

## **KEY MESSAGES FOR COP 20 AND MINISTERS MEETING AT THE 2014 SOCIAL PRECOP**

### Summary of Social PreCOP 2014 Presidency

This document is a Chair's summary of the key messages that we perceived that, among the diverse views of the different social organizations participating in this meeting, received consensus from all groups and organizations, to be presented and discussed with Ministers on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2014.

Some points are still being debated within civil society, including the best ways to continue this process, and that organizations pledge to continue discussing.

#### **PREAMBLE**

1. The social organizations and movements gathered in the Island of Margarita from November 4 thru November 7, 2014, salute and express our gratitude to the Bolivarian Government of Venezuela on its initiative to organize the First Social PreCOP, the first dialogue between civil society and the governments within the framework of the UNFCCC to strengthen the struggle to face Climate Change. This dialogue intends to establish practical, viable and inclusive solutions for all the peoples and nationalities of the world, within the framework of respect for nature, future generations and Human Rights. In this context, the construction process of this proposal attempts to articulate possible solutions to change the system and not the climate. We call upon the governments of the world to institutionalize and maintain this historical space within the Convention as an essential space to bring together governments and peoples in the struggle against Climate Change. Such processes and mechanisms must consider the diversity of the existent forms of civil society organization, while ensuring the meaningful participation of the marginalized and most impacted group.
2. People in every corner of the world are experiencing climate impacts already at just 0.8C of warming. Our livelihoods and food sovereignty are at risk, grave impacts on oceans and fish are worsening and our water sources are drying up. In many places Climate Change is a question of life and death, threatening particularly those whose rights are violated and have least access to resources due to gender, race, class or geographic location. The science tells us that if we continue on this current course we may soon cross

tipping points, putting all human communities and ecosystems in mortal danger. The latest science warns us that we are on track for as much as 7.8C of warming by the end of the century. The urgency of this planetary emergency cannot be denied.

3. Aware of the devastating consequences of economic systems based on exploitation which put profits first rather than human beings and Mother Earth, we urge the governments of the world to make decisions aimed at changing production and consumption patterns and the energy matrix, thus minimizing the dependence on polluting activities that are bound to transnational and corporate capital. We call for establishing new ways of relations of women and men to nature, based on living well, that is, relations guided by the principles of harmony with nature, respect for life and recognition of diversity, among others.
4. We reject the criminalization of social protest in the context of the struggles for climate justice in the planet, and appeal to an open and productive dialogue between the governments and social organizations and movements, where governments may become guarantors for the people's demands vis-à-vis powerful groups which cause inequality, injustice and vulnerability of the peoples adversely affected by a selfish and inhuman system.
5. Yet there are billions of people who are striving for a better world. One that guarantees the rights of peoples everywhere, ensures they live in dignity, and recognizes the limits of the carrying capacity of Mother Earth. We envision a different way of living that prioritizes living well over the mal-development models advanced in the past that are the structural causes not only of Climate Change, but of many of the most acute problems of our times, like poverty, gender discrimination and global inequity.
6. We will struggle to realize this world through a global transformation that is based in justice, ensuring particularly that the needs, demands and rights of people and communities that are facing marginalization, exploitation and vulnerabilities are secure. These key messages, and the Margarita declaration it is based on, are the expression of our concerns, demands and vision towards a new planetary system based on living well. Let us change the system, not the climate.

## **I. - EFFECTIVE SOCIAL PARTICIPATION**

7. Creating and strengthening spaces and mechanisms enabling and guaranteeing the effective participation of the peoples, social movements and organizations in the Convention negotiation processes is necessary and urgent. Such processes and mechanisms must consider the diversity of the existent forms of civil society organization, while ensuring the meaningful participation of the marginalized and most impacted group such as peasants, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, workers, the gender diverse community, women, youth and people with disabilities.
8. Transparency and timely access to information on processes associated to the participation of the peoples, social movements and organizations in the Convention must be guaranteed.
9. Governments must direct the UNFCCC Secretariat to be more tolerant of diverse voices and forms of expression. The COP should put in place measures to protect the rights of expression, including protest, inside the UNFCCC.
10. A high level committee should be established to revise and re-structure the participation mechanisms at the Convention. Such committee should include representatives of the social movements and organizations, as well as countries with significant experiences on this issue, ensuring gender and geographical balance.
11. We demand disclosure to the public and access to the negotiation meetings. We urge to avoid the use of unnecessary specialized language and the profusion of acronyms at fora and in documents of the Convention. Such practice generates exclusion as it makes harder the comprehension of the negotiation process by the peoples of the world.

