



FASE's COMMITMENTS AGAINST CLIMATE PRIVATIZATION AND FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

FASE, Brazil
September 2009

Next December COP 15 (15th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) will be held in Copenhagen, where it is expected that governments establish agreements and commitments which avoid an even worse rise of the climate crisis. Social organizations and movements at global, national and local levels are carrying on mobilizations aimed at assuring that commitments agreed will be consistent with the urgency of this crisis, which impacts more dramatically excluded populations.

Climate change and climate privatization have been directly affecting social groups with whom FASE takes action in confronting and proposing alternatives to the unsustainable and unequal model of production, distribution and consumption. In suburban peripheries and in territories under dispute against agribusiness the effects of climate change impact primarily vulnerable urban social groups who live in precarious housing and who lack access to sanitation services, traditional populations, peasants and family farmers, landless and extractivists.

In fact, strong changes in rain systems, floods and landslides in urban peripheries and in rural areas, the semi-desertification in parts of the *Mata Atlântica* and *Cerrado* biomes, the increase of desertification in areas of the Northeast region, the series of droughts in the South region, compound a scenario of social and environmental emergency.

Climate change is the result of a mode of production, distribution and consumption based on the intensive exploitation of natural resources which considers nature and common goods – water, land, air, seeds – as resources available for infinite exploitation and privatization. World climate crisis is not uniform. It affects Southern countries more than Northern ones, the latter being responsible for 80% of greenhouse effect gases (GHG) emissions, deriving mostly from burning of fossil fuels. And in Southern countries it affects more intensively and directly those social groups who less give out greenhouse effect gases, due to the fact that they consume less, and who most protect forests, climate and water systems.

In this sense Climate Justice – understood as the principle which establishes that the burden of adjustments to climate change must be held by those who historically were responsible for its origins and not by those who less contributed and who are the main and potential victims of climate change – indicates the path for FASE's strategic intervention: climate crisis claims for alternatives to the current global development model that challenge social, environmental and economic inequalities, North-South imbalances, inequalities inside countries, and that assure the right to worthy patterns of consumption for the majority excluded from the access to energy and other essential goods.

FASE disagrees with supposed "solutions" to the climate problem, established by commitments – much less than needed – signed in the Kyoto Protocol, as well as by banks

and multilateral financial institutions' policies and programs which follow the big transnational corporations lobby. The contemptible targets for carbon emissions reduction, the financial, legal and political instruments of the compensatory proposals, the Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM), deserve greater critical assessment by the Brazilian society, mainly among peoples, populations and regions most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.

Carbon market as propaganda of solution for the climate crisis divert the focus from the main and urgent actions needed to progressively deconstruct the current development model in Northern industrial societies and reproduced by elites in the South; and delay structural change in global patterns of production, distribution and consumption. The ongoing or under negotiation CDM projects reinforce the same excluding model, continuing to sacrifice populations in order to install small hydroelectric plants, plantations of trees, among others, but now in the name of protecting the environment. Climate problems will neither be solved only by the adoption of technical and technological measures, nor by solutions proposed by the main originators of global warming.

We are worried with the fact that Brazil is among the leading countries in the international ranking of carbon market projects, and at the same time is the country which most pours emissions due to deforestation and forest and vegetation burning, which makes even more urgent both society's organized critic and the implementation of concrete measures for altering the development model.

It is necessary to emphasize Northern responsibility for the great majority of carbon emissions and hence confronting the climate crisis passes primarily by changes in those countries. However this does not mean we should avoid pointing out the responsibility of Brazil in the emissions caused by the current development model, which devour forests and natural resources.

In order to maintain, through the carbon market, GHG emissions and the model of over consumption in the North and among elites in the South, States and corporations encourage the homogeneous plantations of eucalyptus, the expansion of sugarcane monocultures for ethanol, the construction of big hydroelectric dams, the regularization of land for *grileiros*, as well as nuclear energy, which deepen the subordinated position and the socio-environmental inequalities in the South, harming food security. It is also necessary to remind the electro and hydro intensive steel, aluminum and petrochemical industries transferred to Southern countries, therefore hiding actual GHG emissions issued to perpetuate current consumption patterns. This model was adopted by successive governments in Brazil, being responsible, therefore, along with the majority of the productive sector, for the country's delay in coping with the climate crisis.

In several dimensions and regions FASE is engaged in several actions confronting environmental and climate injustices, and disseminating sustainable and democratic experiences promoted by rural and urban populations and by peoples of the forest. Concrete examples are the promotion of agro ecology and strengthening family farming; the formulation of public policies proposals which recognize and value traditional communities' productive activities; diverse struggles of urban social movements for urban reform, for the right to the city, for improvements in housing, collective transportation and sanitation.

The notion of commons must be recalled. While managing in a sustainable way their properties, assets and territories, peasants, extractivists, *quilombolas* and indigenous peoples take care of commons. It is society's and State's obligation to acknowledge the importance

and the work of these social groups in preserving the environment, to support and to make possible public policies which recognize their role. These policies must be translated into financial support to assure the socio-productive activities – such as community forest management, traditional fishing, water resources management, agro forestry, plan of use etc – which ensure the socio-cultural reproduction of the community and natural resources preservation, in expense of activities which, besides not ensuring the survival and reproduction of these social groups, destroy the environment. We disagree, however, with payment by the market for social groups who would provide “environmental services”, because this would mean mixing up these groups with market strategies strange to their life experience, in unequal conditions and subordinated to corporate strategies.

