

Text 7: Prof. Dr. Ursula Oswald Spring: Award of the International Recognition to Dr. Adong and Dr. Quispe-Zuñiga

Dear Sustainable Community in Mosbach, Germany,

I am delighted to present two brilliant doctoral theses on ecocide, war and climate change, phenomena that have jeopardised the food security of poor women, children and farmers. Dr Annet Adong from Uganda and Makerere University and Dr Melissa Roxana Quispe-Zuñiga from Peru have both received an international award from the Hans Günter Brauch Foundation in Bonn for their doctoral theses as part of the presentation of the 2nd Science Prize. As a former Minister of Ecology in Mexico, I have been working on sustainability, nutrition and water for the last 5 decades. I am particularly pleased to introduce two talented female researchers from the developing world. Dr Annet Adong from Uganda has worked in the Great Lakes region to identify the complex ethnic and religious differences that triggered a three-year conflict and war under autocratic rule, destroying between 21 and 30 per cent of food security for families. Children and women are the ones who have suffered most from the lack of food.

Dr Melissa Roxana Quispe-Zuñiga from Peru wrote her doctoral thesis on the conflict of mines, water and land use by small farmers, in which she demonstrated how the management of water and soil has been reduced due to the pollution caused by the mining industry. She provided the government and the affected farmers with a risk index for land use conflicts, which can be useful not only for the Peruvian government but also for many other Latin American countries, since most conflicts arise when mines pollute land and water.

Congratulations on both brilliant works by two women who have not only set new accents in their countries, but also in the entire Global South with their dissertations, where small farmers, women and children are hardest hit by war, ecocide and impoverishment, as their livelihoods are affected and often destroyed.