



# Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Declaration Towards High Level Political Forum 2019

## 1. Procedure for Civil Society Participation in ECLAC's Sustainable Development Forum

In April 2019, the Civil Society of Latin America and the Caribbean defined and elected representatives of the 20 groups established to represent the different regional sectors and collectives in the Civil Society Participation Mechanism, approved at the Second Regional Forum of Sustainable Development for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2018. The constitution of the Mechanism and its operation is a key achievement to begin to influence decisions and express our voice in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the countries of the region.

Although our commitment as civil society groups in the region has always been present at a regional and global level, in April we established a democratic Mechanism through a general election by the representatives of each sector and group; the Mechanism is broad because it incorporates representation of the subregions, the thematic groups, and the groups of interested parties, allowing us to achieve the strength to effectively influence and participate.

As groups and collectives with diverse interests and differences, we assemble to find the common denominators that allow us to act in unison, without losing our identity and enhancing our knowledge, achieving a collective, consistent and complete contribution that leaves no one behind. We work according to the following basic principles: 1- Human Rights Framework and its progressivity; 2- Gender equality; 3- Without any type of discrimination and with equality; 4- Economic sustainability; 5- Ecological integrity 6- Interrelation of the three dimensions of social, economic and environmental development; 7- Intergenerational and intercultural approach; 8- Transparency and accountability and 9- Incorporating regional agendas on Human Rights and Development, such as the Montevideo Consensus, as it is a regional advancement and a global contribution.

Although civil society is a legitimate actor of sustainable development, recognized worldwide (A / RES / 70/1; 2015), as we mentioned in our statement "Two Monologues Do not Make a Dialogue", Santiago, 2019, unfortunately, in the majority of the countries of our region, the criteria, contributions and recommendations of Civil Society, including Indigenous Peoples, are not taken into account: there are no mechanisms that guarantee the participation of Civil Society.

This document is an expression of our capacity for collective articulation and elaboration, as well as our contributions during the Third Regional Forum in April 2019 in Santiago, Chile.

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## 2. Agenda 2030 our positioning in front of the High-Level Political Forum

Four years after the adoption of agenda 2030 and the implementation of the High-Level Political Forum, we are required to have an indepth analysis and objective balance sheets, together with the proposal put forward, to speed up the implementation of the agenda in the world and especially in our region. As a representative of the civil society from Latin America and the Caribbean, we present this document.

We agree with all the governmental and non-governmental actors in 2019, four years ago of the elaboration of Agenda 2030, and in the face of the 10 years that we are reaching for, it requires an objective and informed balance sheet, to identify challenges, particularly at regional level, where civil society organizations manage to put in place a mechanism for the participation of the Sustainable Development Forum CEPAL, which certainly improves opportunities for being considered as the quality of development actors in their own rights, for showing our commitment to this global agenda, as it is of the greatest relevance to development and sustainability.

We found a match to the draft **Preparation for a Decade of Action and Implementation for Sustainable Development: Political Declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals -SDG-** about the recognition of universality and all qualities of Agenda 2030, the concern of covering all aspects of their compliance with the multidimensional and holistic perspective, in addition to the other key instruments such as the Addis Abeba Programme for Action and the country agreement.

With regard to **the environment of civil society organizations and civic spaces**, various reports alert the criminalization of the social protest through the use of force, during the exercise of the citizen's freedom of expression, such as attacks on journalist, the arrest of protesters,

the discontinuation of protests, censorship and the enactment of restrictive laws to exercise the right of association.

It is alarming that there are increased cases of persecution and murder of people who are environment defenders, indigenous and peasants, who have driven strong movements of resistance to projects to explore natural resources and destruction of nature, a task that is essential for the care of natural commons, and within them water resources as the fundamental basis for life. They are therefore being threatened and attacked by the predominance of economic interests that commodify ecosystems, biodiversity, and the livelihoods of communities and territories. More than 60% of the defenders killed are indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean. **These situations show the urgent need for the signature and the ratification of the Regional Agreement of Escazú** on rights to access information, participation, and justice in environmental matters. Currently, 16 countries have signed the agreement; the challenge is whether these countries will be able to sign and ratify it.

