

Participation of civil society in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

This document is the result of joint efforts by the representatives of organizations of 16 countries of the region and the Latin American and Caribbean networks that took part in the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Mexico City, from 26 to 28 April 2017. For two days we met and drafted a series of recommendations on the participation of civil society in the follow-up, implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in our region. We hope that these recommendations will become the foundation for a discussion forum in preparation for the next meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

Considering the experience acquired by civil society by virtue of its participation in regional forums such as those held by the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, and in global forums such as the open working group on the post-2015 development agenda, or the review process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014; acknowledging the substantial contribution made by organized civil society in the work carried out in the region; considering the principles of diversity and autonomy, as well as the principle of progressiveness of rights in the work carried out in this sphere; recognizing that different and multi-stakeholders have different roles and responsibilities; and returning to Principle 10 on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters; we propose the following:

In consideration of the important contributions made by civil society, we call upon member States to hand down a mandate to ECLAC to facilitate a continued discussion on the forms, modalities and mechanisms of participation, taking into account Latin American and Caribbean experiences, so as to guarantee an institutionalized, autonomous, meaningful, open and inclusive participation of civil society throughout the follow-up and implementation of the agenda. Civil society has established a transitional commission to follow-up on this recommendation.

Registration for the Forum:

- No certification requirements, as opposed to the procedure required by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- Participants must be members of an organization, network or collective forum.
- The organization or forum must be involved in follow-up and work on the 2030 Agenda and its specific areas.
- The organization or forum must adhere to the charter of principles proposed in the annex to this document.
- Calls for registration must be widely disseminated, and requests for accreditation answered in a timely manner.

- The registration platform must be accessible and interactive, considering all forms of disability.

Preparation for the Forum:

- Civil society must be allowed to participate in all previous coordination activities.
- The meeting organizers must provide political and logistical support for preparatory civil society meetings, including the Civil Society Forum held prior to the meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, such meetings to be coordinated autonomously by civil society. (For the Civil Society Organizations Forum, we envisage three objectives: (1) To show the contribution of civil society organizations to the fulfilment of the Agenda, and to assess progress; (2) To build contributions leading to the meeting of the Forum; and (3) To share information on local conflicts.
- Access to information on a timely basis:
 - Access to information before, during and after the meeting of the Forum using technology, including guaranteeing access to information through all media, means, forms and formats that ensure access for all types of disabilities.
 - Guarantee dissemination of information in, at least, Spanish, English, French and Portuguese
 - Free access to all official documents.
 - The opportunity to provide information and inputs for resolutions and decisions.
- Promote opportunities for dialogue between civil society and governments to discuss report subject matter during the meeting of the Forum.
- Ensure that the meetings of the Forum follow a friendly format for those groups facing greater inequality in the region, such as persons with disabilities, first nations groups, Afrodescendants, persons with HIV, sex workers, children and adolescents.
- Promote financing to close the gaps and enable effective civil society participation.

During the meeting of the Forum:

- Ensure the presence of interpreters (Portuguese, English, French, Spanish and sign language) during sessions.
- Ensure there are ample opportunities for the full and broad participation of civil society at every stage of the meeting of the Forum.
- Promote the inclusion of civil society as part of the official delegations in the Forum.

- Ensure that each event, panel and debate includes civil society participation, considering:
 - Diverse and balanced representation in terms of gender, age, ethnic origin, race, sexual orientation and gender identity.
 - Subregional diversity and balanced representation.
 - Proven work on 2030 Agenda follow-up.
- Ensure participation in the political negotiation sphere, and provide opportunities for comments and participation of civil society during negotiations and in the positions taken by each country.
- Opportunities for civil society to comment, answer and ask questions in each event/panel/session.
- Ensure that decision-making and negotiation processes are inclusive and multisectoral.
- Official format so that the totality of civil society interventions are shared with governments and uploaded to the ECLAC platform.
- Ensure accountability with regard to progress by governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, allowing civil society to present reports on the matter.
- ECLAC must maintain an updated database of the members of civil society involved in the 2030 Agenda follow-up in Latin America and the Caribbean and who wish to take part in Forum meetings. This database must be publicly accessible in on the Forum's webpage. In order to be part of this group, the interested organizations and persons must endorse the charter of principles below.

Civil society calls on all States to establish, at the national and subnational levels, the sufficient and necessary forms, modalities and mechanisms to guarantee the free, broad and meaningful participation of civil society in the implementation and follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular of those most excluded, addressing financial, language, logistics or age barriers that may prevent or hinder their participation.

We restate the importance of the contribution by civil society in the follow-up, implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda at the regional level and especially in this first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, and recognize the importance of maintaining transparency, plurality and full participation of civil society.

A transitional commission of regional organizations and networks of Latin America and the Caribbean was created to follow up on these recommendations.