## **II. - SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS AND JUST TRANSITION**

12. We affirm that the structural cause of the climate crisis lies in social, political and economic systems which are based on unsustainable production and consumption patterns that generate inequality, injustice and poverty. The agreements, strategies and mechanisms designed and implemented within the Convention must be aimed at generating structural changes, especially in the developed countries.
13. We call on governments to accompany climate change policies and actions with the promotion of opportunities for decent work in a sustainable society

of living well, as well as strategies to guarantee a just transition for workers, promoting gender equality and human rights, justice and prosperity.

14. We stress the necessity of a fair transition that does not affect the sovereignty, the right to living well and the general objective of eradication of poverty in developing countries. Each country has the sovereign right to define its own transition process.
15. The UNFCCC and its institutions should be a catalyst for a global transformation towards just, safe and renewable energy systems for those sectors of the population who can afford it. We stress that the UNFCCC and its institutions should be a catalyst for a global transformation towards just, affordable, safe, efficient and renewable energy systems for all.
16. Any strategies for the transition to sustainable production and consumption patterns must consider the historical responsibilities of countries and corporations, thus recognizing that the carbon atmospheric space is finite and must be fairly distributed among the countries and their peoples. Private transnational corporations in developed countries must be held accountable for their actions and practices in the world. The recognition of a historical responsibility from developed country companies on climate change will develop actions towards regulating their practices and gradually reduce their emissions, their impact on the environment and respect for human rights.
17. We stress that the developing countries require time and resources to achieve sustainable development, whereas the developed countries must comply with their obligations to provide support without any condition whatsoever, to carry out such transition.
18. We consider necessary to promote strategies guaranteeing social protection of workers and their dialogue with the governments, thus ensuring a fair transition towards a new sustainable economic system to face Climate Change.
19. Significant attention should be given to diverse agroecological, traditional, and indigenous knowledge systems and practices of agriculture, as they are essential to the transformations needed in agriculture, away from industrial systems that emit massive amounts of greenhouse gases and towards climate-resilient systems for agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture.
20. Technology transfer from countries in the North to the South must involve safe and appropriate technology and support local innovation and endogenous technology development.

21. The lack of mitigation action by developed countries places an adaptation burden on those least responsible for climate change: an adaptation debt. To repair this debt, developed countries must fulfill their legal and moral obligations under the Convention to support the adaptation efforts of developing countries.
22. The 2015 agreement should include a global goal on adaptation, which seeks to guarantee resilient communities through the development and strengthening of social protection and policies and measures to reduce disaster risks in communities.
23. Under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, governments must develop adequate protection mechanisms for peoples displaced by climate impacts.
24. The agreements, strategies and mechanisms designed and implemented under the Convention shall consider and incorporate the necessary provisions, including financing and compensation for loss and damage and to avoid or minimize the adverse impacts on the developing countries of the response measures to the Climate Change.

### **III. – YOUTH, INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY, GENDER AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

25. Youth play a crucial role. It is essential to create and promote empowerment and participation mechanisms in the Convention enabling the youth to generate transformations, with particular emphasis on having better representation of young people in the Global South.
26. It is necessary to create and promote financing mechanisms for local projects promoted by students and young professionals that will foster investigation and innovative solutions for adaptation and mitigation of climate change.
27. The work of preservation, conservation and caregiving is recognized as an essential task for communities' well living. The indigenous and peasant women continue to play the fundamental role of keeping, protecting and safeguarding seeds, thus benefiting both the feeding of communities and life over the planet.
28. We call for the development of a gender-responsive approach to all climate actions and policies on mitigation and adaptation, as well as means of implementation, including finance, technology and capacity building, oriented towards the recognition, protection and implementation of women's human rights.

29. Gender equality should be ensured in leadership and participation in all decision-making and implementation of climate policies as well as equal access to resources necessary to respond to the adverse effects of climate change to enable transformations towards sustainable living well, climate resilient and just societies.
30. Reporting requirements to the Convention and its institutions must include sections relating to how the rights, interests and needs of minorities must be prioritized, guaranteed and applied.
31. Participative ways of planning and risk management must be fostered to face the Climate Change impacts and promote an urban and rural habitat constructed and managed by women and men to respond their visions, necessities and specific contexts.
32. Injustice, marginalization inequality and social exclusion must be considered in the Climate Change adaptation programs and in financing mechanisms to reduce vulnerability and enhance the adaptive capacity of marginalized groups such as women and indigenous people, promoting a structural change to effectively address the ultimate causes of the climate crisis.
33. An inclusive, sensitive and responsive gender approach must be applied to target gender equality and women empowerment and ensure the meaningful participation of women in the decision making from planning, preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation process of any climate policy, program and project.
34. The application of the principles of Free Prior and Informed consent must be implemented to assure the participation of all peoples in climate negotiations and climate policy. There is a need for evaluation mechanisms on how FPIC is being facilitated.

