

MISION PERMANENTE DE BOLIVIA ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Statement

by

H.E. Evo Morales Ayma President of the Republic of Bolivia

7th Session Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

New York, April 23, 2008

211 EAST 43rd STREET, SUITE 802 • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 TEL: (212) 682-8132 • FAX: (212) 687-4642

Introduction

- Role of indigenous communities, advocates of living well
- Our vision of mother earth
- This is the millennium of change

This is the discussion about climate change, is the debate between the culture of trash and death and the culture of life and peace.

<u>The 10 sins of capitalism and the 10 commandments to save</u> the planet, humanity, and life

1. End capitalism

 The grave effects of climate change are not the products of humans in general but of the capitalist system because

 Over exploitation and plunder of natural resources and human beings

- Destructive wars to conquer raw materials and markets
- Waste of energy, especially fossil fuel
- Excessive consumption of goods
- Accumulation of trash, scraps and remainders
- Thirst for profit. Profit as the motor of the model

If we want to save the planet we must change the capitalist model and the north must pay the ecological debt that it has with the south and the world as a whole.

2. Renounce war

- Wars are of the transnationals
- The military industries generate profits
- Communities die
- They bring destruction and contamination / pollution
- The example of Bolivia in its new constitution

• The trillions of dollars spent on warfare should be used to cure the planet.

3. A world without imperialism or colonialism

- No more dependence of submission.
- Complement instead of disloyal competition
- Take asymmetry into account.
- Regulation that favors the smaller
- Build a multipolar world
- Change the rules of the game in the UN Security Council
- There should be democracy within the Security Council
- No more first and second class countries
- No more lifetime members with veto power.
- We should be equal

4. Water as a human right belonging to all living beings

Without water there is no life

 The biggest impact of climate change is in water sources. Our snows and glaciers are disappearing.

Drought is causing deforestation

• We need an International Water Convention to protect sources of water, to guarantee it as a human right and avoid its privatization and monopolization by the few.

5. Development of clean, nature-friendly energy

End energy waste.

In 100 years we will use up fossil fuel created over millions of years

It was a serious mistake to promote biofuels

 Today even the World Bank and the IMF say that the current worldwide rise in food prices is in part due to biofuel production

 Feeding our cars with gasoline is taking away food from humans and we are destroying forests.

 The alternative is solar, geothermic, wind, and hydroelectric energy on small and large scales.

6. Respect for mother earth

The earth gives us life, it gives us food, it shelters us

The earth is our home, is our mother

We cannot continue to pollute it with garbage and toxic waste

• We cannot accept that the capitalist system reduces it to merchandise

There cannot be monopolization of the earth by a few hands

The earth has to be respected and managed in a communitarian way

7. Basic services of health, education, communication, transport and information access are human rights, and should be a public service, not a private business

 While there are private services there will always be poor people who cannot accede to them

Services must be public and large scale so that there is no waste of natural or energy resources and so that we can all access them

8. Consume what is necessary, prioritize that which we produce, and consume locally

End consumer-ism, waste and profit

 Millions die of hunger every year while millions of dollars are spent fighting obesity in another pole of society • We consume excessively, wasting natural resources and producing trash that pollutes our natural world

 The food crisis will end with the free market because it is unacceptable that food is exported while we have hunger within our countries.

 Energy cannot be wasted to transport merchandise around the world when it can be produced and consumed locally

9. Promote cultural and economic diversity

 Capitalism has wanted to standardize us so that we become simple consumers

 We human beings live in communities with diverse cultures and diverse economies

- Our greatest wealth is our cultural and economic diversity
- There is not one sole model that can save the world
- We are a plural world and should respect its diversity in all aspects

10. Live Well. Don't live better at others' expense. Build communitarian socialism in harmony with mother earth.

• Our vision of harmony with nature and between human beings is the opposite of the egotistical, individualist, accumulationist vision of this model.

We can continue on the route of capitalism and death or we can advance through the indigenous route of harmony with nature and life

Indigenous communities will not be silenced until we achieve real changes, because our voice is the voice of the snowcapped mountains losing their white ponchos.