

## **Manifesto of women's and feminist organizations and networks of Latin America and the Caribbean in the face of Beijing +30 - Forum of Feminist and Women's NGOs of Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago de Chile December 3, 2024**

**We, the women, youth, adolescents and girls of LAC in all their diversity DECLARE:**

In 1995, at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, representatives of the world's countries, including those of Latin America and the Caribbean, met and signed the Declaration and Platform for Action, committing themselves to strategic objectives for the human rights of all women and to taking measures for their advancement and the achievement of gender equality. Thirty years on, they have still not been fully achieved, particularly in our region. Against this backdrop, UN Women highlights the need for action to expedite compliance and identifies accelerators to ensure equal opportunities for all women, youth and girls (UN Women, 2024).

The organizations of feminist, urban and rural indigenous, working, Afro-descendant, grassroots and disabled women and youth of the region express that, despite the important progress made in the implementation of the Platform for Action, it has not had the same impact in all areas or on all women, youth and girls, given the uneven commitment of the countries in the region. There is an urgent need to guarantee the human rights of all women, throughout their different life cycles and in their particular contexts, from an intercultural, intersectional, integral, anti-racist, anti-capacitist and decolonial perspective, including populations historically excluded from dialogue.

In addition to the continuing legacy of inequalities, discrimination and violence, there are new challenges due to the social, political, economic, labor, technological and environmental transformations that have taken place over these three decades.

This occurs in a context in which the deterioration of public institutions in many countries in the region, corruption, lack of transparency, polarization and political conflict, as well as the advance of organized crime, have eroded democratic systems. The corporate takeover of the state and its privatized institutions is imposing private decisions and interfering in public life in an unacceptable way. The institutional co-optation of the judiciary leads to impunity for corruption and drug-related crimes. All of this has a disproportionate impact on the lives of women, girls, adolescents and youth in all their diversity and intersectionality.

In the current economic crisis, women face higher rates of unemployment and precariousness and are disproportionately represented in low-paid jobs and the informal economy, they bear the burden of care responsibilities, which are still not recognized as work and whose economic value is invisible in most national public accounts. **We CALL on governments in the region to promote women's economic empowerment by fostering greater autonomy and well-**

being. We **URGE** governments in the region to embrace the Fair Care Economy agenda, which recognizes the contributions of youth and women, especially those at the grassroots, to the development of care societies, and respects and rewards them through sustained investment in strengthening their livelihoods, access to productive capital, social protection and decent remuneration for care work.

We **CALL UPON** the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to implement tax reforms based on criteria of equity and progressivity, ensuring that tax systems do not perpetuate inequalities but rather contribute to their reduction and to provide adequate resources for gender equality policies, social protection, prevention and response to gender-based violence, and economic empowerment, especially for the most vulnerable women.

Gender-based violence, far from diminishing, has not ceased to increase and show its multidimensionality. Femicides, transfemicides, lesbicides, infanticides, and vicarious violence also express the growth of extreme forms of violence throughout the region. Women and girls in all their diversity are murdered simply because they are women. Not all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean recognize femicide, and even less do they recognize trans-femicide and the other forms of violence mentioned above, leaving many victims without access to justice and allowing those responsible to go unpunished.

Extreme forms of gender-based violence, such as trafficking for labor or sexual exploitation and the disappearance of women and girls, facilitated by organized crime, human mobility, mining and other forms of illicit exploitation, which particularly affect girls, young women and indigenous women, especially in border areas, are growing phenomena in all countries of the region. As well as repression by law enforcement, racial profiling, harassment, physical and psychological violence, assassinations, and restrictions on freedom of association and the closure of civic spaces faced by women's organizations defending human rights: land, environmental, indigenous, Afro-descendant; labor rights, such as trade unionists and sex workers; defenders of women with disability rights, defenders of sexual and reproductive rights, including those advocating for access to safe abortion; women in prostitution; and women communicators and journalists, among others. Against a backdrop of growing social conflict and organized crime in the countries of the region, women who are politically active in party, social and community organizations or as elected officials face greater threats, some of which take the form of murder. For these and other forms of gender-based violence, there are still serious deficiencies in the ability to denounce, access justice, receive timely protection without re-victimization, and ensure the cultural relevance of these women and their families in their care and prevention. The world of work is not free of violence and harassment for the diversity of women and youth.

