

## **Proposals by civil society organizations for the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development**

The civil society organizations of Mexico, gathered on 4 April 2017 at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs in Mexico City, reflected upon and discussed the request of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs to consider the participation of Mexican civil society in the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, in follow-up to the national meeting held on 28 March.

We based our discussions on the premise that they would be the first step in developing a model of participation by civil society organizations, without claiming to set a precedent for regional participation, given that a broad dialogue needs to be opened between civil society, movements, collectives and networks in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will define matters relating to their participation.

### On the discussion

At the meeting, we discussed and agreed upon the need for the Government of Mexico, ECLAC and the member States to guarantee effective and inclusive participation by civil society, movements, collectives and networks throughout the entire process of implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, and during the first meeting of the Forum. Participation must be constant, with access to documents, review and feedback processes.

We also agreed that participation by Latin American and Caribbean civil society must be significant, transparent, broad, pluralistic, diverse and permanent, recognizing the expertise, interest, work and experience of all persons, organizations, movements, collectives and networks participating in our region.

Finally, we agreed on the idea that we require processes, modalities and mechanisms to facilitate and coordinate the linking and participation of civil society with ECLAC and the member States of the region throughout the process of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, and other processes related to follow-up to the 2030 Agenda; these must be comprehensive, structured, regionally representative, transparent and clear, based on criteria and principles established collectively among the different organizations, movements, collectives and networks in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

### On the proposals

As an outcome of the discussion and debate, Mexican civil society as represented at the meeting suggests as follows:

1. Mexico civil society organizations reaffirm the need for the region's civil society, movements, collectives and networks to discuss regional

mechanisms for participation on 25 April 2017, as part of the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, and ask the Government of Mexico to request ECLAC that this be arranged.

2. The civil society organizations urge the Government of Mexico, as the host country, jointly with ECLAC, to ensure significant participation by civil society, movements, collectives and networks in the first meeting of the Forum through pluralistic seating arrangements with the opportunity to speak in the discussion process, panels, round tables and side events, as well as in spaces within the national delegation, in order to enrich the Mexican position.
3. The Mexican civil society organizations request the Government of Mexico, as host country, to promote among the other member countries a mandate for ECLAC to initiate and facilitate a process of inclusive dialogue throughout 2017 to enable Latin American and Caribbean civil society to establish the most appropriate mechanism and modalities for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. That mechanism must be transparent, democratic and pluralistic and provide effective operating modalities through which all voices can build their capacities and be heard in intergovernmental processes concerning sustainable development.
4. Mexican civil society requests the Government of Mexico, as host country, and ECLAC to ensure that the civil society, movements, collectives and networks of the region can participate in setting the agenda, the methodology and the form of work on 25 April, through a commission for that purpose.
5. The Mexican civil society organizations request the Government of Mexico and ECLAC to guarantee broad and diverse participation by civil society organizations, movements, collectives and networks and other relevant stakeholders of the region, by providing a suitable venue for the first meeting of the Forum, with sufficient capacity to "leave no one behind", appreciating and valuing the broad interest in participating and contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and in keeping with that Agenda's inclusive spirit.