



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

November 9, 2021, 14:00 – 18:00 pm

Virtual session

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS OF COALITIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS¹

1. Coalition of Human Rights of Women in the Americas. Clara Elena Cardona Tamay (Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe – RSMLAC).

The organizations that make up the Coalition of Human Rights of Women, within the framework of the celebration of the 51st General Assembly of the OAS, believe that it is essential that the present States, **CONSIDER**, that a renewed America is an America that makes women visible as citizens with the same conditions of equality, equity and opportunity in the access and enjoyment of human rights. However, cases of femicides, violence, sexual violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation of people, migration and forced displacement, and lack of guarantees to access and enjoy the ESCR, civil and political rights and sexual and reproductive rights, especially, the right to free, legal, safe and gratuitous abortion show that guaranteeing the fulfillment of women's human rights is a matter of urgent attention by the States of the region.

UN Women, ECLAC, PAHO / WHO, have sufficiently stated that the differential impacts of the COVID19 pandemic deeply affect women. According to the World Bank, the region is globally

¹ This document compiles the written presentations that coincide with what was presented by the Coalitions during the Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General and the Representatives of Civil Society, Workers, the Private Sector and other Social Actors. Those whose presentation was completely different from what was sent to the Civil Society Relations Section, as part of the requirements for participation, are not included in this document.

the second with the highest indicators of sexual violence. In addition, of the 25 countries with the highest numbers of femicides in the world, 14 are in our region. And, according to data collected by the United Nations in Argentina, Mexico, Colombia and other countries of the global south, domestic violence against women grew in 2021, between 30% and 50% and the labor participation rate of women fell 6%, that is to say the same as 10 years ago. And even more serious, it is estimated that 56.9% of the women in LAC² worked in the sector of the economy most affected by the pandemic: commerce, manufacturing, tourism, domestic workers, etc³.

The pandemic in LAC exacerbated problems such as school dropouts of girls and teenagers due to cases of forced or early pregnancies and/or because it increased responsibility for domestic care. In the region, about 36% of girls drop out of school for these reasons⁴. Pregnancies of girls under the age of 15 are particularly serious, as they are the product of sexual abuse and violence, especially within their homes. Likewise, the pandemic and the measures taken to contain it have limited women's access to reproductive health services⁵ with an impact on adequate care for pregnancies, births, and abortions, as well as access to modern contraceptive methods, given that the crisis affected the provision of these, both in the public sector and in the private sector (sale in pharmacies)⁶.

According to the Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders, the majority of defenders in the region consider that COVID-19 has increased the risk they face for defending human rights, especially in rural settings, as well as human rights defenders. LGBTIQ + and Transgender women's rights.

Between March and November 2020, alerts due to attacks increased 123% compared to 2019 (2020: 136, 2019: 61). Among the recorded attacks there are: arbitrary detentions, smear campaigns and misogynistic threats on social networks, criminalization, violation of human rights to political prisoners, and selective killings⁷. We continue to denounce in particular the systematic violation of the human rights of women in Nicaragua and we urge the OAS to take urgent measures to stop the wave of repression, criminalization and impunity carried out by this government. Likewise, we request special attention to the political situation in Haiti exacerbated by natural disasters that differentially impact women in the feminization of poverty, violence and state abandonment. In Colombia, during the year 2021, 19 human rights leaders have been assassinated because of their activism⁸, which shows cruelty against women and increases fear in their communities.

The foregoing are just some data on the worrying situation of women, without the States declaring emergency alerts to combat violence, discrimination and violations of their human rights. This Coalition since 2018 has been requesting the declaration of emergency NOW.

² Latin American and the Caribbean.

³ CEPAL (2020). Panorama Social en América Latina. https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/46687/8/S2100150_es.pdf

⁴ CODS. (2021). Así afectó la pandemia a las mujeres en América Latina. <https://uniandes.edu.co/es/noticias/desarrollo-regional/asi-afecto-la-pandemia-a-las-mujeres-en-america-latina>

⁵ CLACAI (2020) La Salud Reproductiva es Vital, seguimiento a la recomendación n° 53 de l CIDH <http://clacaidigital.info/bitstream/handle/123456789/1322/Brochure%20Linea%20Vital%20Edit%20%281%29.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

⁶ CEPAL. (2020). Los riesgos de la pandemia de COVID-19 para el ejercicio de los derechos sexuales y reproductivos de las mujeres. https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/46483/S2000906_es.pdf

⁷ Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders. (2021). Unravel the crisis, weave futures. Impacts of COVID-19 on the lives and struggles of Mesoamerican human rights defenders. <http://im-defensoras.org/2021/06/des-hilar-la-crisis-tejer-futuros/>

⁸ <http://www.indepaz.org.co/lideres-sociales-y-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-asesinados-en-2021/>

For this reason, the organizations that make up the COALITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN **EXHORT** the Secretary General and the member states to adopt urgently and without delay the necessary measures that guarantee the full exercise of women's human rights and girls of the Americas, without exclusion of any kind. The costs of the delay are intolerable and there will be no real renewal in the region if the enormous inequality gaps are not closed, including gender gaps, the causes of structural violence, and the levels of impunity in the investigation and punishment of crimes committed against women in all their life cycles.

