FOURTH INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON HARMONY WITH NATURE
TO COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY
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PRESENTATION OF MR. FANDER FALCONI
(UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT)

The central idea of this presentation that I would share with you is that we have started a deep civilization crisis and its manifestations are notable in various places including a fast process of the current economic global crisis.

It has economic, social, physical and environmental consequences. Also interrelated factors are involved, for example, the international governance order has collapsed and there are no truly binding agreements to tackle major environmental and social challenges: we should recall that 1% of the richest in the world receive 99% of the world income.

We are dealing with other challenges as we read in recent reports such as the one from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the United Nations and we should also recall that many countries want to reach the consumption patterns of the richest countries.

There are great injustices for specific populations and growing environmental injustice as we have seen in recent publications on the environment especially due to the loss of biodiversity. This is a metaphor that reflects the environmental problems of today, the probability versus uncertainty. The probability of environmental damage can be very slow, but it doesn't take much, and there are high stakes involved. And so this can lead to a planetary collapse.

This graph shows the evolution of the GDP of the planet over a long period of time from the 1960s and shows the average in real terms not taking into account inflation and we see it as a graph that looks more like an electrogram.

In recent years we can see that there is a deep global economic recession on the planet, there are growth rates but this also helps to understand this phenomenon: there are also changes in carbon dioxide in absolute terms, let me precise that these are not rates but annual emissions.

This is the main indicator that we know in order to visualize the effects of climate change. In addition, last year, the oldest record for measuring carbon dioxide, we exceeded 400 ppm of CO_2 and we are moving toward 2 pp per year.

With these growth rates and the macroeconomic pattern we have, we are moving towards a problem of civilization and planetary collapse as many anthropologists and scientists say.

On the other side, we can also see the reality that there are economic factors that assure a true planetary crisis, there are other indicators: social, environmental and physical ones that deal with the behaviour of humankind on the planet.

And those economic factors show that in order to address this crisis of civilization, there are also international geo-politics today and the ongoing discussion on poverty and wealth as being determining factors for environmental problems.

We cannot deny that of course poverty generates environmental degradation, but wealth too creates major environmental troubles: there are high rates of emissions and environmental burden for the planet and so there are responsibilities. We are all responsible and there are differentiated actions in order to prevent this collapse. There are also various cooperation solutions.

We can build a society that respectfully involves the 99% of the population in dealing with the environment.

We can understand on the basis of this context that we can use for example the Living Well approach present in the Bolivian and Ecuadorean constitutions (approved last year in 2008 and elected by the people) and so we do need a political commitment to create a future that is different for humankind.

We need to build a sustainable society respectful of the environment: this is not only a matter of principle but also a matter of rights. We need to extend rights to Nature in the same way that we have extended rights to humankind, therefore we need to integrate the rights of Nature.

Rights of Nature are recognized in the constitution of Ecuador and they are beginning to be part of an international discussion on matters of environmental justice as well.

This means recognizing practical measures such as the global recognition of no emissions and in dealing with fossil fuels and carbon emissions. We need urgent responses to this crises of civilization in social and material terms and to generate new ways of thinking and decisive collective policy through the world.

We need to go in depth on this.

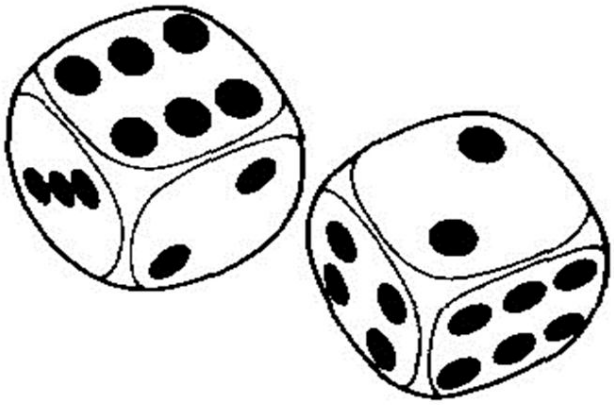
This is important for mutual respect between our societies in the various ways of living on the planet but this is also important because it has implications on social-environmental conflicts in our day-to-day life for all societies.

In recently published environmental justice reports, we can clearly see the conflicts that were caused by the lack of policies and the lack of seeing the links between environment and society. We need to address these through collective actions.

