

THE CONTRIBUTION OF BOLIVIA TO THE DEBATE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND MOTHER EARTH IN THE WORLD

THE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE WORLD

Climate change has become one of the greatest threats to life in the planet and it is the result of industrialization processes in the world. The structural cause that has produced the climate crisis is the capitalist system that promotes consumerism, mercantilism and the destruction of Mother Earth and humanity.

Climate change is caused by the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, carbon dioxide is the main contributor to global warming, although some of these emissions are absorbed by the ground (plants and soils) and also by the ocean.

Facts about climate change¹

- About half of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions between 1750 y 2011 have been produced in the last 40 years.
- Total greenhouse gas emissions have increased continuously during the years 1970 to 2010 with the largest increases between 2000 and 2010.
- Carbon and fossil fuel emissions and industrial processes contributed about 78% of the increment in total greenhouse gas emissions between 1970 and 2010.
- Developed countries are the cause of 58% of historical emissions.

BOLIVIA AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Bolivia is highly vulnerable to climate change. A recent assessment by the Andean Development Corporation (known in Spanish as CAF) concludes that Bolivia is a country with "extreme" risk to climate change².

While Bolivia has no historical responsibility for global warming; its greenhouse gas emissions until 2010 cumulatively amount to 0.091 Gigatonnes of CO₂, which represents 0.005% of total global emissions in the atmosphere³, facing many climate-related threats, mainly water scarcity due to accelerated loss of glaciers in the Andes, as well as the reduction of rains and significant changes in annual rainfall variability. This scenario is further accentuated by the frequency and

¹ IPCC.2015 Contribution of Working Group III to the Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Summary for Policymakers. © 2015, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

² CAF. 2014. Index of Vulnerability and adaptation to Climate Change in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Spanish version: María Victoria Mejía © Maplecroft Climate Change and Vulnerability Index, LAC Region, 2014.

³ Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) of the Plurinational State of Bolivia submitted to the UNFCCC 2015.

exposure to El Niño and La Niña events. Research suggests Bolivia's climate will become warmer and drier in the future.

Despite the reduced contribution of greenhouse gases to the global level, Bolivia is a country that is highly threatened by the effects of the climate crisis. The impacts of climate change threaten agricultural production, food security and sovereignty, ecological balance, biodiversity, human health and socio-economic stability.

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT ON CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS

TWENTY-FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES - PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21 – 2015) AND TWENTY-SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES - MOROCCO (COP22 – 2016)

In June 1992, in framework of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was agreed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as the international instrument to advance on the control and solution of climate change.

Objective of the UNFCCC

To achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

To implement this Convention, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997, but only in 2005 came into force. This Protocol establishes the responsibilities of the countries in relation with climate change, and to this end, countries of the world are divided between developed countries and developing countries: a) Annex I countries: developed countries with mandatory commitments of reduction of emissions; b) non-Annex I countries: developing countries with no mandatory commitments and with voluntary actions.

The Kyoto Protocol was signed by all the countries except the United States, which is one of the most carbon-emitting countries in the world (27.6% between 1850 and 2010, followed by the European Union with 24.8%).

The Kyoto Protocol establishes two periods of commitments of the countries. In the first period (between 2008 and 2012), the participant countries agreed to reduce their emissions in an average of 5% below the 1990 levels. The second period of commitments would be implemented between 2013 and 2020. Once concluded the first period of commitments the developed countries began to press to all the countries to engage in a new global climate agreement on climate change, even though they failed to meet the targets in the first period of commitments. The arguments of these countries to eliminate the Kyoto Protocol were as follows:

- The countries with most carbon emissions are not incorporated into the Kyoto Protocol;
- Any Climate Agreement must incorporate the United States;
- There cannot be differences between developed and developing countries because all the countries have responsibilities with the climate change.

To put pressure on the discussion of a new global climate agreement the developed countries began to withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol, with the exception of the European Union which has a binding legal framework with this Protocol. This weakened the implementation of the Convention under the Kyoto Protocol framework and forced the countries to pursue a new Global Agreement that can incorporate all countries.