2. Coalition for Human Development. Pablo Ortega (Human Life International – HLI).

Good afternoon. My name is Pablo Ortega. I am a husband, father, professional, president of the Association of Life and Human Dignity, and businessman in Guatemala.

Unfortunately, we have seen in recent times that the transcendent principles about the dignity and worth of the human person have been erroneously and sharply questioned, gradually reframed with reductionist ideologies on life and the family, as if this were a necessary renewal for human advancement, which it is not. That is why we will then examine in three parts what, under these conditions, a renewed America would mean, which is the motto chosen for this OAS General Assembly.

The first part is about a new industrialization of advanced technologies without addressing the consequences of the de-personalization of human relationships that are being fostered; and the promotion of economic changes that seem to walk along the path of welfare and a false economic equity, which does not reward individual effort or autonomy in economic decisions, which experience indicates will lead us to individual and generalized conformism. Yet, a true renewal will only be achieved with an economy based on reconsidering the free and solidary market, support for the individual effort to overcome adversities, respect for freedom of action, association, private property, large families, and other factors of human and social development.

The second part is about an alleged that the renewal will be achieved with proposals contrary to life and the family, such as: (1) The alleged sexual and reproductive health to give access to abortion (i.e. the murder of babies) and other anti-life measures, implicitly insisting on an anachronistic population control; (2) Sustainable development, considering the world as lacking sufficient resources and facing an exacerbated climate crisis, thus wanting to ill-intentionally legalize euthanasia and abortion as part of the solutions, which is the death of the most defenseless; (3) A disintegrated vision of human sexuality, which denies the anthropological unity between affectivity, sexuality, identity and social role, blatantly promoting a false vision of the person, contrary to the most elementary biology, providing no help to people who may be living in these states of confusion, while taking advantage of their activism for their purposes.

The third part is about a strong emphasis on consensus, which has even forced some delegates present here to abandon the bases of the principles and values about the human being, which are natural law and personalist bioethics, a consensus that will lead the human being and our countries to lose their way in a fateful way. It is for the reason that we insist that international agreements must start from the core human right of respect for human dignity from the first

moment of their existence, that is, from fertilization, and throughout their lives until their natural death.

Therefore, a criterion of utilitarianism and of discarding of the weakest cannot be accepted, because that is how dictatorships are born; on the contrary, a truly renewed America will be one that preserves the rights and dignity of every human being, for it is precisely then that authentic democracies are built.

Thank you very much.

3. LGBTTTI+ Coalition. Stacy Velásquez (Organización Trans Reinas de la Noche OTRANS).

A renewed America demands renewed legislation: the repeal of sodomy laws still in force in some Caribbean countries is urgently needed; It is urgent to pass laws that recognize the right to gender identity in all the countries of the Americas for trans and non-binary people, both elderly and children and adolescents. We demand the use of the best available scientific information when deciding legal proceedings against people with HIV and the repeal of laws that criminalize HIV. We highlight the ruling of the Inter-American Court in the case of Vicky Hernández, which says that human rights instruments on violence against women also apply to trans women.

We point out that LGBT people and sex workers (which include cisgender women, trans men and women and non-binary people), continue to suffer a great violation of our economic, social and cultural rights, especially trans and non-binary people, who also see their civil and political rights violated, due to the lack of documents consistent with their gender identity. We also request access to abortion for people with childbearing capacity and progress in trans health policies that are effectively depathologizing.

The poor response to COVID is often related to the economic realities of our countries, but it was also strongly determined by far-right, anti-gender, and neoliberal governments. The covid-19 pandemic served as an excuse for a repressive deployment that was unloaded on those who needed to continue occupying public space, for example, to exercise the right to protest or to exercise sex work.

A renewed America needs renewed ideas and actions on the forced displacement of people: some are forced by the consequences of climate change, which affects the Caribbean countries with special gravity; others for violence, especially against LGTB people and sex workers as is the case of the Northern Triangle of Central America; millions because of poverty, among them trans people systematically excluded from education and employment.

