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UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



CLIMATE CHANGE

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Summary

Editorial	3
Paris Climate 2015 - COP 21	6
Resolution	13
<i>FIMARC Executive committee – Assesse - Belgium</i>	
FIMARC News	15

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It highlights the rural world's life and activities of
the member movements belonging or not to the Federation

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Dear Readers of VMR

Greetings from International Secretariat!

This edition of VMR focus on the current debate of climate change and the UN conference on Climate change (COP 21) which was held in Paris from 30 November until 12 December 2015 aiming at a general agreement between the countries to reduce the carbon emission of 50% by 2050. You will read important information's about this conference in our main article and in this editorial let me give some basic information about the context of climate change and the reasons

Climate change is a long-term shift in weather conditions identified by changes in temperature, precipitation, winds, and other indicators. Climate change can involve both changes in average conditions and changes in variability, including, for example, extreme events.

The earth's climate is naturally variable on all time scales. However, its long-term state and average temperature are regulated by the balance between incoming and outgoing energy, which determines the Earth's energy balance. Any factor that causes a sustained change to the amount of incoming energy or the amount of outgoing energy can lead to climate change. Factors that cause climate change can be divided into two categories → those related to natural processes and those related to human activity.

The Earth's climate can be affected by natural factors that are external to the climate system, such as changes in volcanic activity, solar output, and the Earth's orbit around the Sun. Climate change can also be caused by human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels and the conversion of land for forestry and agriculture by large scale industries and cutting down of forests since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, these human influences on the climate system have increased substantially. In



addition to other environmental impacts, these activities change the land surface and emit various substances to the atmosphere. These in turn influence both the amount of incoming energy and the amount of outgoing energy and can have both warming and cooling effects on the climate. The overall effect of human activities since the Industrial Revolution has been a warming effect, driven primarily by emissions of carbon dioxide and enhanced by emissions of other greenhouse gases. It is this human-induced enhancement of the greenhouse effect that is of concern because ongoing emissions of greenhouse gases have the potential to warm the planet to levels that have never been experienced in the history of human civilization. Such climate change could have far-reaching and/or unpredictable environmental, social, and economic consequences.

Earth is a very special planet where the conditions are just right for life as we know it. To help keep these conditions constant, our planet is wrapped in a layer of greenhouse gases. This acts like a blanket, keeping the earth warm and shielding it from the cold of universe. This is commonly referred to as the greenhouse effect. Carbon dioxide (CO₂), which, while not the most potent greenhouse gas, is nevertheless the main driver of the greenhouse effect. When fossil fuels - coal, oil and natural gas - are burnt they release CO₂ into the atmosphere. Because of this the layer of greenhouse gas is getting thicker, which is in turn making the Earth warmer. Thus the ongoing unlimited burning of fossil fuels is the cause of climate change. In order to satisfy our endless hunger for energy we are burning unlimited quantities of fossil fuels.

CO₂ can be harmless enough when dissolved in a drink – it adds sparkle to mineral water, soft drinks and champagne. However, when excess amounts are released into the atmosphere it can cause untold damage. In terms of fuels, the main problem is coal. The other key reasons are waste (electronic, plastic etc.) and inefficient use of energy. The biggest climate polluter is the global power sector. According to the International Energy



Agency the power sector is responsible for 37% of all man-made Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions. It creates about 23 billion tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year – in excess of 700 tonnes a second. In turn, this CO₂ continues to heat up our planet which poses an unprecedented threat to us and the environment. That is why it is high time that countries should make an agreement and not play any more with the life of millions of people who are at climate risk all through out their life

The climate is changing but as FIMARC, we can do something. By promoting forestation, by adopting sustainable life styles and energy use, by recycling and buying local produce. Politicians have the power to remove fossil-fuel subsidies and to transfer them to renewable energy. Let us force them to do it

Enjoy your reading

George Dixon Fernandez
Secretary General





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PARIS CLIMATE 2015 COP 21

It is France which hosted from November 30 to December 11, 2015, the 21st climate conference (also called Paris climate 2015) at the 19th Conference of the parties to the Convention on climate change of Warsaw (COP19) in the United Nations framework. The project is to achieve an international binding agreement on the climate that will help to reach global warming below 2 ° C.

The major steps towards an agreement in Paris in 2015, a democratic process?