VISION OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The developed countries argued that the new Climate Agreement must replace the Convention on Climate Change. The developed countries and their allies proposed: to eliminate the differentiation of developed and developing countries ignoring the principles of the Convention of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities; strengthen the provision of financing through the carbon business and technologies in the field of private markets; strengthen market mechanisms (carbon credits transactions) as a solution to the climate change problem; use sophisticated technologies for climate change mitigation: geoengineering, including carbon absorption, biodiesel and transgenic organisms; incorporate visions of commodification of the nature with global schemes of payments of ecosystem services. Developed countries propose that actions for climate change need to be concentrated beyond the year 2020.

This way, there was an international gap regarding the implementation of concrete actions between 2015 and 2020, since the new Agreement is expected to be implemented since 2020.

VISION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Developing countries, including Bolivia, proposed the Climate Agreement to be based on the Convention on Climate Change and its principles, mainly on those of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and the obligation to provide financing and technology from the developed countries to the developing countries. Under the new Agreement all the countries have commitments regarding the climate change, but these are differentiated commitments. The developing countries propose that actions for climate change must be prioritized before 2020, with the understanding that if we do nothing now, it will be unlikely that we can commit ourselves to do things in the future after 2020.

Within this framework the **Paris Agreement** has been approved with a balanced approach between the views of developed countries and developing countries, as the legal instrument, under the Convention, to deal the climate change, with expected actions after the year 2020.

Each five years countries should provide their National Contributions to climate change identifying their proposals of emission reduction and adaptation, linked to the provision of means of implementation: financing, capacity development and technology. These contributions will be aggregated and their global impact in relation with relation to climate change will be evaluated each five years, starting in 2023.

BOLIVIAN POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Bolivian position on climate change is supported by the conclusions of the World Conference of Peoples on Climate Change and Rights of Mother Earth – Tiquipaya I (2010) and the World Peoples' Conference on Climate Change and Defense of Life – Tiquipaya II (2015), which defined a very clear line regarding the key negotiation points of Bolivia in relation to a new Climate Agreement.



October 10, 2015, Tiquipaya, Cochabamba, Bolivia.- President Evo Morales, together with the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Laurent Fabius, inaugurating the II World Conference of Peoples on Climate Change and Defense of Life (Photos: Freddy Zarco)



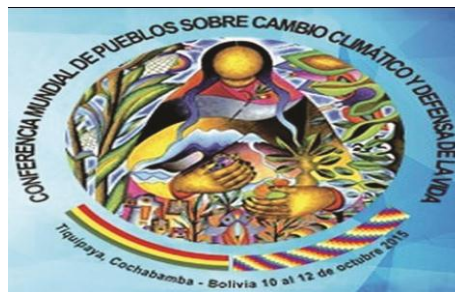
Main conclusions of the World Conference of Peoples on Climate Change and Rights of Mother Earth (Tiquipaya, April 2010)

1. To save the planet by replacing capitalism with a system of Harmony with Nature to Living Well, recognizing the rights of Mother Earth.
2. Developed countries must honor their climate debt.
3. Stabilize the temperature increase in 1°C.
4. Constitute a Climate and Environmental Justice Court.
5. Replacement of REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) by a new mechanism.
6. Rejection of carbon market mechanisms.
7. Recognition and revaluation of indigenous native roots from all humanity and full respect of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
8. World referendum, plebiscite or public consultation.
9. Build a World Movement of Peoples for Mother Earth.

Based on the conclusions of the Tiquipaya Conferences, Bolivia has developed its negotiating position in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Thus, while developed countries presented their solutions to climate change based on a capitalist paradigm, Bolivia proposed an alternative climate model to the capitalist and mercantilist model in the framework of Living Well in Harmony with Mother Earth.

Main conclusions of the World Conference of Peoples on Climate Change and Defense of Life (Tiquipaya, October 2015)

- Adopt a new model of civilization in the world; strengthen the defense of Mother Earth.
- Strengthen the inter-scientific and Intercultural Dialogue.
- Defend the universal common heritage
- Put climatic sciences under the service of life.
- Allocate the resources of military machinery to financing the climate change.
- Create a permanent international platform of the peoples of the world.
- Establish the International Climate Justice Court.



- Do not exceed 1.5 degrees centigrade of temperature on the planet.
- Eliminate debts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and hunger.
- Adopt a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth.
- Base the Climate Agreement on the vision of the peoples and organizations of the world and not on the capitalist vision of private and transnational companies.