**Therefore, WE URGE the governments of the countries of the Region to I) Include gender-based violence as a public health issue.; ii) Continue to recognize and ensure the effective investigation and punishment of femicide, trans-femicide, lesbicide and violence against children (infanticide and vicarious violence), as well as their attempted commission,**

as criminal offences; iii) Establish mechanisms for victims of all forms of violence and their families to have access to justice and full reparation for damages; iv) Require public officials to receive ongoing training to address situations of violence from a human rights, gender, intersectional, intercultural, anti-racist and anti-capacitist perspective, and to include historically excluded, vulnerable and invisible populations; v) Ratify and effectively implement International Labor Organization Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment at Work; and vi) Strengthen the protection framework for women involved in active political life, women human rights defenders, journalists and communicators; guarantee their life and personal security.

The Platform for Action did not take into account digital and algorithmic violence, a product of the expansion of information and communication technologies, which manifests itself, among other things, in online sexual harassment and abuse (grooming) and cyberbullying, digital persecution and espionage (cyberstalking). **We URGE governments to ensure that women, youth, adolescents and girls, in all their diversity, especially those living in rural areas and/or with disabilities, have access to infrastructure, devices and appropriate technologies that allow for their full integration into social, political and economic life, and to guarantee digital spaces free from discrimination and violence; and to create, strengthen and enforce laws, regulations, control measures and permanent monitoring that prevent digital and algorithmic gender-based violence without affecting freedom of expression.**

Most countries in the region have implemented few or sporadic prevention activities, and most have no evaluation or systematic monitoring mechanisms. In addition, in some countries, women's empowerment mechanisms, plans and laws to prevent gender-based violence have been eliminated or underfunded. Changing socio-cultural patterns that reproduce violence is an urgent priority. **We CALL on governments to declare a national emergency on gender-based violence and to create, include, strengthen and monitor gender-based violence prevention programs in their budgets in order to eradicate gender-based violence. The extent of gender-based violence in the region is alarming and has very serious family, social and economic consequences.**

Access to sexual and reproductive rights is a debt, including the limitations on access to legal, safe and free abortion, which is still criminalized and banned in many countries of the region, even in cases of pregnancies of girls caused by rape and/or incest; and which results in deaths and diseases due to unsafe abortions. Adolescent pregnancies and child marriages or cohabitation are common, and countries have not addressed them as endorsed in Beijing. Similarly, lack of or biased information about sexual and reproductive rights, and poor access to health services and contraceptives, increase risks, especially among children and adolescents. As well as the lack of access to sexual and reproductive rights with intercultural relevance and the traditional and ancestral practices of indigenous peoples.

**We REQUEST that governments in the region review their sexual and reproductive health and rights policies to eliminate early motherhood and reduce maternal mortality. There is a need for the decriminalization of**

**abortion, free access to contraceptive methods and comprehensive sexual education (ESI, for its acronym in Spanish) with intercultural, traditional and ancestral relevance, based on evidence, so that women, youth, adolescents and girls, in all their diversity, can make free, prior and informed decisions about their sexuality and reproduction. We ALSO CALL for the elimination of any criterion or basis, religious or otherwise, which, by action or omission, prevents girls, youth, adolescents and women in their diversity from accessing their human rights; in particular, the elimination of the denial of the right of women, youth, adolescents, girls and women in their diversity with disabilities to decide freely about their motherhood.**

30 years after Beijing, the unjust, extractivist and monopolistic development model and the structural conditions of inequality and poverty that sustain it are having a devastating impact on the lives and integral health of millions of women, youth, adolescents and girls in the region.

The destruction of forests, the use, appropriation and dispossession of land and water for mining and energy projects, among others, degrade the environment, exacerbate the climate crisis and increase the forced and violent displacement of territories and peoples who depend on this environment for their subsistence and cultural survival. This, along with state and parastatal violence and a rejection of politics, mobilized significant segments of the region's population, including many women defenders who were harassed and their rights violated. The need for access to the labor market increases the feminization of migration flows, with women arriving in host countries in precarious and low-paid working conditions, with little access to social protection systems. In transit and host countries, women and youth, as well as the children and adolescents with whom they travel, are at greater risk of discrimination, labor and sexual exploitation, smuggling and trafficking. **We REQUEST that governments take urgent measures to protect against and eradicate violence in their territories; promote economic integration with guaranteed labor rights and social protection for the diversity of women and youth, facilitate their permanence in their towns and territories; and implement policies that address the needs of migrant and refugee women and youth and the children and adolescents who accompany them, including protective measures against trafficking for sexual or labor exploitation and child labor.**

