

Final Conclusions working group

11: Adaptation

April 30, 2010 in [11. Adaptation](#), [Working Groups](#)

1. As Peoples gathered at the “World People’s Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth”, collaborating with the Work Group No 11, Adaptation: Confronting Climate Change, we propose the following conclusions so that they are considered in the process towards the COP16 of Mexico and fundamentally to protect Mother Earth.

Vulnerability and climate change impacts

2. Mother Earth and all forms of life that exist are every day more vulnerable to climate change due to the effect of an historical industrial wild development generated by the developed countries and that put in high risk the survival of the species.
3. The Peoples are vulnerable because of their geographical place, their development condition, their level of exposition to events caused by climate change and their capacity to confront the impacts.
4. The fresh water is every day scarcer, the glaciers of the whole world are disappearing, in particular in mountain range zones, which implies the lack of healthy water for life, for ecosystems, for food production and for all forms of life. Likewise, droughts are putting in risk the food sovereignty of the Peoples.
5. The level and temperature increase of the sea are causing: the death of reefs, species and seashores’ extinction, with big economic losses for the Peoples that live near those areas.
6. Floods are more frequent and severe and affect human safety, infrastructure loss, and complete displacement of Peoples and species. The cyclical events deepen these impacts.
7. Agriculture, in particular the one for rural and indigenous communities’ subsistence, is in real danger because of climate change, and the changes in seasons, also due to a greater presence of plagues and illness, which will deeply affect the mother-child nourishment levels and will also affect the increase of climate migrants. The damages caused to forests and ecosystems, and the loss of biodiversity are impacts with an increasing frequency, which particularly affect the rural and indigenous communities that have these ecosystems as part of their livelihood. Likewise, the communities themselves are seeing how their bioindicators are affected and the erosion of their ancestral knowledge.
8. The appearance and re-emergence of transmissible illness are every time greater, malaria, dengue, diarrhea and respiratory illnesses, are increasing the morbidity and mortality rates, especially infant mortality, and extreme events are causing a greater number of human injuries

and loss, including impacts at psychological level. At the same time, social and gender vulnerability are present.

9. Urban and peri-urban communities, which are the result of rural exodus, are also object of the impacts of climate change due to conditions of high poverty and lack of services. Also, new forms of consumption are determinant factors that influence the impacts.

10. In general, the economic, social, cultural and human development of developing [\[1\]](#) countries are seriously impacted by climate change, compromising the well-being of future generations, placing living beings in a risk point of serious consequences. Also, the economic – social inequity itself is a generator of vulnerability towards climate change.

Facing the impacts of climate change

11. The Peoples reject the notion of adaptation to climate change understood as the resignation to the impacts of climate change not provoked by our countries. This change is caused by the capitalism model and consumption since the industrial revolution. It is the developed countries [\[2\]](#) who must adapt their lifestyles and consumption to confront this planetary emergency. As real responsables for this problem, they must mitigate the impact to Mother Earth changing their economic models of development, production and consumption with fewer emissions of greenhouse effect gases. The responsibility of providing with the necessary resources so that the Peoples can confront these impacts and defend life and Mother Earth relies on the developed countries, who now force us to face inevitable changes.

12. Considering these impacts, caused by this model of consumption, the Peoples, including those in the developed countries, are forced to confront climate change, without resigning themselves to accepting the impacts, but instead considering adaptation as a process and not an imposition, and also as a tool that should be used to resist these impacts and especially to protect and to defend Mother Earth and all forms of life, demonstrating that it is possible to live in harmony with life under a different life model. The adaptation cannot be considered to be the solution in itself. Mother Earth and the Peoples cannot live eternally adapting themselves to an irresponsible life style by a minority of the Planet.

13. It is urgent that our developing countries establish policies and strategic lines to confront climate change so that these allow the possibility to be defined also at global, regional, local and community levels and through the integral management of: climate risks, natural resources, water, basins including glaciers, soils, agricultural biodiversity, energy, waste management, territory planning, environmental and strategic education, capacity building strengthening at all levels, free access to information and revaluation of ancestral knowledge, in search of a fundamental change of paradigm that allows us to protect and to take care of Mother Earth and all its forms of life.

14. To work in contingency and prevention plans, recognizing amongst others; the vital role of women, in order to confront climate risks, forced migrations of living beings, the loss of crops and illnesses, as well as to work towards nature´s balance, must be of international priority. To

promote measures to transfer climate-risk from developing countries to developed countries through the States.

15. It is established that the recovery and revaluation of the ancestral knowledge, engineering and techniques, the ceremonial centers, and rituality allow to confront the impacts of climate change in complementarity with scientific knowledge.

16. Our countries, as an example of sensibility towards Mother Earth, ratify the commitment to implement actions to face climate change, to work on the development of our own technologies and to promote autonomous processes of capacity building and investigation.

