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Environmental Justice as a Challenge to Build a New Season of Rights in the World. Which are the Main Actors?

Although all the official documents of the World Trade Organization (WTO) state that the environment can not but gain from an acceleration of global trade, the current negotiations are likely to represent a serious threat to the systems of protection 'environment and the rights currently in force at national and international level thanks to the initiative and mobilization of civil society and global movements. As a true "world business organization" The WTO aims to reduce and eventually to eliminate, many laws and regulations that are vital to national economies, livelihoods and the environment. All for the exclusive benefit of enterprises and economic and financial lobby that for the most part as stated Percy Barnevik, former President of ABB - large multinational Swiss-Swedish, interpret globalization "as the freedom for my group to invest where he wants, when he wants, to produce what he wants, where he wants to sourcing and selling, supporting the fewest possible obligations relating to employment law, environment and social conventions".

The neoliberal policies imposed by the major international organizations, the IMF and World Bank and, since 1994, the World Trade Organization (WTO) have progressively worsened the conditions of billions of people worldwide. Africa, a continent ravaged by centuries of unsustainable policies, it is reduced to being a supplier of raw materials to the entire planet, while the majority of African countries have become net importers of food. The impact of speculative crisis in agricultural prices has been devastating to these communities. And the proposed policies within the multilateral negotiations such as the EPA (Economic Partnership Agreements with the European Union's Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) countries or multilateral fora such as the WTO continue to push for liberalization of agriculture and a 'opening of markets, rather than support and protect local production, the domestic markets and food sovereignty of these countries. In the last few hundred years more than a thousand species of plants and animals have disappeared in more than was expected in the normal course of world history. Excessive intervention of fertilizers in the coming decades will grow with the need to keep up with growth in global demand for food that is expected to grow between 2000 and 2050 between 70 and 85%. The intensification of agricultural crops exacerbate desertification, soil erosion and salinization of the soil. The latest economic and financial crisis has demonstrated the unsustainability of a system where finance and capital are disengaged from the real economy, where even the food becomes the object of financial speculation condemned to hunger more than a billion people. More than a century of emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, are gradually changing the composition of our atmosphere and, therefore, the climatic stability of our planet. Thousands of scientific papers now demonstrate the anthropogenic causes of climate change, mainly linked to the production of energy, transport, industry and agriculture industry. These data confirm, for the last century, the increase in temperature by about 0.74 ° C. A progression that could continue if nothing is done to drastically emissions. But the trend seems to be to the contrary. Current estimates indicate that emissions have more than doubled since 1970 and as the weather will lead to estimates of an increase between 25 and 90% from 2000 to 2030. The result of this estimate indicates an increase in average global temperatures of between 1.4 ° and 6.4 ° C between 1990 and 2100, with devastating impacts on the environment and society.

Changing climate patterns will lead to a dramatic change in agricultural productivity, with tropical countries, especially the African who could come to a decrease of about 50% in 2020 to desertification (for change of regimes rain) and soil erosion. A change that could lead to a collapse of the resources derived from agriculture in these countries which affected 90% by 2100, as confirmed by the last file of the WTO and UNEP on climate change. The melting of glaciers could change the root availability of water for entire communities, as well as lead to the rise of the oceans, endangering coastal countries such as Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world, and island states like the Maldives.

Serves the blocking of any WTO negotiations that talk of liberalization of the agricultural market, a specific prohibition for any export subsidies and the transformation of any public subsidy in an explicit support for small-scale production, sustainable and conscious territory. We need a transformation of the way food is produced, concentrating resources on supply chains transparent, fair and sustainable, capable of promoting food sovereignty and the protection of family farming. The solution to the current food crisis and climate requires a profound and radical shift from agriculture to industry and export-oriented economy responsive to the needs of the territory. The economy is refocused towards the promotion and use of sustainable energy at the expense of trade negotiations and agreements that promote energy-intensive production, directing efforts and many of the public resources already allocated on energy truly clean, renewable, controlled by local communities on the basis of the principle of energy sovereignty.