The Bolivian position on climate change in the UNFCCC is based on the following main aspects:

- Bolivia proposes an ethical vision of respect for the Right of Mother Earth to adapt naturally to climate change;
- Bolivia proposed the “distribution of the carbon emission budget” among all the countries according to a set of criteria that takes into account the historical responsibility of the countries with climate change and an International Climate Justice Court which monitors and sanctions the non-compliance of the international commitments.
- Bolivia proposes the need of immediate actions including increased actions of mitigation, adaptation, and provision of financing and technology prior to the year 2020.
- Bolivia proposes the strengthen of the non-market based approaches of the Convention, but rather based on the international responsibilities for the provision of financing and technology from developed countries to developing countries, as instruments for the implementation of the Convention.
- Bolivia suggests an alternative proposal to REDD+ within the framework of joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of the forests.
- Bolivia proposes the use of sciences for life and environmentally friendly technologies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, including mainly indigenous peoples and local communities’ technologies.
- Bolivia has proposed strengthen the role of indigenous peoples and local communities, while developed countries propose the prevalence of the private sector in solutions to climate change.

The Bolivian proposals were incorporated in the Paris Agreement, with the exception of the International Climate Justice Court and the distribution of the carbon emission budget. It has opted for the paradigm of mutual and crossed control instead of the international obligation to reduce emissions. History will recognize that Bolivia was not mistaken in its proposal as the best mean to limit global emissions.

THE PARIS AGREEMENT

The COP21 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, met since November 30 to December 12 in Paris, France, concluded with the Paris Agreement which became the international framework for countries to continue

working, in accordance with their national circumstances, in the development of actions that limit the rise of global temperature.

On April 22, 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters through a High-level Ceremony the Paris Agreement was opened for signature, it was signed by 175 Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (174 countries and the European Union). More than 50 Heads of State and Government participated in this Opening Act which is catalogued as the initial step to ensure that the Agreement enters into force. Bolivia signed the Paris Agreement through the representation of the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Mr. Evo Morales Ayma.

The Paris Agreement, which has been ratified by at least 55 countries that globally represent the 55% of the total greenhouse gas emissions, has entered into force on November 4, 2016. To this date the Paris Agreement has been ratified by 131 countries.



*Evo Morales Ayma- President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia – COP21-Paris 2015
Photo: @jmkarg*

Bolivia has ratified the Paris Agreement with the Law No. 835 of September 17, 2016, thus showing to the world its predisposition to act against the climate crisis, ratifying its deep values of respect for the rights of Mother Earth in a context of world climate crisis.

Bolivia considers that the Paris Agreement on climate change under the framework of the COP21 is not the structural solution to the causes of the climate crisis, but it is a decisive step for countries to have legal and operational tools in this issue.

**Statement by the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
Evo Morales Ayma, on the occasion of the signature of the Paris
Agreement
April 22, 2016. New York**

United Nations General Secretary, Brother Ban Ki-moon
Sisters and brothers present and listeners who follow us round the world,

Today is the International Day of Mother Earth, an important day for us who defend the culture of life and peace with social justice in the world.

Ancestral and indigenous civilizations in the world have taught us that the earth is not an object that can be sold, is not merchandise that is traded in carbon markets. My grandparents, my parents and my community taught me that the earth is our mother, is our home, which must be respected and protected.

Life's main enemy is consumerism, individualism, mercantilism, warfare, armaments, profit and luxury. Life's enemy is in synthesis the capitalist system, therefore it must be eradicated.

Currently we are witnessing serious catastrophes of the planet, by only having increased the temperature less than 1 degree centigrade. Today we experience the impact of droughts, typhoons, hurricanes, floods among other extreme events. If we do not comply with the commitments and agreements from Paris, in the next 20 years the temperature will rise between 5 to 6 degrees and we will be witnesses of the destruction of the planet and life.

The Agreement could be the best or the worse tool to change this reality, it will depend on its implementation. The Paris Agreement is an important step, but it is not enough to save our Mother Earth. We must resolve the structural causes of the climate crisis.

The rights of Mother Earth are more important than the individual rights. There will be no life without the rights of Nature. The planet, the Mother Earth can exist better without the human being, but human being cannot live without Mother Earth.

We must protect our environment and for this is imperative the adoption of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth within the framework of United Nations.

The peoples of the world must continue working on the constitution of the Climate Justice and Defense of the Rights of Mother Earth International Court to fulfill the following tasks:

- To judge and punish the responsible States of the climate crisis under the common but differentiated responsibility and the historic responsibility.
- Judge and punish transnational corporations that cause serious social and environmental damages.

