



Movement of Victims Affected by Climate Change and Corporations

STATEMENT FROM MOVIAC ABOUT THE AFFECTS CAUSED BY HURRICANE MICHAEL IN EL SALVADOR

Hurricane Michael, which by Tuesday, October 9, reached category 2, is influencing El Salvador, causing heavy rains, mainly along the coast and in the eastern part of the country. This situation has led the Civil Protection authorities to issue a Yellow Alert in 31 municipalities in the east of the country and a Green Alert nationwide.

Authorities have reported three people killed, 14 injured, 28 damaged roads, numerous trees knocked down by strong winds that have obstructed pedestrian and land traffic, 6 overflowing rivers, 57 landslides, 427 flooded homes and 719 displaced people. The worst hit areas are municipalities in San Miguel and Joateca, located in the department of Morazán.

Damages are also being reported in neighboring countries. Six people have died in Honduras, four in Nicaragua and Guatemalan authorities are looking for a child that was swept by a river. Making a total of 13 deaths and one missing for the region. While most rainfall has been attributed to a low-pressure system off the Pacific coast of El Salvador, the presence of Hurricane Michael in the Caribbean would have also contributed.

It is forecasted that the storm will continue throughout the country, with greater emphasis on the coast, as well as central and western areas. In addition, gusts of wind are expected between 40 and 50 kilometers per hour, especially in coastal areas. Among the measures adopted by the government is the activation of the entire civil protection system, at the national level, as well as the suspension of classes for the next 48 hours in all educational centers, both public and private.

This weather phenomenon contrasts with the severe and prolonged drought that has caused the loss of more than 236,672 acres of corn crops, crops whose projected harvest was 410,000 tons and it is in the same eastern region, where it now rains heavily, which leads us to affirm that this situation is the product of the effects of climate change, which are accentuated with greater intensity in our country.

In view of this situation, the Movement of Victims Affected by Climate Change and Corporations Communicates:

There is no doubt that this phenomenon is a manifestation of the climate change that has recently been affecting our country and the entire Central American region. Furthermore, the outlook or future scenario is full of uncertainty. The only certainty is that the impacts of climate change will deepen with a consequent increase in poverty, migration and violence.

El Salvador is an impoverished country with limited capacity to face these difficulties, so it becomes even more imperative that the State take the necessary and timely measures to prevent a crisis of greater proportions. For which the MOVIAC proposes:

a) That the Salvadoran State assumes climate change and its current and future impacts as a transversal axis of all public policies.

b) That a survival strategy be implemented with a sense of urgency that incorporates measures such as: Protection of aquifer recharge zones; the decontamination and care of surface bodies of fresh water; the promotion of sustainable agriculture; the protection of native peoples and their culture; the creation of strategic reserves of basic grains, among others.

c) That in the national budgets a special item be established so that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock have resources to finalize and give adequate maintenance to the borders, drainage systems and internal roads of the lower river basins: Lempa, Paz, Jiboa and Grande de San Miguel and other mitigation works in other areas of the country.

d) To avoid the implementation of mining projects, tourism megaprojects, and urban industry that cause deforestation of the few forests that the country still has, to prevent the sugarcane monoculture because of its excessive use of agro-toxins, and halt the creation of special economic zones, which increasingly contribute to the vulnerability of the people and of the region.

FOR THE DEFENSE OF LIFE AND LAND

MOVEMENT OF VICTIMS AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE AND CORPORATIONS

San Salvador, October 9, 2018