



**OAS** | More rights  
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ASAMBLEA  
GENERAL  
**OEA**  
INNOVANDO PARA FORTALECER  
EL MULTILATERALISMO AMERICANO  
DEL 20 DE JUNIO AL 24 DE JUNIO  
2019

**Dialogue of Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General and Representatives from Civil Society Organizations, Workers, the Private Sector and other Social Actors**

June 26, 2019, 9:00 – 13:00hrs.  
Green Pavillion – Center of Exhibitions Centro de Exhibiciones  
Medellín, Colombia

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS OF COALITIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS**

**1. Coalition for Human Life Development – Human Life International**

Abstract in English:

My name is Doctor Gladys Buitrago de Amaya, president of the Foundation Culture for Human Life in Colombia, which represents Human Life International in the country.

Daily, the OAS seeks agreements between Member States on matters of common interest and common impact, through multilateralism, in the American continent.

Yet, to seek consensus between persons who have radically opposed ideas will not lead to institutional perfection, nor to economic development, nor to social progress in the country. Consensus always end in failure for all sides.

This is because an agreement must start out with a basic understanding about authentic human rights, which can only be found in natural law.

Natural law is that by which, in human nature, the rational laws that govern and direct the human person can be found.

Human rights offer a solid foundation for a productive and successful dialogue.

Given that fundamental human rights are inherent and indestructible in the human person, these must be respected and valued, beginning with the right to life from conception to natural death. Starting with that primary human right, it is that one discovers all other rational human rights, such as the rights related to marriage, family, food, clothing, housing, education, and work, among others.

Therefore, there could be no consensus about laws in favor of abortion, nor laws in favor of alleged same sex marriages or same sex families, nor even with the imposition, on faith-based institutions, of regulations against their values, among other measures.

We are aware that this dialogue has, as its goal, the true welfare of the human person. Yet an honest dialogue requires being open to the truth.

When the truth about the human person is acknowledged, human welfare will be obtained.

## **2. Coalition of Women's Human Rights in the Americas**

Abstract in English:

We consider fundamental that the member states of the Organization of American States incorporate into their agenda the situation of violence and death that women and girls experience throughout the region.

At least 283 women were killed in the beginning of 2019, according to data collected by observatories on gender and feminist movements on 15 countries of the region.

Sexual and domestic violence: 29.8% of women have been victims of violence by their partners, and 10.7% have suffered sexual violence outside their partner.

Each year, thousands of girls from Latin America and the Caribbean, under the age of 14, become pregnant as a result of sexual abuse and are forced to continue with their pregnancies and assume forced child maternity, affecting their health and education. This serious violation of the human rights of girls has not yet been made visible or included in the public agenda in the region.

## **3. LGTTTBI Coalition**

Abstract in English:

In spite of the growing number of measures adopted in the countries of the region to recognize our human rights; laws that criminalize and prohibit consensual sexual relations between people of the same sex are still in force in Caribbean countries.

Still, most countries in the region do not have laws that recognize gender identity and guarantee access to trans people to all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

In recent years, the criminalization of personal drug use and anti-drug policies has been applied selectively to criminalize transgender people and sex workers.

The increase in the high rates of violence against LGBTI people is a constant concern throughout the region; acts of physical violence, the increase of crimes due to prejudice and the growth of hate speeches.

Innovation to strengthen hemispheric multilateralism implies that States implement public policies that guarantee rights, regardless of sexual orientation, identity or expression of gender and sexual characteristics.

#### **4. Coalition for Sexual Worker's rights**

Abstract in English:

Express the need for legislation in the countries of the region to recognize our human rights; at the moment there are countries in North America and the Caribbean that penalize our work treating us as criminals while in Central and South America they criminalize it, by not recognizing us as subjects with rights.

Most countries in the region do not have laws that recognize sexual work nor guarantee access to people who exercise it to all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

We ask Member States to:

1. Investigate, judge and sanction violations of sexual worker's human rights.
2. Establish mechanism to guarantee dialogues.
3. Adopt measures that ensure access to justice and guarantee due process.
4. Derogate laws that criminalize sex work, because they endanger the life, health and safety of sex workers.
5. Take immediate measures to guarantee the security of all groups.
6. Guarantee free access to the judicial system.

That the General Assembly:

- Orders the creation of a rapporteur that can draft resolutions to stop the violation of sex worker's human rights.

The General Secretariat of the OAS, the Secretary General, and the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights:

- Member States of the OAS adopt urgent measures to put an end to institutional violence suffered by sex workers.
- They pronounce themselves in favor of self-determination of the people and they condemn any act that tries to impose religious or moral beliefs.
- Provide the technical support and cooperation to adapt legislation and internal policies to ensure the human rights of persons engaged in sex work.

