

## OUTCOMES

WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE JUSTICE & GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS  
7 OCT 2016 | CLIMATE ALLIANCE CONFERENCE | KREMS (AT)



Climate Alliance

# Cooperating on climate action within municipalities and beyond - Lessons Learned

International Climate Alliance Conference  
7 October 2016 | Krems, Austria

## The workshop

Climate Alliance has a long tradition of promoting climate action amongst European municipalities as well as the indigenous peoples of the Amazon River basin. Experiencing other realities first hand supports intercultural exchange, strengthens connections and fosters important changes in perspective.

Guiding questions for the workshop:

- How can we contribute to a **“culture of global partnership”** within our municipalities / organisations / regions in this field?
- Based on **Goal 17 of the SDGs** we would like to develop an own understanding on how we, as Climate Alliance, understand what can and should be a fair partnership. What does global partnership mean for us?



## Global Partnerships in the network

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### The set up

After a short input by Thomas Brose, director of Climate Alliance, about the importance and the roots of global cooperation and direct partnerships, the workshop started with two speakers.

Examples and input were given by two main speakers own their own experiences on partnership and global cooperation. They shared their long-term experience in this field and represented the view from Europe as well as the one from the Global South.

- **Maximilano Menezes**, representative of the Coordination of the Indigenous Organisations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB) and the Federation of Indigenous Peoples from the Rio Negro (FOIRN), spoke about his experience on global partnerships. He sees an important point of cooperation that both sides have a common goal, want to change something and find solutions together. The organisations he represents are in direct cooperation with different partners around the globe, this gives his work on the local level, but also in national political discussions, more power. A permanent dialog and exchange of information is the basis for a successful partnership.

The long-term cooperation between the FOIRN and Climate Alliance Austria strengthen their position towards the Brazilian state and is very important in terms of global exchange.

- **Bernadette-Jutta Felsch**, Deputy Press Officer and Project Manager, City of Munich, Germany, presented the direct partnership between the Asháninka (Peru) and the City of Munich. The City of Munich has been a member of the Climate Alliance (Klima-Bündnis e.V.) for many years. With this, Munich has committed itself to massively reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, to not using tropical timber and to supporting indigenous rainforest peoples. In 1997, this led to a climate partnership with the indigenous people of the Asháninka in the Amazon rainforest. The cooperation consists of different pillars: Political support, project based support, public relation work and delegation tours from and to Europe. This work is managed by the City, in the cooperation with a local CSO and a constant working group in Munich. The main goal of their work is having a balanced partnership. At the same time there are some challenges, as money, time, work, some misunderstandings, bureaucratic work and also sometimes the different mentalities can be challenging. But the positive aspects and the learning from each other stand in the focus!

After the input, Thomas Brose drew a bow from the concrete examples to the general question of the workshop. Starting with the question what partnerships means for you and which main challenges but also advantage everybody sees, we collected a range of important aspects about partnerships in municipalities and organisations. A main challenge for all was the question how to really change toward a partnership on equal level. One 'solution' was the aspect of pointing out common challenges like mining, deforestation or education and the question how to integrate minorities. On the basis of these common challenges we can find solutions together and talk about our own experience and how we faced these problems. The question was how far these commons can strengthen our partnership.

A main challenge in North-South cooperation is still the question about money. Very often financial support is an important aspect of a partnership, but all participants agreed that we should all focus on similarities and less on financial issues. For example the cooperation of Climate

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Alliance with COICA is based on an institutional support and political work rather than on the direct financing of projects.

To create a long term partnership constant communication and personal exchange is needed. Without seeing, there is no feeling and there won't be any action! Most of the people working on partnerships know this, but how can we transfer this issue to the political level? And how can we convince others of the importance of having partnerships?

### Conclusions:

All participants agreed on the importance of global partnerships, but we all should ask ourselves why we are having these partnerships and what our common goals are. Only by asking this, we can argue and convince others of the importance and the legitimization of working on partnerships.

Regarding financial points we also have to see who has which interests. Not only the one who asks for money has interests, also the other side just ask itself why they are giving this money.



Already pointed out in the presentations of the main speakers, the participants pointed out the importance of a dialog. Because a dialog also can be a weapon in a fight and we also should talk to our enemies. But a dialog not only can be made with words, there are different ways of talking and finding solutions.



The personal consternation is only possible via a direct exchange; we should see personal exchange as a strategy. But at the same time we have to be careful and not only focus on personal bilateral relations but also strengthen the institutional representation.

Global partnerships do help us to have a closer look at important issues here in our reality; we can get a more sensitive look on how to integrate minorities.

In the end the speakers pointed out how important it is to work on the same goals, understand each other and work together for a better world. Sharing hopes, challenges and objectives are very important. We should go and take next steps together and change and question our perspective!