

Declaration from the Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society to the IV Regional Conference on Social Development

25th October 2021

Building Consensus: to Universal Social Protection Systems to address disasters and Inequalities

The Context:

The Civil Society from the region meeting in the Forum previous to the IV Regional Conference on Social Development agree on this Declaration focused on the challenges of Social Protection In front of disasters.

We are preoccupied by the increase of the amount, intensity and diversity of disasters in the region as well as the impact on the population. To this trend – since the recent years- now the COVID 19 pandemic add the devastating socioeconomic and sanitary effects. Today the region is in a critical moment, with great backwards and uncertainty, with important and recurrent disasters, socioeconomic crises and recession, sanitary and humanitarian crisis more deep since the last decades.

In this context, the Latin American and the Caribbean Mechanism of Civil Society Participation for Sustainable Development realized two preparatory meetings that culminate in this Forum to present their concerns and recommendations to Member States believing with the real participation of civil society , the deepen of democracy , the effective and institutionalized dialogue , the commitment and joint work are the way to rebuild without leaving anyone behind.

To address this multidimensional crisis - environmental, sanitary, socio-economical and of governance , its necessary to develop integral responses that mitigate and revert climate change that cause disasters, environment and social crises and built a universal , inclusive , sustainable , integral and with social justice social protection system altogether developing models focus on the creation of decent work , the inclusion and sustainability of the social and supportive economy and the implementation of mechanism to enhance rights particularly of those that are traditionally marginalized and the pandemic abandon them.

We claim those invisible became visible, they require a historic and urgent amendment allowing their plain participation as rights subjects, they are elderly people, women, indigenous, afro descendants, migrants and refugees, formal and informal workers, sex workers , and LGBTQI+ population, persons living with HIV, children and adolescents. It's also necessary to include human rights, environment and social defenders in order to eliminate their persecution and criminalization and in general to CSO that experienced the constrains of civic space to exercise their rights in democracy.

The development model and its challenges

The CS of LAC we agree in our debate about the climate disasters that affect the world and particularly our region, sometimes call “natural disasters while they are produced by the economic model based in the overexploitation of natural resources, the privatizations and the extreme interest in the economic benefit and the market over the peoples welfare, this are the opposite of the planet sustainability.

We are preoccupied on the recurrent concept of resilience that emphasize individual responsibility to adapt avoiding and decreasing the States responsibility to ensure an inclusive and sustainable development model, as well as universal quality public services of education, health, water and sanitation, energy, connectivity and care services provision.

It's urgent to strengthen the States in order they can bringing those universal of quality public services to all the population, and satisfy their basic needs and strengthen the community capacity When their houses and means of living are destroyed.

The States must orient their policies to prevention measures including legislation that punish the environment degradation control with the CS participation as a condition of effective participation and involvement of populations. Public policies need to empower the crises and disasters victims as real stakeholders and rights subjects to rebuild their lives and projects.

WE oppose to all form of privatization of Social protection because they respond to their lucrative vision and imply the decrease of the rights. Most of this funds have big gains while they bring insufficient and poor quality services.

The call to “innovative mechanism “could cover up privatization forms and the participation of the international cooperation. In the region and specially in the Caribbean, there are many examples of the devastation produced by the international cooperation without accountability and any responsibility on the post disasters interventions.

We convene the States to adopt transitions policies to sustainable development models that respect the environment, avoiding fossil energy and recognizing the knowledge of indigenous people to care and protect the environment.

Proposals

To an inclusive, sustainable model with universal Social Protection

- It's necessary to advance to universal, integral, sustainable social protection systems bringing universal and in solidarity public services promoting prevention and disasters mitigation in a framework of transforming rehabilitation, in alignment with Agenda 2030 and its SDGs.
- The CSOs have to protect their constituencies especially those more affected by the pandemic and neglected by governments, worsening with the constraints of civic space. We demand the respect of associations, expression and information to all persons and organizations and that as CSOs we were recognized as development and democracy actors.

- We advocate for public policies promoting the economy of care as part of the production and social reproduction, housing access, social inclusion and decent work, the right to a healthy habitat, sovereignty alimentary, and social protection through all life since childhood till elderly, with an ethnic, gender, intersectional and intergenerational perspective.
- The governments should respect and fulfill the commitments they did related to climate change and they have also sign and agree to ESCAZU agreement
- Governments should promote social dialogue and collective negotiation mechanism for design, implementation and monitoring public policies and regional as well global policies, in order an Development Agenda centered I n people and not economic interest .CS must claim and monitoring its achieving and be proactive in the requirement and bringing solutions.
- Governments must implement the platforms to facilitate the dialogue and participation of all people without any restrictions nor discriminations. Now COP26 will take place governments should review their commitments and incorporate CS in the design and find of joint solutions.
- adopt a global governance that creates a new funding to allow the countries in the region to address the emergencies, as x ex: Create a common fund with all contributions but those rich gives more than the poor; the alignment of SDG 16 with a more robust institutionalization. More resources are need to ensure this happens.
- Elaborate public policies to guarantee gender equality, human rights respect , intersectionality and inclusion of care policies , inclusive to all populations without living anyone behind.
- Strengthen the States by a fiscal redistribution to be able to respond to the challenges require by the context in order to adopt measures of universal and permanent social protection noy only in the emergencies, and not privatize them.
- Adopt policies to create decent work with all benefit and elimination of r=precarious work a characteristic of the region. Maintaining cash measures till emergencies needs remain but not perpetuate them.
- Regional agreements to recognize titles and certification titles for children at school age and or to allow professionals to actively participate as professionals or technicians in order to eliminate informal work and school abandon .
- Elimination of the technology for patents as vaccines and medical equipment distribution of technology in order everybody has access and all countries solve the health crise with autonomy.
- Establish national systems of Social security based in principles of universality , solidarity , inclusion , no discrimination , integral public systems with redistribution.
- CSof LAC we will work to achieve all this proposals , we hope governments will be ready to reach the actual needs of our people. .

“Disasters and inequalities in a long crise: to universal , integral , resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”

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