



Alliance for Responsible and Sustainable Societies

## **MANIFEST OF LIMA TO PARIS**

### ***Appeal to the conscience of the powerful of this world***

All citizens of our unique, irreplaceable and fragile planet, our "oikos" (οἶκος) - in the words of the ancient Greeks to refer to their common home - all our political, economic, spiritual leaders know:

- 1.** That the scale and irreversibility of interdependencies that are created between human beings, between societies, and between humanity and the biosphere is a radically new situation in the history of mankind, leading irrevocably to a common destiny;
- 2.** That the indefinite current lifestyles, accompanied by a tendency to limit its own liability, is incompatible with continued harmony among societies, to preserve the integrity of the planet and safeguarding the interests of future generations;
- 3.** That the magnitude of the changes needed today is out of reach for all of us, and requires the involvement of all people, as well as all public and private institutions;
- 4.** That the legal, political and financial management and control of public and private institutions, particularly those whose impact is global, not encourage them to fully assume its responsibilities and even encourages irresponsibility;
- 5.** That consciousness of our shared responsibility, with respect to the planet, is a condition for the survival and progress of humanity;
- 6.** That our co-responsibility, beyond the legitimate interests of our people, is to preserve our unique and fragile planet, avoiding large imbalances that create ecological and social disasters that affect all peoples of the earth;
- 7.** That considering the interests of the others and the community, it is the reciprocity among its members that form the basis of mutual trust, a sense of security and respect for individual dignity and rights;
- 8.** That the proclamation and research of universal rights is not enough to solve our behaviors, rights are meaningless when no institution has the ability to ensure their conditions of application;
- 9.** The adoption of common ethical principles inspiring lines and rules of the leaders and peoples, both at the individual level and at the society level, is urgent.

But what do the world's political leaders with these results? How they meet or assume their shared responsibilities? Do they know how to create the rules and the necessary legal instruments for states; companies, financial institutions and research centers take responsibility for all the long-term consequences of their action or inaction?

Do they mobilize minds and energies to transform our economy "œconomia" inventing the rules for the management of our oikos, our common home, to ensure the well being of all while respecting the limits of the planet? Do they have the courage, boldness, imagination



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and tenacity to deliver to humanity the governance of our oikos, the height of the urgency and complexity of the challenges that plague? What is the purpose of science, technological innovation, and material prosperity if it doesn't contribute to the survival of quality life on the planet?

What did, do and will do the powerful of the World to earn our trust and decide of our common destiny? Do they take up their responsibilities towards humanity and the planet?

Nothing is more vital to humanity than a social and environmental equilibrium. Our life depends on it, it regulates rains, winds, temperature that allows agriculture and our harmonious living together with the biosphere.

The biosphere is a common good of humanity. We must learn how to manage together the natural resources because this is what unites us all; this is what make us one community, beyond all our differences, our distrust of all our complaints, our entire ignorance.

What unites humanity it is not consuming all the same standardized products, all listening to the same music, and all contributing to the enrichment of the same great banks. What unites us is climate, biomes, diversity, and water.

Who in charge of preparing an agreement between the peoples of the earth, which should promote the common way to manage the climate? Ministers of foreign affairs whose sole mission is to defend their national interests, that creates antagonisms between countries at the expense of essential research of climate balance!

They transformed the management of climate that should unite in a cause of division among us. They have, for over twenty years, disfigured their joint responsibility to the planet and humanity in "common but differentiated responsibilities", justifying that each expect the other to compromise first.

Are they aware that this is called the law of offensive inertia?

It is essential that they become aware of the situation. That they transform the energy spent to create false arguments, pleading ignorance over irreversible consequences of their inaction, into energy capable to fight inertia and lack of courage; hence creating conditions to assert the responsibility delegated to them.

A dramatic example: climate change threatens Pacific islands to disappear, threatens Bangladesh to an ecocide and genocide, and many other regions of the world of climate disasters, endangering whole populations.

Who among those who are governing will manifest as the people's lawyer, the lawyer of a defenseless planet, when there is no international law or judicial responsibility to defend the case, no way to punish deterrent, irresponsible behavior?

Who will defend their cause? Before which court? Based on what international law?

It is not acceptable that their answer is that they don't know what to do, or that issues are too complex.

We people and institutions signing this Manifest:



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Propose **the urgent adoption a “Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities”**. Such Declaration will govern the relations between states and peoples, will be shared promoted to all sectors of society and will be the basis of international laws of responsibility. There are indispensable to acknowledge our interdependencies and make us, people of the world, a community of destiny.

The Declaration sets eight principals. All shall commit to apply it in the States Constitution and the national laws.

**1. Responsibility is an expression of freedom and dignity** - The exercise of each of its responsibilities is the expression of your freedom and dignity of citizens of the global community.

**2. The responsibility is proportional to wealth, power and knowledge** - Every human being and all together, have a joint co-responsibility with others, near and distant communities, and for the planet as a proportion of wealth, power and knowledge of each.

**3. Responsibility involves measures accordingly** - This responsibility entails taking into account the immediate and late effects of your actions, to prevent or compensate for the damage that was intentionally or not committed, affecting or not the legal issues. Applies to all areas of human activity and at all scales of time and space.

**4. The responsibility is inalienable** - This responsibility is inalienable when the damage is irreversible.

**5. The responsibility does not relieve the institutions or their leaders** - The responsibility of institutions, public and private, regardless of the rules governing them, does not relieve the responsibility of their leaders and vice versa.

**6. Responsibility involves better management of resources** - The possession or use of a natural resource leads to the responsibility of a better management for the common good.

**7. The responsibility is of elected officials and voters** - The exercise of a power, notwithstanding the rules by which it is governed, is only legitimate if it is accountable to those over whom it is exercised, and accompanied by liability rules to match the power of influence exercised.

**8. The responsibility does not absolve those who do not try to exercise it** - No person shall be acquitted of responsibility on behalf of his impotence, if he did not make the effort to join with others, or on behalf of their ignorance, if he did not make an effort to learn and inform.

People and organizations that endorse to the Manifest can hold democratic debates in their cities or regions on the Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities as a way to lead the transition towards sustainable societies.

We also call upon the signatories to include in their discussions the following points:

- Establishment of parameters for a new global climate agreement based on shared responsibility criteria, replacing common but differentiated responsibilities precepts,



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changing the current logic that favours the economic interests of the richest nations and companies.

- Setting of a deadline for the World Trade Organisation to put the concept of sustainable industry in the heart of the principles of international trade in order to incorporate the best social and environmental benefits in global trade.
- The creation of the Global Socio-Environmental Fund from taxes collected from the use of fossil fuels to support the transition to sustainable societies.

Paris, November 2015

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