

Paris, France, 10 December 2015

Dear Friends of Principles of the Paris Agreement,

Dear Ministers,

On the anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, adopted here in Paris on December 10, 1948, we are reaching out to you in these decisive hours. We call you to join us in seeking out a strong reference on Human Rights, Gender Equality and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Paris Agreement. Climate change is one the greatest challenges of our time. No other threat has ever put humanity at stake in this way before. Furthermore, it has a disproportional impact on the fulfillment of human rights, in particular in the most vulnerable groups.

We have in our hands the proper tool to face the challenge: The Human Rights Framework, through which all States acknowledge and commit to a common ground for the respect and promotion of fundamental rights for all. A reference to human rights in the Agreement is not only natural but necessary. Only by means of the full promotion, protection and respect of Human Rights is that we can join in this ambitious effort, strive and succeed.

This is as well the moment in which we need to commit to include human rights and gender equality in all our climate actions in order to ensure that existing inequalities are not deepened.

**We are convinced that Human Rights and Gender Equality should be included as cross-cutting principles in the preamble and operative part of the Agreement.**

We should also request the French Presidency to ensure that the references in the preamble of the Agreement are kept and that the wording is consistent with international human rights Law. The use of the terms like “taking into account” and/or “consider” are inconsistent with the references to human rights obligations.

We will transmit this message to His Excellency, Laurence Fabius, President of the COP-21, and request him to do his utmost efforts to include issues of a paramount importance as human rights and gender equality in the Agreement.

The time has come to stand together and be ambitious. This is the time to recall our commitments to human rights and to make true our common goal to guarantee the wellbeing of people and the promotion of protection of all human rights in all climate change related activities.

Best regards,

Ambassador Luis Alfonso De Alba.

Mexico