During the Conference of Lima «COP20» in December 2014, the international community agreed on a preliminary draft text for the Paris agreement. Throughout the year that followed, the different parties have had the opportunity to send their proposals and confirm that the scope of the agreement should deal both mitigation of the impact of climate change, adaptation to it and the means of implementation of the future agreement.

States were therefore invited to submit their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, commitments which are contained in projects contribution determined at the national level (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions - INDC).

All of the preparatory work of the future agreement which should be adopted at the Paris conference was conducted in the Working Group of the Durban platform for enhanced action (EPA). This working co-chairs group plays a key role for the success of the process, in close contact with the Secretariat of the UNFCCC and the country holding the Presidency of the conference. They seek to take into account the



views of all parties which are placed on an equal footing. While only 28 countries had been involved in the final negotiations of the Copenhagen accord, the 196 parties to the Paris agreement must have the feeling of co-writing in order to appropriate it.

The agreement should ensure that all countries are subject to the same rules so that they can check each



other that they will undertake efforts to reduce their emissions and have assurances on the proper implementation of commitments in the contributions. These rules measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) will constitute the heart of the agreement of 2015 and should, therefore, be contained in the binding part of the 'Paris package'.

Questions for movements

- **Did you hear about this Conference?**
- **What is the position of your country?**
- **How, as civil society, have you able to participate in the debates?**

The COP 21 Issues

Even if some climatologists continue to defend a reassuring position on the damaging effects of global warming, others and more and more continue to blow the whistle and say the urgency to take binding measures to try to curb climate change.

This Paris conference appears so crucial because it must lead to an international agreement on climate that will contain global warming below 2 ° C. The ambition is to arrive at a set of decisions on the basis of the work of the COP20 in Lima. It would first be an agreement binding the challenge of climate change that would be applied to all countries and then national contributions (INDC), which represent the effort that each country considers to be able to achieve.

The financing of the fight against climate change will also be a crucial component, including the step that was taken with the first capitalization of the "Green Fund" to the tune of \$ 9.3 billion.



Green climate fund: 9.3 billion dollars of initial capitalization

The capitalization of the “Green climate fund”, to the tune of \$ 9.3 billion, is the culmination of a long process initiated at the COP of Copenhagen and Cancun. This fund, destined for developing countries, must play a catalytic role for the actions of mitigation and adaptation on a large scale. He will have to become the cornerstone of the architecture of the financing of the fight against climate change.

After Germany and France who had each committed to contribute to this Green Fund to the tune of one billion dollars, Britain has at the Conference of Berlin on 19 and 20 November 2014, made a substantial contribution of approximately \$ 1.2 billion. Finally, the United States announced a contribution in the amount of \$ 3 billion. In Berlin, where took place the first capitalization conference, several countries abounded more modestly the Fund as for example Panama who has promised one million dollars while others, such as the Canada and Poland, are expected to announce their contributions at the Lima conference in December.

In total, thirty-two countries have made appointments to provide the Green Fund with a budget for the next four years. This initial capitalization, launched this year, remains open to all interested contributors, from North to South, including sector. The Fund can program its first investments by the COP 21 in Paris.

Finally, the initiatives developed by local communities, civil society organizations and enterprises will amplify the mobilization and will be added to the contributions of the States. Indeed, the future French Presidency made the choice to support an agenda of solutions for Paris 2015. It’s all complementary initiatives to the international agreement, undertaken at the local level by Governments, local authorities as non-State actors and contributing to strengthen the commitments of the States for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to the impacts of climate change and funding. This agenda of solutions is based on an exchange of best practices, transfer of knowledge and technologies needed for a transition to low carbon economies.

Questions for movements

- **Are you aware of the concrete commitment of your country in this “Green Fund”?**
- **Do you think this is important?**



Retro planning

A few weeks of the conference of Paris, 149 countries gave the United Nations commitments to reduce gas in greenhouse by 2025-2030, an encouraging number. But these promises are still insufficient to contain global warming below the critical threshold of + 2 ° C.

The United Nations had set October 1, 2015 the announcement of the country's national goals, in order to take them into account in an assessment of their overall impact expected on 30 October. Thus, more than 140 of the 195 member countries of the UN Climate Convention, representing approximately 80% of gas emissions greenhouse currently reported their climate goals.

