

Presidents presented the Declaration of the Pacific Alliance on Climate Change



Ollanta Humala (Peru), Michelle Bachelet (Chile), Juan Manuel Santos (Colombia) and Enrique Peña Nieto (Mexico) called for concrete measures to reach a global agreement.

Lima, December 10 2014. Joining hands as a sign of unity, the Presidents of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru presented the Declaration of the Pacific Alliance on Climate Change, where they stated that this phenomenon is one of the greatest global challenges and requires urgent and ambitious actions worldwide.

The President of Peru, Ollanta Humala Tasso, said that “it is important to understand the message of unity that the Pacific Alliance and governments present here are conveying. We are convinced that climate change is a real threat. It is important to seek concrete measures and therefore continue to advance our national commitments. ”

Likewise, he recalled that while not large emitters, the countries of the Pacific Alliance are on the list of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. “We are already paying an additional cost for remediation by dealing with natural events, whose ferocity is caused by climate change, like having to rebuild a city, recover affected farmlands, to change farming calendars, also to look at the intensity of El Niño and the lack of water. All this has implications and we are paying these costs,”he added.

As Humala, the Presidents of Colombia -Juan Manuel Santos-, Chile -Michelle Bachelet- and Mexico - Enrique Peña Nieto- encouraged the governments of the world to take significant steps to achieve a draft in Lima COP20, as a solid base for the adoption of an Agreement in Paris 2015.

Peña Nieto said that “the seriousness of this challenge requires all nations to act urgently, requires concrete actions in all countries. Fighting climate change is a first order commitment;”while Michelle Bachelet added that “if we do not reach an agreement in Paris, we may be too late. The success of COP 21 depends largely on current negotiations in Peru. That means we have no right to fail. Future generations hold us accountable if we miss this opportunity.”

In turn, the President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, said “this is the last chance to reach an agreement and avoid the catastrophe that would be to continue emitting greenhouse gases at the same level,”so it is important to speak with one voice,” and in that sense stated that due importance should be given to the Declaration of the Pacific Alliance.

“The countries of the Pacific Alliance represent 40 % of Latin American GDP. Latin America is the most diverse continent in the world and our countries have the highest rates of economic growth. These three figures show how important the issues of how to tackle climate change and how to mitigate the effects of carbon emissions are for the world and for us,”he said.

In their statement on climate change, the Presidents of the Pacific Alliance expressed their full support to the Peruvian presidency for the success of COP20 / CMP10, and a willingness to explore and adopt national policies, measures and actions for mitigation and adaptation, thus contributing to the global effort against climate change.

Finally, the leaders conveyed their commitment to the sustainable management of natural resources, including agriculture, forests and water, and to call on developed countries to fulfill their obligations to increase financial support to deal with climate change through substantial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund.

COP 20 Communications