

**Declaration of the Caucus of Latin America and the Caribbean
In the context of the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the passage of the Beijing Platform and
Declaration**

The organizations which make up the caucus of Latin America and the Caribbean, more than 100 years after the events which are commemorated on International Women's Day, and recognizing that women are diverse culturally, ethnically, sexually and inter-generationally, hereby:

Express our solidarity with the women victims of the recent earthquakes in the region (Chile and Haiti) and demand urgent and respectful attention to their emerging needs. We call on the governments to recognize women as important actors in the planning and reconstruction of their countries.

Claim the rule of law, the separation of powers and the full enjoyment of human rights as a necessary framework for democracy. We reject every sort of distortion of democracy degrading it to an electoral ritual, as well as every sort of political and military intervention that puts the rights of citizens and the autonomy of our countries at risk, affecting women especially and more profoundly.

Reject the grave setbacks and obstacles which have occurred in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with respect to sexual and reproductive rights. We demand the effective establishment of secular States which act completely independently of the pressures of conservative groups and which recognize, respect and assure the rights of women to make free and well informed decisions about their sexuality, their reproductive life and their right to abortion, as stipulated in the framework already recognized by the CEDAW Committee and the Quito Consensus.

Draw attention to the effects of climate change, the consequences of which affect women and girls differentially. We urge the States and the international community to act responsibly from a gender perspective.

Protest that the advances registered to address gender-based violence are neither sufficient nor adequate to an end to these violations of human rights. All forms of gender-based violence persist and enjoy impunity, especially domestic violence, sexual violence, femicide, trafficking and sexual violence in armed conflict. We demand the adoption of integrated measures, including proper funding, with a focus that identifies the unequal power relations as a structural problem which generates this type of violation of women's rights.

Decry that despite existing legal advances, there remains a gap in the participation of women in political bodies charged with representation, decision and power, especially the youngest and those groups of women in vulnerable situations. We denounce the distortion and abuse of gender demands that promote individuals or groups who do not represent the interests, the needs or the aspirations of women; instead they continue to reflect patriarchal stereotypes.

Call the attention of the States and of society to the negative consequences of their policies of migration, both internal and external, on human rights, affecting women differently. Many of these migrations are caused by phenomena such as forced displacement by economic causes, armed conflict, war, natural disasters, narco-trafficking, terrorism and others.

Recognize that the poverty and extreme poverty throughout our countries are the product of the persistence of policies which lead to unequal distribution of the resources and wealth that the society generates, as well as corrupt and inefficient systems. We call attention to the differential impact of poverty on the lives of women, especially indigenous and Afro-descendants and others vulnerable groups. We call on the States to make changes necessary in their policies to affirm sustainable development and equal rights and opportunities.

Call for a transformation of the educational system that permits girls and women a broader horizon of life sustained by the exercise of their human rights and citizenship.

Observe with concern the resistance of some states to the CEDAW protocol, a situation which has a negative effect on the right to justice and reparation which every victim of violation of human rights must have.

Urge the States to implement, apply and follow up on Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the United Nations with sufficient economic, human and institutional resources to fulfill their designated functions.

The organizations which make up the Caucus for Latin America and the Caribbean urge that the entity for women that the United Nations is presently creating have a mission and mandate that addresses the worldwide challenges of women, an independent organism with the political capacity to intervene in governments and in the agencies of the United Nations, with sufficient autonomous funding and led by people dedicated to the rights of women from a perspective of human rights and gender.

Red Nacional de Mujeres de Colombia

Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las mujeres - Colombia

Confluencia de Redes de Mujeres – Colombia

PEN Internacional

Red de Educación Popular entre Mujeres (REPEM) Latinoamericana y Del Caribe

Grupo de Información de Reproducción, GIRE.

Comunidade Bahá'í do Brasil

Red de Educación Popular Entre Mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe

Congregación de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Buen Pastor

Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba

DEMUS – Perú

Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas /Colombia

Observatorio Género Democracia y Derechos Humanos/ Colombia

Red De apoyo Entre Mujeres por la Justicia/ Colombia

Global Network of Women Peace Builders GNWP

CLADEM Bolivia

Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer - Bolivia

Programa Feminista Centroamericano La Corriente – Nicaragua

Red de Mujeres Afroamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y la Diáspora – Nicaragua

Feministas en Marcha – Puerto Rico

Red Observatorios de Violencia Social y de Género de México (Observatorio de Sierra Norte de Puebla)

Consortio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad – México

Centro de la Mujer Flora Tristán – Peru

Grupo de Educación Popular con Mujeres A.C. México

Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica- CIASE de Colombia

Visión Mundial Bolivia

Rama Argentina de la Asociación Americana de Juristas

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FUNDAC (Fundación de Apoyo Comunitario) – Colombia

LIMPAL (Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad) – Colombia

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