

The Bolivian Position at the International Climate Change Negotiations

*by Diego Pacheco**

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNCCC) establishes the goal of achieving the stabilisation of the of greenhouse gas emission on the planet, allowing the ecosystems to adapt to climate change in a natural way. This should be considered as one of the main rights of Mother Earth in the context of climate change. In addition, bearing in mind that one of the main priorities of our countries is to reach a sustainable development and food security; that is, advancing in a complementary manner in the exercise of the fundamental rights of people.

Developed countries have presented us the need of advancing to a new climate agreement in 2015, arguing that times have changed since the signing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 20 years ago. If Developed countries had met their commitments of reducing gas emissions and had set forward the foreseen financial provision and technology transfer, we would, by now, surely not be listening to the apocalyptic previsions of the IPCC regarding the virtual global warming beyond 4 degrees Celsius towards the year 2100 may we not implement, in the short-run, mitigation and adaptation measures to the climate change. The truth is, that the responsible for climate change, which were identified in 1992, did nothing, and now are pushing all countries to attempt to do something to solve the increasing global temperature.

The vision of the Developed countries to solve the climatic crisis involves the expansion and consolidation of capitalism towards nature: i) deepening the processes of commodification of the environmental functions of Mother Earth through the consolidation of the global carbon markets; ii) transferring the responsibility with climate change from the Developed countries towards the Developing countries, and from the public sector to the private sector; and iii) promoting the expansion of a leading role of mitigation technologies to climate change, even when those have not yet been sufficiently tested nor its risks identified.

It is true that, we the countries of the world together, must to do something to protect the integrity of Mother Earth and the humanity in a context of climate change; but, it is also true that this is not done, neither ethically nor morally, by expanding the capitalist paradigm, which will not do more than deepening climatic change. What is needed is to strengthen the paradigm of the Framework Convention based on cooperation, equality, complementarity and common, but differentiated, responsibilities, with the expanding and strengthening of the obligations of the countries that have historic responsibilities and approaches that are not based on the global carbon market.

- While the majority of the countries are only blindly preoccupied with economic growth and development, Bolivia suggests that an ethical vision of respect for **the Right of Mother Earth to adapt naturally to climate change** is important;
- While the Developed countries propose voluntary actions of “all” the countries to reduce the carbon emissions, which means universality of responsibility with no differentiation, Bolivia suggests to consider an **“index made up of the distribution of participation of the countries in the emission budget”** in order to distribute the remaining emissions among all the countries. Bolivia suggests that the distribution of the 630 gigatons to reach a temperature increase of no more than 1,5 degrees Celsius has to be done in function of the following criteria: i) index of historical responsibilities; ii) index of ecologic footprint; iii) index of technological and financial capabilities; and iv) index of development of the countries, including multidimensional poverty, income poverty and human development.
- While the Developed countries suggest that the provision of financing will be done through the carbon market and environmental technologies through the private markets, Bolivia suggests strengthening the approaches of the Convention that are not based on markets (for the provision of financing and technology of the developed countries towards the developing countries), in the field of the charter of a **“Climatic Resilience Mechanism and Sustainable Development”**;
- While many countries promote the approach of payment for ecosystem services or payment for the results for the reduction of emissions by using the forests as acquisition sources of carbon in the field of REDD+, Bolivia suggests a holistic and integral approach to the handling of forests in a context of climate change with the **“Joint mechanism of mitigation and adaptation for the integral and sustainable handling of forests”**
- While the Developed countries suggest sophisticated technologies for the mitigation of climate change and to reach energetic efficiency (geo-engineering, including carbon absorption, biodiesel and transgenic organisms), Bolivia suggests the use of environmental-friendly technologies for mitigation and adaptation, mainly including **indigenous technologies and those of local communities**.

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