## **5. Coalition of Religions, Beliefs and Spiritualities in Dialogue with Civil Society**

Abstract in English:

We believe in the need to strengthen the dialogue mechanisms between civil society and States, not only through the current meeting spaces between both parties, but also in the deepening of instances of joint work and in the fulfillment of consensual objectives

We affirm the following aspects that we believe are important for the strengthening of this dialogue and the path of joint impact:

1. We believe that the dialogue between civil society and states must be done from a perspective of real diversity, echoing the plurality of positions of civil society and within each of its expressions.
2. Dialogue between States and civil society must take place within the framework of respect for human rights. In the specific field of religions, religious freedom is one of the main axes to sustain this framework.
3. We denounce any perspective that advocates violating the rights acquired from other sectors of society, in the name of a religious position that is understood as absolute.

## **6. RedLad coalition, inclusive dialogue as a basis for innovation and social transformation**

Abstract in English:

Progress in strengthening democracy requires understanding democracy from its flexibilities, related to the promotion and defense of human rights and the protection of vulnerable groups

In this sense, it is essential to generate synergies among the different actors involved. These can only be achieved if three requirements are met: real and effective dialogue and coordination exercises, social and political innovations, and the guarantee of an enabling environment or civic space for the action of citizens and civil society.

The presentation to be made will emphasize each one of these topics.

## **7. Coalition Citizen Forum of the Americas**

Abstract in English:

To strengthen democracy and the Rule of Law is it crucial to establish alliances between organizations and public institutions.

We believe that institutions such as the Inter-American Human Rights System are essential for the deepening of democracy. Therefore, we urge governments that have a presence in the OAS to give human and economic resources for their protection and strengthening, respecting their full autonomy and independence.

Despite the progress made in recent years, resistance and obstacles persist. We disavow what happens in Venezuela and Nicaragua. We reject the political and systematic violence to which their citizenships are subject

These countries are not the only ones going through this:

- a. Brazil:** has a violent speech against several population groups such as Afro-descendants and the LGBTI community.
- b. Colombia:** They are killing and threatening social leaders who have dedicated their lives to the defense of their territories and communities.

- c. **Bolivia:** President Evo Morales, ignoring the popular will of the citizens, will opt for a fourth presidential term. In violation of the fundamental principles of the rule of law and democracy.
- d. **Guatemala:** the expulsion of CICIG, an organization that was making progress in clarifying cases of corruption in the state, ignores its work of several years and stigmatizes its officials and social and political leaders.
- e. **Haiti:** Since the beginning of 2019, Haitian citizens and opposition have been demonstrating in the streets against the current government, but they have only received repression.

Therefore we mainly focus on:

1. The defense and promotion of Democracy.
2. Collaborative work and constant dialogue between civil society organizations and the institutions of the Rule of Law.
3. The protection and defense of the Inter-American Human Rights System.
4. The defense and promotion of Human Rights and nature.
5. The defense of freedom of assembly, association and expression.
6. Social inclusion, respect and defense of diversity, in a framework of human rights and promotion of personal freedoms.
7. Fight against corruption.

8. **Coalition of Afro-descendants communities**

**To be defined**

9. **Coalition Afro-descendants of the Americas**

Abstract in English:

We call for concepts such as innovation and multilateralism that can be decontextualized and may attempt against the Cosmo vision of the Afro-descendant People. This idea can be used to break into the sovereignty of States and the autonomy of Afro-descendant territories. We urge you to work on these concepts from the identification and exchange of successful experiences in relation to access and guarantee of rights to health, education, employment, economic development, peace, inclusion, justice, among others.

There must be a real political will to combat historical-structural racism and racial discrimination in the Americas, it is imperative that all States that have not yet sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance adheres and develops action plans to implement it.

Not having statistical data of a population is a violation of rights; likewise, there is no effective fulfillment of the World Conference against Racism (Durban), or the International Decade of Afro-descendants (United Nations as of the OAS). In order to achieve a solution to the reality of the Afro-descendant People, real and permanent data must be available.

#### **10. Coalition of Sexual and Reproductive Rights**

Abstract in English:

We believe that in order to innovate and strengthen hemispheric multilateralism, the commitment of states to guarantee Sexual Rights and Reproductive Rights as Human Rights, linked to other rights such as health, education, autonomy, non-discrimination, freedom, dignity, is essential.

The meaning of our intervention as a Coalition is to highlight the importance for the region of having diverse and progressive instruments for the protection of human rights, which recognize sexual and reproductive rights.

It is crucial that the member states of the OAS comply with international standards regarding respect for human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights. It is vital that the states of the region build real commitments for the effective protection of the sexual and reproductive rights, which will undoubtedly contribute to the generation of the necessary conditions so that all people can live without violence or discrimination.

