



Costa Rica CFA Workshop Report

Saturday, 24 March 2024

Real Intercontinental, San José, Costa Rica

1. General remarks

The present Report, elaborated by LIBERA Bolivia, presents the development and conclusions of the Climate Freedom Accord Workshop that took place on Saturday 24 of March 2024 at the Real Intercontinental Hotel in San José de Costa Rica co organized by us, the Grace Richardson Fund and the Asociación Argentina de Contribuyentes.

In our view the CFA Workshop went well and without negative incidents or problems. The attendees were very enthusiastic about the initiative and participated actively during the whole workshop, although some had to leave early due to their flight itineraries. Some of those participants were highly influential people from important Latin American Think Tanks. We like to point out: Sary Levy Carciente, Monika Melo, Joselo Andrade and Edwin Zarco.

As co organizers we are very satisfied with the work we presented and the results of that, not only during the development of the workshop itself but also for the possibilities opened from it.

2. Program and participants

1. Program

The original program sent to all participants was as follows:

09:00	Acreditaciones. Coffee service.
10:00	Elizabeth Halliday, Directora "CCLC" — Apertura y Bienvenida
10:05	Jorge Velarde Rosso, LIBERA Bolivia — Bienvenida
10:10	Jonas Torrico, Asociación Argentina de Contribuyentes "AAC" — Bienvenida
10:20	Invited Guests — Brief Remarks
10:30	Rod Richardson, Presidente "GRF" — Climate & Freedom Accord
11:00	Roundtable Discussion: Speakers & Participants
12:00	Lunch
12:20	Lunch Speakers: Jonas Torrico: Introducing New Policy
12:45	Juan Pablo Chamón Saucedo, Impuestos y Emisiones: Lecciones Aprendidas durante la Presidencia de Reagan
13:30	Breakout Groups: Identify Challenges & Propose Recommendations; Create Action Items & Communications Strategy



- Group 1: Property Rights & Natural Resources (Jorge Velarde)
- Group 2: Phase Out Government Interference;
Phase In Competition (Pablo Dono)
- Group 3: Finance: Phase In New Incentives for Growth & Trade (Rod Richardson)
- 15:00 Breakout Group Reports (Recommendations for Policy & Comms)
- 15:40 Open Discussion: Next Steps & COP29
- 15:55 Elizabeth Halliday, Climate Calendar y Cierre del evento
- 16:00 Programa Termina. Fiesta! Disfruta a bebidas y bocadillos a 18:00

The original program went almost unaltered, though with some delay, until the Juan Pablo Chamon lecture. After that, because of the number of attendants present the Breakout groups dynamic was not necessary and the session went on as a plenary discussion with general participation of most of the attendants.

2. Participants

According to the Registration Form sent to over 50 possible participants for the CFA Workshop we had 37 individual registrations from 16 different Latin American countries.

According to the Registration Form 13 registered participants explicitly mention LIBERA and/or Juan Pablo Chamon as answers to the question “How did you hear about this event?”, but we claim that at least 15 other registered participants were invited by us but their answers are registered as: “Worth of mouth” and/or “Think tank”.

The total in person attendance was 28, as shown in the list of participants.

	Name	Lastname	Country	Time of Participation
1	Alex	Aguirre	Costa Rica	Partially
2	Joselo	Andrade	Ecuador	Partially
3	Christian	Aramayo	Bolivia	Partially
4	Jesus	Armas	Venezuela	Fully
5	Andrea	Calle	Colombia	Partially
6	Manuel	Campero	Bolivia	Fully
7	Juan Pablo	Chamon	Bolivia	Fully
8	Pablo Iván	Dono	Argentina	Fully
9	Ariela	Esteban	Costa Rica	Partially
10	Dulcinea	Etchebarne	Argentina	Partially
11	Nayelis	Gadea	Nicaragua	Partially
12	Stacy	Gonzalez	Guatemala	Partially
13	Isabel	Gonzalez	Costa Rica	Partially



14	Elizabeth	Halliday	USA	Fully
15	José Alberto	León M.	Chile	Partially
16	Sary	Levy C	USA / Venezuela	Fully
17	Salomé	López	Colombia	Fully
18	Luis	Loria	Costa Rica	Partially
19	Gelmin	Martinez	Nicaragua	Partially
20	Monika	Melo	República Dominicana	Fully
21	Juan	Meneses	Nicaragua	Partially
22	Carlos Ricardo de Jesús	Morales Acevedo	Nicaragua	Partially
23	Sergio	Pereyra	Bolivia	Partially
24	Rod	Richardson	USA	Fully
25	Ana María	Salas Estrada	Costa Rica	Fully
26	Jonas	Torrico	Argentina	Fully
27	Jorge	Velarde Rosso	Bolivia	Fully
28	Edwin	Zarco Nieva	Perú	Fully

3. Conclusions

1) CFA recommendation: Citizen Royalties on Publicly-Owned Natural Resources

The workshop participants focused mostly on natural resources, and the question of how to incentivize the clean private development in countries where nations or provinces own them. The following proposals were generally approved (presented here in more polished form) as additions to the Accord language:

Accord signatory nations would agree:

- To allow only competitive, private development, and (where not constitutionally prohibited) private ownership, of land and natural resources, open to equal participation by citizens and firms of all Accord nations.
- State-owned firms, public-private partnerships or state sanctioned monopolies in natural resource development shall be sold into competitive frameworks within two years. In compensation, private investors in such firms may sell their ownership



interest into a private, competitive market framework with no tax on such sale of assets.

