

TALANOA DIALOGUE SUBMISSION

YOUTH STATEMENT – Lima and Ica

INTRODUCTION

Young people in Peru have been building spaces for participatory dialogues on climate change, exchanging experiences and learning processes regarding sustainability. A clear milestone was the COP 20 held in Lima, where Peru played a fundamental role in terms of citizen participation and involvement of civil society in the negotiations and generation of actions in relation to climate change. The diplomatic, open, consensual and impartial role of the Presidency of Peru left a solid path for the adoption of the Paris Agreement.

Four years after COP 20, the spirit of Lima is still alive and spreading among the youngest. Today we are in another decisive moment in the fight against climate change, building up the Paris Work Program and the first balance in order to evaluate our actions towards climate neutrality.

Extending this momentum is essential to successfully implement the Paris Agreement. Under this premise, the project team of the Talanoa Peru Project met in order to make a call to young environmental leaders from Lima and Ica, to share and discuss their expectations about what is happening in their local area of influence and in the Peruvian context regarding climate change.

Thus, on June 3rd, 2018, the first Climate Change Workshop, ACE y acciones climáticas (ACE and climate actions) was organized by the Talanoa Peru Project with the support of the Ministry of the Environment (MINAM). The first Talanoa Dialogue with young people in Peru was held in this event.

The young participants of this workshop came from all parts of Lima and several areas of Ica; they were representatives of youth organizations that work on environmental issues. The result of the dialogue is reported in this statement, including scientific literature, and we hope it will be useful to increase and accelerate actions in relation to climate change in Peru and the world.

WHERE ARE WE?

According to the Tyndall Center for Climate Change Research (1), Peru is the third country with a greatest vulnerability regarding climate change, due to the large amount of natural resources it possesses 65% of the country is covered by forests, and the Andes host 70% of the world's tropical glaciers (2). Added to this, public policies have not been effective in adapting to the negative effects of climate change, with corruption being one of the main factors affecting

Peruvian public institutions; political favors and the reduction of money available for projects, situation that leads to the non-application of environmental regulations (3).

However, not all the responsibility relies on the State. The private sector also has a role to play and on certain occasions this sector does not fulfill its role of generating welfare in a sustainable manner. We perceive a resistance to change expressed by several companies, refusing to implement new alternatives of production and sustainable operations through the implementation of technologies that can reduce the negative impact on the environment mainly due to economic losses.

It is for this reason that new generations raise their voice and begin to have a more active role in the country. However, there are not enough spaces for the training of young people in environmental and climate areas; therefore, they should be given the opportunity to be active actors in local, national and global decision-making spaces (4).

Despite the negative factors found in our reality, the impulse of certain actions in the country must be recognized with a positive result. For example, Peru has taken the initiative of creating a legal framework aligned with the commitments of the Paris Agreement at the national level (the Framework Law on Climate Change and its Regulations). Also, little by little a number of projects in relation to renewable and clean energy are being supported; since 2016, almost 10.8% of the generated energy comes from renewable resources such as biomass, air, solar energy, and small hydroelectric power (5). We intend to increase these outcomes in the coming years.

Unlike previous years, environmental awareness among citizens has increased in organized and non-organized manners, thanks to a series of factors: the COP20 allowed the environmental issue to have greater recognition at the national and international levels; the increase in the frequency and quantity of adverse climatic events allows the society to feel the response of nature to drastic actions done by human beings and to take into account the impact that climate change can generate on a day-to-day basis along with the massive use of social networks that allows a high coverage of environmental initiatives; news related to the topic have now greater visibility thus generating more and more interest.

All these aspects have produced a positive impact in relation to the actions and thinking of the Peruvian population, pending to strengthen the capacities of the executors of the different initiatives and be able to give sustainability to them.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

We want the Peruvian population to be aware of the negative impacts that can be generated by the anthropogenic activity, based on fundamental environmental principles, such as prevention and precaution, changing the anthropocentric vision that has prevailed for years to an intrinsic one. Likewise, to become a sustainable and resilient country through the implementation the

2030 Agenda complying with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in its entirety, defining its actions along with strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

In addition, we want to have a country where a high percentage of the generated energy comes from renewable resources in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, where resources are exploited and used in a sustainable manner, reducing deforestation in the Amazon in a considerable manner. That is why we insist that the private sector has to assume a leading role to meet the national goals established in the Paris Agreement, based on environmentally responsible innovations implemented in the production process.

We hope that the goals and actions proposed by the National Plan of Environmental Education (PLANEA) have been successfully executed in all their phases with the aim of generating more informed and responsible citizens in relation to the environment. We are looking forward to educational sustainability, the formation of young political leaders with greater knowledge in this field so that they in turn not only encourage the youth participation in political decision-making processes, but also encourage actions related to environmental problems as a national and global movement.

Finally, we believe in a country where all the sectors involved in environmental issues are articulated, so that together they can generate effective actions with national impact. In addition, we hope the environmental policy and its regulatory framework are strengthened to reduce existing legal gaps, as well as to be able to have a decentralized management of the local and regional governments.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

In order to become a more sustainable, resilient and conscious country, we consider taking certain aspects into account. It is necessary that the governors at the different levels of government, as well as the different powers of the State, commit themselves to work in environmental policies. In addition, it is important to decentralize opportunities and initiatives in order to generate homogeneous changes at a national level and not only in the capital, as it is normally the case.

A change of mentality must be generated based on the empowerment of the civil society to be able to ask for better living conditions and opportunities in relation to environmental issues. To do this, leaders must be formed with an environmental thinking and acting, knowing a large part of the Peruvian reality and the necessary measures to be taken. The workshops related to climate change, carried out in institutions working in this field, such as the Ministry of the Environment, should be replicated in schools, universities, etc. In this way, the knowledge and ideas will not remain in a small group and little by little, society, projects and initiatives of different governmental and non-governmental organizations will become more and more popular. On the other hand, strategies must be established for the implementation and

execution of PLANEA at all levels, with the main objective of educating children, young people and future leaders, in environmental matters.

Likewise, we need support and allies that want to join forces in order to visualize and monitor the different projects that are being carried out and will be carried out in environmental matters; for this reason the media plays an important role. While social networks are helping to disseminate different initiatives, it is important that the media, meaning radio, television and print media also support these efforts. Remember that they continue to have a great coverage and importance at national and international levels. Television is the most widely used means of communication in Peru (7), for this reason programs or blocks should cover environmental issues where different projects, initiatives of the civil society and relevant information are discussed so that the Peruvian population become aware of the progress made and about conservation, mitigation and adaptation plans in relation to climate change in Peru and the world.

Finally, Peru should invest more in science, technology and research, increasing its 0.08% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and be on a par like other countries (0.25%, Colombia; Chile, 0.38%; Mexico, 0.54%; United States, 2.74%) (8), areas that are essential to face and be able to adapt to climate change in conjunction with human talent. In this way, we will be more qualified and able to propose new alternatives in which resources are used, to the point of changing the extraction and sale systems by one that allows recognizing this added value, in order to avoid negative impacts on the society and the environment.

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