#### **11. Coalition of Human Rights Organizations of the Americas**

Abstract in English:

First, we want to highlight the importance of States guaranteeing, through preventive measures, the right to defend human rights in the Americas; which is vital in a regional reality in which civic spaces continue to be limited. We have observed with special concern the situation of defenders in several countries, including Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Colombia.

Second, we will refer to the challenges that currently exist for the consolidation of the Rule of Law in the region, mainly; we will address aspects of division of powers, democracy and corruption.

As a third approach, we will urge the States to reaffirm their commitment to the effective functioning of the organs of the Inter-American Human Rights System (IAHRS), which implies their adequate financing, compliance with standards for the nomination and election of persons to integrate these bodies, the fulfillment of the recommendations emanating from their instruments and judgments, as well as the promotion and assurance of opportunities for participation by civil society in the discussion and decision on aspects that impact them.

Regarding the upcoming elections of four people to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), we will express our concern at the lack of transparency in the nomination processes at the national level and we will urge the States to make their elections based on the criteria of independence, competence and representativeness.

## **12. National Colombian Coalition for Peace Secularism and Human Rights**

Abstract in English:

The National Coalition for Peace, Secularism and Human Right is a group of organizations that work for the full realization of integral human rights, especially of women, organizations of sexual rights and reproductive rights, feminist collectives and LGBTI population and victims of the armed conflict, in favor of the implementation of a stable and lasting peace in Colombia.

We ask that the OAS Member States insist on the integral fulfillment of the Peace Agreement signed between the National Government and the guerrilla group FARC-EP and insist on the reopening of dialogue scenarios with the ELN guerrilla.

In the first phase of the Peace Agreement, more than 13,000 members of the guerrillas left their weapons and it is estimated that 38,921 lives have been saved per year.

Two years after the agreement, the Sistema Integral de *Verdad, Justicia, Reparación y No Repetición* Integral System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition has been set in motion and more than 13,000 people among ex-combatants and members of the Colombian Military Forces (FFMM) have voluntarily submitted to it.

Two years after the agreement, the Sistema Integral de *Verdad, Justicia, Reparación y No Repetición* Integral has been set in motion and more than 13,000 people among ex-combatants and members of the FFMM have joined voluntarily.

Progress has been made in 170 municipalities through the Development Program with Territorial Approach- PDET, through 170 municipal agreements and 16 Action Plans for Regional Transformation



(PATR) 2. All of this is at risk today, due to the weak impulse of the National Government to crucial issues such as the Integral Rural Reform and the Solution to the Problem of Illicit Drugs, the lack of resources in the National Development Plan for the territorial implementation of the Agreement and the militarist policies that go against the agreement.

In addition to the above, the high risk faced by the people, organizations and communities that defend human rights is of great concern: since the signing of the Peace Agreement, 702 social leaders and at least 135 ex-combatants were assassinated, without the Colombian State implementing adequate or sufficient strategies that guarantee human rights. The integral, stable and lasting peace in Colombia is a necessity of the continent.

This Coalition considers fundamental that when discussing democracy, pluralism and human rights, it is made from a secular approach and taking into consideration the implications of being secular states, as is the Colombian State. Our country does not have an official religion and guarantees ideological and religious diversity, however, the interference of Christian churches in the political life of the country, introduces moral and dogmatic discourses that limit the free development of personality, freedom and autonomy of citizens, mainly in the effective exercise of their sexual rights, reproductive rights and the free choice of maternity and legal abortion, safe and free.

For several years in Colombia, the division between the church and the power of state is not very clear; This is made evident as representatives of the conservative churches and even religious fundamentalists enter the spheres of political power of the States, arriving with great force and strategy, with representative quotas in political parties, with a broad territorial presence and grouped in non-governmental organizations, from which they promote their agendas and manage to influence governments.

This has a direct impact on the effective enjoyment of life and health, especially of adult women, adolescents and girls, and on their sexual rights and reproductive rights-DSDR; they hinder the implementation and / or approval of comprehensive sexual education, access to contraception and emergency methods and access to the Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy-IVE, causing in most cases preventable maternal morbidity and mortality. As for LGBTI people, religious discourses even when they use "neutral" languages are the fuel that feeds the fire of hate crimes, violence, intolerance and exclusion.

### **13. Coalition on Human Mobility of the Americas**

Abstract in English:

First of all, we believe in the need to adopt a regional and coordinated response focused on human rights and on the principle of shared responsibility that integrates States, civil society and other

international allies.

Secondly, this response to the context of human mobility must guarantee, without discrimination, the right to seek and receive asylum, the access to other complementary forms of protection, as well as facilitating mechanisms for migratory regularization.

