



*SCAC statement in face of the postponement of COP 26*

## **Pandemic and climate crisis, challenges for a new social pact**

**Product of the Covid-19 pandemic, the postponement of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (Conference of the Parties, COP), which was scheduled to take place in November of this year, has been announced. From the Civil Society for Climate Action (SCAC) we support this decision and consider that it is up to the health crisis we are facing. But will we be up to the challenge of the climate and ecological crisis?**

This postponement is not synonymous with states being able to set aside their climate or environmental commitments. Vulnerability to climate change and air pollution makes us more sensitive to this kind of emergency: Communities without water, such as La Ligua and Petorca, cannot comply with the minimum hygiene requirements, and the people who live in areas of environmental sacrifice, such as Coronel, Quintero, Puchuncaví and Ventanas, among others, will be more severely affected as they are more susceptible to suffer respiratory problems.

This sanitary crisis is related to the destruction of nature and the loss of natural habitats of other species; the way in which we feed and produce that food; and also in how we understand ourselves as a society. That is why this crisis must be approached from all those places.

Likewise, the economic reactivation measures that we consider must recognize the opportunity to accelerate the economic transition towards a model focused on the caring for people, preservation of life and a harmonious relationship between humanity and the environment, advancing to a fairer and more equitable society. That is why the process we are facing cannot sacrifice climate commitments or violate human rights, it must take root in them and use them as a starting point.

It would be a huge contradiction that in the midst of this health crisis, as well as in a future scenario of economic reactivation, that the State rescue polluting companies that harm the environment or transgress human rights. Public resources must be invested in supporting clean ventures, the generation of jobs in sectors compatible with health and climate commitments, and in promoting applied research on anthropogenic effects in our territory, including an educational transfer to our communities.

This year will not be a COP 26, but it is the time for the nations of the world to rethink their commitments and perhaps the mechanism that is being used to achieve it, because in 26



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years of negotiations, we still are still far behind in what is required to keep global warming below 1.5°C.

This crisis will mark a new beginning, in which we have the opportunity to accelerate measures for environmental preservation and care for nature and people, which will be key to continue writing the history of humanity.

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