



# Declaration of the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Forum

Youth, as representatives of social organizations from 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in the city of Lima on August 5, 2018, at the Third Latin-American and the Caribbean Youth Forum in the framework of the III Regional Conference on Population and Development, renew our commitment to continue our advocacy for the full compliance of our human rights, within the framework the States' responsibility to guarantee them, as indicated in the internal regulations and the different treaties and international commitments subscribed for each of our countries.

Recognizing the importance of spaces for dialogue such as the Regional Conference on Population and Development, we present our demands and needs in the youth agenda.

For us, it is definitive that the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, along with the youth agenda that we share, is not divorced from the approach of poverty elimination; inequality; inclusion; the need to promote policies and programs with a gender and intercultural perspective, and respect for the secular State.

The systematic violation of Human Rights in the region and in the world is compounded by a worrying increase in the criminalization of social protest, which mainly affects young people. In Nicaragua, the aggressions, murders, and repression have been happening for more than 100 days and have not stopped. We, Latin America and the Caribbean youth, are present at this 3rd Regional Conference on Population and Development to make our realities visible and to denounce the violation of our rights.

Thus, we demand our respective States:

1. Guarantee public, free, quality, secular and gender-sensitive education that includes comprehensive sexuality education in the school curricula and that allows gender equality and the development of new non-violent masculinities, crossed by a decolonizing feminism.
2. Provide specialized and quality health care for adolescents and young people, including access



to contraceptive methods, such as emergency contraception; for which, we call on the Honduran government to decriminalize it.

3. Take concrete measures for the prevention of unwanted adolescent pregnancy (first and second pregnancy), based on evidence, such as comprehensive sexuality education and access to contraception, considering the need for an intercultural approach that addresses the specific problems of indigenous adolescents and youth. Pay special attention to pregnancies in girls under 15 years of age and their connection with situations of sexual violence and incest. Policies and programs should be implemented at all levels of government.

4. Recognize the autonomy and right to decide of pregnant women and people, to reduce maternal death related to unsafe abortion, as well as to encourage a broad debate based on scientific evidence and integrating the ancestral knowledge of indigenous communities about the need of decriminalization and legalization of abortion in all countries of the region, guaranteeing that access to it is free, legal, and safe.

5. Strengthen the regional response to HIV, with emphasis on generating opportunities for participation and services that provide differentiated care for adolescents and young people living with HIV; as also, the elimination of barriers that limit access to screening and effective treatment of these population groups, multiplying efforts to reach the cure promptly.

6. Incorporate in the different levels of government, strategies, and mechanisms that encourage autonomous youth participation in decision-making, guaranteeing that they are safe spaces free of violence for the diversity of youth and that allow their full development.

7. Take actions that ensure the development of indigenous adolescents and youth, Amazonian natives and Afro-descendants, promoting sustainable development, the protection of the autonomy of their territory and the conservation and respect for their native languages. We also make a call to modify the laws of the different countries and the international community that endorses them, to stop the expropriation of ancestral lands of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, as well as the criminalization and persecution of activist groups that defend the territory.

8. Emphasize the most excluded territories within the region, guarantee land tenure and access to basic services to indigenous communities, Afro-descendants, inhabitants of informal settlements, among others, as well as the active participation of their inhabitants in the development autonomy of their territories as spaces that must guarantee access to the right to health, education, decent work, leisure, and recreation.

9. Latin America and the Caribbean is an unequal region and the most urbanized in the world. The most vulnerable areas are not only lacking the guarantee of their rights but they are also the most affected by natural disasters. We recognize the urgency of preventing and mitigating the impact of socio-environmental disasters and combating the environmental vulnerability of all countries.



10. We urgently appeal for the reform of justice systems in the region, in order to promptly, comprehensively and efficiently address cases of gender violence, as well as provide quality care and psychosocial support to the victims and their families, preventing that these cases end up in femicide. We demand the creation of enforceable legislation in this matter and that the allocated budget is sufficient for its implementation.

11. Recognize and guarantee the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, such as the right to recognition of their gender identity, to found a family, equal marriage, access to comprehensive health, education, to spaces free of violence, decent jobs, and particularly, not to be discriminated against. It is urgent to address the cases of hate crimes against transgender persons, guaranteeing better living conditions for this population.

12. We raise our voice against the criminalization of protest, which violates our right of free expression and limits the real participation of youth. We show our concern for the repressive actions by Daniel Ortega's government against the unarmed people of Nicaragua, where young people are being persecuted, disappeared, tortured and murdered.

13. Ensure training and access to employment or youth self-employment while respecting labor rights and eradicating any exploitation and violation of rights. The State must strengthen its role as a promoter of capacity development and accessibility to decent work or sustainable entrepreneurship of young people.

14. We demand the demilitarization of youth life from legal and illegal actors, who venture into the Latin American and Caribbean territories. We also advocate for the respect of each person's self-determination about their life project, eliminating the compulsory nature of military service.

15. Regarding people with disabilities, it is very necessary to implement public policies that ensure their autonomy, so that they can develop properly, ensuring safe spaces and enabling environments to adapt to their need and not the other way around.

