

BRAZILIAN FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Working Group on Climate Change, Poverty and Inequality

Proposals

Rio de Janeiro, October 19, 2009

The organizations that attended the meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change, Poverty and Inequality, coordinated by COEP, gathered in Rio de Janeiro on October 19, 2009 and submitted the following considerations and proposals to the Executive Secretary of the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change for them to be referred to H.E. the President of the Republic of Brazil, Mr. Luis Inácio Lula da Silva. These proposals are aimed at providing inputs (i) to the Brazilian position at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 15) to be held in December of this year in Copenhagen and (ii) to the Brazilian government for the implementation of domestic public policies.

Whereas:

- The significant increase observed in extreme climatic events (flood, droughts, landslides, hurricanes, among others) mainly affects poor people, particularly those who live in precarious urban settlements and in rural areas and have no means to protect themselves from their dramatic consequences.
- Climate change exacerbates vulnerabilities which poorer populations are already exposed to, such as those related to floods, landslides, loss of crops and other means of subsistence due to loss of biodiversity, lack of water and proliferation of diseases, contributing to seriously jeopardize recent advances achieved in Brazil in reducing extreme poverty and inequality.
- Brazil is still not provided with a vulnerability map for poor people suffering the effects of global warming, making it difficult to adopt more effective measures to prevent and mitigate risks and address extreme climatic events.
- In its current stage, the National Plan on Climate Change (PNMC) pays little attention to adaptation measures for poor populations, particularly measures designed to ensure food and nutrition security. Likewise, the Plan does not take into account the potential of thousands of local climate change adaptation initiatives developed by Brazilian social organizations and movements.
- Adaptation measures are as important for fostering equity as actions to mitigate climate change. Understanding that these two dimensions are complementary and synergistic is fundamental for designing and implementing appropriate policies, programs and actions to address the huge challenge facing global society in the 21st century.
- A change is urgently necessary in the world economic system, in the way goods and services are produced and consumed, and in how natural resources are used, without which the peoples of the planet will be irremediably harmed.
- The negotiation of a new phase in the global climate agreement, to be signed during the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on

Climate Change (COP 15), which will be held in December of this year in Copenhagen, affords Brazil an opportunity to signal – both to Brazilian society and to the world at large – the paths of a new global economy, committed to low carbon emissions and to redistribution processes leading to equity both within and between countries.

We propose that the Brazilian Government should:

1. Publicly and formally take on voluntary commitments to limit its carbon emissions associated with initiatives designed to promote social inclusion with measurable, reportable and verifiable objectives. This posture will contribute toward enabling Brazil to lead the process of restructuring the world economy as an inspiration and example to other countries of the planet. Limiting these objectives to reducing deforestation means to deprive all other sectors of the economy from a firm guidance and due stimulus. As a fundamental requirement, the benefits derived from clear and daring objectives should be extended to all the domestic productive system, particularly to the energy, transportation, civil construction, infrastructure, and agriculture/livestock industries. The appropriateness of associating objectives to limit greenhouse effect gas emissions with job and income generation objectives, promoting social inclusion and valuing existing positive experiences in Brazil should also be highlighted. By doing this, Brazil will enhance all of its resources in its path to the future: to a prosperous, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable economy.
2. Defend an adaptation concept based on the idea of climate justice, according to which the burden of adjusting to the climate crisis should be borne by those historically responsible for starting it. Based on this reasoning, developed countries should be the main founders of the Adaptation Fund, to be managed on a multilateral basis within the United Nations System according to principles of equity, transparency, subsidiarity, and accountability and relying on the participation of civil society organizations in the management, implementation and monitoring of its actions. The adaptation concept should also incorporate strategies to ensure the autonomy and empowerment of communities, so that they may become subjects of their destinies. For this purpose, more funds should be invested in actions that have proven to be extremely successful in addressing climate change appropriately, such as agro-ecological and agro-forestry practices, experiences of coexistence with the semiarid region, short commercial circuits, and decentralized energy production and consumption, among others.
3. Submit a proposal for preparing a Global Social Vulnerability to Climate Change Map at the Copenhagen Conference.
4. Prepare the Brazilian Social Vulnerability to Climate Change Map.
5. Mobilize ministries dealing with social issues to include measures to address the impacts of extreme climatic events on more vulnerable populations in the country in the design and implementation of their policies.
6. Incorporate quantifiable, verifiable and reportable adaptation policies, programs and actions into the National Plan on Climate Change that involve, in a linked and integrated way, social ministries and their respective councils. Such a revision should contemplate a long-term vision projected for 2050 to guide the Plan's strategic objectives, from Brazil's perspective, in relation to what should be built over the next 40 years. For this purpose, it is urgently necessary, for example (i) to develop impact scenarios and environmental, social and epidemiological surveillance systems design to address problems derived from diseases

that can affect large population groups; (ii) to carry out studies and build scenarios for possible impacts of climate change on the food and nutrition security of poor populations; (iii) to carry out studies and build scenarios for food availability and regulatory and strategic stocks of food products in a context of climate change; (iv) to promote housing, water supply and sanitation policies that promote technologies and materials designed to enhance efficiency in buildings; (v) to implement public policies for urban mobility that emphasize collective transportation to the detriment of individual transportation; (vi) to implement education and communication policies designed to promote lifestyles that result in lower emissions of polluting gases; (vii) to intensify the adoption of policies designed to value traditional knowledge and strengthen family agriculture, which have proven to be effective means to address the consequences of extreme climatic events, such as, for example: organic fertilization, green fertilization, wind barriers, agro-ecological and agro-forestry systems, mixed crops and policrops, soil recovery and conservation, protection of hillsides, rainwater collection and management, seed banks; (viii) to strengthen civil society organizations and social movements for them to develop, improve and implement appropriate technologies, such as the successful case of cisterns in Brazil's northeastern semiarid region, and to take part in the design and implementation of public adaptation policies; (ix) to include mechanisms that take into account climate-related issues in public social work and health care systems; (x) to implement public policies for promoting green jobs, among other public policies.

Organizations that attended the meeting organized by the Working Group on Climate Change, Poverty and Inequality of the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change:

Action Aid Brazil
TicTacTicTac Campaign
CERESAN/UFRJ
National COEP
National Food and Nutrition Security Council (CONSEA)
FASE
FIOCRUZ
Personal Office of the President of the Republic
IBASE
IPEA
IVIG/COPPE/UFRJ
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Land Development (MDS)
Oxfam International
Brazilian Network for the Integration of the Peoples (REBRIP)

Attached Documents:

- “Belém Letter,” signed by about 50 social organizations and movements.
- “FASE’s commitments against climate privatization and for climate justice”, prepared by FASE.
- “Climate change and poverty: what communities think about it,” COEP.
- “Signed petition” of the TicTacTicTac Campaign.

- “Climate change and its impacts on the human right to adequate food, on food sovereignty, and on food and nutrition security,” prepared by the National Food and Nutrition Security Council (CONSEA).