

## **The World Woke Up Facing A Climate Emergency**

Last September, millions of people took to the streets to fight for their right to a prosperous present and future, leaving no one behind. Young people demonstrated in thousands of countries, demanding appropriate measures to stop the unacceptable social and environmental degradation, thus confronting our climate emergency.

After Brazil refused to host the COP25 (as its anticlimactic policies have led to the biggest deforestation of the Amazon in recent decades), the government led by Sebastián Piñera decided to cancel the celebration of the climate summit in Chile. Thus, they ignored the Chilean and Latin American social movements and their work in the preceding months. Now, Spain's Pedro Sánchez's caretaker government is finally hosting the COP25 in Madrid. An opportunity to stand for the people who are already suffering from the climate crisis and those who will soon join them have a chance to make their voices heard.

We unreservedly condemn the violation of human rights in Chile and demand its immediate end. The government's repression of the Chilean people is an attack on democracy and on the struggle for environmental and social justice. We extend this condemnation to all corners of the world where these or similar processes are taking place.

The last report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was published last August, points out that the reduction of greenhouse gases in all sectors is the only way to keep global warming below 1.5°C. The scientific community warns us about the degradation of a great number of ecosystems, both on the land and in the sea. It also warns us about passing the point of no return. Recent reports on the state of biodiversity from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) says that roughly 1,000,000 animal and plant species are on the verge of extinction as a consequence of human activities. Moreover, a failure to answer quickly and forcefully to the climatic, environmental and social emergency will entail the growth of extreme poverty for millions of people, not to mention the extinction of many species, even whole ecosystems. The reality is that emissions keep increasing globally while the states' lack of ambition sentences our planet to a warming well beyond 1.5°C.

Next year, the Paris Agreement will come into effect. However, many key questions are still unresolved. In addition to setting the norms on accountability and enforcement of commitments (known as the rulebook), COP25 must decisively push for the provision of enough funds and for major improvements to institutions like the Green Fund for the Climate and the Warsaw Mechanism. These would ameliorate the present and future consequences that stem from the burning of fossil fuels.

It is unacceptable that so many governments, political parties and public institutions represent the interests of major companies, banks, and financial markets. Instead, they should defend the greater good, for the people and the planet that sustains us. Confronting the climate emergency is incompatible with fossil fuels receiving hundreds of billions on public subsidies each year. We demand that governments participating in COP25 recognise the current climate inaction and state that the insufficient ambition of their agreements will lead the planet to a disastrous global warming scenario, surpassing the 3.5°C mark.

It is irresponsible that, one year before the beginning of the Paris Agreement application, we still have no mechanism capable of regulating measures for the national commitments to adopt an emissions reduction plan that is compatible with scientific

estimates. COP25 must enshrine the will of all countries to elevate the ambition of their agreements ahead of the COP26 in 2020. The European Union and the G-20 must lead this commitment to a greater ambition, especially since the former is now hosting the celebration of the present summit inside its borders.

Additionally, the Spanish government must unequivocally align itself with this calling for greater ambition. This must reflect more demanding measures than the current ones in economic, political, energy, transportation, agricultural, farming, conservation, and international cooperation areas.

Similarly, the ecological transition requires the participation of all citizens in the decision-making process. Real, effective mechanisms for climate policies must include the full participation of the people.

A capitalist development model based on endless economic growth is incompatible with our planet's limits. A transition towards more sustainable eco-social models is required: one that would make a key issue of reduced consumption of materials and energy in agreement with the biophysical limitations of our planet. Our new energy model must discard false solutions such as nuclear energy, geoengineering, or biofuels like palm oil.

Aware of the ecological emergency in which we live, and of the fearful inaction of our governments, we, the many platforms, social movements, trade unions, and environmentalist groups in the Spanish state, are joining forces with the call made by the international community (and especially the youth mobilised in the Fridays for Future movement). We return to the streets next Saturday, December the 6<sup>th</sup>, demanding real, ambitious measures from the politicians from all around the globe meeting for the COP25.

We will demonstrate against the social and environmental degradation that neoliberal policies have brought to the planet in solidarity with the peoples' suffering. Chile offers a clear example of how human and environmental rights are systematically violated. The extractivist policy, the sacrifice zones and hydraulic policies in Chile have devastated whole regions and are therefore unacceptable. Denouncing these atrocities and demonstrating how to move away from that situation in a fair, equitable transition should be the two key points in the COP25.

There is little time to stop this climate emergency and we need everyone in Santiago, Madrid and beyond to hear our voices. We need the people to hear the voices of the climate youth, of indigenous people suffering the causes and consequences of climate change. We need the people to hear the voices of women carrying out an essential role in the climate struggle and the voice of all life on earth.