The costs and financing responsibility

17. The industrialized countries have the moral and legal obligation to pay the totality of the historical and future adaptation debt with the urgent and immediate provision of financial resources and technology transfer and application, without conditions, to developing countries to confront the impacts of climate change and to provide economic resources, technology for prevention and strengthening of response capacities, to cover the cost of lost and diminished opportunities, and to strengthen the role of women, the rural, indigenous communities and of the children towards climate change. They must compensate the damages for the impacts that already took place and the ones that will occur in the future and for the loss of development opportunities, cultural and services loss; compensation for extreme, climate and gradual events, considering the additional costs that might arise if our planet exceeds the ecological thresholds for the projected warming that threatens the biocapacity of Mother Earth, as well as those impacts that are hindering the development right to “living well” in harmony with the nature that Peoples have.

18. Also, the payment of the Adaptation Debt (which is part of the Climate Debt) by the developed countries is not a permission so that they can keep unsustainable systems of consumption that continue affecting life negatively.

19. The Adaptation Fund must be maintained with the minimal contribution per year of 2 % of the yearly GDP of the total 6% defined in the financing section^[3] of the developed countries to exclusively confront the impacts of climate change. These funds will have a character of compensation and additional to the Official Development Assistance and applicable until the developed countries reduce their emissions and climate stabilizes.

20. It is necessary to strengthen the Adaptation Fund as an exclusive fund for confronting climate change impacts and that is part of a financial mechanism managed and led in a sovereign and equitable way by our States, without Development Banks and Multilateral Financial Organisms . It should also handle a mechanism for the compensation for damages to Mother Earth as it is described in paragraph 17 to guarantee that all countries have the same protection right against the impacts and to proactively confront climate change.

21. This Fund should assess: the impacts and their costs in the developing countries and the needs that these impacts derive, register and monitor the support of developed countries,

including the transfer and development of suitable technologies and the fulfillment of the funds provision as part of a just compensation.

Equitable opportunities to confront climate change

22. It is recognized that all countries have the same right to protection against impacts and to proactively confront climate change. It is inequitable that enormous quantities of resources for protection are spent in developed countries, whereas to our Peoples the sums that want to be assigned are minimal, knowing that we are more vulnerable.

23. We admit also that the economic model of development based on the consumption is originating in the developed countries poor communities with high levels of vulnerability to climate change, which should be attended by their own States.

24. It is urgent to strengthen research capacities and the transfer of environmentally suitable and socially healthy technologies, as well as the development itself of technologies in and for the developing countries, to monitor, predict and to assess the impacts of climate change at all levels. The provision of resources must be undertaken by the developed countries to cover the totality of these processes and in particular the development, transfer and adequacy of technologies for the monitoring of the impacts and of concrete adaptation actions and measures. Also, these resources must strengthen participatory mechanisms and processes of prevention and risks reduction of climate disasters through early warning systems and adaptation at all the levels, especially towards the most vulnerable sectors. Local stakeholders and the Peoples must be privileged with analysis of the impacts and adaptation, for which their knowledge and endogenous capacities must be considered.

25. We recognize the efforts and proper measurements that our Peoples do for protecting Mother Earth and all forms of life.

A criticism to an irresponsible Accord

26. The “Copenhagen Accord”, imposed over the developing countries by some States, beyond offering insufficient resources, pretends by itself divide and confront the Countries for economic resources and to force them to the actions of adaptation without fully guaranteeing the necessary resources. Also, they try to grant 10,000 million dollars per year over next years, although more than 300,000 million dollars per year are required for adaptation. In the same way, we alert that the “Accord” claims that funds serve more for mitigation than to confront the impacts of climate change.

27. This irresponsible “Accord” tries to extort developing countries conditioning access to adaptation resources in exchange for mitigation measures. In the same way the “Accord” tries to force developing countries to adaptation, forgetting that the responsibility of the costs and expenses are exclusively from the developed countries.

28. Additionally, it is established as unacceptable that in the processes of international negotiations it is attempted to categorize the developing countries by their vulnerability to climate change, generating disputes, inequalities and segregation between them.

Climate Justice

29. Unfulfillment by the developed countries to compensate the costs of impacts and those from the climate change adaptation debt must be subjected to the climate justice tribunal.

[1] This criticized term will be used, for being the category of language used in the international negotiation. It is also understood that this development must be a development that means harmony with nature and with regards to Mother Earth and all the living beings.

[2] This term will be used although it is highly criticized. They are categories used in the International Negotiation. It is understood that this development has been achieved following a model of consumption and production that have been determinant factors in the current crisis of our planet.

[3] This amount is based on several studies and of different sectors and also considering studies from different organizations. The financing section and climate debt has more details respectively.