We demand urgent, concrete, and effective measures to stop extreme violence against LGBT people, and especially against trans people. We demand justice for our colleague Alejandra Soto, from the Amanda Jofré Trade Union Corporation of Chile, who was doused with fuel and set on fire. And we demand justice for our colleague Andrea Gonzáles, from the Trans Queens of the Night Organization of Guatemala, a member of our Coalition and who as such participated in this General Assembly on previous occasions. Andrea was killed in a transphobic attack that has yet to be properly investigated and remains unpunished. We therefore ask the State of

Guatemala to request a minute of silence as the host country in the framework of this dialogue as a token of respect for this Guatemalan human rights defender.

4. Coalition Education and Culture for Democracy. Jorge Omar Marquez Santamaría (Colegio Calacoaya Tierra Nueva A.C).

Education plays a fundamental role in the development of peoples. The greater the education, the greater the reduction of poverty, disease and social weakening. The urgency of public policies that facilitate the access and permanence of the student in the system, is the urgent need to fulfill today in the continent, especially after the forced recess caused by the health emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, which has caused an educational setback for at least 10 years.

Faced with the enormous challenge that this represents, we have a crucial demand: The development of programs with content based on scientific certainty; and enriched with cutting-edge educational proposals that reverse the lag and promote the scientific nature of knowledge. In this format, it is imperative, not only to ensure that the content is expanded beyond the student body, but also to strengthen the internal ties of the family group, avoiding internal polarization.

It has been demonstrated that a family committed to this process guarantees better results in school achievement and a faster development of the student, and of course, it also contributes to the strengthening of the community fabric.

Governments must multiply efforts to impose these new contents to all children, teenagers and young people in the countries, promoting development through education with curricula that make it possible for education to be truly secular, so as not to threaten democracy and secularism itself, a right inherent to human beings, recognized and guaranteed in international treaties.

On the other hand, educational content that does not attack scientific truth, which would not only provoke rejection but also confrontation within the social fabric induced by the educational system itself must be included.

The education that the State protects cannot be dogmatic of any particular conception of life, but the practical demonstration of the breadth of knowledge that laicism itself demands. It cannot be based on ideas that polarize society, that disagree precisely with the task of the school, which pursues the self-determination of the individual.

Let's educate for freedom without adjectives. Without hateful or divisive content, so that our young people be prepared for life. Guaranteeing freedom of conscience and expression. Freedom based on substantive truth because truth is the strength of freedom.

5. Coalition Opportunities for Social Order. Jimena Paola Cabrera Rodríguez (Organización Profesionistas Multidisciplinarios Paso Firme A.C.)

- 6. Coalition Ibero-American Evangelical Congress. Cleotaldo Edwin Álvarez Murgas (Asociación Mutualista Evangélica Neuquina)**

- 7. Coalition Building New Horizons. Katherine Sandivel González (Fundación Buenas Noticias)**

- 8. Coalition for the Rights of Sex Workers. María Lucila Esquivel (Unidas en la esperanza Paraguay – UNES).**

We want to start with a question: Are the governments of the region really going to work so that no one is left behind, as proposed by the 2030 Agenda?

It is the third time that we address this Assembly. So far, we have not seen any concrete facts that show interest in our requests.

The COVID pandemic intensified the violations of our human rights: the non-recognition of our work left us helpless from any public assistance policy and forced us to break isolation rules to go out to work in the midst of the pandemic. We found ourselves in the dilemma of staying in our homes without money to feed ourselves, pay our services and rents, or go out to find a livelihood and suffer violence from the security forces that unleashed the worst repressions. 40% of the cases occurred on the streets, while 26% occurred in the workplace. In more than half of the cases (54%), the authors were public officials, only 15% of the informants filed a formal complaint; 9 of them got a response from the system, and only 3 of these responses were for the protection of their rights.

We are in the continent of greatest inequality and COVID does not affect all people in the same way. The levels of poverty are alarming and in this context, we continue not to be considered as subjects of law.

Another problem that has worsened is the migratory mobility of people who, for economic reasons, violence, and political instability, are violated and their rights are undermined.

We hear that there are abolitionist positions towards our work, but what happens in real life is that adopting the measures promoted by the abolitionist sectors is wrong. They are exterminating us and the States must guarantee our right to life, education, housing, work and above all to free choice about our bodies.

We insist that the officials of the United Nations, the OAS and other regional mechanisms cannot ignore their mandates and put their personal positions first. That, in practice, excludes us from being able to discuss public policies, recommendations and even legislation that recognizes the rights denied.

That is why we ask the General Assembly:

- To order the immediate creation of a rapporteur that can promote, through research and evidence gathering, the drafting of the necessary resolutions to stop the violation of human rights of people who practice sex work, to build a renewed and inclusive America.

