



## Republic of Bolivia

### **Contribution to the AWG-LCA and to the Chair's Note entitled "Ideas and proposals on paragraph 1 of the Bali Action Plan"**

#### **Introduction**

The Republic of Bolivia's vision is of a world in which all people live well in harmony with other human beings and with our Pachamama (Mother Earth) – that is the Suma Qamana "vision". This vision calls on us to abandon the mindless pursuit of living better, and seek to Live Well, in harmony with each other, the Earth and its climate system.

To realize this vision, Bolivia believes we must address the structural causes of climate change. Competition and the thirst for profit without limits of the capitalist system are destroying the planet. Under Capitalism, we are not human beings but consumers. Under Capitalism, Mother Earth does not exist, instead there are raw materials. Capitalism is the source of the asymmetries and imbalances in the world. It generates luxury, ostentation and waste for a few, while millions in the world die from hunger in the world. In the hands of Capitalism, everything becomes a commodity: the water, the soil, the human genome, the ancestral cultures, justice, ethics, death ... and life itself. Everything, absolutely everything, can be bought and sold and under Capitalism. And even "climate change" itself has become a business.

As long as we do not change the capitalist system for a system based in complementarity, solidarity and harmony between the people and nature, the measures that we adopt to address climate change will be palliatives that will be limited and precarious in character.

Our efforts to tackle climate change must address these structural causes of climate change, including our engagement in the UNFCCC process, and the discussions in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA).

As a contribution to this goal, this note sets out Bolivia's preliminary views on relevant elements of the Bali Action Plan including the ideas and proposals set out in the Chair's Note entitled "Ideas and proposals on paragraph 1 of the Bali Action Plan" (FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/16). As this is a relatively new item, Bolivia will have further elaborations.

Bolivia insists that the Assembly Document should be structured to reflect the reality of the climate crisis. In the first instance, it is imperative that the climate harms that are being done must stop, and that those liable for producing harm are held to account. Bolivia holds that the developed countries which are responsible for the climate change problem since the industrial revolution should be held liable for the damage caused by climate change to countries and peoples. The developed countries should pay compensation for the past, present and future damage caused by the impacts of climate change.

Second, the victims must be provided with the means to adapt in a manner that allows for survival and addresses the real origins of harm. Third, those harmed must be compensated, in a



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manner and a level that fully recognizes historic responsibility and the imperative of getting on to the path of Living Well.

Bolivia does not accept the inclusion of language relating to differentiation, graduation and related issues and calls for sections in the document on these issues to be deleted.



### I. Enhanced action on adaptation

Bolivia is not responsible for the harmful and real effects of climate change, and those which are must shoulder their responsibility. In 2007, Bolivia lost an estimated 4% of GDP owing to the effects of climate change. Adaptation financing must fully cover the damages incurred as a product of adapting to climate change.

The resources for climate change at present are unfairly distributed. More resources are directed to reduce emissions (mitigation) and less to reduce the effects of climate change that all the countries suffer (adaptation). The vast majority of resources flow to those countries that have polluted the most, and not to the countries which have preserved the environment most. Around 80% of the Clean Development Mechanism projects are concentrated in a few developing countries.

We call on efforts to promote equitable adaptation actions that recognize historic responsibility, with programs and plans with the participation of local communities and indigenous people in the framework of full respect for and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



### II. Enhanced action on the provision of financial resources and investment to support action on mitigation and adaptation and technology cooperation

The provision of finance and technology needed to address climate change is compensatory. Acknowledging the historical ecological debt that the developed countries owe to the planet, Annex I Parties must create an Integral Financial Mechanism for Living Well to support developing countries in covering the full costs of implementing their plans and programmes for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change; the innovation, development and transfer of technology; in the preservation and improvement of the sinks and reservoirs; response actions to the serious natural disasters caused by climate change; and the carrying out of sustainable and eco-friendly development plans.

Financing from developed countries must be sufficient to provide developing countries with compensation for lost development opportunities under capitalism, and full financing for national actions, technologies and other efforts taken to address the climate crisis caused by the over-use by developed countries of our shared atmospheric resource. In other words, it has to finance the "passage" from a failed capitalist system that is the root cause of climate change, to a new economic system of Living Well, which is based on complementarity, solidarity and harmony between the people and nature.