



A “WAR GAME” FOR A CLIMATE AGREEMENT AT RIO + 20.

The Rio Climate Challenge preparatory facilitators’ meeting with politicians and climate experts from Brazil and seven other countries was held over the weekend, in Recife, Pernambuco. The objective was to prepare for the initiative’s Rio + 20 side event, from the 14th to 17th of June.

The event was coordinated by Congressman Alfredo Sirkis and South African chief facilitator Mark Young. The methodology and the agenda of the June meeting were established for drawing, in June the outlines of an international climate framework that could meet the goal of keeping the concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere below the limit of 450 ppm in a simulation of an international agreement by major emitting countries and some of the most vulnerable.

Rio Climate Challenge is bound to become a think tank on climate change, based in Rio de Janeiro, and intended to interact with the UN process as well as other international negotiations that may eventually deal with the climate issue in the future like the G-20 and the UN Security Council.

The preparatory meeting in Recife was an initiative of the Rio +20 subcommittees in Congress, with the completion of Ideation Institute in partnership with Ondazul Institute and sponsored by the Government of Pernambuco, Recife City Hall and Chesf electric utility company.

Participants included former Minister of Culture Gilberto Gil, the governor of Pernambuco, Eduardo Campos, the mayor of Recife, Joao da Costa, the secretary of state's environment, Sérgio Xavier, the executive secretary of the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change (FBMC), Luis Pinguelli, the executive secretary of the Climate Change Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Sergio Besserman - representing the mayor of Rio, Eduardo Paes - the former president of FBMC, Fabio Feldmann, head of the government's green economy Rio de Janeiro, Suzanne Khan, Professor Emilio La Rovere COPPE, former director of the Brazilian Forest Service Tasso Azevedo, Professor Eduardo Viola, professors at MIT and Tufts University Travis Franck and Mieke van der Wassem, President Michael Shellemberger the Breakthrough Institute, and Professor Bana e Costa, the London School of Economics, Irene Vergara from the Club of Madrid, and experts from the U.S., South Africa, India, Sweden, Portugal and Brazil.

Two special guests, former Justice Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin government, Yossi Beilin, and the secretary general of the OPL, Yasser Abed Rabbo, presented their experience in negotiating the Geneva Initiative a comprehensive and detailed simulated peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians announced in 2003 after two years of secret discussions.

The opening ceremony, chaired by Governor Eduardo Campos, was attended by Senator Sergio de Souza (PMDB) and Congressmen Alfredo Sirkis (PV), chairman of the sub-committee Rio + 20 and coordinator of the Rio / Climate Zequinha Sarney (PV), chairman of the Environment Commission, Marcio Macedo (PT), chairman of the Climate Change Commission and Fernando Ferro (PT).

"In Recife we made an important step. Now it is certain that the issue of Climate will be addressed in depth during the Rio + 20 and, in the end, we will have a tool for raising awareness of the international public opinion and to influence governments, showing that 'yes, it is possible' to contain the concentration of GHG in the atmosphere below 450 ppm with a chance of limiting warming to 2 degrees average planet in this century", explained the parliamentary coordinator of the initiative Congressman Alfredo Sirkis.

According to him, "if the current curve of GHG emissions is not reversed we will end of the century with 4.5 degrees of average warming. Worse, with the known unknown of the feedbacks – the release of methane from the Arctic permafrost and the seabed, the loss of capacity to absorb carbon from the oceans and tropical forests, the consequences of global warming already underway-- we risk 6 degrees! The scenario of 4.5 degrees will be hell on earth: the collapse of agriculture in many countries, starvation, uncontrolled migrations, wars over water and fertile land, hurricanes, floods and rising sea levels. An increase of 6 degrees we can not even think about... So we have to seize the window of opportunity the next 20 or 30 years, the IPCC scientists say exists to prevent this foretold catastrophe for the generation of our grandchildren. It can be done by economically enabling the low carbon through tough measures to cut emissions and establish carbon pricing, a low-carbon Bretton Woods of sorts and by figuring how to bringing the trillions of dollars from the speculative financial system to productive low carbon investment: a clean energy revolution in technological innovation. "

The opening session of the Rio Climate Challenge on the 14th of June will be chaired by Maurice Strong - who lead the

Rio 92 - with the presence of former Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the former executive secretary of the UN climate negotiations, Ivo de Boer and a group of other elder statesmen. The secretary of the UN Climate Convention, Christiana Figueres some other former heads of state will be at the closing session, on the 17th. At the opening evening there will be an acoustic concert with Gilberto Gil, Andy Summers & friends dedicated to the initiative.

According to the meeting in Recife, it was established that there are three tracks of scenario building and negotiations: 1 – **mitigation**: the effort to reduce GHG emissions by different countries and segments of the global economy; 2 - **adaptation**, focused on strategies to cope with water and food collapse in anticipation of a rise in temperature of 4.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century (the current trend) - and 3 - **financing** the transition to low carbon economies.

The scenarios built by these groups will be then be discussed and negotiated by political leaders and policy formulators of some of the major economies and three of the most vulnerable countries in order to establish a simulated agreement on Climate able to meet the 450ppm target.

The initiative will also deal with technological innovation (clean energy as well as new financial products) and propose a new unified metric for the national commitments to reduce GHG emissions.

The Rio Climate Challenge will also suggest some points on green economy and governance to the "high-level segment" (heads of state) Rio + 20 and some recommendations to the UN COP 18 Conference in Qatar, in December.