We note with great concern that there is a great deal of disconnection between the processes of the global environmental agenda, which prevents the effective implementation of international commitments undertaken by States. An exemplary case is the abandonment of the dimension of Agenda 2030. It is urgent and necessary to correct this inconsistency.

To strengthen both global and regional followup to Agenda 2030 in a transparent and participatory manner among society and individual actors: Trade unions, business, civil society organizations and citizens in general, it is necessary that this is done through open dialogue.

In this respect, we can only reach agreements that will help us achieve sustainable development through spaces that encourage participation from all actors. We must also

mention the deteriorating situation of democracy and civil participation in many countries of the region, namely, the criminalization of social protest by increasing the use of force, the deterioration of freedom of expression, the systematic attack on journalists, social movements and sectors that express differences with their governments, and the deprivation of liberty within different groups in repeated and unjustified ways, as we have mentioned earlier.

We will analyse the Sustainable Development Goals that will be treated in the 2019 High Level Political Forum.

### 3. Financing and means of implementation

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement all constitute commitments whose objective is the deep transformation of economies, and they are a required model to reach the SDGs and their goals.

Therefore, since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda (2015), a fundamental factor is the definition of financial and non-financial means for its implementation. The financiers involve national public resources, those coming from the sector or private companies, public-private alliances or pacts, from the -very deprived- Official Development Assistance); particularly of the Effective Cooperation for the Development, of the South-South Cooperation, and of other modalities that have arisen that deserve an analysis of their management and effective impact in the advancement of the SDGs.

We agree with ECLAC that the progress of the 2030 Agenda requires **great mobilization of internal and external resources** and the coordinated work of governments, the private

sector, and civil society in general. This coordination is even more necessary, considering the situation of slow GDP growth, the framework of indebted countries, and the high corruption rates of most of the countries that make up the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region.

Given the scenario of modest economic growth and the decline of Official Development Assistance (ODA), ECLAC recognizes the need to significantly increase the mobilization of external and national resources to meet the objectives of the development agenda. Even though it is true that the financing modalities have been diversified, they deserve a responsible evaluation that ensures that they operate under the principles and approaches that frame the 2030 Agenda.

**Regarding external funding**, the changes related to the (increasingly important) significance of new actors and sources of funding for development must be taken into account: Donors who are not member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC); non-governmental organizations (NGOs); climate-related funds; innovative financing mechanisms and SouthSouth Cooperation initiatives, which must be reviewed and coordinated. Be especially vigilant of private capital, with little or no-state regulations, which has become an important source of funding.

The increasing importance of private cash flows poses a new challenge within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, since they are motivated mainly by economic benefit, so that investment may be insufficient in crucial areas of sustainable development if the expected return is unsatisfactory compared to alternative investment opportunities.

We ask that it be made explicit that CSOs, recognized as co-responsible actors of development, face the challenge of counting on resources to follow the 2030 Agenda, which is systematic and has formalized mechanisms,

recognition of networks, collectives and platforms of NGOs, and subregional, regional and global scope. The 2030 Agenda is also the CSOs' paradigm for how to contribute to sustainable development, and we stand for the reform of the United Nations system and the strengthening of multilateralism, which both favor the effective participation of Civil Society.

Establish and invest in formal and permanent support mechanisms - in particular, financial support and access to information - for Southern CSOs' participation in South-South Cooperation (CSS); participation in which the dialogues between CSOs and the guarantors of rights are possible; dialogue which addresses the concerns of society and affected communities regarding South-South cooperation for development (CSSD).