Many developing countries reported their commitments, often conditioned to the establishment of mechanisms of financial and technological assistance. Mexico was the first emerging country to do so and Gabon, the first African country. On the 149 nationwide plans, the copy of Ethiopia and Morocco are among the few described as "sufficient" and "adapted" by various NGOs. Last date plans presented to the United Nations are those of Afghanistan and Ecuador, delivered recently. Still missing the call, the most petroleum countries: Saudi Arabia (only one member of the absent G20), Iran (in the top 10 of the transmitters), Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Nigeria and Venezuela.

The agreement

The States participating in the climate talks have since October 5 at disposal, a much shortened version of the negotiating text of the future agreement on climate. This 20 pages document, against more than 80 previously, is "a concise basis for negotiations", emphasized early October the secretariat of the United Nations climate change Convention. At the previous session of negotiations, late August / early September in Bonn, diplomats from the United Nations had appointed the two



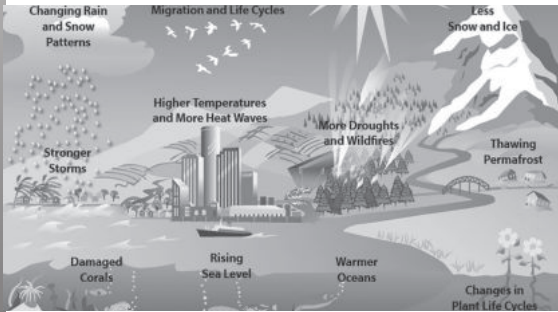


co-chairs of the discussions to produce a new text, “consistent” and “concise” for the new session from 19 to 23 October. However, this shortened version is already reserves and could result in requests for amendments, including the so-called Group of 77 (133 countries in development + China).

The position of civil society

Some of the NGOs that are close to this debate are relatively optimistic about the chances of reaching an agreement at the end of the 21st conference of the United Nations on climate. “The novelty is that countries that emit between 85% and 90% of greenhouse gases in the world have already taken reduction commitments,” welcomes Célia Gautier, in charge of the RAC France European policy. But these associative

actors agree that the draft text of the agreement, shortened to 20 pages at the beginning of the month, lacks in ambition. If the current commitments are fulfilled, the temperature rise will not be limited to 2 ° C at the end of the century, “but around a median at 3 ° C, with low estimates at 2.7 ° C and others at 3.5 ° C”, regrets Célia Gautier.



The proposal is therefore review the copy at the final preparatory meeting of the Paris Summit being held in Bonn from 19 to 23 October. Countries that are not yet committed, such as Canada, Japan, Australia, Russia and major oil countries in the Persian Gulf did not yet make commitments or proposed sufficient efforts. Even ‘Europe lack of ambition in renewable energy and energy efficiency’, adds Pierre Cannet, head of climate and energy for WWF France program. Because there is no constraints set by the European Union for after 2020. On the other hand, there are good pupils, such as Costa Rica, and the Marshall Islands, which have a goal of 100% energy from renewable sources.

A further reproach addressed to this text is that the word ‘energy’ appears in any way in the preparatory texts.

One of the proposals of the associations is therefore to establish a “long term objective, in the draft agreement, to reach 100% renewable energy by 2050”,



advance Jean-François Julliard, Executive Director of Greenpeace France. “Maybe the final copy will be off topic. The word “energy” does not appear once in the project”, says Alix Mazounie, in charge of international policy of RAC France. In addition, conjugation of verbs must be specified in order to remove the conditional to adopt the future.

It should also be able to revise, as early as 2016 and not only every five years, the ambitions that will be announced at the Paris Summit. Associations believe that the goal of funding \$ 100 billion from 2020 to support the poorest countries is achievable, but they require clarification on the nature of these measures, which may not be only loans.

The actions planned

NGOs want to coordinate their efforts on the occasion of the Paris Summit. On 28 and 29 November, marches for the climate are planned around the world.

The climate 21 Coalition met on Friday, October 2 to Sunday to prepare the mobilization of civil society during the United Nations Conference. More than five hundred activists - many of whom have come from abroad - participated in these three dense days, where discussions have referred the concrete ideas to succeed the various actions taking place during these fifteen days.

