

Declaration of the Fourteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of ALBA-TCP
(in an uncorrected English translation taken from the Internet, and, in blue font italics)

A World Constitution and Parliament Association (WCPA)

Response to this Great Document.



www.earth-constitution.org

www.worldparliament-gov.org

LET US DEFEND THE UNITY, DIGNITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF OUR AMERICA

The heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the peoples of Our America – Peoples’ Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP), gather in Caracas, four years after we bid farewell to Commander Hugo Chavez Frias, and four months after the passing of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, the founders of our organization, whose examples and ideals interpret and summarize the legacy of the liberators.

They taught us to understand our struggles and national aspirations as interdependent processes and as fraternal contributions to the common dreams of freedom, dignity, justice and peace for the Great Homeland; and prioritizing collective interests over national interests.

The great truths taught by these leaders, resting on the common dreams of freedom, dignity, justice, and peace, are also recognized by the great leaders of Latin America as universal principles necessary for all human beings. The “Great Homeland” may be Latin America and the Caribbean, but it is also planet Earth. All human beings have the right to live in dignity, freedom, and sustainability on the Earth.

ALBA-TCP, a political, economic and social alliance, defends the independence, self-determination and identity of our peoples. We are united by solidarity, complementarity, justice and cooperation with the historical purpose of coordinating our countries’ capabilities and strengths in order to achieve comprehensive development and exist as sovereign nations.

The coordination of these countries’ capabilities and strengths is a wonderful step forward in the progressive vision of a just and free world. All people should be independent and have their identities intact. At the same time, this should be all people, everywhere on Earth. These too are universal principles.

Latin America and the Caribbean are going through a crucial stage in their history: popular democratic processes headed by left-wing governments, political forces and movements face a new offensive launched by imperialism, transnational capital and national oligarchies. The decline of imperial hegemonism, the impacts of the international systematic crisis and the fall in the prices of our export commodities, particularly hydrocarbons, impose new challenges.

These are generated by the same forces that created poverty, exclusion and the dependence of our nations and imposed on us invasions and dictatorships to consolidate their power.

The forces of imperialism and neo-liberalism have devastated much in Latin America since the Monroe Doctrine of 1823. Eduardo Galeano wrote about this in "The Open Veins of Latin America," which appeared in 1973, and Greg Grandin has written about this in "Empire's Workshop," which appeared in 2007. The dynamics remain fundamentally the same.

During all these years and against our resistance, neoliberalism has not ceased in its efforts to expand its financial logic: this is not about a theory of development; it is the doctrine of the all-out plunder of our peoples. Under neoliberalism, the world economy has not grown in real terms. Instead, instability, speculation, foreign debt, unequal exchange, ever more frequent financial crises, poverty, inequality and the abyss between the opulent North and the dispossessed South have increased.

Since we live in a world system dominated by neoliberalism, the so-called "free market," and global banking cartels, is it possible to defeat Neoliberalism within a certain territory? During the Cold War it was asked: "Is it possible to have socialism in one country?" It may be that the fate of Nicaragua under the Sandinistas or the fate of Chile under Salvador Allende answers such a question. Perhaps some resistance can be mounted but ultimately we human beings need a world system without either imperialism or neoliberalism. Implicit in these insights lie universal principles and a global vision.

Resurgence of neoliberalism has revived the worst conservatism, reactivated fundamentalism, xenophobia, racism and militarism. This policy is being financed by foreign companies and governments. Scientific and technological progress has led to a high level of political and communicational coordination between imperialists and oligarchs to manipulate the masses and attack our cultures. New faces, instruments and methods are causing confusion among voters and distort electoral results.

The imperialists and oligarchs have vast resources at their disposal to manipulate the media, currencies, the market, and prices. They have continuously attempted to do this in Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, and elsewhere. A regional block can resist this, but that resistance ultimately implies a world where the imperialists and oligarchs no longer rule, but rather democracy, freedom, justice, dignity, and sustainability.

Right-wing parties are using the legislative, judicial and media power as platforms for conspiracies; they are unscrupulously doing away with the democratic order they used to support; they impose new adjustments through privatizations and mass lay-offs and promote the articulation of political subversion.