#### **4. SDG 4**

The international framework on human rights and the Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular the SDG 4, acknowledges education as a fundamental human right as well as the perspective of its lifelong learning, explicitly mentioning the right that all human beings have to enjoy quality, free, and inclusive public education without discrimination, whether for ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, or because of gender identity and expression, sexual and bodily characteristics, socioeconomic status, or any other reason.

The framework of SDG 4 also implies a comprehensive and intersectional approach, from early childhood to university and adult education. It also implies that policies and programs promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED) promote peace, justice, human rights, inclusion, gender equality, cultural diversity, and social cohesion in line with SDG target 4.7 (Education 2030, UNESCO 2015).

In fact, education occupies a privileged place throughout Agenda 2030, since it is recognized as a right that allows the realization of other rights, as well as a necessary accelerator for the achievement of the other SDGs because it contributes to the cultural transformation required of our societies to be more sustainable, inclusive and resilient. Education is interconnected with other SDGs: it must strengthen the individual's skills for decent work (SDG 8), contributing to economic, technological, environmental and social development, with the potential to reduce poverty (SDG 1) and inequalities (SDG 10), and promote well-being and a healthy life (SDG 3). It must also expand knowledge and freedoms, either individually or socially; contribute to the full development of the human personality, to emancipation, to understanding between different cultures and to social transformation in a world that changes every day, including artificial intelligence and robotics.

However, a disaggregated analysis of the educational data available in Latin America and the Caribbean reveals several limitations in the fulfillment of SDG 4, which amplifies levels of exclusion and marginalization among many groups of people.

According to UNICEF (2018), 14 million children and adolescents between 7 and 18 years old are outside of the education system in the region. In addition, 1.6 million children are excluded from early childhood education and 3.6 million are excluded from primary school. The continuity of education has become impossible for Latin American and Caribbean youth: according to ECLAC, 37% drop out of school before completing the secondary education. UNICEF also confirms that dropping out is worse for individuals in situations of greater exclusion and discrimination, such as indigenous adolescents (30% do not attend school) and children with disabilities (70% do not attend school), which reduces their future possibilities of labor, social, political, economic and cultural inclusion.

On the other hand, the age group with the highest illiteracy rates is that of the elderly, with few specific projects and programs to change this case. In Mexico, 24.3% of people over 60 years are illiterate (INEGI 2012); and in Peru, 13.8% (INEI, 2014). In Chile, illiterate people over the age of 65 equal 8.2% (CASEN 2017), and in Argentina, 2.7% (EPH 2015). Among women, the situation is particularly worrisome: 29% of older women in the region are illiterate, while in developed countries, the rate is 3% (UN 2009).

A frequent reason for dropping out among women of all ages is the imposition of patriarchal roles, such as those related to domestic care. Added to this are other social and cultural barriers, including the unfair distribution of educational opportunities for men and women. Thus, it is imperative to encourage the presence of vulnerable populations and women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics - STEM.

There is also growing resistance to gender issues being debated as a central educational element, and there is strong pressure to prevent them from being a part of the school curriculum. There is a serious influence of religious fundamentalism in political and educational spaces as well, which makes it difficult to implement comprehensive sexuality education in most of the countries of the region, which is essential to overcoming gender discrimination and for young people to make decisions for their lives and fully exercise their sexual, reproductive, and health rights.

Some countries in the region, such as Guatemala, Costa Rica and El Salvador, do not have regulations on this subject; and other countries, such as Argentina and Mexico, which have regulated the issue, are far from providing universal information or free contraceptive methods, and the freedom of choice over motherhood remains illegal.

Educational exclusion and discrimination in education also severely affect adolescents, young people, and adults with different sexual orientations or identities and gender expressions. According to the report of the Ibero-American Network of LGBTI Education (2016), UNESCO estimates that at least 40% of homosexuals and 65% of transsexuals in the region have been victims of the multiple forms of homophobic and transphobic violence in the environment school, which affects their perspective of well-being, health and dignified employment, favoring the perpetuation of stigmas, discrimination and poverty among LGBTI persons.

