



**DECLARATION OF THE YOUNG
PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN TOWARDS THE
GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM**

MARCH 2021

On March 4-5, 2021, adolescents and youths from Latin America and the Caribbean will gather at the “Regional LAC Youth Meeting towards the Generation Equality Forum” with the aim of reflecting on the main advances and challenges of the Beijing Platform for Action and sharing our recommendations to keep moving forward towards gender equality. This declaration comes from young people from indigenous and Afro-descendant populations, LGBTIQ+, rural, urban and migrant communities, populations with disabilities and a wide variety of identities from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

More than 25 years after the emergence of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action we acknowledge the validity of its contents and confirm its commitments. We acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened inequality and the infringements on the rights of children, adolescents and young people, which endangers the progress made. In this context, school drop-out rates were exacerbated in adolescents and young people, mainly in indigenous, migrant and rural populations and care work increased for women. Furthermore, the budgets to solve various issues such as the ones related to environmental protection have been reduced.

Gender-based violence continues to be one of our main concerns. Although there are laws and public policies against it, this issue remains unsolved. The insufficient resources earmarked to prevent, detect and address violence and the lack of guarantees to access justice reflects that the States do not consider this topic as a priority. Also, the progress made to fight against gender-based violence has been made by women themselves.

Femicides, sexual, digital and political violence are a constant in the region and have been increasing. In a context of economic, social, cultural and racial inequality towards indigenous and Afro-Descendant women, women with disabilities, LGBTQ+, women with HIV, migrants, girls, adolescents and young women are facing greater difficulties to fully exercise their rights and their access to opportunities under equal conditions.

Additionally, in the context of armed conflicts, dynamics and a whole market around the appropriation of not just land and resources, but also of the body and the sexuality of children, young women and women in all their diversity are being generated. This continues to be a threat to life and the integrity of territories and sexual violence continues to be a weapon of war. As a response, various community and autonomous defense models have emerged and are also focused on building peace and safety for the community.

Also, the surge of extractive industries has social, environmental, economic and health impacts and has caused an increase in situations of violence against women who defend the territories. Although progress has been made in the legislative sphere regarding environmental protection, there is no follow-up nor do they consider a gender and youth-based perspective.

In the educational sphere, progress has been made in access to education and the inclusion of indigenous languages. However, in distant communities, the technological gap prevents access to education for children, adolescents and young people. Also, machismo and the patriarchal system prevail in our contexts and, therefore, topics related to a comprehensive education in sexuality, sexual and reproductive health and the transformation of gender roles are rarely addressed. In this regard, efforts have also been made in community and independent media led by women and young people to broaden the critical perspective against machismo and prevent violence in the media.

Some progress has been made in regards of comprehensive health and the exercise of sexual rights, in which the strategies to prevent pregnancies in adolescents, the existence of friendly services, the implementation of laws related to sexuality and HIV and acknowledging the rights and autonomy of adolescents and young people have been emphasized. However, the challenges are still present and anti-rights groups are an obstacle. Another major issue that has not been addressed is the decriminalization of abortion and access to it throughout the region, in addition to stopping the persecution of Human, Sexual and Reproductive Rights activists and advocates.

Regarding political participation, progress has been made in the legislative sphere for gender equality in terms of candidatures and sanctioning political violence due to gender-based reasons. The overall organization in political and grassroots movements has improved and feminist agendas have been finding their footing. However, the participation of women in public spaces is more complicated, since unpaid care work, job insecurity; gender pay gaps and discrimination hinder the participation of women and young people in politics.

Considering this situation, the adolescents and youths of LAC recommend the following:

TO STATES

1. Violencia basada en género

- Assigning budgets and guaranteeing comprehensive and coordinated actions to: prevent, detect and address gender-based violence; prevent access to justice from becoming revictimizing and make it free of stereotypes and corruption and endow it with a cross-sectional, cross-cultural, gender-based, and youth-based and human rights perspective.
- Generating disaggregated data according to gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, age and researches about the structural causes of violence and strategies to prevent and address it.

- Organizing awareness campaigns to prevent violence and transform the practices and behaviors that harm the life, integrity, free development and autonomy of girls, adolescents and young women.
- Guaranteeing that both the media and digital spaces are free of gender-based violence and stereotypes.
- Creating an enabling environment to exercise rights and a life free of violence that visualizes girls, adolescents and young women as subjects of rights.

2. Justice and economic rights

- Driving legislative changes and affirmative action that stimulate and promote the political participation of women and youths in all spheres.
- Making the resources assigned and executed to address, promote and guarantee the rights of women, children, adolescents and youths transparent.
- Ensuring access to decent employment with social security, equal pay and respecting labor rights, granting facilities so that care work does not hinder the professional development and the careers of women.
- Financing learning processes amongst women, youths and collectives who propose alternatives for the current economic model according to their needs and contexts.
- Creating collaborative networks amongst the States, civil society organizations and international organisms with the purpose of promoting social change and sustainable development while fully respecting human rights.