Right wing parties have such immense influence because they have immense funds at their disposal as well as support from imperial centers and global banking cartels. We can resist them most effectively if we envision and provide a practical blueprint for a world without them. The progressive left needs a common ideal that models a world free of domination and exploitation. The neoliberal ideologues have no right to do what they do and no moral right to subvert democracy, freedom, and human dignity.

Corruption, which was fought by the left-wing and progressive organizations and movements of the region before taking power, and against which they have had to struggle very hard once they were in office, is being politically manipulated with the purpose of criminalizing and demoralizing organizations and leaders. There are some who use it as a pretext to attack the effectiveness, justice and efficiency of public administrations, thus affecting the citizens' confidence in their institutions and their participation. Others escape as they immorally hide their capitals in fiscal havens.

With their vast, often hidden resources, the imperialists and oligarchs promote corruption through funding media propaganda, bribing officials, framing or slandering honest leaders and politicians, and murdering or disappearing the representatives of the people. We require a world system in which this freedom to be corrupt and to corrupt others is abolished by democratically legislated enforceable laws.

We should strongly denounce and combat all of them as we improve our efforts to strengthen a good management of public and collective assets. Social control over these assets should be taken on as a priority in all member countries of ALBA-TCP. Coping with that phenomenon is crucial and should be part of our integrity and our ethics as we work for the prosperity of our nations.

Social control over key assets in the name of the common good is extremely important. But now we the people of Earth are beginning to realize that our key assets include the climate of the Earth, the oceans of the world, the forests in Brazil and elsewhere, and all fresh waters that support life. The notion of key assets must be globalized if we are going to have a future of justice, equality, and sustainability.

The main attack is being launched against the Bolivarian Revolution. The US arbitrary sanctions against Venezuela, particularly against its Executive Vice-President, comrade Tareck El Aissami, should be cancelled. The inexplicable executive order signed by the US President declaring Venezuela as an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security of that country, should be abrogated. Venezuela is the cradle of the freedom of Our America, a promoter of regional integration and a stronghold of anti-imperialism. The defense of Venezuela and its Revolution is not exclusive to Venezuelans. It is a cause that calls upon all of us who fight for true independence in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Ayacucho Battle of the Twenty First century is being waged in Venezuela today.

The struggle for democratic socialism in Venezuela is indeed central to the future of the Bolivarian revolution in Latin America, but, as we all realize, Venezuela cannot succeed alone against the immense forces of neoliberalism and imperialism. Indeed, the absurd proclamation of President Obama should be withdrawn. Venezuela is only a "threat" insofar as it is a symbol of the struggle for social justice and human decency against the horrors of the neoliberal system of privatization, endless debt, and exploitation. But the struggle is global, because the values of equality, justice, peace, and sustainability are universal. They belong to our common human "species-being," not to any continent or territories.

Regional union and integration of Latin America and the Caribbean is a most pressing need in this complex environment. ALBA-TCP together with blocks like MERCOSUR, UNASUR,

CARICOM, and others who have been playing a key role during the last decade, should continue making a contribution to regional integration.

Regional union is an excellent initiative, and an important project with which to move forward. But building another territorially-based power block may protect some people within that block, but it will not create justice, peace, or sustainability for the peoples of Earth. The Declaration of ALBA-TCP draws on universal values, and, as progressive, value-based human beings, we need to take our stand on such universal values, as did Simón Bolívar, Hugo Chávez, and Fidel Castro. Bolívar declared that “in the unity of our nations rests the glorious future of our peoples.” But today the world is globalized. Today, he might declare: “in the unity of humankind rests the glorious future of our peoples.”

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC, is our most treasured work. It is the mechanism to forge unity amidst diversity through political coordination. The Community has had to cope with the resistance imposed by the followers of the failed Pan-Americanism. We should preserve it.

The CELAC Community is foundational for making the vision of global cooperation and communal human values concrete and viable. We respectfully suggest that this could be done under the larger ideal of the Constitution for the Federation of Earth which affirms such projects but provides the universal framework and the ideal under which such communities can progress and develop. CELAC should not be closed to any nation that shares its values and commitments, and it is the Earth Constitution that provides the framework for ever-more nations to become part of a human community of justice, peace, freedom, and sustainability. It should serve as both our organizing tool and ideal vision of a just world system.