In order to leave no one behind, States, as guarantors of the right to education, must ensure that educational systems are safe and inclusive for all students, that they provide support and that they offer multiple avenues for school completion, considering the people who live in different social, economic, political and environmental circumstances. Special emphasis should be placed on the most disadvantaged.

In this sense, budget cuts to education in our region are worrisome because they worsen social inequalities year after year. The region requires greater investments in public education and improvements in the regulation and control of private education to guarantee educational justice. This implies additional resources to increase national budgets, in line with international benchmarks: governments must reinforce their commitments made in the Incheon Declaration (2015) to "[efficiently] allocate [...] at least 4 - 6% of the Gross Domestic Product and / or at least 15 - 20% of the total public expenditure for education".

To facilitate the mobilization of domestic resources for education, the global fiscal model must be based on a balanced system of rights and obligations, where the collection of resources is progressive, equitable and transparent, and guarantees social harmony. There must be mechanisms to avoid tax

evasion and opacity, and to increase public money for education.

Other alarming trends in the region are the deterioration of public education systems, the growth of the privatization of education in the region, and the increase in global debt, which peaked in 2015 and tends to continue increasing and impacting the sector educational. In 2015, for example, Argentina assigned 1 peso to debt for each peso invested in education; in 2019, the country will allocate 3.3 pesos to the debt for each peso assigned to education. Also, only in the first two months of 2019, what is destined to be the payment of interest on the debt exceeds the entire annual budget of Science and Technology in the country. Indebtedness also manifests itself in mechanisms such as the promotion of student loans, as is the case especially in Colombia, where student debt is inherited by the subsequent generation.

Fulfilling commitments related to official development assistance (ODA) is also crucial, including that of developed countries, allocating 0.7% of their gross national product (GNP) to ODA. Multilateral and bilateral cooperation, however, should not imply in any way the indebtedness of the countries, their ability to make sovereign decisions, nor favor the privatization of education in any of its aspects. The resources of international cooperation should strengthen public education systems instead of supporting commercial or private non-commercial private schools or any form of profit-making in and of education.

Last but not least, we highlight the crisis around student and teacher criminalization in different countries of the region, either through the criminalization of protest or through the loss of

academic freedom, autonomy, and the possibility of participating in decision-making.

Given this scenario, we urge the States to make immediate efforts to accelerate the fulfillment of the SDG4, guaranteeing a free, inclusive, secular, and quality public education for all and throughout their lives. The challenge is not only to expand enrollment, but to favor and enable an adequate physical infrastructure and inclusive and non-discriminatory environments, which bet on education as a way to access more and better opportunities for all people in the region and to build a more just and sustainable world.

## 5. SDG 8

The SDG 8 highlights the ambition to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.<sup>1</sup> SDG 8, which integrates issues such as growth, employment, and the social dimension, and plays a key role in the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

The aforementioned recommendations are a central component of SDG 8, which occupies a fundamental place in the adoption of a new social contract between governments, companies and workers. Social dialogue and tripartism among representative organizations of employers and workers with governments must be clearly recognized as a way to establish participatory, representative and transparent decision-making processes, and as a means of guaranteeing accountability as a central element of the evaluation of the progress made regarding the SDGs.

Many older women are forced to work because they do not receive pensions or retirement,

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<sup>1</sup> Decent work is a concept coined in 1999 by the International Labor Organization, agreed to by all the countries and sectors mandated by the ILO. Work is defined as the set of human activities, paid or not, that produce goods or services in an economy, or that meet the needs of a community or provide the necessary means of support for individuals. In 1999, Juan Somavia - the first director general of the ILO (founded in 1919) from the southern hemisphere - presented his report "Decent

work". It introduces the aforementioned concept, characterized by four strategic objectives: rights at work, employment opportunities, social protection and social dialogue. Each of them also fulfills a role in the achievement of broader goals such as social inclusion, the eradication of poverty, the strengthening of democracy, integral development, and personal fulfillment.

and do so in worse conditions than younger women. Retirements for housewives that were established through moratoria, run the risk of being eliminated this year.

