

## SANTIAGO DECLARATION

### **Ahead of the First Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and the European Union (EU)**

We, the undersigned organisations, representing NGOs, social movements, associations and civil society networks of Latin America and Europe call before the First Summit of Heads of State of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the European Union, for a shift towards an equitable integration of our peoples through greater social justice and equality, a stronger, more participatory democracy, full and integral respect for human rights, environmental conservation, and the sustainable use of our biodiversity.

At this critical moment in the history of our continents, we find that the market solutions which have been implemented are intended to protect only the interests of big capital. At the same time, we see that our people are reacting, protesting and proposing alternatives. In particular, those most affected; women, the youth, children, Afro-descendants, the world of sexual diversity, students, workers, the unemployed, the disabled, the displaced, indigenous peoples, and migrants, have all mobilised themselves in order to strengthen their demands and generate creative solutions and alternatives. Whilst the peoples of Europe are resisting attempts to unfairly make them pay the costs of economic depression, the people affected by the neoliberal model and the processes of commercialisation of public goods in Latin America, rebel against the privileges given to the financial system that is the cause of the current crisis. We call for these voices to be both heard and taken into account by governments in the urgent political and economic decisions to be taken against the

deepening systemic crisis. From these convictions, we demand the following;

#### **1. The formulation of a new global financial architecture that protects human rights;**

**1.1** Promote, in both Europe and Latin America, a debate and a citizen led audit process on the public debt, renegotiate their terms and conditions as well as suspend payments.

**1.2** Establish a tax on international financial transactions which inhibits speculation, the proceeds of which are to be directed towards the promotion of sustainable development and to the closing of the huge economic gaps that characterise the current global order.

**1.3** To legally implement, nationally and internationally, a total ban on tax havens and speculative financial derivatives. Prohibit banks and financial institutions having branches in offshore centres. Combat banking secrecy and capital flight. A clear and immediate separation of investment banking from savings and personal banking.

**1.4** In Latin America, the prioritisation of constructing regional financial institutions. The Council of Ministers of Economy of the founding countries of the Banco del Sur should strengthen regional civil society participation in this area.

**1.5** A strengthening of the multilateralism and the democratisation of the United Nations (UN), including within the UN all other multilateral global organisations, in order to build a democratic, consistent, accountable and effective system of international institutions.

## **2. Give coherence to models of investment with the expressed objectives of sustainable development and the strengthening of human rights and democracy;**

**2.1** Strengthen the powers of States in the regulation of foreign investment, ensuring full sovereignty in the food and energy sectors. A strengthening of national and international authorities for environmental management, so as to be an effective counterweight to the bodies responsible for the promotion of investment, ensuring real regulatory, budgetary and policy capacities, to protect the environment and renewable natural resources.

**2.2** Redesign the '*Latin American Investment Facility*' (LAIF), including mechanisms for civil society participation. Incorporate standards of evaluation of investments that ensure labour and environmental protection, and information transparency.

**2.3** Incorporate previous mechanisms of ecological and economic zoning, territorial management and planning, and review standards and mechanisms for assessing the environmental and social impact of investments, so as to enable social control over its potential effects on biodiversity and the environment, transport and energy networks, as well as affected local populations.

**2.4** A strengthening of the capacity of local governments to participate in decisions on major projects and investments that impact their territories and their populations.

**2.5** Ensure that the EU's obligation to maintain coherence between EU policies and development objectives (*Policy Coherence for Development*) applies to all policies and agreements that may affect the development of Latin American countries, in particular, in agriculture, trade and energy.

**2.6** Strictly comply with the *ILO Convention 169* (also known as the *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989*) and extend this to populations of African descent and other affected peoples, including ensuring their ancestral and collective rights. Incorporate mechanisms for the prior consultation of, and the free and informed consent of, indigenous peoples as well as additional mechanisms for consultation and consent of all impacted local

populations in decisions on large investments in infrastructure, energy and extractive industries.

**2.7** Guarantee access to water as a common good and a fundamental human right, establishing explicit rules that prevent its privatisation and commercialisation.

**2.8** Replace the extractive model in Latin America, fostering processes of diversification and regional integration aimed at containing the re-primarization of our economies and the current reliance on the export of commodities to external regions.

**2.9** Promote a concerted transition to a mixture of energy sources less dependent on fossil fuels, supporting strategies to develop sustainable and clean energy alternatives originating from the region.

**2.10** Renegotiate the existing Association Agreements between the EU and Latin American and the Caribbean countries, and halt those that are currently in the process of ratification. Reject the pressures exerted on countries to re-launch negotiations (Ecuador and MERCOSUR). Pave the way for agreements under a new framework of equity which acknowledge the aspirations of the peoples of our continent and their organisations, ensuring their full and binding participation.

**2.11** Initiate a structured dialogue about the impact of the policies of criminalisation of the production, transport, trade and consumption of drugs, from a perspective which recognises the serious collateral damage stemming from current policies of police and military control.

**2.12** Adapt immigration policy to the standards of international humanitarian law, ensuring broad transparency and the ability of bi-regional civil society to oversee in this area. Repeal the *European Directive on Returning Illegally Staying Third-Country Nationals*. Closure of Internment Centres for Foreigners (CIE) as irregular migration may not lead to imprisonment. Ensure health, pharmaceutical and social care to migrants, regardless of their administrative situation.

## **3. Strengthen and democratise bi-regional political dialogue, actively incorporating civil society.**

**3.1** Establish permanent, public, participatory and binding monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for, all bilateral treaties, especially for the existing strategic partnerships with Brazil and Mexico.

