CONSULTATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY FROM SOUTH AMERICA
“TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS”
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship
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RECOMMENDATIONS
Follow-up to the Declaration of Santa Cruz +10 and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) 2006-2009

• Review the progress of the PIDS 2006 – 2009, defining the areas that should be strengthened.

• Maintain the PIDS as a continental strategy of development promotion. Update, enrich, and strengthen its implementation in Member States.

• Establish baselines of the elements to prioritize in order to define indicators and targets.

• Urge governments that the content of the agreements and declarations to which they subscribe are effectively incorporated into national policies.

• Foster the development of human resources directed towards climate change, natural disasters, and risk management.

• Promote education as a central theme of environmental issues.

• Create conditions for greater and effective enforcement of environmental regulations.

• Urge governments to apply the principle of non-regression in environmental regulations, with the goal that any change does not involve a decline in environmental standards.

• Urge governments to work together in the sustainable use of shared resources, considering the impacts that poor management and the use of those resources by another country can have on others.

• Encourage actions aimed at preventing the environmental impact on the most vulnerable sectors.

• Promote effective public participation and access to information by the sectors most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and disasters.

• Urge governments to explore the use of all renewable energies such as wind, solar thermal, as all those are more effective and generate less impact on the environment.

Vulnerability in the Context of Sustainable Development

• Promote reflection by governments regarding the scope of sustainable development to find a coherent action in the implementation of multisectorial policies that target the objectives of sustainable development.

• Implement the necessary institutions and bodies to ensure the exercise of rights of access to information, participation, and justice in environmental matters, placing special attention on creating conditions for vulnerable communities to exercise these rights.
• Obtain the commitment of governments to develop and implement environmental training programs, both at the formal and informal education levels, with the aim of ensuring the effective exercise of the right to participation and promote sustainable development.

• Integrate citizen participation horizontally to all the components of the PIDS and ensure the implementation of participatory forums and dialogues between communities and the private sector to create equal conditions for all parties.

• Consider the impacts of extractive industries and generate public planning policies and civil society participation.

• Implement and use strategic management tools such as the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Land Use Planning, designed as a continuous public management process of technical regulatory procedures that are transparent, systematic, inclusive, and easily understood by the public.

• Analyze the impact of biofuels and developing policies to encourage the use of renewable energy.

• Strengthen the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity between the different levels of government to achieve a greater efficiency in the implementation of policies, plans, and programs associated with sustainable development.

• Establish easily measured and comparable benchmarks or minimum indicators across countries that will allow identification of levels of progress, setbacks, and pending challenges in the implementation of a sustainable development model on the continent. Aiming to have the same criteria for assessing and communicating results.

• Prepare technical studies for building bases for the development of public policies and investment of resources in programs and projects that facilitate their establishment.

Risk Management and Planning

• Involve the media in every stage of planning for risk management.

• Contribute to the promotion of a culture of prevention through the mass media.

• Create spaces for dialogue to reach consensus on basic protocols of communications strategies.

• Include in the documents the holistic and integral definition of “risk management” in the wake of the disaster cycle.

• Understand the vulnerability to disaster as a transversal set of economic, social, political, and environmental situations.

• Recognize the role of citizens through informal and ancestral knowledge, as they are the protagonists of their own resilience.
• Rethink the legal institution of civil liability based on risk and not just the result of damage.

• Consider the precautionary principle approach in the formulation of laws regarding risk management to establish long-term policies.

• Effectively disseminate among populations affected by disasters the necessary care measures to take into account the process of post-emergency.

• Build multidisciplinary systems to address risk management, coordinated by officials at the highest levels of government.

**Institutional and Governance Issues in Climate Change Adaptation**

• Coordinate adaptation policies at the highest level considering their cross-cutting aspects (for example, through councils or presidential advisors that promote institutional and governance aspects in climate change adaptation).

• Promote the use and interpretation of the law to strengthen adaptation to climate change, complying with the current regulations at all levels (local, national, and international).

• Complement international agendas, preventing them from conflicting while promoting policies which reduce vulnerability to climate change.

• Reinforce standards and promote respect to the principle of non-regression of laws and regulations.

• Identify economic, environmental, and social vulnerabilities in relation to the effects of climate change and encourage cooperation between countries with regards to common and border areas.

• Create initiatives or measures capable of reducing vulnerabilities of natural and social systems in relation to current and expected effects of climate change.

• Generate specific and common policies for environmental refugees in relation to the effects and impacts of climate change.

• Promote the exchange of experiences and information between countries to formulate and implement climate change adaptation policies.

• Promote dialogue on the impacts of climate change with a focus on national security.

• Address the issue through education to create a greater awareness of needs and adaptation measures.

• Recognize the value of the environment and the cost of both mitigation and adaptation to climate change by encouraging the use of cost-benefit analysis across all levels: local, national, regional, and international.
• Effectively implement Principle 16 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and promote the internalization of the environmental costs in production and trade.

• Promote changes in the production and consumption patterns to make them more sustainable and incorporate sustainability criteria in public purchases and contracts.

• Support the mobilization of resources necessary for policy and adaptation measures.