#### **IV. - EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RAISING OF AWARENESS**

35. We affirm that education is a right of the peoples and one of the fundamental engines for the necessary social transformation to face Climate Change. Education must be comprehensive, just, fair, and cost-free.
36. We demand the generation of concrete and effective spaces to discuss the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, and its explicit consideration in the new agreement.
37. It is necessary to foster the inclusion of the Climate Change issue and its structural causes in formal and informal educational systems, including the

gender perspective and Human Rights, and emphasizing the social dimension and the Historical Responsibilities.

38. The implementation of “public access to information on climate change and its effects” (Article 6.a.2 of the Convention), must include specific strategies designed to guarantee access by the peoples, social movements and organizations to relevant and updated information on Climate Change negotiations.

#### **V. - PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS**

39. All climate actions and policies should be guided by gender equality and universal human rights; with equal access to decision making and benefit sharing.
40. The implementation of fair and effective solutions requires the political will of the developed countries to take on concrete commitments in agreement with the climate sciences and according to their historical responsibilities.
41. All agreements reached under the Convention must include, respect and strengthen its principles, especially those relating to Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities as well as enhance the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. The principles and provisions of the Convention must not be amended or reinterpreted, under any circumstances whatsoever, but strengthened to achieve fair and effective solutions. The principles and provisions of the Convention must be explicitly incorporated in the new agreement to be signed in 2015.
42. Governments and international organizations must take appropriate measures for health promotion, protection and risk prevention in the framework of Climate Change. It is necessary to strengthen national health systems as well as research and community participation. Resources for these goals should be provided by developed countries in accordance with the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.
43. The agreements and actions under the Convention must consider Human Rights, the sovereignty of the peoples and the rights of Mother Earth. The new agreement to be signed in 2015 must include this vision in the understanding that failure to comply with the commitments arising from the Historical Responsibilities is the cause of various Human Rights violations.

44. Historical Responsibilities must be quantified in order to set commitments that ensure a fair and transparent distribution of mitigation and adaptation efforts and support developing countries in terms of training, financing and technology transfer.
45. We affirm that all obligations of the developed countries, including the supply of funds, technology transfer, training and support for the compensation for losses and damages must be legally binding and subject to quantification, measuring, reporting and verification.
46. States must be held accountable to their commitments under the Convention and the agreement resulting from the ADP, through a strong, functioning compliance mechanism.
47. We stress that the funding of mitigation and adaptation actions by the developed countries in the developing countries is a moral and legal obligation under the Convention due to their Historical Responsibilities. Funding must be additional, reliable, predictable, sufficient, adequate and unconditioned; and it must be subject to measurement, reporting and checking mechanisms.
48. Finance for adaptation must be secured and increased, including for the development and implementation of national adaptation plans and processes.
49. Loss and damage is an issue of justice and human rights. Developed countries responsible for climate change must compensate developing countries for losses and damages suffered from climate impacts.
50. The needs of communities for rehabilitation of damages and compensation for losses, including loss of homes and territory, must be addressed through the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage.
51. Management and follow up of financing must be performed under the Convention in a transparent process controlled and guided by the Parties, and ensuring the participation of local communities.
52. The fulfillment of climate finance obligations must be through adequate additional public funds. Financing mechanisms and instruments must not be debt-creating, and speculative, and must not abide by the logics of market supply and demand, but by responsibilities and commitments. It must be guaranteed that such funds and mechanisms effectively foster development and reach the most vulnerable communities, and not used as subsidies and risk guarantees for the private sector. Climate finance should be allocated

and distributed in an equitable and non discriminatory way based on different needs and vulnerabilities.

53. Technology transfer from developed to developing countries must foster endogenous processes of appropriation, innovation and technological development. The developed countries must take all the necessary measures for this to happen. Likewise, South-South technology transfer and cooperation must be promoted, as well as the recognition of the knowledge and wisdom of ancestral peoples.
54. We affirm that the agreements on intellectual property rights may and must be interpreted and construed in such a manner that do not hinder the right of the countries and peoples to mitigate the Climate Change and adapt accordingly. In this connection, it is essential to consider specific mechanisms to eliminate these and other obstacles that prevent the effective adoption of the necessary measures.
55. The losses and damages resulting from Climate Change must be considered from the perspective of the Historical Responsibilities, justice and Human Rights. The developed countries must provide the necessary means of compensation.
56. We emphasize that adaptation and mitigation are two essential aspects of the actions against Climate Change which must be addressed on equal basis. Both must be included in a balanced manner in the new agreement.
57. Agriculture is a fundamental element in the ways of living of peasants and indigenous peoples, linked to their identity and well-being. Measures aimed at Climate Change adaptation of agriculture must be promoted in the field of agriculture to protect such ways of living, thus strengthening sustainable agricultural practices that guarantee sound and healthy food for the peoples. Peasant agriculture, small-scale fishery and other small-scale food producers currently feed 70% of world population with forms of labor that further counteract climate change, and therefore, they must be recognized and endorsed.
58. Agroecological approaches that value ancestral and traditional knowledge and practices must be promoted for food production, thus guaranteeing food security and food sovereignty.
59. It is necessary to promote the use of renewable energies, keeping fair transition as a guiding principle and respecting the peoples' right to fight poverty.

