

Declaration of the Alternative Nobel Prize recipients from Latin America and the Caribbean

The Alternative Nobel Prize recipients from Latin America and the Caribbean, who convened in Salzburg from the 8th to the 13th of June 2005, for the 25th Anniversary of the Right Livelihood Award, have decided to form a network for empowering and optimizing our work, and for reinforcing our commitment to the betterment of our societies.

Consequently we have agreed to work together on the following joint initiatives:

1. To continue our work so that the crimes of the officials of authoritarian regimes and dictatorships, who have violated human rights and pushed our peoples into poverty, dependence and consumerism in Latin America and the Caribbean, are not left immune. We commit ourselves to work to put an end to this cycle of violence, exclusion and death.
2. To continue our work towards the defence of the rights of indigenous communities, and to ensure that all Latin American and the Caribbean countries ratify the 169 Convention of International Labour Organization (ILO).
3. To support a joint initiative for the creation of a Latin American School of Agroecology, and similar other initiatives which would provide training of citizens, peasants and social leaders, and strengthen efforts to build autonomous and sustainable towns and communities.
4. To support the democratic and sustainable management of water resources, superficial and underground, in all of our countries. In our region, in many cases, it is necessary to recover the water which has been largely appropriated by transnationals without any informed consent of the general population. Water is a human right and a vital resource for all living organisms, and cannot be a commodity in the hands of voracious transnationals.
5. To achieve a democratic and sustainable management and protection of ecosystems, of air, soils, living organisms, seeds and germplasm. As practised by the traditional communities, all of these so-called “resources” must be appreciated as the common heritage of humanity on whose integrity depends our well-being and even our survival.

Finally, to support the creation of an international network of Alternative Nobel Prize constituted by present and future recipients of the Right Livelihood Award. We encourage the creation of other regional networks within this international network.

Juan Pablo Orrego – Ecosistemas – Chile

Eduardo Martínez – Cuba

Vilmar Schneider – CPT – Brasil

Adelar J. Pizetta – MST – Brasil

Lara Lutzenberger – Fundación Gaia – Brasil

Dolaldo Quiroga Rueda – Colombia

Martín Almada – Paraguay

Raúl Montenegro – FUNAM - Argentina