In this regard, we request the States of the region to reaffirm the validity of their commitments derived from the instruments of international human rights law and international refugee law, including the regional definition of refugees contemplated in the Cartagena Declaration of 1984; for all those people in need of international protection. As a result of this, it is necessary to reaffirm and guarantee the principle of non-refoulement, the prohibition of rejection at the border and allowing easy access to the mechanisms for seeking and receiving asylum.

Regarding the regular stay mechanisms, it is necessary to recognize that migration regularization has positive consequences, since it allows identification and reduces the risks of human trafficking, labor exploitation, forced recruitment, among others. These must respect the principle of legal security; allow the access to rights, with special emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights, accessible and durable. Likewise, we call on the States to respond to UNHCR's call regarding the possibility for States to carry out the recognition of refugee status for Venezuelan people through group determinations.

Third, we ask the states of the region to recognize guarantee and protect the rights of the populations particularly affected. For example, States must guarantee the rights of women to not be victims of violence, including protection mechanisms such as victims of trafficking, sexual violence and any other form of gender-based violence, as well as access to sexual and reproductive health services.

States should also develop differentiated care and protection plans for children and adolescents, LGBTI persons, senior citizens, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, people of African descent and (Romani Community/ROM), as well as any person who is in a particular vulnerable situation and guarantee their access to justice without discrimination.

Finally, we demand from the States, the full guarantee of human rights, of the people who are at the border, transit or in their host communities. In this regard, we call on States to refrain from militarizing borders or other measures with the use of force, ensure non-criminalization or penalization for irregular entry into the territory, ensure family unity and refrain from separating families, ensure the safety of those people who have seen the need to travel in caravans. Finally, it is extremely important to ensure access to basic human rights, including the right to nationality, access to justice, education, health and work, as well as the prevention of discrimination, violence and xenophobia against the migrant and refugee population.

#### **14. Coalition of the Indigenous People and Nations**

Abstract in English:

In consideration of the elected Dialogue Segment, “Tripartite Governance: State, Private Sector and Citizens, as catalysts for integral development in the Americas,” the Indigenous Nations and Organizations Coalition presents the following summary of our Declaration.

In seeking to promote a constructive reflection and propose solutions within the framework of the thematic segments of the Dialogue, we plan to address the ways in which the Inter-American System, i.e.: OAS bodies and agencies, Member States, private sector, and Civil Society, can support efforts to affirm, honor, and implement the rights of Indigenous Peoples as stated in the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in order to contribute to the institutional improvement and inclusion, economic development, and social progress of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas.

To that end, we call on the Organization of American States (OAS) to commit to fully and effectively implementing the Plan of Action. While the Plan is an important first step, we hope that through regular dialogue and proper participation in OAS activities, indigenous leaders and organizations can continue to shape implementation. As such, we believe that holding a two-day, high level conference to consult with Indigenous Peoples on the subject of implementing the Plan can be another important step to fulfill the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As Indigenous Peoples and Nations with rights based on different historical contexts and legal underpinnings, representation under “Civil Societies” does not allow Indigenous Peoples and Nations to advocate on their behalf through their legitimate and elected representatives. Thus, it is necessary to create a new status for the permanent and more appropriate participation of Indigenous Governments in OAS activities. Furthermore, the creation of a new mechanism devoted to monitoring implementation is also necessary to address the gaps in the OAS’ responsibilities and States’ obligations.

In addressing these gaps, we intend to highlight the articles of the Declaration that establish just, bilateral mechanisms for redress, restitution, and resolution of disputes as well as those articles that address States’ obligation to finance, uphold, and implement the provisions of the Declaration in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples. Specifically, States must recognize their obligations in affirming treaties and treaty rights, improving the design and implementation of Precautionary Measures, and respecting and upholding FPIC processes so that Indigenous Peoples’ may fully enjoy their rights to self-determination, lands, resources, cultural heritage, and the environment.

This summary only presents the main topics of our Declaration, or the “talking points”, while the Declaration will go into greater detail on our reflections on and solutions for this Dialogue Segment theme.

## **15. Coalition for Indigenous Coordination Abya Ayala**

**To be defined.**

## **16. Coalition for the Inter-American Environmental Charter**

Abstract in English:

To consolidate the rights of human beings to live in a healthy environment, respecting the Rights of the planet Earth as a living being, and strengthening the sustainable development of the American nations, there are two fundamental proposals: the Inter-American Environmental Charter and the Proclamation of the Constitution of the Rights of Mother Earth or Planet Earth.

