

**DECLARATION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
PLATFORM FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE**

REGIONAL CLIMATE WEEK

Dominican Republic, may 2021

The Latin American and Caribbean Platform for Climate Justice, on the occasion of the Regional Climate Week to be held in the Dominican Republic, declares the following:



CLIMATE SUMMITS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN BUSINESS SUMMITS.

- In March, the United Nations, the World Bank, IDB, CAF and other entities initiated Regional Climate Weeks (RCW) in order to give impetus to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This despite repeated complaints from organizations and social movements around the world against the implementation of this Agreement for its ineffectiveness in addressing climate crises.
- The opening session, held on March 3, of the Regional Climate Week for Latin America and the Caribbean, and hosted by the Dominican Republic, revealed the strong influence of the private sector and the complicity of States in delaying climate action, evading substantive discussions on the real causes of the climate crisis and ensuring that the guilty parties continue to go unpunished.
- While the government of the host country, the Dominican Republic, tries to show an environmentally friendly face to the world, at the national level it continues to expand mega-mining that endangers water sources, forests, peasant agriculture and territorial rights, while at the same time expanding unsustainable tourism that threatens protected areas, taking advantage of the country's institutional fragility.
- The organizers say that the Regional Climate Week for Latin America and the Caribbean is a meeting in favor of climate justice and the promotion of productive forms based on a more respectful relationship with nature. But the experience of other events organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change suggests the opposite: after 25 years there is more and more extraction and burning of fossil fuels and therefore more global warming and impunity for those responsible.
- Once again, these new international climate summits, which only simulate popular participation, turn out to be spaces to defend corporate interests and the status quo of the industrialized countries of the North, to get more business benefit from climate disasters, and to promote new false solutions. In doing so, they seek to perpetuate the path of development with their policies based on economic growth, fossil fuel and mineral extraction, the suffering of millions of human and non-human inhabitants, deaths from climate disasters and the destruction of the planet.
- The false solutions and dangerous commercial and technological responses that have emerged from these climate summits, which feature misleading, hyper-specialized and intentionally confusing language to hide the truth of the problem, seek to maintain a system dependent on fossil fuels and at the same time grab land, violate rights and seek new business opportunities. Ploys such as carbon markets and offsets, CDM projects, large-scale tree monocultures, REDD+, BECCS and other forms of geoengineering, Nature-Based Solutions, and other fallacious approaches such as low-carbon economies and Net-Zero Emissions, are central to the green economy. They

are intended mainly just to clean up the image of the culprits so that they can continue their spiral of profit and pollution.

- Those most affected by this system are the peoples of the South, particularly peasants, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, precarious urban populations, women and children, and historically-displaced peoples affected by the activities of the industrial-military and extractive model and by the expansion of neoliberal cities. We know that development has been conceived and forged in order to maintain the production and consumption model and the endless spiral of accumulation at the cost of sustaining life.
- The Regional Climate Week of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2021 will once again defend above all the power of the capital of the corporations of the oil sector, agribusiness, or the transnationals of conservation over the rights of peoples and nature.
- This international summit will once again address issues totally removed from the need to take urgent measures in the face of the severity of the environmental crises. These irrelevancies include Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Global Climate Action. All of these are proposals with no scientific basis or enforceability. It should come as no surprise that they once again avoid addressing relevant issues such as the repayment of the North's climate debt to the South, or the real economic and social damages suffered by the most impoverished peoples.

WE MUST DO AWAY WITH THE SYSTEM, NOT WITH THE CLIMATE AND THE PEOPLE.

- For all the above reasons, we denounce these climate summits, as they have lost all legitimacy with respect to seriously addressing global warming.
- We can only avoid planetary collapse by starting to leave gas, oil and coal in the ground, protecting and restoring forests and ecosystems, ending agribusiness and large-scale cattle ranching and favoring peasant agriculture and agroecology, respecting the collective rights of peoples who care for and live off forests, eliminating extractive mining practices and getting the financial sector out of the climate.
- Radical and urgent transformations are required outside of markets and emancipated from extractivism; with a territorial and community outlook; towards other models of societies; based on energy, food, economic and territorial sovereignty and on local practices, cultures and economies; grounded on decent working and living conditions as well as on solidarity exchange between peoples and communities; and respecting the rights of nature and allowing us to live in harmony with it.
- It is also a priority to recognize and compensate for the historical, social and ecological debt owed by the industrialized countries of the North to the peoples of the South who have not been responsible for climate change. This debt is due to atmospheric pollution and the illegitimate appropriation of the Earth's cycles, to the impacts of climate disasters on peoples and countries, and also to the problems generated by false solutions on territories and the consequent violation of rights.

WE CALL ON ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS TO:

- Condemn the direction taken by the United Nations climate negotiations - including the virtual days of the Regional Climate Week for Latin America and the Caribbean. This direction is increasingly set by corporations and the financial system, which reproduce colonial relations and increasingly constrict any process of popular participation.
- Recover multilateralism that defends the interests of the peoples of the world and not of capital, and that allows us to confront climate change, with actions at both the local and global levels.
- Reject the Paris Agreement and other climate agreements that were formulated to profit and continue perpetuating oil civilization.
- Reject the package of false solutions being offered and unmask the cynical proposals that seek to greenwash corporations, banks and States that cause death.
- Decarbonize the climate debate, since the focus on emissions and temperatures diverts attention from the causes of the problem and hides the real solutions. People understand the origin of the climate crisis as a systemic crisis and know how to deal with it.
- Denounce the terricide that is the systematic extermination of all forms of life (genocide, feminicide, ecocide and ethnocide together) caused by the capitalist, globalized and institutional, extractivist, colonial and patriarchal system, one of whose consequences is climate change.
- To build and strengthen from the territories ways of living, producing and consuming that take care of future generations, build sovereignty and climate justice.
- To open a collective debate on a just transition for peoples and nature. An energy, food, economic and ecological transition towards other ways of life and societies, including the just reparation of all historical, social, environmental and nature debts, and outside of false solutions and green capitalism.
- To join the mobilizations and resistances to the system of death that are taking place around the world against States and policies that promote the expansion of oil, mining, agro-industrial, free trade, and indebtedness that feed the system that has caused climate change.
- Broaden the globalization of peoples and struggles.
- Solidarize with the environmental movement and the peoples of the Dominican Republic who are demanding from the government the transformation of the energy matrix and the defense of the human right to water, access to clean and safe water, the rejection of privatization plans that are attempted from the National Congress, and denounce the hypocrisy of their doublespeak about sustainability at a time when they are actually promoting death, impoverishment and destruction.

Do away with the capitalist system, not with the climate!

The [Latin American and Caribbean Platform for Climate Justice](#) brings together a group of social movements, organizations and networks in the region to address the serious climate crisis in an articulated manner, coordinate resistance to the current capitalist system and its false solutions to climate change, and promote alternatives for a just transition at the national and local levels, led by the people from the territories.

SIGNATURES OF SUPPORT TO THE DECLARATION

Nombre	Organización
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