

Climate change, a governmentwide concern

(Note published in the bulletin União, of 11/12/2009, on the presentation by TCU's official during the Seminar on Public Policies and Climate Change)

When presenting audits on climate change, the TCU Secretary spoke about the need of integration and coordination among public bodies

The lack of studies and the absence of clear goals for the country's actions of adequacy to climate change are the main difficulties detected by TCU for the implementation of concrete actions related to the subject. Another problem making difficult the execution of government plans and actions is the lack of integration among the different bodies concerned.

Although the public administration has already a wide structure and institutional arrangements, there are failures in the integration among bodies and in the actions being developed. For secretary Rafael Lopes Torres, from the 8th Secex, coordinator of the work performed by TCU, climate change deserves integrated and joint attention. "That issue has no owner. It is a governmentwide concern. Due to the fact that it involves so many people, it needs a great coordination effort", declared Torres yesterday during the Seminar on Public Policies and Climate Change, at the Court's headquarters.

TCU carried out four audits to evaluate actions taken to reduce greenhouse gases emission (GHG) in the Legal Amazon, and to adapt the coastal zones, the northeast semiarid and the agriculture production to the global warming effects.

The reduction of greenhouse gases depends on the struggle against deforestation, since the form of using the soil and the forests is the main trouble-maker in Brazil. On that subject, TCU alerts that, although the repression to deforestation has expanded in the legal Amazon, the sustainable development policies for the region need to be strengthened. The Pluriannual Plan (PPA), for example, predicts only 7% of the budget required to move forward the Amazon Sustainable Development Plan.

Quasi-desert

The provision of water and the life conditions in the semiarid are also threatened. The predictions are of the region's desertification, and Brazil still does not have studies founding policies with goals to assure water safety to the population or to establish actions to solve the problem. The National Water Resources Plan still does not consider the matter of climate change. The same lack of studies occurs in relation to the coastal zone, which will suffer the effects of the raising of the oceans level. According to TCU, the National Climate Change Plan still does not establish guidelines for the adaptation of agricultural and cattle raising production, a sector whose production is natural resources dependable and vulnerable to the climate changes.

TCU work was done based on the global relevance of the matter, on Brazil's fragilities, the opportunities that exist at the international level for Brazil and on the need of the public policies to adequate themselves to the scenario predicted for the next years and to assure the society's well-being in the use of public resources, among which are the natural resources. "Our objective was to contribute to the improvement of the National Climate Change Plan", declares Secretary Rafael Torres.

Besides having natural resources and a territory that poses risks and provides possibilities of an alternative development to the current model, Brazil is signatory of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the Kyoto Protocol. In December, a national delegation will be in Copenhagen, Denmark, to try a new world agreement.