- In Accord nations, where natural resource ownership lies with the nation or the provinces or other jurisdictions, then ownership is deemed to ultimately belong to the citizens of such jurisdictions. Such citizens shall have the right to receive an annual royalty on gross revenues from natural resources in an amount they themselves set, through democratic assemblies, elected by themselves. Such assemblies will determine how such resources will be privately developed and conserved, and how revenues from such resources will be used. If no such legislative assemblies already exist for such jurisdictions, then they shall be created for this purpose.*
- In Accord nations experiencing illegal deforestation, mining or coca cultivation on state land, this shall be deemed an indication that the state owns more land than it can protect. Any such wild lands illegally used, and an equal amount of adjacent state lands shall be sold into private ownership with conservation and public access easements, that balance sustainable environmental and economic land use, along with public access similar to the UK Right to Roam legislation. Such land sales shall be open to equal participation by citizens and firms of all Accord nations.
- State owned wildlands, like state owned natural resources, shall be considered the property of the citizens of the state or jurisdiction owning them, bestowing on the citizens a right to publicly access and enjoy such wild lands, as well as a right to individually receive a portion of gross revenues from use or sale of such lands in an amount they themselves set, as regulated through democratic assemblies as described above.
- Such private land and natural resource ownership and development shall be subject to private conservation frameworks that incentivize and empower private and individual conservation efforts, including
 - Green mining that seeks to minimize any waste or negative environmental impacts
 - Sustainable forestry and agriculture, preserving native ecosystems and migration corridors
 - Land, forest, water and wetland conservation and public access easements
 - Private and voluntary nature stewardship and conservation organizations
 - Ecotourism
 - Public access to nature
- Such private conservation frameworks will be characterized by reasonable and not overly burdensome regulations [needs a definition] that establish baseline standards, plus “empowerment incentives” to encourage and empower private action above the baseline standard, including:
 - Metrics-based clean tax cuts for green mining and sustainable land use



- US style conservation easement tax deductions
- US style charitable tax deductions (which include tax exempt status for private educational, scientific, conservation and voluntary aid organizations of all kinds.
- The use of CoVictory Funds to finance all such investments in property, plant, equipment and conservation

* The right of citizens to democratically determine how state owned resources shall be privately developed was proposed in conversation immediately after the workshop, as a way to empower the people and avoid crony obstruction. A caveat: we need to consider whether that will work for most nations, or if we need more flexibility.

2) Climate & Freedom communications strategy: Freedom empowers the people to save themselves and the planet.

Participants mentioned the difficulty of deprogramming youth, brainwashed to believe that capitalism is oppressing the people, stealing the means of production and destroying the planet.

“El Otro Sendero” and the IDEASLab project “Ticos con Coronas,” were both mentioned as models for messaging Climate & Freedom strategies, to break through this brainwashing:

- Capitalism is not the cause of inequality or environmental damage in Latin America because true capitalism largely does not exist in most of the continent.
- Crony Capitalism and Neo-Feudal Socialism both create privileged “aristocrats” and new classes of impoverished, economically dependent serfs... and both are destroying the planet.
- Freedom and free markets empower the people to solve their own problems and also save the planet.
- Free markets, and free market policies, accelerate both innovation and decarbonization, producing prosperity for all and a cleaner environment.
- The language of “empower the people” or even things like “empowerment tax cuts” might be helpful to describe private-led innovation and conservation action.

3) Climate & Freedom seminar for scholars

Sary Levy will lead the organization of an international seminar on Climate & Freedom strategies. The UFM call for papers and a proposal for an index were mentioned as well.

4) Database



Content generation and database creation accessible on a website, available to coalition members, aimed at defending our stance in various spheres of influence where we operate: public policy, public debate, study cases and others.

5) Establish the Climate & Freedom International Coalition as a US 501 (c)(3) to raise funds for all C&F projects internationally. Coalition members would become the advisory board and help staff the organization, and kick start the initial fundraising effort. The Coalition would raise funds on behalf of all coalition members, with grants awarded as Atlas does. The Coalition could also fund projects directly on a contract basis, as Reason Foundation does now.

The Advisory Board includes Sary Levy, Monica Melo, Edwin Zarco, Jorge Velarde Rosso, Juan Pablo Chamon, Salomé Lopez and Jesus Armas from our Workshop as founding members, and may soon include others from Europe and the US.

4. Recommendations

- Convene a follow-up meeting with the workshop participants as well as those who have shown interest in participating in this initiative to see the best alternatives for working together during this year.
- Generate a short introduction, which can be in charge of Elizabeth or Rod, at the next workshop to be held in Madrid on the conclusions reached in Latin America and the methodology used.
- Organize an evaluation meeting between GRF and LIBERA on the workshop and its details, as well as the possibility of generating a joint agenda for 2024 and 2025.