16. We reject restrictive migration policies in the face of humanitarian emergencies that occur in countries such as Venezuela, Haiti and Nicaragua, and which threaten the physical, psychological and emotional health of migrant families; who are forced to leave their countries because they are in a situation of increased vulnerability, especially of youth and women. That is why it is necessary to implement policies and programs that address the needs of migrants, guaranteeing their effective access to health and education services.

17. Increase public investment in youth, labor, health and pension policies. We note the window of opportunity that is the demographic bonus that some countries in the region are experiencing, in order to better economic and social conditions, and the need to ensure access to health, work and a decent pension to an aging population.

18. Include youth representatives in government bodies that monitor the Montevideo Consensus, as well as in the official country delegations, ensuring that youth have full participation in these instances.

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To conclude our Declaration, we call other adolescent and young people to join advocacy and mobilization spaces, to seek social transformation starting from the strengthening of our organizations and the State institutions.

Political and social actors, representatives of Latin American and Caribbean States, it is time to make decisions, to take action and to join wills. To multiply voices. We must take responsibility and repair historical debts. It is time to build alternative models of development that guarantee peace, a full life and the appropriation of our human rights. It is time to put an end to inequalities and move decisively towards tackling the issues that keep us in violence, corruption, injustice, and impunity. We know that a Declaration does not change a reality, but we are convinced that the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus will benefit our struggle for equality, exercise, and guarantee of our rights.

People and youth can change our realities and build our history:

¡Not one more dead woman because of unsafe abortion!

¡Not one more femicide!

¡Not one less!

¡Not one more murder!

No decision about youth without youth!

**Lima, 5 August 2018**

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## Networks and Organizatios

100 Millones Perú

APROFA

Agentes adolescentes voluntarios en salud

Alianza Latinoamericana de Juventudes (Alianza LAC)

Amnistía Internacional

Asociación Cinecable - Paraguay

Asociación Civil Equidad - Oruro, Bolivia

Asociación de reservas campesinas Corinto - Colombia

Belize Family Life Association

Brigadistas en promoción de la No Violencia - Gregoria Apaza

Campamento Nacional Voces Juveniles 2018 - Perú

Caricom Youth Ambassadors

Centro Cultural Pablo de la Torriente Brau

Centro Derechos de la Mujer - Honduras

Colectiva Feminista "La Candela"

Coletivo Nacional de Jovenes Feministas Mangueiras - Brasil

Comisión de la Niñez y Juventud Indígena del Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas (ECMIA)

Comisión de la Niñez y Juventud Indígena del Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas (ECMIA, Perú).

Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network

Corporación Jóvenes Gestores de Paz

Elige, Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos (México)

Family Planning Association of Trinidad & Tobago

Federación de Organizaciones Juveniles de Llalagua, Norte de Potosí

Frente Feminista de la Izquierda Libertaria

Fundación Contra-Peso - Panamá

Fundación Efecto Valores

Fundación Palenque de Egoyá - Colombia

Go Joven Guatemala

Go Joven México

Grupo Juvenil Somos Pytyvöhára

Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association

Haiti Adolescent Girls Network

ICW LATINA Capítulo de jóvenes y adolescentes

IPPF

IYAFP Nicaragua

Instituto progresista

Junior Chamber International and International Youth Federation

Juventud Rebelde - Colombia

Levantemos (Rise Up)- Guatemala

META Juvenil Latinoamérica Movimiento Estamos Todxs en Acción

Mujer y Salud en Uruguay - MYSU

Na`Leb`ak - Guatemala

National Youth Council of Belize

Organización Campesina Indígena de Silvicultores

Organización Juvenil Yvy Guive Paraguay Bañado Sur

PLAFAM

PLAN Internacional - Perú

Plataforma Dominicana De Masculinidades Positivas

Plataforma Feminista Vivas nos Queremos

Plataforma Managua por los Derechos Sexuales y Derechos Reproductivos

Plataforma Nacional de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos

Plataforma Salvadoreña de Juventudes

Presencia Joven - Paraguay

Pro Familia

RED J+ LAC

Red Argentina de Jóvenes Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir

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Red Argentina de Jóvenes y Adolescentes Positivos

Red Departamental Las Niñas Lideran Quetzaltenango

Red Juvenil Afro e Indígena Hondureña

Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales (RedLAC)

Red Nacional de Adolescentes y Jóvenes Viviendo con VIH

Red Nacional de Juventudes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos en Nicaragua

Red Nacional de Líderes y Lideresas Juveniles Tú Decides (Bolivia)

Red de Jóvenes Coincidir por los DSDR

Red de Jóvenes migrantes y transfronteriz@s

Red de Jóvenes para la Incidencia Política (Incide Joven, Guatemala)

Red de Organizaciones de Jóvenes Indígenas del Perú (REOJIP)

Red de Organizaciones de Jóvenes Indígenas del Perú (REOJIP, Perú)

St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association

Techo, Juntos sin un mundo de pobreza

Unidas Creemos - México

YWCA Trinidad and Tobago

Youth Advisory Group - Suriname