

Draft Manifesto number three

Group 3 Indian Ocean Draft Manifesto

(1) The food production

There is a need to review and redefine our basic needs.

To give the possibility to people to be subsistent, in food production; agriculture including facilities, structures and know-how.

In more explicit terms:

- to give open access to seeds,
- to give open access to land
- no Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), so as to allow each of us to grow, consume and exchange our own food.

So far modernisation has been sought as the ideal tool to be more effective and efficient, however to the detriment of nature. Which has been paying, is paying and will bear continue to bear the cost if we don't change our way of cultivating, producing and commercialising food.

As it has been depicted during last sessions, we took Rodrigues Island as example, growing sustainably their own food, for their own market before all, and only the excess is meant for resale.

To develop a green and sustainable economy. To do so, we have to analyse the constrains imposed by existing legislations and regulations among which stand EU frameworks.

It would be advisable to set up a regional platform, to act as a benchmark to support and to advocate issues which are deemed to be important. Having for aim to reinforce our relationship not only between each country but rather each nation. Enable and engage knowledge exchange (And learn from past mistakes).

2. Implement a regional transport system.

As countries of the Indian Ocean, a regional transport system would induce economical and ecological advantages: A regional transport system would ease access between each of us i.e, trade of resources, It will be at a cheap rate (which could be regulated by the common monetary system which will be discussed later). This will enable a proper control of goods, passengers and vessels. Regional trade will reduce our ecological footprint, by covering shorter distance we'll have a lower carbon footprint. A regional transport system will encourage regional trade and consumption. It won't be necessary to use conservatives for edible products.

3. Create a Regional Label "Made in Indian Ocean"

If we are to produce, consume and trade between regional countries of the Indian Ocean, introducing a regional label would reinforce and bring all countries under the same umbrella.

4. Decolonisation of Islands of the Indian Ocean.

Islands are insular states but not all of them are independent, most of the islands of the Indian Ocean have colonised since centuries. To be independent and hold firm on our own decisions. As no one knows better what is best or suits for us.

However being an independent state does not imply being independent. To elaborate on this issue let's take the example of existing military base in the Indian Ocean. These military bases breed nuclear weapons (Diego Garcia) and waste, represent a real regional threat. Our wish is to upkeep a Peaceful Indian Ocean.

We should conduct a study so as to evaluate the potential risk and danger of those military bases.

5. Blue Economy

Our presence on earth as civilisation dates 6000 years ago and yet we have been depleting resources on earth; so far we have extracted most of our inland resources and as we move to develop our blue economy we should take into fact and learn from past experience and make sure not to repeat the same errors we have inflicted inland.

According to us, we find it important to review the of existing agreements in the fishing sector and evaluate its impact on surrounding marine fauna and flora. As some of these agreements

The practice of the Industrial Fishing in the Mauritian territories is quite controversial. Almost every shipping vessels' catch across our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is meant to be exported to European Markets while Mauritians have to import fish from Chile and Alaska for local consumption. Moreover the production of fish canning is done locally and only by-products are available on local market.

6. Creating a Co-operative Society of Ecology

We should set up an independent institution to make a survey and evaluate how our activities are impacting our ecosystem. We propose to set up a co-operative between the islands in our region and to implement theses co-operatives in each island so that they open the market for local products in the region. This co-operatives can also act as a platform to voice-out and be heard (to the local government in their respective countries)

7. Capitalism and politics

What we need today is more engaged people without the political workforce. We can also affiliate with other NGOs / organisations to support our cause and actions.

Conclusion :

Having good ideas is a good thing and we wish to expose it in a pragmatic manner. Politicians are dictating their laws regarding regional / international agreements and thoses agreements will impact our future generations. The local government should be careful with theses agreements and use the veto rights whenever necessary.

Presented by Kalai Renghen