60. It is necessary to promote work programs and alternatives aimed at strengthening the design and implementation of integrated approaches not based on markets, such as the Joint Mitigation and Adaptation approach for the integral and sustainable management of forests, and should be focused on effective, comprehensive and inclusive participation of all sectors of the population.
61. The climate negotiations should not result in structures, institutions and methods that promote false solutions and the financialization of nature, such as carbon markets, geoengineering, REDD, "climate-smart agriculture," nor high-risk options that could have dangerous impacts on the environment and health for future generations. We reject bioenergy plantations, genetically modified organisms, nuclear energy, natural gas "fracking," mega-dams and industrial agribusiness, among others.
62. The land-use sector is unique, and cannot be used as a loophole to delay the transformation in the North. The 2015 agreement must not create tradable units from the land sector. Industrial carbon credits must be phased out as soon as possible.
63. Obligations in the land-use sector must be differentiated between developed and developing countries in order to protect food security, food sovereignty, and livelihoods.

#### **VI- CARBON MARKETS AND OTHER CHALLENGED MECHANISMS**

64. Climate Change must be faced by all countries and their peoples from the perspective of justice and respect for Human Rights and the Principles and provisions of the Convention. It is necessary to highlight that the private sector involvement in the Convention and its mechanisms must be subordinated to peoples' rights and the fundamental and sovereign role of the States.
65. Carbon markets are considered by many a false solution to Climate Change with the call to the urgent need for a scientific and ethical evaluation, guided by the principle of precaution and with the participation of social organizations and movements, of the effectiveness and the adverse social and economic consequences of the existing market mechanisms.
66. Work programs and alternatives aimed at strengthening the design and implementation of comprehensive approaches not based on markets or focused on a broad and effective participation including all sectors of the population must be promoted.

## **VII- PERSPECTIVES FOR THE 2015 AGREEMENT**

### Pre 2020

67. The 2015 agreement should be guided by the Principles of the Convention and the International Human Rights agreements and norms.
68. The Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage must be anchored, integrated and operationalized in the 2015 agreement.
69. The 2015 agreement must close the ambition gap before 2020, including raising developed country targets in line with their Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, fulfilling finance and technology transfer obligations and meeting adaptation needs.
70. Agroecology, traditional and indigenous knowledge and agricultural practices should be supported, promoted and given greater attention.
71. The new agreement must guarantee significant amounts of funds to the GCF which are new, additional, predictable and anchored in the funding commitments of the developed countries.
72. We must agree to a global emission budget to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees.
73. Collective rights of indigenous people should be ensure according to international standards and instruments such as the UN DRIP and ILO169.
74. Ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples should be deemed as equally important and valuable as scientific knowledge.

### Post 2020

75. We must agree to a global emission budget and share it between countries based on historical responsibilities and the Principles of the Convention particularly Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities and the right to living well. A global emission limit and national non-tradable emission limits must be established, tending to zero over time. The new agreement should not mean any backsliding in the obligations of countries on the ground of 'national circumstances'.
76. The Principles of the Convention should be incorporated explicitly in the new agreement to be signed in 2015.
77. States must be held accountable to their commitments under the Convention and the agreement resulting from the ADP, through a strong, functioning compliance mechanism.

78. We emphasize that adaptation and mitigation are two essential aspects of actions against climate change that must be addressed without privileging one over the other. Both must be included in a balanced way in the new agreement.
79. We affirm that all obligations of developed countries, including the provision of finance, technology transfer, capacity building and support for compensation for losses and damages, should be legally binding, quantifiable, measurable, reportable and verifiable. Adaptation, mitigation and the Loss and Damage Mechanism must be legally binding in the new agreement.
80. Agreements under the UNFCCC should work to lift barriers to technology transfer such as intellectual property rights.
81. Special circumstances of the Least Developed Countries must be prioritized in the 2015 agreement especially in relation to adaptation, loss and damage and the means of implementation.
82. The intended national determined contributions (INDCs) must be viewed within the context of the new agreement and must cover all elements and not be limited to mitigation alone. The decision on information accompanying the INDCs cannot be part of separate track that goes off-track from the new agreement.