3. Technology and innovation for gender equality and the media

- Guaranteeing internet access as a right for all the population, mainly for indigenous, Afro-descendant and rural populations.
- Implementing laws, public policies and providing governmental support that drive the participation of Afro-descendant and indigenous women and youths in training, creating channels and media content.
- Guaranteeing and protecting the right to freedom of speech as a fundamental right.
- Encouraging the effective participation of girls, youths and women in science.
- Creating the necessary conditions and tools for organizations to use various types of technologies.

4. Women, peace and security

- Demilitarizing everyday life, removing the army and barricades from the streets, villages, towns, schools and educational spaces, the fields and from indigenous territories. Military service must not be mandatory and there must be a gradual disinvestment of the armed forces.
- Creating programs and policies to address and compensate the damages of persons who have survived armed conflicts, which must have a differentiated approach that understands their various needs.
- Acknowledging the existence and persistence of armed conflicts, as well as its responsibilities for any actions or inactions to protect the lives of people and providing guarantees to never repeat it again.
- Justice must be guided by the voices of the survivors to prevent revictimization and the perpetuation of the conflict.
- Establishing and providing effective protection mechanisms for the life and integrity of social and community leaders and human rights advocates who are in a dangerous situation.

5. Education

- Guaranteeing a comprehensive, quality, secular education devoid of fundamentalisms, and is also anti-colonialist and has a gender, human rights and cross-sectional perspective and is relevant in a cross-cultural way for all diversities and is contextual to our realities by means of creating laws, programs, public policies and earmarked budgets.
- Implementing a comprehensive sexual education (CSE) in the various institutional and social spheres, mainly in spaces for formal and informal education, visualizing inclusive, non-binary language focused on adolescents and youths.
- Guaranteeing the participation of human rights, children, and adolescent and youth organizations in curricula and study programs.
- Providing a decent salary for permanent educational and training personnel.
- Guaranteeing and acknowledging the various forms of education in formal and informal spaces, providing budgets for children, adolescents and youths.
- Guaranteeing access to quality virtual education and narrow technological gaps for children, adolescents and youths by providing free access to the Internet.
- Ensuring that schools and universities are safe and inclusive spaces for girls, boys, adolescents, youths, women, persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ communities.

- Promoting community involvement and a dialogue of knowledge with indigenous and non indigenous towns and communities to strengthen the teaching-learning process.

6. Comprehensive health with emphasis on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

- Prioritizing and creating mechanisms to guarantee a good comprehensive, mental and sexual health with a gender, youth and cross-cultural perspective.
- Guaranteeing and allocating budgets to have access to information and friendly material for adolescents to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights.
- Training health personnel to provide care without prejudices and stigmata, with a gender, youth and cross-cultural-based perspective to render comprehensive healthcare services.
- Guaranteeing that public laws and policies respect and promote human rights and the progressive autonomy of adolescents and youths.
- Implementing cross-sectional public healthcare and SRHR policies that respond to the needs of children, adolescents and youths with a sufficient budget and follow-up mechanisms.
- Generating information regarding teenage pregnancy, access to sexual and reproductive health and violence and making it transparent.
- Guaranteeing that people can have access to safe abortions and move forward in guaranteeing the right to decide throughout region.
- Guaranteeing and respecting the rights of sexual workers.
- Eradicating obstetric violence.

7. Feminist action of climate justice

- Mainstreaming the topics of gender, climate change and youth in public policies.
- Generating disaggregated data per gender and age, as well as records of the damage on the health of women caused by extractive projects.
- Guaranteeing the rights of nature and establishing tougher laws for companies for pollutant emissions.
- Regulating urban growth to include the recovery of public and housing spaces that do not widen urban areas and allow decent living conditions.

- Establishing sustainable mobility policies in favor of public transportation and spaces for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Complying with the collective rights of indigenous communities by using, for instance, free and informed enquiries while guaranteeing the participation of women and youths.
- Creating mechanisms to protect the defenders of the land.
- Visualizing the relationship between the COVID pandemic and climate change.
- Promoting research and the promotion of ancestral knowledge and creating spaces for dialogue between indigenous communities and the government.
- Creating laws to acknowledge the care system.
- Restricting the emissions of the industries by increasing taxes or with a broader and better regulation of permits in the case of the real-estate industry.
- Making the industries of extractive mining, pesticides, monocultures and others responsible for the damage to the health of women, youths, girls and adolescents.