If these agreements are not complied, and if we do not change the capitalist system, in the future we will live the destruction of the humanity and life.

Pachamama (Mother Earth) or Death, we will be victorious!.

THE PARIS AGREEMENT

- The Paris Agreement sets an increase limit of 2 degrees of temperature, making a calling to develop increased efforts not to exceed 1.5 degrees. This phrasing by itself does not guarantee that these are the temperature limits that we achieve in the future.
- It is established the presentation by all countries of the entitled “Nationally Determined Contributions”, which summarizes the mitigation and adaptation efforts of the countries, which must be evaluated globally each five years.
- The mechanisms for financing, capacity development and technology transfer are established.
- The Commitment Compliance Mechanism is constituted to support countries in the fulfilling their commitments.

Key concepts in the approach to the Agreement. The recognition of Mother Earth has been included in the context of climate change; the message of “climate justice” has been incorporated as well, which means that the Climate Agreement must also mean social and economic justice. That should lead us to save Mother Earth to save life itself.

Common, but differentiated responsibilities. It has been established the importance of developed countries to undertake ambitious actions of emissions reduction and that other developing countries with technology and financing capacities contribute equally with ambitious goals of climate mitigation. The developed countries must lead by the example and take the lead by making substantial cuts of emissions and transferring financing, as it is established on the Agreement, with preeminence of their public sources.

Fight against the mercantilist and capitalist vision of climate change. The option of turning the entire climate change process into an Agreement of climate business, of technology markets, of carbon credits, of credits, risk insurances for extreme events, among others has been stopped. Bolivia succeeded incorporating into the Agreement a framework to elaborate sustainable development approaches that are not based on markets to advance in a integral way in mitigation and adaptation efforts to climate change.

Recognition of indigenous peoples and local communities’ knowledge, practices and technologies. Since climate negotiations have always privileged the private business sector, it is very important that the Agreement has incorporated the recognition of indigenous techniques, technologies and practices as tools for adaptation and mitigation. In addition, an exchange platform has also been created in relation to indigenous knowledge, technologies and experiences.

Recognition of the Bolivian proposal on alternative mechanisms to carbon markets in forests. The Bolivian proposal on joint mitigation and adaptation for the integral management of forest proposed since 2011 has been included and consolidated as an alternative to those mechanisms articulated to carbon markets which see the forests as simple carbon reservoirs, such as the case of REDD+.

Proposal to fulfill the Agreement did not include the International Climate Justice Court. Huge efforts to create the International Climate Justice Court has been made, but the proposal was not supported, although a Commitment Compliance Mechanism has been created, led by a panel of scientific experts set up to provide scientific opinions on the non-compliance of commitments.

Strengthening of adaptation and damage and loss. The Damage and Loss Mechanism has been strengthened, this institution has specific functions to develop prevention and care capabilities for extreme events.

BOLIVIA AND ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE COP22- MOROCCO



*COP22 – Morocco (2016) Photo: Internet
High Level Segment – Diego Pacheco's intervention, Head of Delegation*

Bolivia participated in the Twenty-second Conference of Parties (COP22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held every year with presence of all the countries that are part of the Convention, in Morocco from 7 to 18 November, 2016.

The countries of the Like Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) that brings together about 30 developing countries, representing half of the world's population, nominated Bolivia, through its head of delegation, Mr. Diego Pacheco, as coordinator and spokesperson for this group during the COP22 session. Bolivia, having the LMDC voice had an important visibility during all the negotiation process, representing the group in all the meetings with the Presidency and working groups' facilitators, also making know the vision of the group in the plenary meetings. This did not take away the possibility of Bolivia to negotiate its own specific issues of interest.

Implementation of the Paris Agreement. The COP22 was an operative meeting which established the procedures to advance in the construction of methodologies and operative processes to implement the Paris Agreement and its related decisions. Content discussions will be held at the next meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the Convention (SBSTA) in 2017.

The main topic of the negotiation was related with operative processes for the implementation of the Paris Agreement as regards to: i) Characteristics, information and transparency of the Nationally Determined Contributions; ii) Global stocktake of the progress under the Convention framework; iii) Guidelines for the transparency framework, and iv) Communication in adaptation.

