

PECC STANDING COMMITTEE RETREAT

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My sincere appreciation to China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation for organizing this Symposium, and to the Municipality of Yangzhou for its hospitality.

My presentation will cover four points which are regional priorities to Ecuador, in which we have generated significant experience and concrete proposals that today I come to share with great pleasure:

1. HUMAN MOBILITY

Globalization as we have it now does not pursue global citizenship, but only global consumers. It does not seek to create a global society, but only a global marketplace which, without adequate regulations and governance, can cause detrimental effects to a country, as it has already happened.

We recognize as normal to prioritize the financial and merchandise liberation and the trade of factors of production and assets to achieve profitability, but inconsistently human mobility becomes increasingly criminalized for those how seek a decent job.

Ecuador developed a new Constitution in 2008 that established equality between foreigners and nationals. It recognized the right to freedom of mobility and rejected labeling human beings as illegals due to their immigration status. It guaranteed universal citizenship and the progressive elimination of the foreign status. This is an excellent practice that facilitates the connection between people.

Additionally, in 2013, the Ecuadorian government created the Vice Ministry of Human Mobility, within the structure of the Chancellery and brought into consideration the National Agenda of Equality for Human Mobility to the citizens. This represented a significant change in how Ecuadorian Consulates worked worldwide. "The Consulates of Ecuador around the world protect their expats and their families, support vulnerability cases, provide assistance for an easier integration into the host society and offer assistance for a safe return home."

In the coming weeks the draft for the Law on Human Mobility will be debated at the National Assembly. "This law is innovative and the first of its kind worldwide"

In Ecuador we are committed to the right of refuge and asylum for people who are in need of international protection. Ecuador currently hosts more than 60,000 refugees and more than 200,000

asylum seekers. The vast majority comes from our neighbor country, Colombia that today in Cartagena will sign an historic peace agreement. These human beings are treated with dignity, they are not kept in fenced fields nor isolated camps. In Ecuador, the refugees are free to circulate in the country as an Ecuadorian, they have the right to work; their children are entitled to register into public schools and they receive public health care.

2. ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

What would it be if those products without a market demand rivalry are declared of free access, ie, they don't have a marginal cost we purchased by more consumers. The more people use it, the better.

This is usually the characteristic of knowledge, science and technology. That is the central idea of what Ecuador has called the social economy of knowledge. The privatization of knowledge is inefficient and socially speaking, once created, knowledge should be available to the greatest number of people. This does not mean it has to be seized from the inventors, because there are other ways to compensate the knowledge without privatizing it.

In turn, access to science and technology is vital for developing countries that are committed to reducing poverty and face climate change. We therefore propose to declare at least the technologies that mitigate climate change and their effects as global public goods, ensuring free access.

We will not be possible to build lasting welfare if not eliminate our excessive over-reliance on raw materials, and we advocate a knowledge-intensive economy. Ecuador is undergoing a process of changing production model, which began with a change of energy matrix now Ecuador electrical energy comes from renewable sources, thanks to the construction of new hydroelectric plants. And we sell the surplus to neighboring countries, because we have the interconnected power system.

We have over 12,000 Ecuadorian students at the best universities in the world, studying for master's or PhD programs in strategic sectors that will enable this change of productive matrix, the first doctors in biotechnology, biochemistry, nanotechnology, and others began to return last year. In a public and private partnership Ecuador has created several technological innovation centers, but this is a process that is just beginning.

A small, but positive experience I would like to share about improving communication occurs in the bilateral relationship between Colombia and Ecuador in infrastructure and connectivity. The creation of Info centers in the bordering cities between the two countries has allowed the implementation of 9 "Vive Digital" areas, achieving since 2013 telephone interconnection tariff reductions between the two countries.

3. CLOSING GAPS OF INEQUALITY

Back in the day, Ecuador was a colony, as many other Countries from the South. Poverty, historically, comes from exclusionary structures built within our societies. We understand development as a

political issue, basically. The question is who rules in a society, economic elites or the great majority? The Capital or the Human Beings?, The Market or the Society?

We are convinced that socioeconomic poverty will not be solved with charity or alms, but changing power relations in society and changing unjust and exclusionary systems.

Ecuador is carrying out a sustained process for,

- Eradication of extreme poverty
- Reducing social inequality (Gini coefficient)
- Access to public education of the highest quality, especially for those historically excluded communities.
- Reduction of chronic malnutrition.
- Job enlargement, strengthening employability, expanding purchasing power of labor income, promotion and strengthening of micro, small and medium enterprises.

Accomplishing these goals has required an important public investment, which must be sustained. In Ecuador we have not increased taxes, nowadays we collect those which always were subscribed and we fight tax evasion.

Ecuador in 2006, tax revenue was of 4.5 billion dollars. In 2015 it rose to around 14 billion. Taxes are a source of income that allows public investment, social public politics, and resources to against issues and inequality. That is why Ecuador is leading an international proposal against tax havens. It is estimated that at least 30% of the gross domestic product of Ecuador is allocated in the tax heavens. "The third part of our economy would be hidden in tax havens. We know this is a global problem. "

According to ECLAC, the Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Latin America 32 million people could escape poverty if hidden capitals in tax havens would pay income tax. Tax evasion in Latin America ascended to 340,000 million dollars a year, equivalent to 6.7% of gross domestic product. "We have a common problem. With that money we could finance the objectives of sustainable development.

The developing countries are the most affected. "The millionaires of this world have their money in tax havens. According to Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute of Columbia University, if they pay 1% tax on wealth that is currently in tax havens, it would generate \$ 100 billion to meet the Millennium Sustainable Development promoted by the UN for the 2030 agenda.

There are small countries that require a transition period to stop being tax havens. It urges a dialogue to match the standards and tax laws.

The IMF estimates that tax dodging costs developing countries more than \$200bn a year - much more than the total global aid budget.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Based on the respect of the rights of nature, environmental justice and intergenerational justice, Ecuador proposes not only to address the environmental degradation of the planet, but also to introduce a new economic logic, where the generation of value and environmental public goods is compensated and not only the generation of goods. That same planetary emergency also demands binding agreements to avoid the free consumption of environmental goods. Developed countries generate knowledge and privatize it while many low or medium developed countries generate environmental goods that are available for free. For example, most of the biosphere reserves are in developing countries, which preserve these areas that are considered Planet Earth's Lungs, but get nothing in return.

It becomes necessary to move towards a "Universal Declaration of the Rights of Nature", as it has done Ecuador in its new Constitution, and to create the "International Court of Environmental Justice", which shall punish violations of the rights of nature and establish the obligations in terms of ecological debt and consumption of environmental goods.

Nothing justifies that while we have courts to protect investments or to force payment of financial debts, we do not have courts to protect nature and to enforce payment of environmental debts. This is only the perverse logic to privatize profits and socialize losses.

5. MEETING THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR 2015 -2030

Those are closer to the constitutional principle of Sumak Kawsay or Good living of our ancestral people, which means to live with dignity, satisfying basic needs, but in harmony with oneself, with other human beings, with different cultures, and in harmony with nature. In Ecuador we are aware that there cannot be good living without poverty eradication nor without greater equality.

Finally, in October this year we will host the World Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, known as "Habitat III". This conference is held every 20 years and its importance is that it will generate the "New Urban Agenda". We are at a key moment in the history of the planet and humanity. There is growing awareness and need for a sustainable lifestyle, which is possible when cities are inclusive and offer their citizens the infrastructure, services and systems that enable life that respects the environment.

Thank you all.