**Three decades after Beijing, we URGE governments to address Beijing's debts and challenges NOW.**

#### **NGOs and Networks signing:**

Committee of NGOs on the Condition of Women from Latin America and the Caribbean (NGO CSW LAC); A.C. Enlaces Territoriales para la Equidad de Género; AC. Fusa; Agenda Política Mujeres en la Diversidad Guatemala; Alianza Estratégica de Mujeres de CEDAW de Guatemala; Alianza MenEngage; Amnistía Internacional Argentina; Asociación Ciudadana por los Derechos

Humanos; Asociación de Trabajadoras del Hogar, a Domicilio y de Maquila (ATRAHDOM); Asociación Internacional de Lesbianas, Gays, Bisexuales, Trans e Intersex para América Latina y el Caribe (ILGALAC); Asociación las Crisálidas Guatemala; Asociación Venezolana para una Educación Sexual Alternativa (AVESA); Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir México; CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago; Centro de Estudios de Estado y Sociedad (CEDES); Centro de Planificación y Estudios Sociales (Ceplaes); Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos (Promsex); Centro Mujeres AC. México; Coalición Nacional de Mujeres del Ecuador; Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de las Mujeres (CLADEM); Comunidad Internacional de Mujeres Viviendo con VIH/SIDA (ICW Latina); Comunidad Internacional de Mujeres Viviendo con VIH/SIDA Argentina; Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de las Américas (CSA); Consorcio Latinoamericano contra el aborto inseguro (CLACAI); Coordinadora de la Mujer – Bolivia; Corporación Ecuador Violencia Cero; Corporación Humanas Chile – Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género; Corporación Humanas Colombia; Dra. Nelly Minyersky, Presidenta del Parlamento de las Mujeres de la Legislatura de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires; Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality; Encuentro de Juventudes por Escazú (ENJUVEs Latinoamérica); Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas (ECMIA) /Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú (CHIRAPAQ); Equality Now; Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia; Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia Y Género (ELA); Federación Mujeres & Municipalidades ALC (FEMUM); Federación Mundial de Sordos; Feministas Sin Fronteras; FOS Feminista; Fundación Derechos Humanos, Equidad y Género (FUNDHEG); Fundación Margen; Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM); Fundación por una Sociedad Empoderada; FUNMUJERURAL-E; Gestos – Brasil; Girls CARE; Girls not Brides; Grassroots Organisations Operating Together in Sisterhood in T&T (GROOTS T&T); Grupo Internacional por los Derechos Humanos, Sexuales y Reproductivos; Grupo Intersectorial por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos en Guatemala; Huairu Commission; Instituto de Liderazgo Simone de Beauvoir A.C.; Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración, AC (IMUMI); Internacional de Servicios Públicos (ISP); International Land Coalition América Latina y el Caribe ILC LAC; International Planned Parenthood Federation Americas and Caribbean Regional Office (IPPF ACRO); IPAS; Juventud Unida en Acción (JUENA); Land Coalition; Marita Perceval, Consultora; Movimiento Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Mujeres Positivas; Mujeres Luna Creciente – Ecuador; Mujeres y Diversidades Sexo-Genéricas – Chile; Network of Rural Women Trinidad and Tobago; Ni Una Menos – Mendoza; Observatorio de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos de las Personas con Discapacidad (ODISEX); Organización de Mujeres Tierra viva; Plataforma Mujer Rural y Derecho a la Tierra; Programa Sordas sin violencia; Prolider; Red de Defensoras del Ambiente y el Buen Vivir; Red de Educación Popular Entre Mujeres de Latinoamérica y el Caribe (REPEM); Red de Educación Popular Entre

Mujeres de Latinoamérica y el Caribe - Colombia (REPEM Colombia); Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora (RMAAD); Red de Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales de Latinoamérica y El Caribe (RedTraSex); Red de Organizaciones de Lesbianas y Mujeres Bisexuales de América Latina y el Caribe; Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe (RSMLAC); Red Internacional de Periodistas Feministas; Red Latinoamérica y del Caribe de Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir; Red Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Personas con Discapacidad y sus Familias (Riadis); Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos (RedLAC); Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Personas Trans; Red Nacional de Jóvenes y Adolescentes para la Salud Sexual y Reproductiva (RedNac); Red por los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad (REDI); Sedra-Federación de Planificación Familiar; Sistren Theatre Collective; Vecinas Feministas; Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD).