

## **“The Climate Crisis: Shifting the Tides for Climate Justice”**

### **Concept Note:**

The preparatory meeting for the Social Pre-COP held last July 2014 in Margarita Island, Venezuela has provided a space for social movements and grassroots organizations to discuss the social impacts of climate change; increase social participation in decision-making; and unite for climate justice. This unprecedented opening of official space for social movements has made Venezuela a leader in championing climate justice and democratic participation.

Unlike previous Pre-COPs that have silenced civil society and gave big business lobbyists greater access to government ministers, this preparatory meeting, hosted by the Venezuelan Government, has opened the official processes for the people. And as an outcome, social movements and organizations have collaborated to produce the Margarita Declaration that embodies the aspirations of the people for a just and sustainable planet and society.

The Margarita Declaration is a strong social and political statement that consolidated the experiences and struggles of grassroots organizations, marginalized peoples, including environment and climate justice advocates. It rejects false solutions such as carbon markets and the commodification and privatization of the Earth’s natural resources; opposes the corporatization of official negotiations dealing with climate change; upholds the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) and historical responsibility of developed countries; and advocates an alternative development model based on Good and Sustainable Living that will seize economic and political control from the superpowers.

The Social Pre-COP on Climate Change will be held parallel to the Ministerial Summit in Margarita Island from November 4- 7. This is the place where social movements and organizations will be given the opportunity to give the ministers a negotiation document that reflects the position of the civil society at the official climate negotiations. The Summit will be in preparation to the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change that will take place in Lima, Peru in early December.

The challenge ahead is not only to translate this declaration into specific proposals to the official climate talks, but how Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), social and grassroots movement, and governments are going to move forward and realize the aspirations of the Margarita Declaration that can pave the way for a new and genuine People’s Protocol in 2015.

It is in this light that IBON International together with the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Manila, Kalikasan - Peoples' Network for the Environment, and the Peoples’ Movement on Climate Change is organizing a forum entitled, **“The Climate Crisis: Shifting the Tides for Climate Justice” on October 28, 2014 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at the College of Mass Communication Auditorium, University of the Philippines, Diliman**, which aims to discuss the prospects of the international climate negotiations and the ways forward towards climate justice.