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Opening Ceremony of COP20/CMP10

Lima, 1 December, 2014

Welcome to Lima, the ancient city, and the city of all cultures. We are here today, men and women from all states of the world. The next days are going to be filled with intense negotiations for the draft, to be approved in Paris 2015.

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) is vigorous about the world's direction with the issue of Climate Change, as carbon emissions increased drastically between 2000 and 2010.

The biggest problem for Peru, the host country, is deforestation in more than the one million 750 acres of forest. Due to the migratory agriculture apparent in the last decade, our big cities are a focal point to discussion here and a major part of why we are meeting.

Cities are the biggest producers of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and their populations, especially in the poorest areas, are suffering the greatest consequences when the governments don't take action on mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk management.

This is a call to stop our wrong idea of what having a good life means - as pollution continues to be emitted. We need to dismantle our perverse ideology of success that has consumption synonymous with a good life. Instead we should think like Aristotle on how to live a fruitful and good life.

There are many good examples of civilizations that lived without destroy the environment. In Peru, the Awajún people, an indigenous people of the Northern Amazon, give personality to the planet through concepts of Nugkui, Etsa, Tsuqki, which translates to spirit of the earth, spirit of the forest and spirit of the water.

Today we have in San Martin, thousands of associated agroforestry producers. All of them are in successful cooperatives that export cacao and sell bonds in the carbon market voluntarily, and help transnational companies get carbon neutral stamps by planting native forest species.

Those are examples of the respectfully connection we can have with our house, planet Earth.

In this spirit, we need to start to reform our global social contract with local and global compromises and commitments. Cities are playing crucial role in this. In 2035, 75 of 100 people are going to live in urban areas. The voice of Mayors around the world must be heard in this conference, and we must share the commitments, now - in Lima and next year in Paris.

In this new contract, our commitment and needed compromise will foster a new paradigm of mobility, planning and organizing sustainable cities, changing the energetic urban matrix, and investing in hard and gray infrastructure into cities but most importantly, investing in ecologic infrastructure, protecting and expanding the green urban development.

Cities are made up of its citizens, and if the changes are not coming from new generations, from the community, we are walking through unknown paths into our planet's uncertainty. We cannot allow that. Opportunities are not presented twice. We must embrace - as our cause - the sustainable future, taking it into our hands.

Welcome again to Lima, welcome to her sea and her diversity.