Older women, even at very old ages, continue to perform unpaid domestic work, without accessing any type of social protection and without even having a retirement or retirement pension. In Colombia, domestic work is carried out by almost 70% of the women ages 60-79, and 11% of women aged 95 years (UNFPA: A Look at Aging. 15 Years After the Madrid Plan).

In LAC, 20% of men aged 80 and over must continue working to ensure their survival, and they do so in very precarious conditions (Panorama of Aging and Dependency in LAC, IDB 2018).

To achieve an increase in decent work and inclusive economic growth: we must improve the working conditions of these populations, which are necessary in decision-making in public policies and a proactive role of the State. In particular, the State must promote, with the participation of social actors and through social dialogue, the prevention and elimination of child labor, the protection of legally permitted adolescent work, accompanied by a strengthening of institutional capacities supported by a regulatory framework and budget for the clear effectiveness of their implementation.

Unemployment has increased again in our region, and informality and job insecurity remain the greatest challenge to achieve the goal of decent work. Decent work is a human right and the fundamental basis for sustainable development. All countries in Latin America have committed to SDG 8, however, in recent years the road traveled has been reversed, privileging labor precariousness to the detriment of fundamental rights.

We urge States to effectively recognize the rights of persons engaged in sex work and their

legalization. The norms and legislations must recognize the problems of informality, inequality, and the conditions of criminalization to which they are subjected.

We highlight the complicity among governments and companies that do not invest in a circular, green economy, and continue hoarding resources, overexploiting, and adopting policies of extractivism from our common natural resources, our lands, forests, agriculture, nature preserves, water, fauna, energy, and systems of life.

It is necessary to eradicate violence in the workplace and that is why we celebrate the recent adoption of Convention 190 and its respective Recommendation in the ILO against violence and workplace harassment, hoping that countries will choose to ratify it promptly for it to take effect.

The SDG 8 that promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all is not being implemented by governments, thus ignoring its commitments and its internal legislation with quotas, reserved in the public sector and the private sector, to employ people with disabilities.

## **6. SDG 10**

We express our repudiation of the economic model that makes Latin America and the Caribbean the region with the most inequalities, without significant advances in technological development and innovation, and with a strong extractive dominance, while we remain subject to the interests of the main markets of the United States, Europe, and China.

We demand investment in the development of other models, such as the circular economy, based on solidarity, and family farming. It is serious that economic and social inequality, high rates of violence, and violations of rights



in all areas particularly affect indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, women, girls, children, adolescents, young people, Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgender, Intersex, people with disabilities, elderly people, people with HIV and with AIDS, and people with tuberculosis, in street situations, inmates, migrants, refugees, women in situations of forced prostitution, domestic workers, and those who live in rural areas .

There is a real gender gap between the beneficiaries of pensions: in 2013 it was for women of 60 years and over in Latin America and the Caribbean, of 9 percentage points to the detriment of women. Retirement coverage for men was 66% and for women, 57%.

The probability of falling into poverty for women aged 75 and over is double that of those between 26 and 40 years old (Bulletin 13. Aging and development in Latin America and the Caribbean-ECLAC 2015).

When we talk about inequalities we find that indigenous people with disabilities are included in this SDG10. For the implementation of goals 10.2, 10.3, and to achieve the objectives, we must ensure that States report progress in the presentation of their national voluntary reports before the high level political forum on this group. According to the United Nations, indigenous women and girls with disabilities experience multiple forms of discrimination and obstacles to the full enjoyment of their rights because of their indigenous identity and their situation of disability. They are more affected by poverty, exposure to environmental degradation, and violence. Thanks to the promotion of the participation of Indigenous women and girls with disabilities, we will be able to advance in the most immediate needs and know what the strategies and projects would be to help the implementation of the goals, so the States should feel part of this collective effort to achieve a more inclusive world for all people.