Our commitment with the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace guides our international actions. It legitimizes our strict adherence by the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and of International Law; it reaffirms our respect for free determination, for national sovereignty and sovereign equality of States. It is an expression of our willingness to settle our differences in a peaceful way, through dialogue and negotiation; and recognizes the inalienable right of all States to choose their own political, economic, social and cultural system.

It would indeed be wonderful for Latin America and the Caribbean to establish a Zone of Peace and dignity, but how will this be possible in a world of such immense forces of corruption, imperialism, and exploitation? The commitment to CELAC should be part of a larger commitment to a world of peace and dignity under the Earth Constitution.

The small Caribbean economies, which were victims of the genocide against their indigenous populations and slavery, as well as colonial and neocolonial plunder, face today the challenges resulting from climate change, natural disasters and other global crises, which make them the most vulnerable members of our family. The Caribbean, with the decisive support of the generous Petrocaribe initiative, deserves the greatest possible solidarity and all of our attention.

We highlight that water and basic sanitation are human rights which cannot be privatized and States have to ensure the supply of those for the well-being of the peoples.

Not only have the small Caribbean communities been victims of genocide, slavery, and plunder, but much of the world has been so—from the islands of the Pacific such as the Philippines to Southeast Asia to most of Africa. Everywhere water and basic sanitation are human rights (as the Earth Constitution affirms), and everywhere we need economics and politics based on genuine democracy and human rights rather than greed, power, and exploitation.

Contrary to ALBA-TCP and all genuine integration efforts is the Organization of American States, where some members' concerns find no expression, much less respect or support, but rather hegemonic intents and projects. The unworthy behavior of its Secretary General is void of any mandate from member States.

Our America faces a new agenda of imperial domination, marked by the announcement of selfish and extremist protectionism that will affect our still dependent economies. The implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change is being threatened today. Our peoples, forced to migrate due to the living conditions that result from underdevelopment and an unjust and exclusive international economic order, are being pursued, criminalized, deported and their human rights are frequently violated. On behalf of security, military and law enforcement expenses are being increased, persons are pursued for religious or racial motives, and walls are built, such as the one in the northern border of Mexico, a people to which we express our full solidarity.

Indeed, the wall on the border of Mexico is symbolic of the new agenda of imperial domination and “an unjust and exclusive international economic order.” However, the Paris Agreement on the Climate cannot succeed in a world where some sovereign nations promote imperialism and neoliberal economic domination. It is all of us or, ultimately, it will be none of us, for the climate everywhere is rapidly disintegrating.

Witness the recent torrential rains in Peru. In Brazil, one of the “sovereign” nations of Latin America, the Tapajos Dam Project would flood, by some estimates, 1000 square miles of rain forest. These forests are the “lungs of the Earth.” What right do corrupt politicians have to pass legislation that allows them to profit at the expense of humanity? Similarly, in the USA, the Trump administration is dismantling the agencies concerned with climate collapse and climate science. The USA is a “sovereign nation,” and hence, as with Brazil, nothing can be done by the other nations of the world to create a sustainable future for the world because there is no democratic framework for all the nations to insist on the common good and the human dignity of everyone on Earth and to insist that our interdependence requires that the forests, oceans, and atmosphere of the Earth be protected by enforceable laws.

We, as ALBA-TCP, express our concern for the treatment to our Latin American and Caribbean brothers who currently are migrants. Therefore, we propose to reactivate the Fund for the legal support and advisory to migrants within the Banco del ALBA.

The governments and peoples of ALBA-TCP see in these phenomena a new opportunity to regroup, mobilize and struggle. We should support the emancipatory actions; clearly and realistically define our horizons; identify the values and principles that unite us and adopt a program of action aimed at integration and international solidarity, establishing the economic, social and political premises for a liberating change.