Bolivia worked on these issues in the framework of LMDC group of developing countries, for the Paris Agreement to be carried out in a holistic way, articulated and involving the set of themes in a balanced way, considering: mitigation, adaptation, financing, technology and capacity building, opposed to the position of the developed countries that only climate change mitigation is prioritized. It was also emphasized the fact that all the actions of the countries must be based on the equity and common but differentiated responsibilities principles, which means that there must be differentiated methodologies and procedures for developed and developing countries; opposed to the position of developed countries to build uniform methodologies and procedures for all the countries.

Non-Market Based Approaches. Bolivia had an important leadership in the negotiation on the framework of non-market-based approaches, where the non-mercantilist vision of the climate change was deepened. In this session, procedural discussions were held and it was agreed to begin the substantive discussion on this approach at the next meeting of the SBSTA group, together with other international cooperation mechanisms provided in the Paris Agreement.

Platform of indigenous peoples and local communities. Bolivia took a leading role about an increased participation of the indigenous peoples and local communities in the framework of the Convention, with its proposal to implement the Platform of indigenous peoples and local communities that was incorporated into the Paris Agreement. This Platform is an historical milestone to strengthen the participation of the indigenous peoples in the context of climate change.

Financing for the joint mitigation and adaptation approaches to climate change. Bolivia consolidated its position of strengthening the financing channels for its proposal of the joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of the forests. There are important prior decisions on this issue; however, there was a need to strengthen the operation of financing decisions before the Financing Committee and the Green Climate Fund.

OTHER ACTIONS OF BOLIVIA IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEW WORLD ORDER

OPENING OF THE “TRUST FUND OF HARMONY WITH NATURE OF THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS”

Bolivia has proposed and positioned United Nations' international scenarios its alternative vision to the capitalist paradigm that is based on the Living Well in Harmony and balance with Mother Earth and the recognition of the rights of Mother Earth, which has allowed to move forward in the construction of conceptual and technical aspects as well as practical instruments for the recognition of Living Well not only in Bolivia, but the whole world.

In this regard, beginning with the Declaration of the General Assembly of the International Mother Earth Day on April 22, 2009 (Resolution 63/278), the Plurinational State of Bolivia has promoted and led negotiations on the consecutive resolutions of Harmony with Nature, under the mandate of those resolutions the President of the General Assembly is requested to convene the interactive dialogues in commemoration of the International Mother Earth Day and to the General Secretary to establish a Trust Fund for the participation of independent experts to these interactive dialogues and in this regard invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider to contribute to the Trust Fund once it is established.

Thus, in September 2016, the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia signs an Agreement with United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs establishing the opening of the “Trust Fund of Harmony with Nature within the framework of the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development” from the country's contribution to it, in order to advance in activities related to Harmony with Nature in accordance with the above mentioned General Assembly resolutions, which also contribute to the advance of the deliberations of the rights of Mother Earth; these efforts that Bolivia make, as a developing country, to promote these kind of initiatives have the sole purpose of contributing to the consolidation of actions that allow us to move to a new world order in which integrity of Mother Earth and the peoples is preserved.

From Toro Toro – Bolivia on November 24 and 25, 2016, in the framework of the First National Meeting of Living Well, the launching of the "Trust Fund for Harmony with Nature of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the United Nations" was announced, in which a call to international community was made to contribute to this Trust Fund of Harmony with Nature. With these actions efforts are added to continue being the promoters of the fight against capitalism and referents in the international context of policies with a sense of life and ethics.

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT ON BIODIVERSITY NEGOTIATIONS

THIRTEENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON BIODIVERSITY (COP13-2016)



The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) emerged in the Earth Summit in 1992 and it was signed by 196 countries, Bolivia ratified it by Law N°1580, on July 25, 1994. The Convention pursues three main objectives: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The Conference of Parties (COP) is the regulatory body of the Convention and different workgroups on specific topics addressed by the Convention have been established. Furthermore, there are the

Cartagena Protocols on biosafety in relation with genetically modified organisms, as well as the Nagoya Protocol for the distribution of the benefits derived from genetic resources, these meetings are held every two years in parallel to the CBD COP meetings.