To make this SDG effective, it is necessary that all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean ratify the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons. So far, only 7 countries have ratified: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador and Uruguay. We urge the governments of other countries in the region to adhere.

There are 70 countries in the world that continue to criminalize consensual activities between people of the same sex. There are currently 6 UN member states that impose the death penalty on people of the same sex who carry out consensual sexual practices, and in 26 other countries, people are still entitled to deprivation of liberty for more than 10 years and life imprisonment, according to the Report of the International Association of Lesbians, Gays, Trans Bisexuals and Intersex ILGA. Our region leads the highest rates worldwide and this is unacceptable.

## **7. SDG 13**

It is necessary to envision strategies and State actions in which sustainable social, economic, and political development is combined with the use of natural resources. It is urgent to prevent conflicts arising from the use of land and natural resources, respecting and guaranteeing the participation of peasant, rural, lieutenant and indigenous peoples and communities, from a human rights perspective, interculturality, and the principle of self-determination. Children, adolescents, and young people must have access to mechanisms that facilitate their participation in tenure processes and decision-making in climate actions.

The main barriers to the implementation of goals on the reduction of natural disaster risks and humanitarian action, such as those that are part of the climate crisis, are found in the absence of policies on risk-inclusive management, these must be prevention

policies that must incorporate the needs of all groups ensuring that everyone can participate in the stages of the humanitarian cycle, including people with disabilities who lack accessibility in all its forms, which limits their access to services and shelters.

The Paris Agreement is not being met in our region. Most governments have not taken decisive measures to reduce emissions to the levels committed, do not implement adaptation strategies, and have not changed production and consumption models to ensure a just transition, starting from the beginning of common but differentiated responsibilities. Even some of those who started actions have not maintained them. We demand that in the implementation of climate change and sustainable development policies, the human rights of populations particularly affected are guaranteed.

We demand respect and compliance with ILO Convention 169 and adequate investments in water and sustainable sanitation, and conservation and restoration of priority natural areas. We demand that the integral life, their systems of life, and territorial rights of indigenous peoples be guaranteed, returning their ancestral territories to them.

It is necessary that the States promote coordination of the disaster risk management in the national planning of the sustainable development that integrates the approaches of rights, gender, inclusion, and interculturality. States must also ensure that they encourage the participation of Civil Society organizations in intergovernmental bodies and mechanisms to present proposals and follow up.

## **8. SDG 16**

We affirm that peace is our route and our guide—sustainable and lasting peace with the planet and humanity, as a realizing element of the Right to the Future that is seriously threatened. We urge that there is no time to

lose, our peoples and nations do not have this luxury.

The normalization of inequality gaps, human rights violations, poor access to justice, impunity, and corruption have triggered the mobilization and social protest, and are a tool through political and social advocacy in the region. Recognition of the role of Civil Society is urged, articulating political alliances, which favor the adoption and institutionalization of instruments aimed at the protection and guarantee of human rights. It is recommended to create, strengthen and adopt mechanisms of citizen participation, monitoring, and accountability through open governments that count on the participation and involvement of all the populations and collectives mentioned, recognizing their autonomy, appropriation, and exercise of human rights.

We want the voluntary national reports to be recognized as official documents of the monitoring bodies of the 2030 Agenda at a global and regional level.

We demand, now, the rendering of accounts of companies and the obligatory due diligence with a minimum floor in the Guiding Principles on Companies and Human Rights. We demand a favorable environment for the sustainability and effective participation of Civil Society. We demand to be part of the definition of regional and national indicators, in the spaces that define policies on the SDGs.