**3.2** Subjecting to referendum all new binding international treaties and agreements of importance to be adopted under this bi-regional dialogue.

**3.3** Institutionalise mechanisms for stakeholder participation in both CELAC and other Latin American regional integration mechanisms and open spaces of consultation with civil society in Europe.

**3.4** Demand a complete institutional redesign of the EU-LAC Foundation. Civil society was not consulted in the design of this organisation and, to date, it has not allowed any kind of social participation in its governance. Only then can it have the legitimacy, competence and skills to facilitate an active and ongoing participation of civil society in both regions.

**3.5** Expand the spaces of political participation for civil society, guided by the minimum standards agreed by civil society, ensuring legal frameworks for effective participation and dialogue with governments and other sectors, including; ensuring the right of association, of expression, and ending the criminalisation of social protest in Latin America and Europe.

**3.6** Take integrated measures in a plan of action to ensure women's empowerment, gender equality and the eradication of all forms of violence against women, including femicide. This must comply strictly with the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW), the *Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Para)* and the *European Convention for Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women*.

**3.7** To ensure the full protection of the rights of children and adolescents, both in rural and urban communities by promoting institutions that can specifically advocate for their rights.

#### **4. The revision of official development cooperation, guaranteeing its reciprocity, stability and predictability.**

**4.1** Ensure that, in the future, priorities of development cooperation are based on proposals of the organised citizens of Latin America and Europe. Evaluate the effectiveness of the development cooperation activities by incorporating accountability mechanisms with civil society participation, especially, though not limited to, those involving resources for development cooperation that are transferred to national and local governments. In particular, there must be a separation between development cooperation and mechanisms which involve an increased level of government debt.

**4.2** About policies of differentiation and coherence for development; i) review criteria that exclude middle-income countries from the financial resources of development cooperation ii) with these countries, create a concerted proposal for new forms of financing which address their problems of inequality and democratic consolidation iii) explore triangular cooperation practices between the EU and the countries of the CELAC iv) define a negotiated set of goals and objectives of EU development cooperation v) ensure that this policy is not undermined by other policies, as established by the *Lisbon Treaty*.

**4.3** Guarantee national, regional and global level institutions, which are inclusive, representative and active in order to promote: i) the development effectiveness of civil society organisations, ii) the implementation of the *Istanbul Principles for CSO Effectiveness* iii) ensuring an enabling environment for civil society, according to the points made in the *International Framework for Development Effectiveness of CSOs*.

Civil society organisations of Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean believe that, now more than ever, faced with the urgency of this historical moment, the voice of the people must be heard, acknowledged, and taken into consideration, promptly and actively in confronting with determination the systemic global crisis facing our continents, this constituting a basic guarantee of social legitimacy and democratic governance.

**MESA of National Associations and NGO networks of Latin America and the Caribbean,** whose members are:

- ABONG- Asociación Brasileña de Organismos No Gubernamentales.
- ACCIÓN- Asociación Chilena de Organismos No Gubernamentales.
- ALOP- Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción al Desarrollo
- AMARC- Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias ALC
- ANC- Asociación Nacional de Centros de Investigación, Promoción Social y Desarrollo, Perú.
- ANONG- Asociación Nacional de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales Orientadas al Desarrollo, Uruguay.
- Articulación Feminista Marcosur.
- ADOC- Alianza Democrática de Organizaciones Civiles, México
- CEAAL- Consejo de Educación Popular de América Latina y el Caribe.
- CCONG Confederación Colombiana de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales.
- Convergencia de Organismos Civiles, México.
- COONGCOP- Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas Guatemala.
- Encuentro, Argentina.
- Latindadd- Red Latinoamericana sobre Deuda, Desarrollo y Derechos.
- PIDHDD- Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo.
- Pojoaju- Asociación de Organismos No Gubernamentales de Paraguay.
- Propuesta Ciudadana, Perú.
- Sinergia, Venezuela.
- UNITAS- Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social Bolivia

**CONCORD - European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development,** whose members are:

**National NGO Platforms:**

- Austria (Globale Verantwortung),
- Belgium(Belgian Platform of CONCORD:CNCD-11.11.11/ACODEV/11 11 11/NGO FEDERATIE)
- Bulgaria (BPID),
- Czech Republic (FoRS),
- Cyprus (CYINDEP),
- Denmark (CONCORD Denmark),
- Estonia (AKÜ),
- Finland (Kehys ry),
- France (Coordination SUD),
- Germany (VENRO),

- Greece (Hellenic Platform For Development),
- Hungary (HAND),
- Ireland (Dóchas),
- Italy (ONG italiane),
- Latvia (Lapas),
- Lithuania (LU),
- Luxembourg (Cercle),
- Malta (SKOP),
- the Netherlands (Partos),
- Poland (Grupa Zagranica),
- Romania (FOND),
- Portugal (Platforma ONGD),
- Slovakia (MVRO),
- Slovenia (SLOGA),
- Spain (CoNgDe),
- Sweden (CONCORD Sverige),
- UK (BOND).

**Networks:**

- ActionAid International,
- ADRA,
- ALDA (associate member),
- Aprodev,
- CARE,
- Caritas Europa,
- CBM International,
- CIDSE,
- EU-CORD,
- Eurostep ,
- Handicap International,
- IPPF European Network,
- Islamic Relief Worldwide,
- Oxfam International,
- Plan Europe,
- Save the Children,
- Solidar,
- F.I. Terre des Hommes,
- WorldVision,
- World Wide Fund for Nature (associate member).

Santiago, Chile, 27th - 28th September, 2012