



If we don't deal with the causes of the climate-crisis, we won't be able to save Mother Earth: Second World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth

*by David Choquehuanca Céspedes**

We are living a multiple financial, food, climate and energy crisis, a crisis of the civilizational and cultural model, which has promoted a world where human beings mistakenly consider themselves superior and in full control over nature. This view, which considers nature as a human being's object of predatory domain, is the real reason for this global climate crisis. The global capitalist system, that is the model under which this anthropocentric and market-centred vision of the world got incubated, is the real reason for global warming. If we don't deal with the causes of the climate-crisis, we will not be able to save Mother Earth.

"The Second World People's Conference on Climate Change and Defence of Life" held in Tiquipaya-Bolivia from 10th to 12th of October 2015, a space in which the peoples came together for the second time to present their ideas, principles and demands regarding the global climate crisis, set out that a world change of the civilizational model is necessary to save Mother Earth.

In accordance with the conclusions of the Conference, the civilizational and cultural model of "Vivir Bien", a paradigm of life and peace, shall replace the model of the capitalist system. This is the vision of Bolivia for the COP21. The "Vivir Bien" wants people to leave a good life with themselves, with the others and with the nature surrounding them. Within the "Vivir Bien" paradigm all people and living beings that inhabit this planet have the right to life. In this context, Mother Earth has the right to adapt gradually to climate change.

Among the topics and conclusions that were addressed in the Conference, stands the issue of the climatic justice, based on which the countries should develop their actions and commitments concerning the solution to the climate crisis, in order to promote an overall and sustainable development for the next generations from a "Vivir Bien" perspective.

The Peoples of the World demand that the Climate Agreement of Paris would not reinforce the capitalist and mercantilist model, through the establishment of more market-mechanisms, but rather the vision of the peoples, demanding ambitious commitments from the developed countries that had caused climate change. The peoples do not want voluntary commitments, favouring the private sector and



strengthening patriarchy and neo-colonialism. The peoples of the world demand to decolonize the atmospheric space and compliance with the responsibilities assumed with the planet and the Mother Earth by the countries.

We expect that the Agreement of Paris would strengthen the United Nations Framework Convention and would not violate it, that it would defend and enforce its principles, like the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, of Equity and historic responsibility.

There is a developed countries historic responsibility for the climate crisis that we cannot ignore. Now, the responsibility of Bolivia is to bring the voice and the peoples' vision to the COP21.

The task we have now is to continue demanding the claim expressed at the "World Peoples Conference on Climate Change and the Defence of Life", and by this find the way to achieve effective compliance with the commitments and obligations undertaken by the countries in the "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change".

Some of our main conclusions of the Conference are: i) To adopt a new civilizational model in the world, one without consumerism, warfare and mercantilism, a world without capitalism; ii) to strengthen awareness raising, the vision and unity of the peoples, and universal citizenship, building in this fashion a plural world; iii) to protect universal common goods: the seas and oceans, water, access to the atmospheric space, technologies of life and communications; iv) to put the climate science at the service of all living beings and Mother Earth; v) to allocate the military machine resources of all countries that advocate warfare, to finance the peoples' actions against the climate crisis; vi) to create a Permanent International Platform of the peoples of the world; vii) to constitute an International Court of Climate Justice and Mother Earth; viii) to eliminate the debts of developing countries in order to eradicate poverty and starvation; ix) to approve a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth with a non-commercial and non-anthropocentric vision; and x) all legitimate climate agreements shall be based on the perspective of the peoples and organisations of this world and not on the capitalistic view of private and transnational companies.



EU-LAC Foundation
Fundación EU-LAC

***David Choquehuanca Céspedes** was designated Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in January 2006. Since the 1980s Mr Choquehuanca has dedicated his life social and political activities in support of the rural and indigenous communities.

This paper was prepared for the EU-LAC Foundation's Newsletter of December 2015 on the theme "Climate Change". This article gives the views of the author, and not the position of the EU-LAC Foundation.

This is a translation of the responsibility of the EU-LAC Foundation; to read the original version in Spanish please follow the link:
http://eulacfoundation.org/es/system/files/Choquehuanca_CambioClimatico.pdf