At WCPA, we respectfully submit that a program of action could involve recognizing the Earth Constitution as an ideal for planet Earth and recognizing the international citizenship of the displaced refugees of the Earth under its authority. That way, citizenship would be recognized as global, as authoritative under the emerging Earth Federation, and open to embracing the diverse nations and peoples of our planet within the framework of unity in diversity. In today's fragmented world, legal citizenship only appears within individual nation-states, giving rise to the immense problem of millions of homeless refugees whose lands have been destroyed by the imperialists. The Earth Constitution makes possible a legal citizenship for all persons on Earth. No law-biding person should ever be declared "illegal."

We need to strengthen social organizations and movements in order to face our adversaries. We have to better explain to our peoples the high level of foreign dependence of our economies and the way it compromises independence and national sovereignty. We can and should open up new opportunities for inter-regional trade and cooperation to ensure economic independence, which is the guarantee of our political independence.

Ultimately, the independence of each diverse nation and group can only be respected and protected through a unity that embraces them all within an authoritative framework predicated on human dignity, rights, and respect for independence and diversity. This is what the Earth Constitution does for humanity. In this way independence can go together with unity and interdependence.

In light of the above, we ratify our commitment to deepen a social, economic and productive agenda to strengthen the Alliance and provide the right conditions for the comprehensive and complementary development of our peoples.

We support and endorse the Convocation by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the "World Conference of the Peoples for a World without Walls towards the universal citizenship" to be held on 20-21 June 2017 in Cochabamba, Tiquipaya, Bolivia.

We world citizens at WCPA very much support this conference and hope that it will see its way clear to recognizing "universal citizenship" and "a world without Walls" through using the Earth Constitution as both the legal vehicle and ideal for promoting this citizenship, not only in Latin America and the Caribbean but everywhere on our precious planet Earth. We support this conference in solidarity and hope.

We welcome the appointment of our comrade David Choquehuanca, former Foreign Relations Minister of the Plurinational State of Bolivia as a new ALBA-TCP Executive Secretary and we wish him success in his duties.

We are responsible not only for raising awareness on the need for a change, but also for persuading others and showing its feasibility.

Let us integrate and unite. Victory lies in that.

Caracas, 5 March 2017.

**Proposal to ALBA-TCP and CELAC Nations to create a Permanent World Forum
to study the Constitution for the Federation of Earth
to help envision a decent future of freedom and sustainability
for our endangered planet and its peoples**

In the past century, both science and the world's foremost thinkers, from Mahatma Gandhi in India to Nelson Mandela in Africa to Hugo Chavez in Latin America, have achieved a broad consensus that bears directly on our understanding of human values, politics, and economics. This broad consensus can be summarized in the following principles:

1. All human beings are the same everywhere, with basically the same needs, hopes, wants, and fears.
2. All human beings have the same human rights and dignity that must be universally respected and protected, as expressed, for example, in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
3. For all human beings, economic relationships should promote the common good, prosperity, environmental sustainability, and dignity of all concerned.
4. For all human beings, political authority should promote the common good, which includes freedom, equality, self-determination, prosperity, respect for universal values as manifested within human diversity, and environmental sustainability.

These principles mean that all forms of neocolonialism, imperialism, neoliberal economics, and any other such modes of domination and exploitation, are remnants of a past history that is immoral and unacceptable. All such modes of domination and exploitation are destructive of both human welfare and environmental sustainability. What ought to be done globally is what promotes health, harmony, unity in diversity, freedom, justice, and sustainability. Universal values require a global solution embracing both the unity of humanity and the unity of our planetary environment.

Under the above universal principles, human beings and nations have the right and duty to integrate with others in **regional alliances** directed toward cooperation, mutual aid, sustainable development, and ever greater unity within mutual respect for diversity. From the European Union, to the Asian Union, to the African Union to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), people everywhere are realizing the benefits of integrating together for the common good of all while maintaining respect for the self-determination and diversity of cultures, languages, and nations.

Great progress in this direction is being made by the Latin American Community of Nations, by CELAC and ALBA-TCP. But, as with the other continental efforts toward integration and reciprocity, imperialism and economic exploitation have not been eliminated from the Earth. (These forces arise from a global system of autonomous militarized nation-states and transnational corporations that allows powerful nations and economic forces to manipulate, dominate, and invade other nations.) As long as such a world disorder continues to exist, in which the big fish have the power and license to dominate the smaller fish, such regional associations will not be able to fully provide peace, prosperity, and environmental sustainability to their peoples.

