[Ed Robertson & Xing Li:] The time has come
To take a stand
It's for the Earth
It's for our land

[???:] The time has come
A fact's a fact
[Mélanie Laurent:] The heat is on
No turning back

[Duran Duran:] How can we dance when our earth is turning
[Yannick Noah:] How do we sleep while our beds are burning
[Milla Jovovich:] How can we dance when our earth is turning
[Mark Ronson:] How do we sleep while our beds are burning

[Khalil Fong :] The time has come
To take a stand
It's for the Earth
It's for our land

[Dan Black:] The time has come
A fact's a fact
The heat is on
No turning back

How can we dance when our earth is turning
How do we sleep while our beds are burning
How can we dance when our earth is turning
How do we sleep while our beds are burning