9. Coalition for the Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in the Americas. Dean Lermen González (Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos ULAC).

The regional and subregional organizations of the Americas that represent persons with disabilities, recognized by the OAS and the United Nations System, together with national, regional, and local organizations of persons with disabilities, warmly welcome the Secretary's General's Dialogue of the OAS.

The covid-19 pandemic and its effects on all levels, the climate crisis and natural disasters, continue to widen the social, labor, salary and digital gaps, among others, that separate people with disabilities from the effective enjoyment of rights human rights and fundamental freedoms, restrict their rights to political, social and economic participation and prevent them from influencing decisions that affect them.

Next, we point out relevant aspects that prevent the Sustainable Development Goals from being effectively met with respect to people with disabilities.

The World Bank points out that, in times of the pandemic, the prolonged closure of schools caused the impoverishment of learning, a phenomenon that impacts a large number of children with disabilities, who additionally do not have access to basic services, such as food programs, assistive technologies, support staff, recreation programs, extracurricular activities, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs. In addition, it deepens the digital divide for students with disabilities related to access to information, electricity, equipment, the Internet and digital platforms and their content.

In addition, the pandemic generated an increase of 4 points in the poverty index, reaching 35% of the population, and extreme poverty at 13%, which increased the inequality represented by loss of employment and income. Among other populations, the most affected are people with disabilities who receive the lowest wages and, at the same time, the highest cost of living that living with a disability entails.

Faced with this scenario, we ask you, Mr. Secretary General, to submit the following proposals for consideration and study by the specialized organs of the OAS:

1. Stronger interrelation and coordination of work between the Report on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity of the OAS General Secretariat.
2. The creation of the Disability Forum of the Americas with the participation of the OAS member states and regional and subregional organizations that represent persons with disabilities and their families, whose objectives are to encourage member states to commit to:
 - Adopt a Governance that implies new development financing so that the countries of the region can face the consequences of the covid-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and catastrophes, on the quality of life of people with disabilities.
 - Design and implement public policies that guarantee the application and implementation of international treaties and national legislative development, guaranteeing the required public investment and the full participation of people with disabilities in activities of public, political, economic, educational, and social life, cultural; and in recreational, leisure and sports activities.
 - Design and implement public policies and guarantee their financing, in the field of education, at all levels, with special emphasis on the use and access to information and

communication technologies, access to the digital ecosystem, availability of equipment and connectivity that the technology demands and training in its use.

- Establish mechanisms that make possible a more inclusive labor market for people with disabilities, and a shock economic policy that stops the economic precariousness of people with disabilities and their families.
- Guarantee the social protection of people with disabilities, migrants, displaced persons, victims and refugees, as well as providing accessible and usable physical and digital environments.
- Guarantee the sustainability of the organizations that represent people with disabilities so that they can exercise their political and democratic participation.

10. Coalition Citizen's Forum of the Americas. Natasha Jimenez Mata (Mulabi/ Espacio Latinoamericano de Sexualidades y Derechos).

Ever since the topic of the OAS General Assembly was proposed, as a civil society we have been wondering what it means to strive for "For a Renewed America": what does that mean in material and symbolic terms for our countries and, above all, for the demands of civil society, in a context of public health crisis due to the pandemic? It is not enough just to enunciate the words renewal, change or transformation so that things take different directions and, above all, better for everyone.

"For a renewed America" must mean greater political and institutional commitment on the part of you, the States, and on the part of the OAS when it comes to generating these plural spaces for dialogue and with more innovative methodologies that allow real exchanges of ideas and collective constructions of solutions, not simple meetings of readings of speeches and demands.

As the Citizen Forum of the Americas, we have been working for almost five years in the construction of regional and hemispheric agendas that take into account the complexities and tensions present in our countries and in the region. These agendas revolve around four transversal and fundamental issues, on which we hope that the States take careful note and commit to urgent measures:

1. **Fight against corruption:** this is to recognize that it is a systemic problem that is generated from various sectors and actors of society and that for its eradication it is necessary to listen to the proposals of the citizenry. In addition, the States must advocate for policies and measures that facilitate social control of their entities and public spending.
2. **Civic space and weakening of the rule of law:** In most Latin American and Caribbean countries, citizens cannot fully exercise their rights and freedoms, either because there are illegal criminal agents or because the State does not provide guarantees or it represses them.

During the pandemic, all the governments of the continent applied restrictive measures to freedoms that went beyond protecting public health.