Violence against older women is invisible. Data on violence tend to be disaggregated until age 60, ignoring older women (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD). We request that this age be increased to reflect the aging of the population and women in the region. A study conducted in five European countries showed that about 25% of older women had suffered emotional violence, about 10% financial abuse and about 3% had been victims of sexual exploitation (ECLAC 2016, Bulletin 13). Without economic democracy in the region, poverty again grows,

affecting women and girls even more. This will not change if our people do not participate in the decisions on national budgets and if governments continue to close spaces for Civil Society participation, while opening the doors to national and transnational corporations, promoting privatization without criteria and Public Alliances -Privates of low public interest, and low-quality services without transparency.

WHO reported that 16% of older people receive abuse and maltreatment on a daily basis (141 million people in the world), and the main victims are women. But neither society nor the States are aware and fight this issue strongly. Discrimination and abuse are often part of daily life and are seen as something natural.

SDG 16, which promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, facilitates access to justice for all and creates effective, responsible, and inclusive institutions at all levels, is not being implemented by governments since they do not recognize people with disabilities as subjects of law, and this lack of recognition implies denying them access to justice and their legal capacity.

Additionally, we can point out that indigenous people with disabilities, as well as other groups in vulnerable situations, are included in this SDG 16.

It is necessary to take into account the preservation of the identities and self-determination of indigenous peoples when guaranteeing that the support services and the general services are organized in a culturally sensitive manner that makes possible the active participation of all the people involved in the communities, including people with disabilities.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, human rights defenders (HRDs), including social leaders and journalists, continue to face a range of very serious violations of their human rights, which is not compatible with SDG 16,

which deals with Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and which will be reviewed in the HLPF 2019. Since December 2017, the CIVICUS Monitor has documented murders of human rights defenders in at least 10 countries in the Americas: Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Venezuela.

The criminalization of sexuality is not only of interest to LGBTI people; it affects women, young people, sex workers, and migrants, among others, who have also been discriminated against for exercising their sexualities. It is essential to have a commitment to repeal laws that criminalize, and to promote laws that recognize and protect the right to sexuality in our countries, particularly the right to non-discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics. It is also essential to collect disaggregated data on gender in order to expose reality, promote the political participation of LGBTI individuals, and reaffirm commitments with international agendas such as the Montevideo Consensus, among others.

## **9. SDG 17**

The availability of data is a central tool of responsibility for the monitoring of the SDGs, and it is necessary that governments provide national data about the situation of the population according to sex and gender, including both internal and international migrants, in a timely and consistent manner. This implies that States, both in terms of emigration and immigration, should invest financial resources for the monitoring of living conditions and also transit conditions of all migrants. Moreover, they should use valid targets to measure and follow the national migrant process, including internal and transborder movement.

Strengthen the Synergies between Migrants and SDGs: The SDGs should integrate domestic and international Latin American migrants,

avoiding their criminalization and exclusion, highlighting their economic, cultural and social contributions in host societies, and considering overcoming vulnerabilities to improve their living conditions with full enjoyment of their human rights, particularly access to quality education (SDG 4), in turn related to fundamental axes for migrants, such as access to the labor market with decent work for economic growth (SDG 8 and SDG 9). Improvements in working conditions contribute to the eradication of poverty and hunger (SDG 1 and SDG 2), to the reduction of inequalities (SDG 10), and to the strengthening of their participation in decisions about their health (SDG 3), as well as the empowerment of women (SDG 5). It also contributes to the use and sustainable management of the oceans in the case of those engaged in fishing (SDG 14), and to the planning and management of climate change (SDG 13).

Indigenous peoples continue to hold the ancestral and deeply spiritual legacy of the essential elements of all life in the universe, protecting at all times, as we live in a permanent challenge in the face of the grave situation of tangible and intangible natural assets. It is urgent that we are treated as subjects of inalienable rights, that we are part of a whole, and this implies addressing our different collective and individual rights that lead us to see that the 17 SDGs are transversal to our indigenous peoples of the world and where we are in the world.