Mexico City, 28 April 2017

ORGANIZATIONS

Asociación Chilena de Organismos No Gubernamentales (Acción A.G.)
CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)
Alianza ONG
Asociación Latinoamericana de ONG de Promoción al Desarrollo (ALOP)
Asociación Arariwa
Asociación de ONGs de Paraguay (POJOAJU)
Asociación Mexicana de Médicos en Formación A.C.
Asociación Nacional de Centros (ANC)
Asociación Nacional de ONG (ANONG)
Asociación Pro-Bienestar de la Familia (APROFAM)
Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora
Coordinadora por los Derechos de la Infancia y la Adolescencia (CDIA)
Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT)
Centro de Investigación y Estudios para el Desarrollo y la Igualdad Social
Centro de Investigaciones para la Equidad Política Pública y Desarrollo (CIPE)
Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán
Centros de Integración Juvenil, A.C.
Centro Integral del Medio Ambiente y la Salud A.C.
Campaña Latinoamericana por el Derecho a la Educación (CLADE)
El Clóset de Sor Juana A.C.
Colectivo México Solidario A.C.
Comunidad Crecer IAP
Confederación Colombiana de ONG (CCONG)
Consejo de Educación Popular de América Latina y el Caribe
Coordinadora de la Mujer
Corporación de Desarrollo de la Mujer La Morada
DECA, Equipo Pueblo, A.C.
ETIS
Fomento para las Industrias Creativas y Culturales de México
Fondo para la Paz, I.A.P.
Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar A.C. (MEXFAM)
Fundación Salvadoreña para la Promoción Social y el Desarrollo Económico (FUNSALPRODESE)
Fundación para el Desarrollo en Justicia y Paz (FUNDAPAZ)
Gestos
Iniciativas Sanitarias
Instituto Patagónico de Desarrollo Social (INPADES)
International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR)
Red Latinoamericana sobre Deuda, Desarrollo y Derechos (LATINDADD)
Mesa de Articulación de Asociaciones Nacionales y Redes Regionales de ONG de América Latina y el Caribe
Movimiento Tzuk Kim-Pop
My World Morelos - Mexico
Observatorio y Monitoreo de la Complejidad Urbana
Proyecto sobre Organización, Desarrollo, Educación e Investigación (PODER)
Reforestamos México, A.C.
Refuge des Femmes d'Haiti
RESURJ
Servicio Habitacional y de Acción Social (SEHAS)
Sinergias
Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos (ULAC)
Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social (UNITAS)

NETWORKS

Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD)

ACT!2030

Articulación Feminista Marcosur (AFM)

Committee of NGOs on the Condition of Women from Latin America and the Caribbean (CoNGO CSW LAC)

AWID

ACCION

ALOP

ANC,

Grupo Propuesta Ciudadana (GPC)

Alianza Mexicana de Biodiversidad y Negocios (AMEBIN)

Articulación Feminista Marcosur

International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association for Latin America and the Caribbean (ILGALAC)

Centros de Integración Juvenil, A.C.

Comité Mexicano de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza

Confederación Sindical de de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de las Américas (CSA)

Consejo de Educación Popular de América Latina y el Caribe (CEAAL)

MY World 2030

International Forum of National NGO Platforms (IFP)

Frente Feminista Nacional (FFN)

Global Campaign for Education (GCE)

International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA)

International Disability Alliance (IDA)

Latin American/Caribbean Council of AIDS Service Organizations (LACCASO)

LATINDADD Network

Grupo de Trabajo de Redes Feministas de Latinoamérica y el Caribe

CIVICUS

Estándar Global para la Rendición de Cuentas de las OSC

Movimiento de ONGD para el Desarrollo Solidario de El Salvador (MODES)

Red Nacional de Investigación Urbana (RNIU)

Coordinadora de Instituciones Privadas Pro las Niñas, Niños, Adolescentes, Jóvenes y sus Derechos (COIPRODEN)

Articulación Regional Feminista por los Derechos Humanos y la Justicia de Género

Plataforma de OSC para el seguimiento de la Agenda 2030

Red de Colectivos Críticos

Encuentro de Entidades No Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo (EENGD)

Red Nacional de Refugios (RNR)

Red para el Desarrollo Comunitario (REDESCOM)

Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña por la Defensa de los Derechos de los Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes (REDLAMYC)

Red Ambiental Mexicana (RAM)

Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ)

Asociación Civil Sinergia

Vecinas feministas por la Justicia Sexual y Reproductiva en América Latina y el Caribe

ANNEX I

Charter of Principles

I, **[Name]**, member of **[organization/institution/collective/network]**, am interested in registering as a civil society participant in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, and confirm that our work within and outside the Forum:

- Is focused on promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as other commitments in the framework of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, such as the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, which are reflected in the plans and programmes that we implement;
- Is based on respecting and guaranteeing human rights of all persons in all their diversity; and
- Recognizes the following principles as fundamental:
 - Gender equality and equity,
 - Inclusion without any form of discrimination (disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, LGBTI, ethnic origin, race, age, HIV),
 - Non-regression and progressiveness of rights.

Understanding that participation by representatives of civil society is conditioned by their adherence to this Charter of Principles, I acknowledge that acting against said principles would mean my removal from the ECLAC registration list and that my organization/network/group could no longer take part in the Forum.

Yours sincerely,

[Name and organization/network]