

Latin American and Caribbean Youth Alliance's Recommendations

Civil Society Forum, 25th April, 2017

In the context of the Forum of the Countries of Latin American and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

Good morning to all of you,

From the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Alliance, we celebrate this meeting between different civil society organizations of the region.

Before beginning with our recommendations regarding the implementation of the Agenda in the region, we would like to share some reflections that emerged in our last meeting about the context in which we seek to reach the 2030 Agenda.

Doubtfulness is the only certitude.

We are living times in which Human Right's consensuses, that appeared to be the greatest achievements of the last decades, are being replaced by an empty discourse, spread by those who are in power, to intervene in our countries and our peoples.

In 2015, the World Summit on Sustainable Development emerges as a meeting point for almost all the presidents of the world. Today, we are living in a scenario of tension, in which xenophobia, racism and misogyny, raised by "neoconservative" actors, have been settled in governments such as the ones of the United States and, in Our America, Brazil.

In this scenario, the capitalist system lifts its veil and shows its true face: violence, exclusion, extractivism that destroys our territories, peoples and bodies. To reclaim the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an agreement accepted by all the countries of the world represents an advance towards a new civilizing frame.

Let us remember that our Latin America and the Caribbean have the most progressive agreement of the world, the Montevideo Consensus, which broke paradigms and has a series of indicators that must be the foundation for the consolidation of the 2030 Agenda's indicators of our region in the next November.

In terms of implementation, it is necessary to recognize that politics are about conflicts regarding how to administer the life as a society. In these conflicts, there are interests. In

this Agenda for Sustainable Development, there are contradictory interests; we are multi stakeholders, with diverging interests, which clearly implies differentiated responsibilities. Thus, another important recommendation is, this must be reflected in its just dimension.

In a world of limited resources, the levelling cannot be towards the top.

Planet Earth cannot satisfy the consumption level of the "First World" and the elites of our periphery countries. Some people must give up on their privileges so that we stop harming the peoples. They are not many. In a study that was published some weeks ago, Oxfam shows that eight men have the same economical power that half of the humanity.

These eight men are part of the 1% of the biggest multinational corporations that combine the national and transnational capital. They are represented in the private sector. They introduce themselves as charitable foundations and they even dare to introduce themselves as allies of the sustainable development.

¡We do not need their alms! We need them to respect the human rights and, if they are truly engaged with the development, it is necessary to be challenge their own privileges. Only then, we will be able to achieve the motto "No-one left behind". Until this happen, while this 1% continues to have the world wealth, we must clarify that the responsibilities are different.

The private sector must not be treated as part of the civil society and we must all acknowledge that its enormous responsibility regarding to the 2030 Agenda starts with paying taxes, stopping the irresponsible use of the natural resources of our countries and our indigenous communities, and respecting the workers' rights. This might be the starting point. If we do not speak about this and do not act consequently, we will not address properly the causes of the inequalities in our continent and in the world.

In this contradictory context, the 2030 Agenda is a good focal point and civil society is a fundamental ally to contribute to its implementation, especially to watch and engender accountability processes. **We shall keep an eye on the fact that governments have the primary responsibility to guarantee the conditions for a dignified life, and this it starts with the human rights full guarantee.**

Another recommendation is to maintain the acknowledgment and guarantee of the civil society participation, both in the implementation and in the evaluation. This is crucial to achieve a true sustainable development.

How to guarantee our participation? Even though this is still being discussed, there are some elements that are clear. The participation must consider: the heterogeneity and diversity of the organizations (whether they are acknowledge or not by the State; of local, national and/or regional nature); it must be democratic, the different projects shall have their arguments on the basis of dialogue and not exclusion; but above all, it must be consistent with the civil organizations' previous experiences in the region. We shall neither start from the scratch nor take imposed patterns from the global arena.

Development will be sustainable and we will include everyone only when we remove the inequalities and injustices produced by the system and the patriarchal and adult-centred capitalist dynamics.

Our participation will not be testimonial. We commit ourselves to monitor the government's actions and to engender critical, open, proactive and inclusive political dialogues in order to defend our regions' human rights, communities, bodies and territories. Young people will not take any step back regarding the acknowledgment and generation of conditions to the exercise of human rights, including sexual rights. As we have been saying, our bodies are our territories.

Asociación de Mujeres Adolescentes y Jóvenes Caribeñas

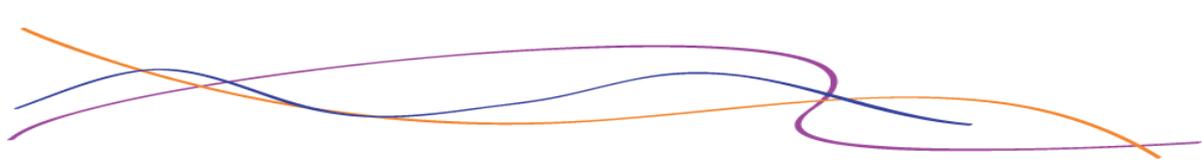
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