Taking into account the Advisory Opinion OC-23/17 issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which in paragraph 5 states the following: "With the purpose of respecting and guaranteeing the rights to life and integrity of persons under its jurisdiction, States have the obligation to prevent significant environmental damage, inside or outside their territory, for which they must regulate, supervise and supervise the activities under their jurisdiction that may cause significant damage to the environment; carry out environmental impact studies when there is a risk of significant damage to the environment; establish a contingency plan, in order to have security measures and procedures to minimize the possibility of major environmental accidents, and mitigate the significant environmental damage that would have occurred.."

We believe that it is necessary to conclude a CONTINENTAL AGREEMENT that allows to further strengthen integration, respecting human rights and other living beings, among which the right to have a healthy environment, free of any type of contamination, and recognizing the fundamental role of the Civil Society, the main actors and the Indigenous Peoples in the processes of consultation and decision making related to the environmental issue.

This proposal of the INTER-AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER is an instrument that is translated into actions aimed at strengthening the sustainable development of the nations of the Americas, through an education in fundamental environmental principles and values applicable to the construction of sound environmental governance.

This coalition has been strengthened with a sustained work of consultation and promotion among community, indigenous, governmental, business and university groups and organizations and the support of local governments, who assumed the environmental principles and values proposed in the projects already presented to the OAS.

The objective of the INTER-AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER is to initiate the process of

discussion in the Organization of American States of an instrument of environmental principles, values and actions in accordance with the resolutions issued by the United Nations Organization and the different declarations, conventions, treaties and international and regional resolutions, and on indigenous knowledge and knowledge, which will strengthen the Inter-American System in terms of protecting the planet Earth and a healthy environment.

Finally, we consider that the OAS must face new challenges related to the essential aspects of public management in order to live in a healthy environment: sustainability, the fight against climate change and the protection of planet Earth, and in this way the rights are strengthened environmental that are cemented in the ethical duty of the solidarity of the human species and the intrinsic value of nature for the need of its conservation, in the most favorable sense, to maintain forever the planet Earth, the human species and other living beings.

#### **17. Coalition Democracy, Freedom, Justice and Political Renewal**

Abstract in English:

Democracy in the Americas is at risk in countries such as Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua and other countries. In general, we see that there is an "illiberal model" of democracy and that it has found its greatest exponent in the Cuban dictatorship, thus becoming a pernicious influence in the region.

We consider it necessary that we address, in the context of the democratic regression in some countries in the Americas, the lack of autonomy of the public powers and their lack of institutionalism. By promoting multilateralism we can generate different channels of cooperation and monitoring for those countries, whose institutions today obey unipersonal regimes.

For this reason it is necessary that the different multilateral international organizations initiate a discussion process and debate on the great difficulties that the democracies of the region are going through. It is not possible that we lived in a 21st century where we still find societies that do not have transparent, free and plural electoral processes, which theoretically allows them to choose their future.

#### **18. Coalition for the Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in the Americas**

Abstract in English:

Our proposal aims to strengthen democratic relations in the region, within the framework of the thematic "Strengthening the dialogue between the OAS, the member states and civil society organizations, for the improvement of institutions and the rule of law. How to generate synergies

between the OAS, the Governments and the citizens so that, by taking advantage of the tools offered by the inter-American system as a whole, progress will be made in the promotion of democracy and in the defense of the Rule of Law?

We propose:

1. The strengthening of the Department for Social Inclusion so that, together with the Office of Civil Society Organizations, it may convene the regional and sub-regional organizations that represent persons with disabilities in order to design and consolidate a work program.

2. The work program should focus on the identification and definition of the elements that allow each State, with the support of the OAS and the organizations that represent persons with disabilities, to adopt the mechanisms that guarantee:

a) The strengthening and sustainability of national organizations that represent people with disabilities;

b) Participation and consultation of and with national organizations that represent persons with disabilities; Y

c) The articulation between the States, the organizations that represent people with disabilities, and the Permanent Missions of the OAS in each of the Member States.

3. The lines of work contemplated in our proposal must converge in the harmonious work of the States, the OAS through its Permanent Missions and the regional, sub regional and national organizations that represent persons with disabilities with the purpose of guaranteeing this population exercise their right to participate and influence the issues that affect them and, in this way, contribute to the strengthening of the democratic system in the Americas.

We request:

As a primary task, the Department of Social Inclusion, with the support of the Permanent Missions of the OAS in the member states and regional and sub regional organizations that represent persons with disabilities, accompany the governments of the region to incorporate the Program of Action of the Decade 2016-2026 in its public policies.

## **19. Coalition Ibero-American Evangelical Congress**

Abstract in English:

Latin American evangelicals are aware of our outstanding numerical growth in recent years. This progress has brought about social changes in our countries and some analysts indicate that our participation has become a crucial element in recent very important political changes.

