



- Pacto de Unidad -

“Camino a la autodeterminación de nuestros Pueblos”

Indigenous People's Proposals on Climate Change

Lima, July 21, 2014

Indigenous People's Proposals on Climate Change

1. Justification

A global phenomenon with differentiated impacts. Climate change is caused primarily by the emission of greenhouse gases by industrialized countries. Its impact is global but it has greater consequences in less industrialized countries, even though their contribution to its generation is relatively smaller. Climate change is an irreversible reality that strongly affects the communities and indigenous peoples of the world whose productive, social and cultural practices have a close relationship with the environment and Mother Earth.

Climate change in Peru. Peru has seven of the nine characteristics of vulnerability identified by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Therefore, the country is more prone to the effects of droughts, floods and other risks related to these phenomena.

Peru has suffered the loss of 22 percent of its Andean glaciers within the last 30 years, the extinction of the Amazonian wildlife, the loss of crops vulnerable to climate change such as corn, potatoes and rice, which are part of the Peruvian families' basic diet. In forty years, the available water resources could be reduced to 60 percent of what it is today. Rising temperatures intensifies the risk of forest fires and the expansion of crop pests, among other threats.

Climate change will affect the availability of resources (water, fertile soil, and forests), food security and health. Extreme weather causes damage to people and ecosystems, exacerbating the vulnerability of the poorest populations.

Indigenous peoples and climate change. Indigenous peoples possess a holistic worldview that allows us to maintain a special relationship of love and respect for Mother Earth. Therefore, we address climate change from the perspective of our vision, knowledge, wisdom and practices. In addition, we are mostly affected in our fundamental rights to life, land, environment and development, and particularly indigenous women are most vulnerable.

Urgency to adopt comprehensive State policies. Not implementing effective state policies to address climate change will aggravate its consequences and generate higher economic costs. It is not about adopting and implementing sectorial policies, as if climate change were solely an environmental problem. It is a comprehensive issue that challenges society as a whole, because it threatens the welfare, development and rights of all citizens. Furthermore, climate change alerts us to face the challenge of building a new economic order and a new model of low carbon society not based on profit and consumerism. Indigenous peoples have much to contribute to tackling climate change not only in mitigation and adaptation, but also in the task of forging a global partnership of Buen Vivir (Good Living) in harmony with nature.

2. Approaches

The cross-cutting approach to climate change is a reflection of indigenous people's holistic

worldview. Climate change is not an environmental problem, related only to natural resources or CO2 emissions. It involves social, economic and power relations that harm Mother Earth.

2.1. Human Rights

All country Parties under UNFCCC have human rights obligations and the climate change regime must integrate the general human rights system. In particular, the rights of indigenous peoples should be explicitly incorporated into the new global climate agreement.

2.2. Ecosistemic

We are all part of Mother Earth, an indivisible vital community of interdependent and interrelated beings with a common destiny.

2.3. Territory

The impacts of climate change differ according to the specific vulnerability conditions of social groups and territories in the country.

2.4. Differentiated and intercultural

The mitigation and adaptation policies must adapt to social and cultural differences on the basis of an intercultural dialogue and knowledge exchanges, not the imposition of a centralized and scientist vision.

2.5. Gender

It is essential to incorporate the vision of indigenous women in the design, management, implementation and evaluation of policies, plans and programs to be implemented on indigenous territories.

2.6. Generational

As part of the differentiated strategies, a generational approach should be considered explicitly in order to visibilize the involvement and contribution of children and the elderly.

2.7. Multisectoral and integrated

By its nature, complexity and impacts, climate change must be addressed on the basis of a comprehensive understanding and not just as an environmental issue.

3. Proposals

3.1. Institutional policy making

3.1.1. Approve a State policy to address climate change expressed in a comprehensive, multisectoral and long-term policy framework, consisting of the Climate Change Act and the National Strategy for Climate Change.

- 3.1.2. Plan and consistently articulate the actions of the three levels of government (central, regional and local) and ministries for concerted and effective action.
- 3.1.3. Reactivate the National Climate Change Commission, ensuring adequate participation of indigenous peoples and civil society.
- 3.1.4. Ensure adequate participation of indigenous peoples and civil society in the construction and implementation of policies, programs, plans and projects addressing climate change, emphasizing the participation of indigenous women.

3.2. Planning and budgeting

- 3.2.1. Implement adaptation policies with a budget program containing agreed, clear and measurable indicators.
- 3.2.2. Create a climate fund for those directly affected by climate change to addresses its impacts on health, agriculture, water and food.

3.3. Axes of public policy to address climate change

3.3.1. Protecting ecosystem diversity with territorial governance

Encompasses the legal certainty of indigenous lands and territories, sustainable management of ecosystems and biodiversity, and environmental protection, among other subtopics.

3.3.2. Reducing climate vulnerability and managing risk to protect life and health

Identification and prioritizing of vulnerable populations, extreme weather events, risk management and health care.

3.3.3. Prioritize Community-based adaptation as the key for territorial resilience

Development of community capacities, management tools, improved climate adaptation plans and retrieval of local and traditional knowledge for greater resilience.

3.3.4. Protect water, agriculture and food for a healthy life

Implementing an integrated water management for human development, food sovereignty, protection of food systems (agriculture, livestock, fishing, camelids, and aquaculture) and sustainable productive activities.

3.3.5. Build public policies for a society of Buen Vivir with low greenhouse gases emissions

Guidelines for equity and sustainability, institutional strengthening, mitigation, renewable energy, participation, financing, technology transfer, information, research, education and outreach campaigns.