8. Human Rights and institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

- Guaranteeing that public officials and service providers are sensitized to provide an adequate, comprehensive, non-discriminatory and human rights-based assistance.
- Promoting laws that guarantee freedom of speech.
- Assigning and executing sufficient resources for the operation of the mechanisms and institutions in charge of the advancements towards gender equality and guaranteeing the rights of women and the institutions who provide assistance for victims of violence, specifically shelters and legal and psychological assistance and accompaniment services.
- Guaranteeing compliance with the collective rights established in the international instruments of which the States are a part of.
- Strengthening the legislation, plans, programs and budgets for the continuity of gender equality and youth policies.

9. Political Participation and Feminist Leaderships

- Assigning earmarked and executed resources to promote the political participation of women and young people and make them transparent.

- Guaranteeing the effective participation of girls, adolescents and young women in the processes to design and implement public policies and establishing spaces for dialogue between the government and civil society.
- Guaranteeing Secular States.
- Guaranteeing the effective inclusion not only of women but of a feminist agenda in candidacies and government programs.
- Guaranteeing the compliance with international treaties and agreements that provide guidelines about how to promote the political participation of women, young people, adolescents and children.
- Decentralizing spaces and forms of participation including all types of populations: indigenous, Afro, LGTBQ+.
- Promoting that political parties assign resources for education and training for women and youths to strengthen their skills in political participation and to have a greater investment in the political participation and candidacies of women.
- Strengthening the internal regulatory frameworks of parties, groups and political movements and electoral bodies so they contribute to identify and narrow the gaps that hinder or damage the participation of women in politics.
- Preventing addressing and sanctioning political violence against women and young people in all their diversity.

10. Racial Inequality

- Bringing the discussion on racial inequality to the table in schools and acknowledging Afro-descendant and indigenous identities as subjects of rights and not as objects of study.
- Fostering the reflection on racism and the forms of labor exploitation and creating dialogues on social inequality and the violation of rights, specially the rights of indigenous, Afro-descendant and young persons.
- Implementing actions to fight the hypersexualization and objectification of Afro-descendant and indigenous bodies.
- Including the history of Afro-descendants and indigenous identities in current books and mentioning the contributions of Afro-descendant persons in history.
- Demanding responsibility from the media to address racial inequality.
- Facilitating access to justice for the violation of intellectual property rights of

indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.

- Ensuring that the images, videos and materials obtained in indigenous and Afro-descendant communities are not distributed without their consent.
- Take action against the academic extractivism that affects indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.
- Promoting affirmative action in educational institutions, companies and public spaces to eradicate the structural racism that affects racialized bodies.

UN AGENCIES

1. Gender-based violence

- Following up on the actions and programs of the countries to prevent, address and sanction gender-based violence, access to justice and protect victims.

2. Justice and Economic Rights

- Guaranteeing a working environment with zero tolerance to gender-based and generational violence.
- Guaranteeing that internships and volunteering opportunities for women and young people at UN agencies are paid.
- Promoting the participation of women, young people, indigenous and LGBTI+ persons and strengthening their capabilities in international mechanisms.

3. Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality and the Media

- Driving the creation of media observatories to monitor news and provide recommendations to the media about stereotyped messages.
- Including the diversity of women and youths in UN campaigns and ensuring their participation in their creation.

4. Woman, peace and security

- Having a process for the accountability and follow-up of States who do not undertake the commitment to end conflicts, protect the life of social female leaders and do not acknowledge the citizenship and full rights of women and girls.
- Including women and youths in planning and executing resources assigned for repairs and preventing the repetition of the conflict.

- Rethinking classical lectures on geopolitics, peace and security while prioritizing and mainstreaming women (their realities and bodies) in the resolutions and agreements of the Security Council and other bodies.

5. Education

- Issuing recommendations for countries to guarantee a comprehensive and high quality sexual education while following-up on the actions and monitoring them.

6. Comprehensive health with emphasis on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

- Recommendations for countries to guarantee a comprehensive and high quality sexual education while following-up on the actions and monitoring them.
- Monitoring the compliance and advances made in SRRs.
- Strengthening civil society organizations who address the topic and facilitating their participation in the international mechanisms that are related to them.
- Guaranteeing access to mental health for sexual and reproductive rights activists, specially the LGBT population.
- Acknowledging the rights of sexual workers.

7. Feminist Action for Climate Justice

- Providing economic support for the participation of adolescents and youths in global spaces related to this topic and ensuring their participation in the related decision-making process.
- Acknowledging other types of knowledge, from a cross-cultural perspective.
- Mainstreaming gender in climate justice spaces.
- Providing information related to environmental topics in an easy and understandable way, since they use a very technical language that is mostly published in English, which considerably limits their access

8. SRHRs and Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

- Promoting a broad human rights framework based on the various contexts and realities of the populations and following-up on their compliance to guarantee individual and collective rights.