This contribution includes:

- 1. The reaffirmation of the rights of the individual and the responsibilities of the individual:** The difference between a formal democracy and a well-established democracy lies in the level of respect for these rights and responsibilities; as evangelicals we want, from our ethical codes, to collaborate in its consolidation and development.
- 2. Respect for minorities and the right to dissidence:** Democracy begins in the recognition of differences, and its degree of maturity is demonstrated in how it respects and integrates minorities; Evangelicals know what it is to suffer discrimination and we want our experience to serve to generate changes in mentalities by establishing criteria of tolerance and respect for dissent.
- 3. The control of the exercise of power:** It is another element that differentiates democracy from other political systems. The checks and balances model arose from a Protestant mentality that understands that all human power must be controlled. As evangelicals we want to transmit this perspective with the aim of improving the democratic health of our countries and avoiding the abuse of power.
- 4. Freedom of conscience and expression:** The first of freedoms is that of conscience, and as evangelicals we have behind a long history of struggle for its conquest. Without freedom of conscience and expression, there is no democracy. Today totalitarian and single-minded tendencies are re-emerging and as evangelicals we are ready to fight again in defense of these freedoms in favor of all.
- 5. A clear concept of church-state separation.** This is definitely compatible with the contribution of religious values to the free debate of ideas in political dialogue, something normal in any democratic society.
- 6. The defense of human life from its beginning to its end,** and of the family as a fundamental element of a free society; both are basic transverse values that must be above ideological debates.
- 8. The fight against corruption:** We have no doubt that corruption is one of the fundamental factors that limit the human, democratic, social and economic development of our countries.

## **20. Life and Family Coalition**

Abstract in English:

The family is a necessary asset for economic development and as such, it must be strengthened, promoted and protected if we seek to achieve truly sustainable development.

That is why we want to remind those present of the commitment they adopted to protect human beings and the family in the American Convention on Human Rights and in the Social Charter of the Americas.

In this sense, we want to remember the primary obligation of our States to Preserve and promote the regulations that recognize that the State is based on the family, because without family, there is no society.

We affirm based on studies and experience that the most effective way to guarantee the development of our societies against the scourges that our region suffers is through the empowerment of the family as the basic nucleus of society. Strengthen the family is to strengthen future citizens who with education will cooperate to the development of innovative and stronger economies that can combat the problem of poverty, corruption and violence.

But none of the above is possible if the human right to life is not respected since conception, the first right without which no other right can exist. That is why we call on Member States to pay special attention to promote maternal health and support mothers with vulnerable pregnancies. Only if this first right of every person is protected can we speak of just societies that respect Human Rights.

## **21. Coalition for the Progress of the Society**

Abstract in English:

The progress model of our countries must be based on the roots of our own identity: we must begin by recognizing the best of our cultural legacy, our ethos, our shared values, our moral codes, and the best good habits of our ancestors. Progress is not built from the absence of values.

One of these values is solidarity; solidarity cannot be imposed by decree-law: it is assumed, built, learned and integrated from the most basic social nuclei: the family, the neighborhood, the next community, and in this area the state must have partnerships civic as ours to do that work of instruction, awareness and integration of values.

The collaboration of the State with the civic associations must be manifested in round trips: the State



should promote public policies based on the defense of the rights and freedoms of the people, in the recognition of their maturity, policies that renounce paternalism and stimulate instruments of cooperation and mutual support. The civic associations must collaborate with the state in the implementation of those objectives of cooperation and solidarity in the human, social and economic terrain. The State must listen to the civic associations and they must consider the State an ally.

In this line, the State must ensure the basic resources for the integral development of the people, but must renounce an attitude of integral tutelage; The State should not have an ideology and should not impose a specific agenda on society. This is especially important in a fundamental area for the development of society such as education: the state must recognize the area of competence of the parents and not compete with them, but respect their area of sovereignty and collaborate with them in the transmission and integration of solidarity values. The progress of society is projected with an education not subject to ideologies, based on scientific evidence and respectful of the responsibility that cannot be delegated by parents.

## **22. Coalition Opportunities for Contemporary Social Order**

Abstract in English:

It is important to legislate against corruption and implement policies that persecute it, but the fight is lost if there is not a change in the collective mentality that identifies corruption as a mutual enemy.

The coalition we represent advocates values that contrast with the controlling tradition that has created undesirable dependencies in our nations; we advocate values of progress, which dignify the person, promote their autonomy, their freedom, their responsibility and their social conscience. A free society is built with responsible citizens.

It is necessary that the public authorities consider these associations as interesting and effective collaborators in the company of deepening democracy and spreading the rule of law to the whole continent.

