



Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible

3rd Meeting - Santiago, April 22/26, 2019

Declaration of Civil Society Organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean

TWO MONOLOGUES DO NOT MAKE A DIALOGUE

We, the people, represented in organizations, associations, federations, coalitions, collectives, indigenous peoples, social movements, networks and unions, gathered in this Forum, organized as a Civil Society Participation Mechanism in 20 groups forming a Committee of Engagement chosen by its members, we reiterate our commitment to the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, built among multiple actors to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), under the slogan of "leave no one behind". The contributions of civil society to the Agenda are undeniable and have been recognized in different areas. However, this is the third time we have arrived at this Forum and we have found a document agreed only by the governments, without real spaces for the effective participation of civil society. Where is the dialogue? Two monologues do not make a dialogue.

Unfortunately, in most of the countries of our region, the criteria, contributions and recommendations from civil society, including especially the non-Spanish-speaking countries of the Caribbean, are not taken into account: there are no mechanisms that guarantee the participation of society civil, it is not possible to talk to governments because they continue to talk among peer. Based on this we feel left behind, especially our brothers and sisters from the Caribbean who are conspicuously under-represented and whose numbers present this week are a poor reflection of your commitment. And what are we? Civil society, are at odds? Without these odds, sustainable development will not be achieved. Civil society organizations are legitimate actors of sustainable development, recognized worldwide.

We demand that the governments of our region ratify and implement the International Treaties and Conventions on Human Rights.

We reiterate the denunciation of the constant attacks to democracy and multilateralism in our region. We are experiencing deep setbacks from the conservative, fundamentalist, privatizing and neoliberal offensive that threatens peace and sustainable development and the recognition of all human rights. We see daily the persecution, the criminalization of protest, the dispossession of lands and territories and the risk of extermination of indigenous peoples and the assassination of leaders and social actors, especially human rights defenders, attacked for defending peace, their territories, social, environmental, economic and gender justice, which are expressed in the high rates of violence and violations of rights, in all areas affecting certain populations and their multiple identities.



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Participatory democracy, that is also inclusive, transparent and with access to information, is the basis for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in our countries, in our region and, it should also be in this Forum. Here at ECLAC we have the opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean to show the world that we can do things better, ensuring the articulation between governments and civil society. Democracy is dialogue and respect for differences.

We demand political will from our governments to face the enormous challenges that exist in Latin America and the Caribbean, to face poverty and inequalities, without leaving anyone behind. There is no time to lose. 2030 is now!

Santiago, Chile, April 25, 2019.