



Position paper
VI Regional Meeting
Central America Vulnerable, United for Life!
For the reduction of the vulnerabilities in Central America!

San Salvador, El Salvador, June 26th of 2015

Us, representatives of the social and grassroots movement and of the non-profit organizations participating in the sixth Regional Meeting “Central America Vulnerable, united for life”, we call on the governments of the region and of the world to adopt a legally binding international instrument on climate change, on the basis of the respect of: human rights, the ecosystems, justice and the compliance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities among nations.

Central America is one of the regions most affected by climatic events causing human, economic, social, cultural and environmental losses. This situation limits the possibilities to achieve sustainable development.

Therefore, we demand:

That the ongoing climatic negotiations (both national and global) be based on democratic and inclusive processes. They should unite the actions and expressions oriented on the fulfillment of human necessities, of protection and of conservation of nature.

That Central America be officially recognized as a geographic region highly vulnerable to climate change, as established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

That the countries listed in the Annex 1 be obligated to adopt the Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC). It needs to be understood that those mitigation Contributions are additional to the obligations that arise from their historical responsibilities.

That the national governments summoned all the sectors to elaborate the Intended Contributions. They should work under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, according to the capacities of each State.

1. On the new global climate change agreement

According to the UNFCCC, an international instrument has to be adopted in order to define the new and legally binding global climate regime. This document needs to establish the commitments based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, limiting the increase in the average world temperature to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius, in accordance with the existing scientific criteria.

Developed countries have to comply with the obligation to reduce their emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs).

The Central American economies have to prevent the development of highly contaminating activities such as thermal energy, mining activities, large-scale monocultures, mega hydro dams, etc. They should on the contrary promote low carbon development and promote changes in energy matrix in favor of sustainable energy.

2. On the matter of adaptation

Adaptation is a priority for Central American countries. Among other necessities, we have to work toward the design and implementation of laws, policies, strategies and national plans for adaptation, In accordance with what was established in the UNFCCC.

The same level of attention has to be granted to activities in favor of both adaptation and mitigation, under the principle of equality between countries and populations. Priority should be given to the preservation of the livelihood components permitting a decent living.

Priority should also be given to local adaptation planning processes as it is clear that the local and indigenous communities are the ones who implemented the most effective alternatives to face the negative effects of climate change.

Priority should lastly be given to urgent adaptation actions for vulnerable populations and communities to help them cope with the negative impacts of phenomenon such as droughts or floods, especially in the Dry Corridor areas.

3. On loss and damage

For the most exposed countries it is necessary to build a Mechanism allowing the objective and transparent quantification of the loss and damage, especially concerning livelihoods and environment. It has to contribute to the financial compensation of the urban and rural communities whose coping mechanisms are not viable anymore.

We ask the facilitation of the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism to Address Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change Impacts. This has to be incorporated in the new global climate agreement that will be adopted during the Conference of Parties (COP21). Developed countries have to uphold

this commitment and should not block the adoption and implementation of the Mechanism providing compensation to the victims of climate change.

4. On funding

We demand the establishment of a public contribution based on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the countries of Annex 1. This should be additional to the 0.7% of the help established in the commitments of the Global Forum for the funding of development. Those resources should not be constrained, generate an internal or external debt nor be considered as a loan.

The financial architecture of the Green Climate Fund has to ensure that most of the funds are destined to the most vulnerable sectors.

Central America has to define public and private financing strategies in order to guarantee that the policies, strategies and plans had the necessary budget to finance the National Climate Action. Additionally, new and accessible funding sources should be created, as well as tax charges to large-scale economic activities.

5. On knowledge management

Governments should improve their climate monitoring mechanisms. For example, available prognostics that will be useful to the development of priority productive activities in accordance with the agro ecological characteristics of each country and territory.

Indigenous people, Afro-descendants and local communities, due to their ancestral knowledges, Cosmo vision and spirituality, have a fundamental role to play in the incorporation of those knowledges and wisdom in the management of alternative responses to climate change. Those efforts should be associated with the endeavor of the academics: studies, investigation, etc.

6. *On the Climatic Agenda and the Objectives of Sustainable Development (2015 – 2030)*

In the framework of the adoption of the OSD we demand the definition of measurable goals and objectives, especially concerning climate change. Priority should be given to:

Water and sanitation

- Protect the human right to safe water.
- Transparent and effective citizens' participation mechanisms in the implementation of Public Policies for integrated water resources management.

Food and nutritional security and sovereignty

- Governments should adopt sustainable production. This effort should pass through the dissemination and protection of native and ancestral seeds with the active participation of women in their communities.

Extractive industries

- The negative impacts of extractive industries are worsening, for example, the problems linked to safe water access and environment in general. They are not disconnected from risk management.
- Communities and local and national governments are fundamental actors for the response and alternatives to the risks created by those economical activities.

7. *On Sendai Framework on disasters risks reduction (2015 – 2030)*

- We urge the implementation of global instrument known as the Sendai Framework on disasters risks reduction (2015 – 2030). The adoption process has to be inclusive, with focus on the adaptation to the impacts of climate change and should see the adoption of a social audit mechanism.
- The Central American Policy on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (CEPREDENAC) and the national legal and regulatory framework should be actualized without delay to take in consideration the Sendai Framework.
- We must work on the revision of national laws, their correct and efficient application and the allocation of sufficient budget resources for their implementation.
- We should maintain our efforts to worth with a Front Line Vision approach.
- We have to improve the education, information, citizens' participation and social audit mechanisms.

We know that current trend in the global negotiations are not optimistic but we keep in mind the challenges. Consequently, we will keep working on the construction of a strong social movement that can contribute to reaching good living for all.

Finally, we want to reaffirm our commitment to the development of strategic partnerships at national, regional and global levels in order to build a fairer, more sustainable world. We will keep working on the reduction of vulnerabilities in Central America.

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