## **23. Coalition Youth and Freedom**

Abstract in English:

My name is Maria Camila Ospina, and I am here representing not only the organizations that make up the Youth and Freedom coalition; but the 1,500 young people who signed the Declaration of Youth, in more than 10 countries around the world.

All these young people have decided to unite to ensure together a better future and influence the construction of stronger, free, fair and democratic societies.

We have in the region states with an excessive executive power, courts that far from being fair and impartial have been dedicated to a true judicial activism. We have seen with great concern that international scenarios have been used to influence the internal affairs of states, and we have seen how the legislature, which should act on behalf of the people who elected them, has cowardly yielded to external pressures or has refrained from taking truly effective measures.

We, the young people of the world, dream that our states are at the service of all social bodies, especially the family, because we recognize it the basis of our society and origin of education. If we have strong families, we have strong citizens and societies. That is why we defend the principle of subsidiarity, which places society and not the state as the protagonist of the country's life

We dream of states in which human dignity is respected and its integral development is promoted, which will only be possible if we recognize the value of every human being from the moment of conception, until natural death, if we respect the rights that are inherent to it by its nature, if we allow them to access opportunities that guarantee the covering of their basic needs and allow them to pursue transcendent goals, and if we promote solidarity societies in which we all feel responsible for all. The true development of our nations will only be possible when we have the human being, in all his nature, at the center of our projects.

#### **24. Coalition Education and Culture for Democracy**

Abstract in English:

- Education is one of the most powerful instruments to promote the advancement of peoples. Investing in education must thus be a priority for governments.
- The role of educator however is not only that of professionals but also of the family. It is thus necessary to establish coordination mechanisms between the home and the school.
- As such, as civil society, we call for a greater budgeting of Resources for education, for education to be extended to encompass all of society, especially the most disadvantaged groups, and the establishment of Educational programs free from ideological dogmas, that can promote the growth of free persons who can make up their own minds. Free societies are built with free persons.

## **25. Coalition of Freedom of Conscience and Expression**

Abstract in English:

- Freedom of expression and association can and in many cases, are viewed as fundamental rights that must be respected as practices of any society that seek to promote legitimate participation.
- Both freedoms are health as long as they do not infringe upon the freedom of conscience of the individual and his convictions, be they ethical, religious, moral or philosophical.
- International human rights instruments enshrine both rights as rights without prior conditions or censorship that might cancel the freedom of the individual.
- It is important to underscore that these rights may be subject to some restrictions that, in some cases, are regulated to ensure respect for the rights of others, the reputation of persons, the protection of national Security, public order or public health or morality.
- We can thus say that both freedom of expression and association are cornerstones of a society that values freedom.
- As such we assert that a society that does not respect both rights lives under fictional freedom.

## **26. Coalition Building New Horizons**

Abstract in English:

- Building new horizons is an Enterprise to which the States, international Organizations and civil society are committed. These three instances must mutually recognize each other as instruments of progress and change and seek ways to collaborate, respecting the competencies of each.
- Governments and entities such as the OAS must facilitate mechanisms that allow for the free participation of civil society organizations in the public sphere.
- This participation must be done under equal conditions, without prejudice or privileges.
- Some organizations request a privileged visibility and selective attention to their own agendas, justified by a past of discrimination. Democracy is incompatible with unequal treatment.

- The States and the OAS must thus ensure free concurrence of ideas and extend this participation to all their political initiatives. It isn't good that we perceive that the agenda of some civil society organizations weigh more than others.
- We want a transparent society and our entities must also be transparent which implies accountability.
- The best way to be accountable is to show that we work for what we decide to defend and there are means of verification.
- We thus ask the OAS and Governments to review closely the sources of financing and the use of resources of civil society organizations who receive financing from governments and international entities. We ask for instance that they investigate the percentage of funds used for personnel and infrastructure rather than towards actions that benefit the disadvantaged as we know that sometimes this is hidden through accounting manipulations.

## **27. Coalition of Self-Determination of the Peoples vs. Institutional Corruption**

Abstract in English:

- Take advantage of the Celebration of 50th Anniversary of the American Convention of Human Rights.
- Emphasize the importance of strengthening representative democracy and the defense of the Independence and sovereignty within the Inter-American System.
- Highlight the work of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights in the advancement of the promotion and defense of human rights in the Hemisphere.
- Insist on the pertinence of abiding by the American Convention on Human Rights and other human rights treaties of the Inter-American System.
- Call for faithful compliance with the obligations emanating from the treaties, which are closely related with hemispheric Security.

## **28. Coalition of Access to Justice and the Rule of Law**

Abstract in English:

We want to remind OAS Member States about compliance with obligations that correspond to the authorities in the framework of the American Convention of Human Rights in the areas of promotion, respect, protection and guarantee of human rights, with a particular emphasis on individual, collective, cultural and identity rights of indigenous persons, peoples and communities, as well as the rights of women to live free from violence and discrimination.

