



## **FEMINIST WOMEN'S VOICE FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

On this 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women governments and women's and feminists' organizations must face the challenge of considering Sustainable Development as a basic premise to achieve equality between women and men and make possible the prevalence of goal 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". Women's and feminists' organizations from LAC know this is not an easy task, however, are committed to achieving it and thus, we will support all the efforts, while remaining alert to prevent any deviation or attempt to deviate from achieving such goal.

For the organizations of women and feminists from LAC each and every Sustainable development Goal must identify the necessary aspects to improve the life and conditions of women and girls all over the world and ensure the actual realization of human rights. We are convinced that this is the only possible way and we will fight to achieve it. We know that the Agenda 2030 will allow the full implementation of Beijing Platform of Action, therefore, women and girls around the world through women's' and feminists' organizations must participate in the whole implementation process at national, regional and global level.

Latin America and the Caribbean is one the most unequal regions of the world. Women are most affected; therefore, the main priority for LAC must be accelerating the elimination of poverty and inequality, and accelerating the inclusion of women and girls through policies of affirmative action. We urge our governments to adopt development models different from the existing which have profoundly worsened inequality and poverty, especially forewomen and young people.

It is also necessary that societies guarantee the investment in education and health, as a minimum necessary for girls and boys, and women and girls have the chance to access to similar levels of development, reducing the current gap. In order to achieve this, education, especially primary and secondary must be accessible for all and also they must be of better quality. This implies strengthening public, free and secular schooling, as a way of leveling everyone up.

In order to achieve autonomy and equality in a context of sustainable development, all women and especially indigenous, Afro-descendant and other vulnerable that face the worst education and health conditions and the greatest difficulties for accessing services, should be able to access health services, especially those concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights. Without the realization of sexual and reproductive rights development will not be possible for women. We also urge our governments to start the implementation



of comprehensive sexuality education in the education system to allow girls and boys to overcome gender stereotypes. We need both to have the same rights and all attempts of men to subordinate women to be eliminated.

In a context of crisis and deceleration of the region, the Sustainable Development Goals may become an opportunity as they propose equality and sustainability in view of the trend to apply regressive policies that prevent the achievement of equality and the full enjoyment of rights. Another priority for the region is the increase of employment and elimination of informal ones, which is mostly in the hands of female labor force who are poorly paid and do not have social benefits. In particular we need to tackle the unpaid care work performed mostly by women who take care of children, the disabled and the elderly in their families, limiting their access to the formal labor market. The unpaid care is a shared responsibility of governments, families and women so governments have to establish or start services to work to support and distribute in an equal manner such care works.

We have to eliminate violence against women and girls in the countries of the region and its most serious form “femicides”. Therefore, we need strong commitment of governments in the allocation of funds needed and the full implementation of effective policies. The ratification of Belem Do Para Convention should be compulsory for all countries of the region. Moreover, the increasing violence exerted against women defenders of human rights in our countries -being the assassination of Berta Caceres, leader of the lenca ethnic group from Honduras, the most recent example and one for which we demand clarification.

The feminist and women’s organizations from LAC were along with those around the world contributors and enablers of the process that has led to the Agenda 2030 and SDGs. We will go on contributing but we will also be “watchdogs” to note and denounce all deviation that may attempt to the full realization of equality and sustainable development based on the enforcement of human rights of women and girls as well as the entire society.

On behalf of the Committee of NGOs on CSW from LAC:  
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