Big marches be organized in Paris but also around the world to sensitize the greatest number of people at this Conference and its challenges. The procession of Paris, which will take place on Sunday, November 29, should be the most imposing. This march is expected to cut into ‘blocks’ bearing messages that wants to pass the Coalition: first, at the head of the procession, the block of affected communities, victims of climate change, worldwide and in low-income neighbourhoods.

Then a big block on social justice, then the block of officials (fossil, airports like in Notre-Dame-des-Landes, TAFTA Treaty, agribusiness and GMO, etc.). Then comes the block of solutions (Velorution, agro-ecology, tax on financial transactions, etc.), and a block of nature (environmentalists associations). Finally, the ‘concerned citizens’ block will consolidate all those and all those who, without being activists or involved in an organization, want to express their concern of climate change.

Civil society intends to show that it does not rely to the negotiators and to the agreement which would be signed on this date, but that its mobilization must continue. The climate problem will not stop at the COP, and the climate 21 Coalition



intends to continue the movement in 2016, to maintain the pressure for a transition to avoid climate disaster.

And at the level of the FIMARC

The FIMARC suggest to its member movements to participate in the large marches in their own country or if this is not provided, to organize themselves on November 29 asking for participating countries to the COP 21 on climate change, to reach an agreement.

The CMR, member of the FIMARC participate in the closing day to the pilgrimage organized by CIDSE and CCFD and in a forum on the climate organized on 5 and 6 December in Paris. The FIMARC will share a common area with the CMR to stand under this Forum. There will be at the stand various publications, posters... on soil management, land grabbing, climate change...



The climate space: from 07 to December 11, the agriculture commission of the CMR organize a workshop on 11 December on the theme “How to address the challenge of climate change in a practical way. There has been different presentations of peasants on the practical way to mitigate climate change. From 09 to December 13, the FIMARC collaborate with CIDSE and particularly in the workshops on sustainable food and energy consumption.

And finally the FIMARC participate in the mass protest being held on 12 December in Paris.

Questions for movements

- **How is your movement invested in this event?**
- **Was your country be present at COP 21? With what concrete proposals?**

Please keep us informed of initiatives that have been taken to participate in this Summit “of the last hours”? of the actions you intend to undertake to continue the mobilization and follow-up of the outcomes of this Conference.

RESOLUTION

FIMARC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ASSESSE - BELGIUM

We the executive committee members of FIMARC (International Federation of Adult Catholic Rural Movements) from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe representing rural movements and communities gathered in Assesse, Belgium from 13-20th of April 2015 for the FIMARC FORMATION SESSION ON “FUTURE OF FAMILY FARMING”. In the context and follow up of United Nations International Year of Family Farming 2014 and the FIMARC World General Assembly declaration – (Volkesberg Germany 2014) , we want to define family farming from our experiences and needs as well as our will for justice and fair redistribution ,and to deepen our common understanding, and to propose concrete actions and strategies to protect and promote family farming all over the world

We understand Family Farming as the prominent way for safe food, good health, creation of jobs and better income source for the rural people. The members of the Family Farms are engaged in cultivation, maintenance, harvesting, processing, value addition and storage. Family Farming is a way of life which strengthens the rural economy. It is the back bone of present and future of diverse human communities in the world.

Family farming generates food and income for millions of rural people .90% of 570 million farms are small family farms world wide and 1.5 billion people Involved in family farming in around 500 million small farms .43% of the world's active population works in agriculture (53% in developing countries) and produce more than 70 % of the food production in the world while resisting still the rural exodus and helping to combat hunger and poverty

Family Farm is a learning center of culture, values, traditional & indigenous knowledge and also a store house that preserve the traditional seeds. Family Farming respects and protects all living organisms. Living in a Family Farm is a dignified way of life in harmony with nature which is the gift of God. It safeguards and protects environmental assets and natural resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage. It preserves traditional food products, while contributing to a balanced diet and safeguarding the world's agro-biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities, and it is linked to several areas of rural development. It is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, pastoral and fisheries production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour including both women and men. It is a type of production that bears the imprint of the structural link between economic activity and family structure. This relationship influences the decision making process, the type of farming, work organisation, production management and handing down an inheritance. Both in developing and developed countries, Family farming, in all its diversity, is the predominant form of agriculture worldwide. Local and global food security depends on it.