3. **"Participation and advocacy in the digital age:** States and their governments have the obligation to provide channels and spaces for a broad and democratic dialogue with citizens and their organizations. In this sense, it is important that governments, in addition to presenting innovative methodologies that combine face-to-face, virtual and mixed activities, since the pandemic exhibited in most countries there are huge digital gaps, develop public policies that happen to people with access to a quality Internet "

4. **Gender-based violence:** women and girls continue to be the population sector that systematically receives the most violence in all countries, but States are inoperative in the face of demands for justice in cases of gender-based violence and, furthermore, they do not provide effective protection. During 2020 and 2021, these cases have increased exponentially.

Gender-based violence demands urgent policies for cultural change, in addition to the effective application of current norms.

Therefore, heeding our spirit of dialogue and purpose, we have the following general recommendations that we urge you to take into account for the renewal of the Americas:

- Motivate citizen participation with strategies that promote active citizenship, providing tools for advocacy through training processes, citizen awareness, social watchdog groups, etc.
- Promote the presentation of civil society reports in the OAS General Assembly, in the Summit processes and other multilateral spaces, in such a way that they serve as inputs to adopt measures aimed at improving state actions and multisectoral work.
- Document and denounce situations of rights violations and democratic weakening. For this, it is necessary that the Inter-American Human Rights System continue to be strengthened.
- Demand the protection of actors who lead social processes and fight for the defense of human rights, for the defense of their territories, for democracy and for a culture of transparency.
- That the States must ensure a real and effective transformation for the eradication of the situation of poverty, exclusion, and structural inequality that persists in the countries, and that impacts on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights, especially in groups in situations of vulnerability.

11. Coalition of Human Mobility in the Americas. Lucia Veronica Galoppo (CAREF).

Year after year, figures and testimonies of hundreds of thousands of people on the continent, show the progressive deterioration of living conditions and the guarantee of rights. These reasons oblige men, women and minors, the latter often unaccompanied to migrate, a condition that makes them more vulnerable to suffering various forms of violence.

The pandemic deepened the gaps and inequalities that hit people hardest in conditions of vulnerability and, despite the measures adopted by governments for reactivation, the health crisis has left political, economic and social collateral effects that will impact the continent, especially the most vulnerable, at least during this decade. This is why from the Human Mobility Coalition of the Americas we ask the States to work jointly on the following points:

1. That the States guarantee access to vaccination plans for the refugee and migrant population, regardless of their origin and immigration status; and, taking into account

the economic consequences that the pandemic has had on this population, include them in the economic reactivation plans, paying special attention to the informal labor sector, on which it depends largely percentage of migrant population.

2. The response in migration matters must be approached from the perspective of human rights and gender, guaranteeing the principles of non-refoulement, family unity, the prohibition of rejection in border and easy access to mechanisms to seek and receive refuge. The pandemic has been used by many States as a pretext to restrict passage through their borders and limit access to protection, and there have even been deportations without due process and mass expulsions that are contrary to international standards. This has forced the migrant population to cross steps informal or waiting in crowded conditions for humanitarian corridors to open, putting his life and integrity at risk. In this sense, we call for the guarantee of a safe, humanitarian and coordinated migration process with the proper biosecurity measures.
3. It is necessary to guarantee equal economic, social and cultural rights of the refugee and migrant population. To this end, we call for it to be provided permanently, accessible, and flexible access to migration regularization routes and refugee status, as well as access to the institutional offer in education, health, employment, housing and other rights contemplated within the commitments derived from the instruments of international human rights and refugee's law.

Violation of the rights of the population at risk of being affected persists women, minors of age, LGBTQ +, Afro and indigenous population, as they are victims of crime networks and even discriminated by state agents. The situation of forced migration requires States to consider the elaboration of a Convention on Human Mobility in the Americas that allows a better attention to the context, with timely State policies that guarantee coordination and co-responsibility to address the causes and challenges of growing forced migration on the continent.

12. Coalition of Youth and Adolescent Human Rights in the Americas. Leidy Ayala (Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe).

Regarding the motto of this Assembly "For a renewed America", the organizations that make up the Coalition of Human Rights of Youth and Adolescents of the Americas urge the States to fulfill their commitments and not diminish efforts so that the rights of Adolescents and Youth in the Americas are at the center of your agendas as a priority issue.

According to the latest United Nations survey on Youth in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic, in Latin America and the Caribbean, more than half of the Adolescent and Youth population perceives that insecurity and gender violence increased in their environments, being women, the LGTBIQ + population and indigenous, migrant and refugee youths who suffer the greatest impact.

It is worth noting that according to Amnesty International, threats towards LGTBIQ + people are especially worrisome in Central America, highlighting the violence in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. This implies setbacks in terms of guarantee and protection of their rights.