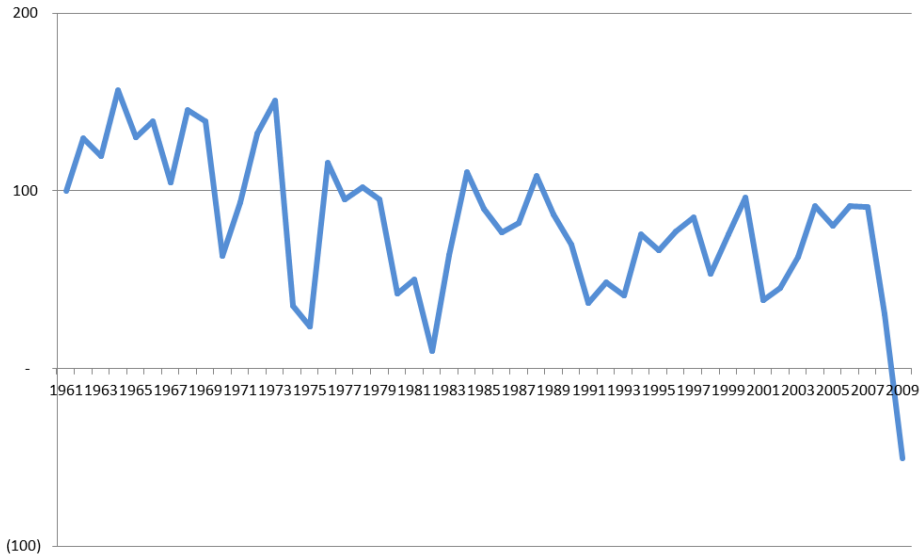
I think that the key message from the Court's positions is that if we don't change our behaviour as human beings soon as Gabriel Garcia Marquez said "wisdom comes to us when it can no longer do us any good".

PowerPoint Presentation

Probabilidad versus incertidumbre

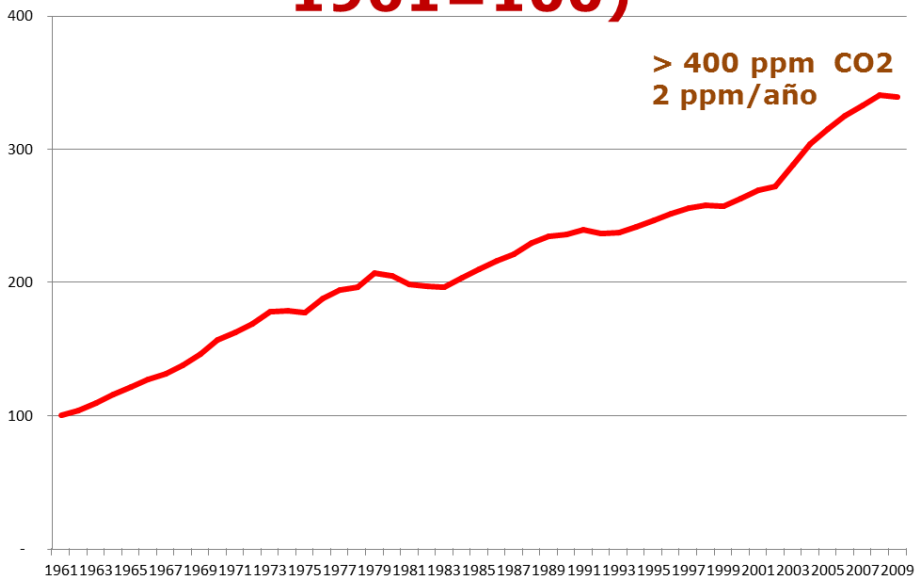


Tasa de crecimiento del PIB real mundial (Índice variación PIB 1961=100)



Fuente: Banco Mundial. World Development Indicators.
Nota: El Índice de emisiones totales de CO_2 y el Índice de variación del PIB se calculó tomando como año base 1961.
Las emisiones de dióxido de carbono son las que provienen de la quema de combustibles fósiles y de la fabricación del cemento. Incluye el dióxido de carbono producido durante el consumo de combustibles sólidos, líquidos, gaseosos y de la quema de gas.
Los datos del PIB se expresan en dólares de los Estados Unidos a precios constantes del año 2000.

Emisiones de CO2 del mundo (Índice emisiones acumuladas 1961=100)



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