Even if more and more researches show the importance of FF for the future of mankind the conditions for the farming families are worsening day by day. The number of Family Farms is reducing in both north and south. We consider that the promotion of mono crop cultivation, unfair agricultural policies of the Governments, land grabbing of corporates, lack of proper orientation and negative attitude of the young people towards farming, increasing rural youth

exodus to urban areas, widespread consumeristic way of life of the people ,Price volatility ,lack of unity and organizational structure among the Family farmers , unfair land distribution, lack of infrastructure, lack of land tenure rights and land reforms, increasing difficulties in access to vital resources such as land ,water and seeds, Lack of land inheritance for women , Bad Impact of the structural adjustment policies, lack of rural infrastructure and development,lack of financial means for research and development of family-orientated agriculture, lack of counseling for peasant families and lack of social protection for peasants and rural people are the major reasons for the closure and disappearance of Family Farms in most of the countries

We strongly criticize the current Agricultural Policies contributes to the economic decline of the family farm system leading to farm consolidation, foreclosures and more industrialized agriculture resulting in further concentration of economic and political power within faceless and unaccountable multinational corporations

In this context FIMARC call upon all decision makers , governments, international organizations, church , all other religious leaders , producers ,consumers and society in general to support and promote family farming. In order to remain economically viable, farmers must be able to earn a decent living from their farming operations to support their families and contribute to the rural economy.

Family farming must be integrated into the sustainable development goals of the United Nations. We urge the state representatives and civil society for the immediate finalization of the Declaration of the Rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. We demand the authorities to include family farming and its related aspects in the basic studies of children.

The Executive Committee of FIMARC decided to launch a worldwide campaign to promote, support and empower family farming and the family farmers. We as FIMARC movements will continue our effort to sharpen our own understanding regarding the concept of Family Farming by organizing forums and workshops for historical analysis and listening to farmers of family farms locally and we are committed to identify the viable Family Farm ventures

Conclusion

Investing in family farming is investing in a sustainable, food secure future. It is urgent to invest in organic farming as well as sustainable traditional agricultural practices and in Agro ecology which respect the environment to save the biodiversity that is everywhere at risk. FIMARC Believe that with the right economic, social and environmental conditions, smallholder family farmers can be at the forefront of a sustainable transformation in world agriculture. Ending hunger and poverty is within our reach, but only if we place family and smallholder farmers at the centre of agricultural, environmental, social and rural development policies.



Participants of the seminar on Family Farming



FIMARC NEWS

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON FAMILY FARMING- LYON

Smallholder agriculture is an essential pillar for meeting the challenges of the 21st century responses to food, energy, climate, health and environmental crisis. During the international year of family farming, the commission Agriculture and Food C2A and the Peasant Confederation of FRANCE organized an international forum of civil societies on family farming on 17 and 18 December 2014 in Lyon, whose objectives were to: Bring the positions of French NGOS of Coordination SUD, the Confederation Paysanne and partner organizations of civil society in the South, on peasant family farming. Draw up a balance sheet of the commitments of the France in 2014 to promote, at the international level these family-based farming and work for coherent policies as well as the legal, regulatory and financial devices in favor of it. George Dixon Fernandez, the Secretary General of FIMARC was invited as panelist on the topic of “Right to Land “ and Peasant Rights during this important forum

CIDSE WORK SHOP ON FOOD

The workshop was dedicated to food sovereignty strategies for the democratization of food systems

and was held by CIDSE last March (17-18 March). People from different backgrounds came together to discuss three pillars which sustain food sovereignty: the right to land, access to markets, and the right to seeds.

A process of sharing and debating, concrete opportunities for collaboration were identified. The experience brought to the workshop by participants; both CIDSE members and partners, was extremely valuable and helped tackle the issues from different points of view. Since the experience shared on each topic was presented from local/national and also from regional/international perspectives, this led to insights and opportunities at local, national and international levels for processes on the ground and for advocacy.

For each thematic area, after a group discussion some points for potential common actions were identified

Among the regional and international organisations present were: Urgenci, Via Campesina, FIMARC, Peoples Coalition’s on Food Sovereignty, INADES (Africa) and GRAIN. Country partners included Grupo semillas (Colombia), RESDAG (Guatemala), Masipag and Sumpay (Philippines), Papda (Haiti), Centro Humboldt (Nicaragua) and Jinukun-Copagen (Benin).



Global Village of Alternatives - FIMARC Expo Stall in COP21

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