True peace, prosperity, and environmental sustainability are necessarily global in nature. All the environmental agreements, from the Rio Agreement of 1992 to the Paris Agreement of 2016, have understood this: all nations must be working together equally to face this terrible danger of climate change. However, without the vision of a global system of how things could really be based on the above universal

principles, regional alliances will always have to take the form of resistance, of struggling against imperial economic, political, and military forces, and therefore will always at least partially fail to realize the common good and environmental sustainability for their peoples.

The people of Latin America and the Caribbean, like people everywhere on Earth, need a vision of how the world really could be different. They need a vision of a world without these horrible weapons of mass destruction, without nation-state imperialism and economic domination, and without the “sovereign right” of big nations to interfere with the internal affairs of other nations. This vision is provided by the *Constitution for the Federation of Earth*.

The Global Vision Provided by the *Constitution for the Federation of Earth*.

The Constitution was written by many world citizens from around the globe between 1968 and 1991. The Chair of the 25 person Drafting Committee was Dr. Reinhart Ruge from Mexico. The five primary authors were Dr. Terence Amerasinghe from Sri Lanka, Hon. S.M. Husain from the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Philip Isely from the USA, Professor of Law D.M. Spencer from Mumbai, India, and Dr. Max Habicht from Switzerland. It is truly a globally produced document.

The Constitution can be democratically ratified under Article 17. But it can also serve as a vision and a regulative ideal for humanity to seek a just, free, prosperous, and sustainable world system.

- The Constitution establishes a World Parliament of Three Houses, representing all nations and peoples.
- The Constitution provides legal world citizenship and the protection of democratic law to all people everywhere (eliminating the serious problem of so-called “illegal” persons, stateless persons and refugees).
- The Constitution sets up a systematic and fully accountable procedure for the nations of Earth to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and eventually all weapons of war.
- The Constitution sets up a World Judiciary with the authority to bring all violators of world law to justice: even the leaders of powerful, imperial nations no longer have impunity.
- The Constitution sets up a World Ombudsmus to protect basic human rights everywhere, including economic rights, and the rights to peace and a sustainable environment.
- The Constitution establishes a civilian World Police force with authority over even the largest nations and their leaders.
- The Constitution protects the autonomy and independence over internal affairs for all nations, even the smallest. It is firmly based on the principle of unity in diversity.
- The Constitution sets up a global economic system of democratic socialism that eliminates neoliberal exploitation and encourages economic relationships fostering the common good. It gives the World Parliament ample authority to license, regulate, and reform multinational corporations in the service of the common good and the protection of nature.
- The Constitution establishes institutions for careful and systematic protection of the global environment and ensures that these are followed everywhere on the Earth, including within the biggest nations.

Through study and discussion of the *Earth Constitution*, a vision and strategy for organizing and envisioning a decent world for all peoples can be developed. The *Constitution* can serve as a guide, a model, a rich source of ideas, and a possible blueprint. Through this forum, the peoples of Latin America will be contributing to peace, justice, freedom, and sustainability for the entire Earth. They need no longer

defend their unity only through the language of “resistance.” Under its guidance, they could begin to develop a legal category of “world citizenship” that addresses the terrible problem of stateless persons and immigration arising from the present global chaos.

The *Constitution* could inspire organizing strategies for bringing together the African, Asian, European and Latin American Unions to the point where imperialism and corporate economic domination are removed from the Earth. Thoughtful human beings of future generations everywhere will thank them for their vision and global solidarity under the beautiful principle of unity in diversity.

The World Constitution and Parliament Association (WCPA), sponsor of the Constitution for the Federation of Earth, would support this Forum in every way possible, offering seminars, literature, collaboration, etc. Our Latin America Offices are in Costa Rica, and our Vice-President for Latin America is Lic. Celina Garcia, Fundación CEPPA, San Jose, Costa Rica. The *Constitution* is also available in a new, improved translation on these websites:

- www.earth-constitution.org. Website for the Constitution for the Federation of Earth
- www.worldparliament-gov.org. Provisional World Parliament and the Earth Federation
- www.worldproblems.net. Institute on World Problems (IOWP)