- Issuing recommendations for the countries and following up on their implementation for the advancement of gender equality.

9. Political Participation and Feminist Leaderships

- Generating and guaranteeing more spaces for effective participation for civil society and women, children, adolescent and youth organizations.

10. Racial inequality

- Promoting agendas and actions to fight racial and gender inequality.
- Guaranteeing the participation of Afro-descendants and indigenous persons in the creation of programs and projects related to them.
- Opening spaces for Afro-descendant and indigenous youths and children in international forums.

PHILANTROPY

1. Gender-based Violence

- Providing financing for women and youth organizations involved in preventing, detecting and providing assistance for gender-based violence, mainly for those working at a community level.

2. Justice and Economic Rights

- Providing financial and technical support for productive projects and women and youth ventures.

3. Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality and the Media

- Increasing financing to launch projects focused on technology and innovation and the media, mainly those led by indigenous and Afro-descendant women and young people.

4. Woman, Peace and Security

- Providing resources that contribute to safeguarding and protecting the lives of human rights advocates and community leaders.

5. Education

- Financing researches in education with a gender, youth, cross-cultural and human rights perspective.

6. Comprehensive Health with Emphasis on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

- Providing financing to preserve the knowledge and wisdom of the communities related to sexual and reproductive health.

7. Feminist Action for Climate Justice

- Including the youth and human rights perspective in financing strategies, considering the reality and the organization of youth networks, collectives and organizations.

8. Human Rights and Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

- Contributing in institutional actions that favor human rights and gender equality.

9. Political Participation and Feminist Leaderships

- Acknowledging and financing networks and movements that promote the participation of young people.

10. Racial Inequality

- Increasing financial and technical support for indigenous and Afro-descendant women networks.

PRIVATE SECTOR

1. Gender-based Violence

- Following the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

2. Justice and Economic Rights

- Creating processes to raise awareness in the hiring stage so as to promote gender equality and guaranteeing decent working environments.
- Respecting the labor rights of young people and ensuring labor inclusion in dignified conditions.

3. Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality and the Media

- Creating spaces in the media that are free of violence and discrimination by creating content with a gender and cross-cultural approach to reduce discriminatory and stereotyped practices that damage historically excluded groups.

4. Women, Peace and Security

- Respecting ILO Convention 169 and the collective rights of indigenous peoples while avoiding becoming a source of conflict for the tensions created by the development model of the communities.
- Assuming responsibility when being part of conflicts, violating human rights and international humanitarian law and contributing to the full reparation of damages.

5. Education

- Creating lines to finance and support informal education while respecting human rights with a gender, cross-cultural and youth perspective.
- Supporting technological development and internet access to narrow the digital gap.
- Fostering leaves of absence for persons who are in charge of care work to support their educational process.

6. Comprehensive Health with Emphasis on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

- Facilitating the conditions for women to tend to their health.

7. Feminist Action for Climate Justice

- Complying with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- Respecting previous, free and informed consultations with indigenous peoples.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

1. Gender-based Violence

- Promoting spaces to raise awareness on gender-based violence through activism.
- Acknowledging children, adolescents and young people as political subjects.

2. Justice and economic rights

- Promoting interactions and alliances to advocate in governments to make them guarantee the full exercise of human rights.

3. Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality and the Media

- Demanding that media content is devoid of sexism, violence or revictimization.

4. Woman, Peace and Security

- Prioritizing the collective care and the mental health of young people and human rights advocates.
- Promoting continuous education spaces that provide tools and strategies to safeguard and protect human rights advocates.

5. Education

- Monitoring the implementation of comprehensive sexual education in all areas, in formal and informal spaces.

6. Comprehensive Health with Emphasis on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

- Guaranteeing the participation of girls, adolescents and young people in designing and implementing their plans and programs to address sexual and reproductive health with a gender, youth and cross-cultural perspective.

7. Feminist Action for Climate Justice

- Respecting, acknowledging and prioritizing the active participation of women from community feminism.
- Taking the demands of grassroots movements to advocacy spaces.

8. Human Rights and Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

- Monitoring the correct operation of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women.

9. Political participation and Feminist Leaderships

- Creating spaces for political training for the effective participation of women in decision-making spaces.

- Developing and encouraging the development of quantitative and qualitative studies that indicate the number of women and young persons who reach public office.

10. Racial Inequality

- Joining the community processes of Afro-descendant and indigenous peoples to defend their territories and collective rights.
- Including diversities and creating spaces for exchange with Afro-descendant and indigenous communities and feminist and youth movements.

**EVERYTHING ABOUT WOMEN
INVOLVES WOMEN!**

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"Fávereve fai peti fieipe flambaapo kavi vaera"
"Unidos y Organizados en la Diversidad"
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ORGANIZACIÓN Y CASA FEMINISTA
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