The foregoing is consistent with the figures on the negative assessment of young people, compared to the responses of governments on gender violence. Precisely adolescents and young people in conditions of impoverishment and vulnerability who live in rural areas and who are part of indigenous populations, Afro-descendants, migrants and refugees, are unprotected due to inadequate public policies that do not respond to the needs of these sectors, perpetuating their situation of social and political marginality.

Our region is the only one in the world where there has been no reduction in child marriage and early unions in the last 25 years. The determinants of these unions are, among others, unwanted pregnancies in girls and adolescents that had to be carried to term, as a result of barriers in access to sexual and reproductive health services, such as legal, safe and free abortion. Likewise, gender violence, school dropouts, barriers in the access of girls, boys and adolescents to comprehensive sexual education due to Covid 19, can erase more than 20 years of progress in relation to the guarantee of Sexual and Reproductive Rights.

On the other hand, the neglect of HIV+ people represents a serious public health problem in Latin America, which has been exacerbated by the inefficient response of health systems to the emergency generated by Covid 19. For the first quarter of 2021, 48% of adolescents and young people did not have antiretroviral treatment.

In accordance with the above, we demand that the States:

- Comply with the agreements reached by the member states in the "Santiago Commitment" 2020, fundamentally with those related to the implementation of policies sensitive to gender inequalities to mitigate the effects of the crisis on the lives of young people, the recognition of women in their diversity, access to comprehensive sexual education, and the eradication of discrimination and violence against women and girls.
- Reaffirm the fundamental role of non-governmental organizations, in particular feminist women's organizations and movements, indigenous women, Afro-descendants, youth and women with disabilities, LGBTIQ + people, and human rights defenders.
- Promote exchange and alliances to ensure progress towards the achievement of the objectives established in the Beijing Declaration of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda.

We, the youth fight for a renewed, dignified, fair and democratic America, and for this we urge governments to work in an articulated way with civil society in the implementation of strategies aimed at fulfilling the agendas and commitments acquired, where adolescents and young people are at the center of all possible endeavors.

13. Coalition of Human Rights Organizations of the Americas. Iduvina Hernández (Convergencia por los Derechos Humanos).

From the Coalition of Human Rights Organizations of the Americas we express our concern about three issues.

First, we express our deep concern about the continuous deterioration of democratic institutions in many countries, including the weakening of judicial independence and the separation of powers, as well as the harassment and persecution of justice operators and civil society. This occurs in a context of increasing measures and authoritarian tendencies of

governments of different political positions and the COVID-19 pandemic that continues in our region.

We underscore that corruption represents an ongoing threat to the protection of human rights and the rule of law in the Americas. Some of the countries of greatest concern in this regard are El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela. On the other hand, we demand respect for freedom of expression in the context of peaceful demonstrations throughout the continent and we condemn the excessive use of force in this context, for example, in Colombia and Cuba.

Second, we express our concern about the situation of human rights defenders from various countries, including, among others, defenders of the environment, sexual and reproductive rights, women, LGBTTTIQA +, indigenous people and Afro-descendants, who continue to be victims of threats, aggressions, criminalization, attacks, forced displacement, stigmatization, and murders. In 2020, 264 defenders were killed in the region. We demand that States guarantee the right to defend rights, and that they recognize this important work in their public policies. We also express concern about the threat from fundamentalist groups that seek to undermine human rights, particularly from groups that have historically been discriminated, such as women and LGBTTTIQA + people.

Third, we urge the states to reaffirm their commitment to the effective functioning of the Inter-American Human Rights System. States must commit to promoting internal application processes that are transparent and participatory. We urge the States to nominate and vote for suitable persons to serve on these bodies. And we demand that the States ensure that the Inter-American System has the necessary financial resources to guarantee effective protection.

Finally, it is necessary to underline that it is not possible to achieve the “renewed America” to which the OAS aspires, if the practices that aggravate the historical inequalities that characterize our region are not combated and eliminated. States must redouble their efforts to achieve respect for human rights. In any discussion, the voices of peoples, groups and organized civil society must be heard.

14. Coalition REDLAD Inclusive Dialogue as a basis for Social Innovation. Graciela Dubrez (Observatorio Internacional de Prisiones de Argentina – OIP).

The COVID 19 Pandemic made it clear that a Renewed America is an America in which the impacts of the pandemic crisis are immediately addressed, which has been used to: i) violate the rule of law and reduce civic space in many countries of the continent; ii) to unprotect human rights defenders in the weakest democracies; and iii) to persecute opponents, journalists, and civil society in countries with autocracies.