On FASE’s contribution in confronting climate change

For almost five decades FASE has been in a permanent process of building and accumulating on several themes in the territories where we take action, through partnerships with populations and social groups, improving our vision on development issues and identifying ourselves with a socio-environmental concept. Starting from our educational practices developed along with populations, social organizations and movements who are our partners, FASE contributed to the formulation of a public policy proposal called PROAMBIENTE – Program for Socio-Environmental Development of the Rural Family Production – which was born during the Amazonian Cry 2000 and proposes a rural socio-environmental development program aimed at supporting family rural production in agriculture, agro forestry, extractivism, traditional fishing, indigenous and/or other forms of Amazonian traditional production.

An initiative going in this same direction is the Dema Fund (*Fundo Dema*), created in year 2003, a result of a donation from the Environment Ministry/Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (MMA/IBAMA) of six thousand mahogany log seized at the Altamira region, Western area of the Pará state. This is a permanent endowment fund for environmental protection projects, community forest management and actions for sustainable development and social inclusion. FASE was designated by social movements from the region as the apprehended mahogany’s grantee in charge of managing the fund, in partnership with the Fundação Viver, Produzir, Preservar (FVPP) and the Prelazia do Xingu.

FASE contributed through our Espírito Santo Regional Program for the creation in year 2004 of the Durban Group for Climate Justice, where organizations from several countries articulate critics of the carbon market and support local groups’ resistance. Furthermore, FASE is a member of the Climate Justice Now! network, an international network created during COP 13 in Bali 2007, which currently gathers more than 180 organizations throughout the world who struggle for climate justice and is actively participating in the preparation of mobilizations during the upcoming COP 15, in Copenhagen, December 2009. At the national level FASE is a member of the Working Group on Climate of the Brazilian NGOs and Social Movements Forum for the Environment and Development (FBOMS) and is in permanent dialogue with several social movements and organizations, carrying on capacity building and articulation activities aimed at broadening the debate on Climate Justice.

FASE’s path reinforces the conviction that confronting the climate crisis requires international, regional and national public policies which strengthen, in rural areas, agroforest systems, community management of native forests, agro ecology, the title to the *quilombolas*, indigenous and extractivists populations’ lands, the social and economic acknowledgement of the role, the work and of the sustainable productive activities carried out by rural and

traditional communities for humanity. These populations must receive the government support necessary to make possible an economy based on the sustainable use of the forest. The proposals under discussion on REDD - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation – must be guided by these parameters and must be based and be possible through public funds and public policies. In the cities, it is necessary to assure the access of the excluded majority to clean and cheap energy sources; safe housing; environmental sanitation, plans for the prevention and coping with floods with permanent monitoring of risk areas; and collective transportation systems with clean energy backed by plans for shortening distances between home and workplace.

Our visions and proposals

FASE takes position and works with some concepts which serve to guide our actions on the climate discussion:

- Climate justice and climate debt must be the principles for any negotiations on climate change. The Bolivian government proposal on Climate Debt must be supported by the Brazilian government and must be included in the post-2012 agreement to be negotiated at COP 15 and beyond;
- Change in the model of production, distribution and consumption must be the background for any negotiation on mechanisms and policies to confront climate change;
- The definition of mitigation and adaptation must have a conceptual treatment more coherent with the change of paradigm that we desire. A broad debate is needed on what is understood by these concepts. Measures of mitigation and adaptation to climate effects must go on the opposite direction of market mechanisms and must move towards international, regional and national public policies which prioritize structural strategies for the urgent reduction of emissions and over-consumption;
- The communities, traditional populations and victimized groups must always be the main beneficiaries of voluntary and public funds. Public policies and climate and environmental international agreements must be oriented towards these populations and not to the preservation of the elites' privileges. FASE supports the creation of these mechanisms whereas they are not tied to the market;
- FASE has been formulating proposals based on the notion of commons, on fighting deforestation, linked to the need for launching a set of voluntary funds and public policies. These proposals are backed by our actions regarding territorial management and constitution of populations and peoples territories, agro ecological and agro forestry practices, actions on products' transformation and commercialization, as well as on ensuring food security and food sovereignty;
- Regarding REDD negotiations, FASE expresses a concern related to the possibility that the mechanism could end up rewarding those ones who most deforest; that the forests could become merely carbon reservoirs and disable its sustainable use by the peoples of the forest; and due to the structure being established it could not differentiate natural forests or perennial resets from homogeneous plantations that will be knocked down in few years. FASE criticizes the proposals which relate any measure or fund to the carbon market and the management by the multilateral financial institutions. FASE demands that the Brazilian government keeps its current

position on not accepting REDD to be used as compensation for the reduction of emissions in other countries;

- FASE urges Annex 1 countries to take commitments on targets for carbon emissions reduction – of a minimum 40% until 2020 and of 80% until 2050 - consistent with the urgency of the climate crisis caused by those countries, so that the level of the global warming spiral keeps restricted to the already worrying average increase of 2° Celsius. Also urges developing countries, taking into account the principle on common but differentiated responsibilities, to also take commitments on targets to reduce their emissions, because the real and effective struggle against the problem requires commitments from the whole set of countries;
- Energy waste involved in the current long circuits of the global trade of goods is an important climate change aggravating factor, and this is one more reason to keep resistance against the expansion of soya, sugarcane, eucalyptus and other export-oriented monocultures. There is a need to shorten the distances between food production and consumption, strengthening local markets through urban food supply done by the peasant and family farming.

Finally, FASE understands that food security and food sovereignty in rural and urban areas are central and constitutive elements of our Climate Justice notion. In order to achieve Climate Justice the creation of a new, democratic and environmentally sustainable development pattern is necessary, and towards that FASE undertakes the commitment with its construction along with our partners and networks where we take action.