At the Thirteenth Conference of the Parties (COP13) of CBD held in Mexico since December 2 until early hours of December 18, 2016, the countries met to address the integration of biodiversity in public policies, legislation and regulations in agricultural, forestry, fisheries and tourism sectors, in addition to working in different areas related to the comply of the CBD objectives, such as: biodiversity and terrestrial and marine ecosystems and forests, biodiversity and climate change, geoengineering, synthetic biology, recognition of the traditional knowledge, means of operation, mobilization of financial resources, among other topics.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation adopted the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being, this highlights among others aspects, the concern for the loss of biodiversity, in light of which make and urgent call to act in a coherent and cross-sectoral way to address the conservation of nature and promote the sustainable use of biodiversity for the well-being of the peoples, with a sense of justice and social equity.

Among the highlighted events organized by CBD at this COP is the “**Interactive Dialogue Living in Harmony with Nature**” promoted by Bolivia in the COP12 (in 2014) with the objective to start a deep debate in the CBD about the “Living in Harmony with Nature”, towards the recognition of Living Well in the framework of respect of the rights of Mother Earth and the peoples, allowing as well the recognition of the visions and approaches proper of the nations and indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation of biodiversity. This dialogue was held in Plenary Session with delegations of 196 countries, civil society and indigenous peoples and local communities. Took part of the Panel: the Vice minister of Planning and Coordination of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Head of Delegation of Bolivia to the CBD, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Secretary of State-Monsignor of the Holy See, a Tohoku, Japan University Professor, and a representative of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities from Uganda.



Photo iisd L-R: John Scott, CBD Secretariat; Rafael Pachiano Alamán, COP 13 President; Braulio Ferreira de Souza, CBD Executive Secretary; Diego Pacheco Balanza, Bolivian Vice minister of Planning and Coordination ; Tohru Nakashizuka, Tohoku University, Japan; Peninah Zaninka, Representative from Batwa Community, Uganda; Monsignor Ramón Macías, Secretary of State of the Holy See; and Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Plurinational State of Bolivia continued with its leading role in negotiations of the CBD, through the following main actions:

- Bolivia, as the promoter of the “Interactive Dialogue Living in Harmony with Nature”, succeeded on the strengthening of the work in relation with the “approaches to live in Harmony with Nature” in the CBD, taking into account the results of the Interactive Dialogue in this session and that this will be one of the main topics in the next meeting of the CBD meeting to be held in Egypt in 2018, allowing a space to advance to a Universal Declaration of Harmony with Nature.
- Bolivia had an important leadership during the negotiation on “mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors”, ensuring that this process has been addressed with an integral vision recognizing the need to include different approaches and visions to achieve the sustainable development,

and the need to consider approaches of Living Well in Harmony with Mother Earth, promoting the harmonic relationship between the human and nature. Moreover, the recognition of the crucial role of indigenous peoples and local communities in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the need to strengthen their knowledge, technologies, practices and innovations to further promote the biodiversity in the world.

- Bolivia was the promoter of the first version of the document entitled “The Biodiversity Local Perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities”, which was prepared as a complementary perspective to the Global Biodiversity Outlook document. Bolivia proposed the preparation of a second edition of this document with relevant aspects to the practices and technologies of indigenous nations and peoples and local communities in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Harmony with Nature. In addition, it was incorporated in the National Reports of the countries on the Convention implementation, the need to report the contributions of the collective actions of the indigenous peoples and local communities to achieve this purpose.
- Bolivia took a leading role addressing the topic of the indigenous peoples and local communities and the promoting their full and effective participation in the Convention and its Protocols; in this context the CBD will begin to discuss ways and instruments to achieve an increased participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention and in its decisions.
- In the framework of the treatment of Synthetic Biology and geoengineering, Bolivia has proposed that sciences for life and Harmony with Nature sciences should be studied in the same way, incorporating the presentation of inputs about traditional knowledge in the framework of Harmony with Nature to compare and understand the benefits and adverse effects of Synthetic Biology. The precautionary approach was ratified for Climate-related geoengineering.
- Bolivia’s participation was key in approving a consensus decision on the voluntary guidelines for consultation on traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities for the conservation of diversity and sustainable use.
- Bolivia insisted in the support with the provision of financial resources and means of implementation to developing countries and with particular attention to the most vulnerable countries.
- Bolivia has also been able to consolidate its proposal of collective action of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the CBD, incorporating relevant issues in the mobilization of resources, in the country reports to the Convention and in the progress of its implementation.

- Bolivia also insisted on the need to develop a private sector conflict of interest policy in the CBD, an aspect that must be deepened and worked on the next meetings to incorporate this important issue into the negotiations.