

# **Cochabamba: Mesa 18 declaration - Collective rights and rights of the mother earth**

Tuesday 25 May 2010, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 21 April 2010).

**Here is an unofficial translation of the Mesa 18 declaration (Declaration of Table 18). Collective rights and rights of the mother earth.**

## **National council of Ayllus and Markas of Qullasuyu**

This working group established itself as a necessary space of reflection and criticism within the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of the Mother Earth. Its objective is to give a deeper examination into the local effects of global industrial capitalism. We take on the responsibility of questioning the so called popular Latin American governments and their destructive and consumerist logic, and the deadly logic of neo extractive development.

The distinct interventions within this working group have contributed in setting out the contradictions within the process as well as bringing forward proposals in advancing the road to 'good living'.

The People's World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of the Mother Earth is a demonstration of the magnetism that has woken up this process. In order to guarantee that this process deepens and extends as an example of hope to the whole continent and the peoples and communities of the world, its necessary to show the existing contradictions, reflected in social environmental conflicts.

These contradictions are the result of not applying the aforementioned principles. This working group proposes to contribute to active mechanisms of coordinated struggle, through the support of this process.

The social and popular organisations and the original farming ('campesinas') indigenous communities of Latin America and of the rest of the world met in Tiquipaya 20-21 April of 2010. The process of developing the 18<sup>th</sup> table brought proposals to define foundations for implementing a New Model of Managing Natural Resources to counter the capitalist production model still prevalent in Latin America. which is situated in industrial development and the consolidation of transnationals, funded in private property, individual gain and consumerism, aspects which have been put to judgement by the nations and the people of Latin America. The development plans of these governments, including the Bolivian government, only reproduce the development model of the past.

To challenge climate change humanity needs to remember its cultural collective communitarian roots - this means building a society based on collective property and in the communal and rational management of natural resources, where the peoples decide in a direct way the destiny of natural wealth in accordance with their organising structures, their self determination, their norms and

procedures and their vision of how to manage their territories.

History teaches us that there is only one effective way to transform society and to construct a social alternative to capitalism, that is the permanent mobilisation and articulation of our struggles.

We resolve the following:

1. We renounce imperialism, transnationals and the so called progressive Latin American governments that implement mega energy and infrastructure projects under the IIRSA in any of Latin American territories – particularly in indigenous territories and protected areas – which are designed by banks, business men and private builders with a neoliberal and exploitative vision.
2. We demand to change the pseudo development model which privileges the exportation of raw materials. We propose to take forward the construction of alternatives which are in the interest of the peoples, privileging equity, solidarity and complementary.
3. We ask to establish a rational management model of natural resources in accordance with the philosophy, culture, customs and uses of the people, and which bases itself on a social and communitarian model, respectful of the Rights of the Mother Earth.
4. Because of the lack of the will from governments of the world – we demand the power, as social organisations and farmers/peasants, to define a new management model and direct control of natural patrimony. With direct control by the workers from the farm and the city to establish policies of managing biodiversity in relation to necessity and not the dependence of our countries.
5. We ask the states to respect and realise indigenous rights already accepted by the UN thanks to the fight of the first indigenous farmers/peasant organisations. We demand the derogation of the legal norms which criminalise our social struggles in defence of our communal territories and that sanction criminal governments.
6. Make public the necessity to eliminate large landowners, the pirating of biodiversity and agrobusiness, and to recuperate ancestral knowledge of the nations and first indigenous peasants/farmers peoples in the world, the promotion of ecological production, the reproduction of the communitarian model, the training in reproducing forests and biodiversity in an attempt to confront climate change.
7. We demand the retraction and expulsion of all transnationals, of those NGOs which support projects of the aforementioned corporations, and the media that propagandise and violate collective rights. We demand the recuperation of the natural goods that have been devastated and exhausted. We propose the suspension of all extractive activity, work or projects that are responsible and a cause of climate change, the displacement of peoples from their territories, and the environmental – social effects in territories of nations and peoples in the world.
8. We demand the fulfillment of collective rights violated in social environmental conflicts in the following cases:  
Corocoro – Jacha Suyu Pakajaqi, Lliquimuni - Indigenous people of Mosetén - San Cristobal – FRUTCAS Southeast of Potosí - Mutún - Chiquitanía Pantanal, TIPNIS – CONISUR, Cuenca Huanuni, Lago Poopo, Río Desaguadero, Cañadón Antequera, Consejo de Capitanes Guaranis Tarija, Charagua Norte - Asamblea del Pueblo Guaraní de Charagua Norte - represa del Río Madera en Brasil y Bolivia - struggle for common property and land, MST Bolivia and farmer/peasant movement of Córdoba, Argentina - Justice for the original indigenous farmer/peasant community massacred in Porvenir, Pando, the 11 de septiembre of 2008 - mining contamination in Potosí - deforestation and mining in Guarayos - mining in the North of Chichas - cases Andalgalá en Catamarca y San Juan in

Argentina – conflicts over forests in Mapuche territories and other national and international cases (see annex - n/a at moment) with which we declare our solidarity in their struggles.

9. All these points make up the mandate of the peoples united at the 18<sup>th</sup> table - started by the Council of the Ayullus and Markas of Qullasuyu and other social organisations in the world - all of which should be fulfilled by all the states that benefit from the goods of the mother earth.

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**P.S.**

\* From:

<http://cochabamba2010.typepad.com/blog/2010/05/mesa-18-declaration-english-spanish.html>