A Renewed America also advances in post-covid reconstruction, understanding the differentiated effects on various population groups. The pandemic seriously affected the guarantee of fundamental rights in the continent: children and adolescents, people with disabilities and the elderly have seen their quality of life and access to basic rights deteriorate. Violence against women has increased alarmingly, trans people were disproportionately affected by the lack of access to hormonal treatments; Prison overcrowding increased due to the suspension of conditional liberties and the prison population was unable to receive health care beyond COVID.

On the other hand, a Renewed America takes urgent measures so that the health sector is strengthened so that it can deal with future crises more quickly. Necessary reforms should include:

1. Construction of resilient health ecosystems that guarantee the right to health through improvements in the jobs associated with the sector, as well as in the supply chains that feed it. Among other things, it is necessary to facilitate the cross-border movement of health workers in emergencies.

2. Guarantee sufficient financing for the sector through increased investment, as well as sufficient fiscal space, and the fight against corruption in the sector. This while ensuring that the benefits of the investment translate into growth of national and local economies. The creation of mixed financing formulas (public-private) with constant monitoring of civil society, social actors, patient groups, among other actors, will be required to guarantee efficiency and effectiveness in spending.

3. Ensure the availability of medicines, vaccines, and medical supplies of all kinds by: i) Promoting the joint purchase of supplies and medicines for the creation of national and regional reserves to respond to health emergencies, especially for low- and middle-income countries. , ii) the development of local supply markets and regional cooperation for innovation, guaranteeing that the continent becomes self-sustainable in the production of viable health solutions such as vaccines, respirators, medical supplies and others necessary for the care of new pandemics. iii) improvements in the regulatory process and adoption of international standards, which reduce duplication of procedures and reduce windows of corruption, iv) the recognition and appreciation of ancestral medicine practices, especially peasant, indigenous and Afro-descendant practices, v) enable technology transfer through partnerships between pharmaceutical companies and medical device companies with regional manufacturing centers and research centers.

4. Facilitate the development of digital solutions in health and telemedicine to make health care more accessible and scalable, while guaranteeing the protection of personal data, improvement in digital literacy, especially for communities with low access to electronic devices, internet coverage, among others.

5. Build a fairer and more equitable health system, which recognizes the disparities in the guarantee of the right and the provision of health services, with differential care for vulnerable populations (ethnic groups, children, women, LGBTIQ, third-rate people). age, health workers, prison population, etc). For this, the voice of patients and other relevant actors must be incorporated in the design of consultation processes and differential care.

A Renewed America has health ecosystems prepared for any emergency, with regional links for care and cooperation between states and between sectors and reviews the progress of the reforms year after year, collecting good practices and sanctioning setbacks.

Finally, a Renewed America is an America in which human rights are respected, in which civil society has sufficient conditions to do its work, where governments comply with the law, public powers are balanced and justice is applied in a timely and efficient manner. A Renewed America is no longer the most unequal continent in the world, and economic growth allows equity and human dignity for all American citizens.

A Renewed America has no room for the veiled dictatorships that exist on the continent, for fake democracies that wash their hands thanks to the blind gaze of others.

**15. Coalition of Religions, Beliefs and Spiritualities in the Dialogue with Civil Society.
Sandra Mazo (Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir).**

Dear and esteemed representatives of the State, authorities of the organization and colleagues from civil society:

The pandemic context has been and still represents a great challenge for the societies of America today. It is a time that has highlighted the strengths and solidarity, as well as the weaknesses and shortcomings of our systems, policies, and forms of coexistence. On the one hand, it is evident the great capacity for humanization, development, resilience and transformation that we have as societies when we work together and collaboratively to attend to situations that call for urgent action. But it is also a context that reveals the various forms of exclusion, silencing and violence that can awaken instances of fear and uncertainty like the ones we are going through. If we speak, then, of a “renewed America”, we must recognize that we still have a long way to go to improve the mechanisms for citizen participation, the improvement of democratic environments, the strengthening of civic space and the development of public policies that ensure the guarantee of all sectors, in times of crisis that require a commitment from all parties.

Religious and spiritual spaces in our region play a fundamental role in these processes. The pandemic has shown that communities, groups, movements and organizations of a religious and spiritual nature have been fundamental spaces for the development of welcoming spaces, of accompaniment to the States in the promotion of public policies, in the articulation with civil society organizations to work together for the common good. But in the same way, we are witnesses of how some religious voices act or are instrumentalized for purposes that enter into tension and contradiction with the legitimation of a democratic environment, especially with regard to the acceptance of the plurality inherent in our societies and the respect for the guarantees of law already won.

