

**NICARAGUAN DELEGATION REPORT ON THE 23rd CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE OF  
THE PARTIES (COP23)**

**6-17 DE NOVEMBER, 2017.**

**BONN, GERMANY, UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF FIJI**

-----

**NICARAGUAN DELEGATION**

**Doctor Paul Oquist**, Nicaraguan Minister Private Secretary for National Policy (Delegation Lead)

**Javier Gutiérrez**, Co-Director/Climate Change Minister of the Environment and Natural resources of Nicaragua (MARENA) (Delegate).

**At COP23 HELD IN BONN, GERMANY, IN LINE WITH NICARAGUA'S POSITION, A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED TO SET MORE AMBITIOUS TARGETS FOR REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING TO 1.5°C - 2.0°C AS ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE 2015 PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT.**

The COP23 Climate Summit in Bonn, Germany, closed one day later than programmed at 8 am on 18 November 2017. Although none were of dramatic consequence, 27 projects were approved.

The main achievement of the COP23 Climate Change Conference was the inclusion of the developing countries within the Framework of the G77 and China, achieving greater unity than previously and thereby strengthening future negotiations.

The Dialogue of Talanoa, 2018, was agreed with the objective of accelerating action to limit further increases in global warming. Talanoa is a traditional word in Fiji to reflect a process of open, inclusive participatory and transparent dialogue. The two phases of the Dialogue -

the preparatory and political phases - will be jointly led and co-chaired by the COP23 presidency of Fiji and the COP 24 presidency of Poland.

During the Dialogue, the Parties must consider the 1.5°C Special Report prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Global Warming (IPCC) to be presented in 2018. The desired outcome is for the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to contain ambitious goals and actions for the reduction of emissions, especially for those countries most responsible for global warming. The vast majority of countries agree with the necessity of the more ambitious targets of limiting global warming to **1.5°C. or 2.0°C, which Nicaragua argued for in 2015.**

Although significant progress was made in developing the Plan of Work in order to implement the Paris Climate Agreement, the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities still need to be included. It will be Egypt's role as the new president of the G77 and China, to continue pressing for their inclusion.

Many aspects remain pending regarding reaching a consensus between developed and developing countries, such as pre-2020 damage and loss, and financing the means of implementation for all aspects of the Convention, including sharing technology and expertise. These negotiations will continue in 2018 within the Facilitative Dialogue of Talanoa.

The Parties agreed that the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) must be ambitious and bolstered with actions and support to fulfil the targets of the Paris Agreement by 2020. It is also essential that the Facilitative Dialogue of Talanoa is scientifically based, principally on the Inter-governmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) 1.5°C Special Report.

Regarding finance, regulation guidelines still need to be negotiated to avoid politicising the assignation of resources in the Green Climate Fund. This is a decision that COP needs to make. Similarly, another challenge is to achieve a mandate to reduce the risk of unilateral measures or sanctions imposed by one country on another.

#### **ECUADOR ENDS ITS TERM OF OFFICE IN G77 AND CHINA**

In the presence of the Ecuadorean Chancellor, María Fernanda Espinosa, and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change, Patricia Espinosa, many delegates and ministers of the G77 and China, gathered to acknowledge the contribution made by Ecuador's presidency of the G77 and China as it draws to a close. Egypt assumes the presidency pro-tempore in 2018.

#### **PRE-2020 ACTIONS AND FINANCE**

Despite the total unity of developing countries, the item of Pre-2020 Action was not dealt with on the COP agenda due to the developed countries remaining totally intransigent; this in turn strengthened the unity of the South. The most that could be achieved was the inclusion of Pre-2020 in the 2018 Talanoa Dialogue. The stance of the developed countries was nevertheless heavily criticised in the international press, on the internet and through social media.

However, the position of the developed countries in COP23 should be analysed in the light of the Summit to be organised by the President of France on 12 December 2017 in Paris with the support of the United Nations General Secretary and the President of the World Bank. This agenda will be totally devoted to Pre-2020 Action and Finance.

Following the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, the European Union is taking a stronger leadership role in the

process, with France leading the European Union. Due to its political situation of being unable to form a coalition government regarding immigration and climate change (its coal industry), Germany's role is restricted.

The 2018 meeting will be held in Katowice, Poland, the centre of the huge Polish coal industry. Speculation for the COP25 venue focuses on Brazil and Argentina.



Doctor Oquist, speaking on behalf of the Nicaraguan people and government, in the COP23 plenary.



Central American Integration Countries (SICA) meeting at the COP Framework with the German Secretary of State for the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Jochen Flasbarth.

Nicaragua is represented by Lead delegate Doctor Paul Oquist, and Ambassador to Germany Sra. Karla Beteta.



From Left to Right: Patricia Espinoza, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change; Dr. Paul Oquist, Lead Nicaraguan delegate to COP 23; María Fernanda Espinoza, Leader of G77 and China, Pro Tempore President of COP23 and Chancellor of Ecuador.