A special approach requires women, adolescents and migrant children, establishing synergies with SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 10 and SDG 16 regarding the empowerment of women and girls in the promotion of inclusive societies, access universal to health sexual and reproductive rights and reproductive rights (Goal 5.6) guaranteeing protection and healthy life with access to health services, directly related to the reduction of maternal mortality and the elimination of communicable diseases such as HIV / AIDS (ODS 3 and 5).

The slogan "DO NOT LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND" must obligatorily include migrants of all ethnic and age groups, as well as Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Trans and Intersex from Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Addendum

**Indigenous Peoples:** Throughout the Latin American and Caribbean region, Indigenous Peoples and Peasant Movements live in political persecution, imprisonment, assassinations for defending our natural resources and for the defense of our territories. For this reason, the implementation of ILO Convention 169, the UN Declaration on Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, and other people working in rural areas is fundamental, as well as the Voluntary Guidelines on Good Governance of the Earth, approved in the Committee on World Food Security, and the Declaration of the International Forum on Agroecology, Nyéléni in Sélingué, Mali, February 27, 2015.

**\*We insist** that States fulfill their responsibilities to respect the rights affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the American Declaration of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Nation-to-Nation Treaties with Indigenous Peoples, and other international norms that recognize and respect our rights.

**\*We reject** "free trade" policies that undermine our traditional local economies and perpetuate poverty and forced migration.

**\*We oppose** State and international laws and policies that undermine our inherent rights, sovereignty and food policies, and, as Indigenous Peoples, Nations and governments, implement our own policies and laws, as well as protect our seeds and traditional knowledge.

**\*To approach with relevant, adequate policies,** and in full consensus, environmental racism and environmental violence, including the international trafficking of prohibited pesticides, the appropriation of our lands, waters and areas of cultivation by multinational corporations, development projects, industrial agriculture, monoculture, production of biofuels, introduction of invasive species and extractive industries such as mining, hydraulic fracturing (fracking), drilling and oil pipelines.

**\*To oppose** patents and other forms of appropriation of our seeds and traditional knowledge without our Free, Prior and Informed Consent (*Declaration of Tlaxcala of CITI March 8, 2019*).

***Indigenous peoples continue to hold the ancestral and deeply spiritual legacy of the essential elements of all life in the universe,*** protecting, guarding at all times, as we live in a permanent challenge to the grave situation of tangible and intangible natural assets. It is urgent that they treat us as subjects of inalienable rights, we are part of a whole and this implies addressing our different collective and individual rights that leads us to see that the 17 SDGs are transversal to our indigenous peoples of the world and where we are in the world. We emphasize that, through the persecution and criminalization for defending our places of healthy lives, we went from being nobody, (to the outside), to leaders to terrorists, therefore: we recommend to the states, to cooperations, that the ODS, pay attention and tend to our ancestral rights already expressed in declarations, agreements, and treaties, among others. **Other voices:** *\* The director of the International Forum of Indigenous Women, Teresa Zapata, originally from Guatemala, raised the importance of talking about the profound inequalities, discrimination, and racism faced by indigenous women, NY, Mar. 21. 2018. AmecoPres / SEMlac.- \* "When we think for example of ODS # 1, that seeks to eliminate extreme poverty and hunger, we should have a mention and our own indicator. What will happen to us in our territory that we have historically used to feed ourselves and to promote development? "declared Tarcila Rivera Zea, a Quechua indigenous woman from Peru: ONU / Eskinder Debebe 24.07.17.*

We demand respect and compliance with ILO Convention 169 and adequate investments in water and sustainable sanitation, conservation, and restoration of priority natural areas. We demand that the integral life, their systems of life and the territorial rights of the indigenous peoples be guaranteed, returning to them their ancestral territories. It is necessary for States to promote an articulation of disaster risk management in the national planning of sustainable development that integrates the approaches of rights, gender, inclusion, and interculturality. States must also encourage the participation of Civil Society organizations in intergovernmental bodies and mechanisms to present proposals and follow up.