

The Experience of the First World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth

Plurinational State of Bolivia

First World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth

- April 20th to 22nd, 2010 Cochabamba, Bolivia.
- Conference attracted 35,352 participants, and of those, 9,254 were foreign delegates, representing movements and social organizations from 140 countries and five continents.
- The event also benefited from the participation of delegations from 56 governments.

Considerations for the Call

- Regretting the failure of the Copenhagen Conference caused by countries called “developed”, that fail to recognize the climate debt they have with developing countries, future generations and Mother Earth;
- Considering that climate change represents a real threat to the existence of humanity, of living beings and our Mother Earth as we know it today;
- Noting that climate change is a product of the capitalist system;
- Affirming that in order to ensure the full fulfillment of human rights in the twenty-first century, it is necessary to recognize and respect Mother Earth’s

17 Working Groups

The debates that took place at the Conference were organized into 17 Working Groups.

- Structural causes
- Harmony with Nature
- Mother Earth Rights
- Referendum
- Climate Justice Tribunal
- Climate Migrants
- Indigenous Peoples
- Climate Debt
- Shared Vision
- Kyoto Protocol
- Adaptation
- Financing
- Technology Transfer
- Forest
- Dangers of Carbon Market
- Action Strategies
- Agriculture and food sovereignty

Cochabamba Agreement

- The “People’s Accord” also called the Cochabamba Agreement is a summary of the conclusions of each of those 17 Working Groups.

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World Referendum on Climate Change

- Those who are affected should have a voice.
- The process of negotiations should not only be reduce to experts.
- There is the need to participate in the decision making process.
- If negotiators failed the people should resolve!!

World Referendum, plebiscite or popular consultation on Climate Change

- 1. Do you agree to change the capitalist model of overproduction and overconsumption and to restore harmony with nature, recognizing and respecting the rights of Mother Earth?**
- 2. Do you agree that the countries and transnational corporations reabsorb and reduce its production of greenhouse gases in proportion to their historical responsibilities for emissions and to slow down global warming?**
- 3. Do you agree to transfer all that is spent in wars and allocate it a higher budget in defense of Mother Earth?**
- 4. Do you agree that our countries become territories of peace free of occupation of troops and foreign military bases?**
- 5. Do you agree with the establishment of a Climate and Environmental Justice Tribunal to judge those who destroy Mother Earth?**

Reflection for the governments

- Are we governments informing, in a understandable way, what is going on in the negotiations and what are the options for climate change?
- Is there a real process of consultation to our population inside our countries?
- Are all sector of the civil society well represented in the process of information and consultation?
- Are we governments taking into account the concerns and proposals of all sectors of our civil society?

A much fair representation

- Restore the balance inside the 9 groups of civil society in the UNFCCC
 - The private and business sector is one of the sectors of the civil society and it should not be over represented.
 - There should be some kind of quotas for each of the nine sectors to maintain the balance.
- We should guarantee a higher participation of civil society sectors of developing countries
- We need to give, inside the civil society groups, more participations to leaders and representatives from social organizations, from grass roots movements
 - Money should not be the main driver for participation.
- Its necessary to create a Fund to assure the participation of developing countries and social movements representatives.
- Explore mechanisms of participation similar to those of ILO (International Labor Organization)