As such:

WE CALL on the States, through their Ambassadors, to promote support for entrepreneurs with special emphasis on micro, small and medium enterprises.

WE CONDEMN unjust practices that threaten the dignity of the person through the various judicial systems of the countries; which is why we suggest public policies to promote social reintegration, based on merit and education in values.

WE EXHORT States to promote and guarantee a democratic education from an early age, geared towards active participation of society in the decisions of each nation.

AND WE DEMAND effective solutions to meet the basic needs of the persons, such as food, education, shelter, labor.

## **29. Coalition for Venezuela**

Abstract in English:

We ask OAS member states, in accordance with national legislations and international and regional instruments to:

1. Recognize the complex humanitarian emergency facing Venezuela
2. Recognize the impact of the migratory phenomenon from Venezuela
3. Recognize the status of refugees for migrant people coming from Venezuela
4. Formulate, design and implement integral public policies to tend to migrant and refugee peoples coming from Venezuela.

5. Mobilize resources for the implementation of plans of attention for migrant and refugees from Venezuela
6. Recognize and include civil society organizations as fundamental actors in the coordinated and articulated response alongside government and international cooperation organizations.

### **30. Coalition for Inclusive Economies with Social Justice**

Abstract in English:

1. Recognizing legally and socially as workers, all persons who are self-employed in the informal sector; and particularly those who carry out their activities in public spaces, as persons with rights, who are part of society and contribute to the community;
2. Advance in the creation of a legal instrument that recognize and guarantee the rights and obligations of persons who are self-employed in public spaces;
3. Design and establish a fiscal program and tax payment for informal workers in accordance with their income so that they might transition toward formal employment in a gradual manner;
4. An Ombudsman for the informal economy to ensure that governments in each country implement public policies from a perspective of human rights and to abrogate laws, rules and public policies that criminalize informal work. THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY WITHOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE.

### **31. Coalition of Human Rights of Youth and Adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Abstract in English:

We ask the States to incorporate our rights as a priority in their agendas.

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean has the second highest rate teenage pregnancy in the world and 74% of unwanted teenage pregnancies. It is the only region in the world where rates of child marriages and early marriages are increasing along with the number of minors younger than 15 who give birth.

Maternal mortality is one the main causes of death among teenagers and young people between 15 and 24 years of age.

The principles of hetero-norms, cis-norms and binaries of sex and genders are highly prevalent in the region which feeds prejudice and discrimination against LGBTI social sectors.

This reality highlights the urgent need to guarantee access to integral sex education for teenagers and youth; and to friendly services of sexual and reproductive health and protect these strategies against the continual resistance and vehement actions of anti-rights groups;

We not only ask our Government to double their efforts to protect and guarantee our rights but we also put ourselves at their disposal to support them in the design of public policies and laws to meet our needs and demands.

### **32. American Coalition on Drug Policies**

Abstract in English:

We call on CICAD and the IACHR to generate synergies to respond to the following recommendations:

1. Build Security policies respectful of human rights: the experience of militarizing drug policies in Latin America has generated extremely serious consequences. We ask the States to draft Security policies respectful of human rights.
2. Stop criminalizing minor or nonviolent misdemeanor related to drugs;
3. We are concerned about the implementation of a Drug Court in the Region: alternatives to criminalizing drug use are a great achievement, as long as these are respectful of human rights. We are worried however that Drug Courts in different countries of the region continue using penal law to respond to a health issue.
4. Understanding drug use from a perspective of public health: the prohibition of drugs has put the right to health of people in the Americas. We call on the organizations who work on drug policies, human rights and health, as well as OAS Member States to adopt the necessary measures to eliminate the stigma attached to persons who use psychoactive substances.
5. Responsible regulation of cannabis based on regional experiences

As stated by CICAD in its 2019 report on the use of drugs, changes in legislations and regulations on marijuana continue throughout the hemisphere through the decriminalization of marijuana for recreation of medical use. This changes call for an urgent multilateral debate on the responsible regulation of marijuana under the principles of public health, fair trade, sustainable development and human rights.

### **33. Coalition for an Inter-American Laboratory on Political and Social Innovation**

Abstract in English:

The intervention of the coalition is divided into:

1. Hemispheric context
2. Past actions in the framework of the OAS
3. Proposal for an Inter-American Laboratory for Social and Political Innovation
4. Expected results

The proposal for the Laboratory will touch upon the Alliance made between our coalition, the OAS Department of Social Inclusion and the Permanent Mission of Venezuela to promote a space for regional dialogue and action to foster social and political innovation.