From here, we want to pronounce ourselves on the following aspects:

1. We view with concern the use of the idea of religious freedom as a way to restrict other rights, freedom of expression or the respect of policies for the common good. This term is appealed to base on a totalizing vision of religious expressions, as if they respond to specific moral, ideological and social perspectives, thus denying the plurality that makes up religions and spiritual spaces in all issues that concern the development of our societies. Religious freedom, on the one hand, has limits like any other freedom. Therefore, it cannot be used to violate the rights of others. On the other hand, religious freedom cannot be enshrined as a framework that legitimizes certain views and violates others. This not only instrumentalizes religious freedom as a right for particular agendas, but also promotes the violation of the rights of individuals and communities that are part of the religious communities themselves.

2. In the same way, we are concerned about the fact that some religious voices are instrumentalized by political movements and voices that directly and explicitly deny the rights to inclusion, diversity and equal opportunities, reflecting a stereotyped and exclusive vision of the religious and spiritual world. We once again insist that, just as the religious world is plural in terms of confessions and ritual expressions, it is also plural in political, moral and ideological terms.

3. We maintain that the best way to approach the religious world in plural and democratic terms is by deepening the principle of the secular state, which, despite being on paper, does not translate into the socio-political reality of many countries, where some religious voices still have privileges that are reflected in political advantages. We need a real separation between church and state, and political and legal tools to account for it. This is the starting point to promote pluralism and religious diversity from public policies as instances of dialogue and contribution to the common good.

Hence, we urge the OAS member states:

1. To continue fostering spaces for dialogue and encounters that value the democratic principle of the religious and spiritual pluralities that make up our countries.
2. To comply with the mandates of the resolution on religious freedom of the body, which call for the creation of a space for regional dialogue on these issues, and that account for the greatest variety of expressions on these issues, and not monopolistic expressions.
3. And to continue working on the scope and impact of the resolution of religious freedom itself, so that it becomes a tool that promotes the democratic role of religions and spiritualities, in its articulation with the guarantees of all the groups that make up the dialogue of civil society

Thank you very much.

16. Coalition on Drug Policies (CAPD). Pablo Cymerman (Intercambios A.C.)

In June of this year, it was 50 years since President Richard Nixon declared the war on drugs, a declaration that quickly spread throughout the Americas, deploying a policy focused on prohibition, the criminalization of producers, distributors and consumers, the eradication of crops, the militarization and the obstruction of traffic flows. After half a century in which repression was promoted as a strategy to reduce supply and demand, we cannot fail to recognize the counterproductive effects that resulted from repressive policies and the fact that, despite them, drug use and trafficking they have not decreased in our region.

That is why the call for a renewed America must call us to decisively walk the path of punishment to care, understanding that a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon of drugs requires investigating the historical, biological and social processes that surround it, taking into account the complexity of the object, to the plurality of scientific approaches and the diversity of modes of intervention. A renewed America must be an America with drug policies based on respect for rights, social justice, and public health.

Therefore, we urge Member States to:

- **Modify repressive drug policies.** We request that the criminalization of people who use drugs be stopped, and that the principle of proportionality be respected, through the establishment of alternatives to incarceration and reduction of penalties for non-violent drug-related crimes.
- **Treat the problems associated with drug use and dependence from a public health perspective.** Universal access to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, harm reduction and social integration services must be guaranteed.

- **Ensuring the quality of services and providing sufficient resources.** Care services for people with problem drug use must be based on scientific foundations and comply with ethical principles. It is essential to have the budget and human resources necessary to structure a network of varied services that attend to differentiated problems. We request that more resources be invested in treatment, education and rehabilitation from a perspective of continuous care and with a gender perspective.
- **Facilitate unrestricted access to health care for people deprived of liberty with problematic drug use.** Access should be to services similar to those available in their community. In no case their procedural situation can be used as an argument to prevent the start or continuity of the treatment.
- **Do not apply policies that endanger the lives of indigenous, peasant and Afro-descendant communities that grow illicit plants.** Reducing violence and building new indicators of success for drug policies related to the production of coca, poppy and marijuana crops in the continent is a necessity. The policies of containment and reduction of these productions cannot continue based on indicators of cultivated hectares, judicialized farmers or executed seizures. New indicators that include the reduction of rural poverty, access to basic education and health, the provision of kilometers of built roads, and the number of licit products that access markets in fair conditions from rural areas, should be taken into account.
- **Guarantee respect for human rights in all measures undertaken.** We request that you take into consideration the **United Nations International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy**, which, in accordance with international law, including the instruments of the Inter-American System, summarize the specific legal obligations that States have in this regard.

Finally, knowing that civil society plays a crucial role in guaranteeing respect for human rights, we urge the OAS Member States to **maintain spaces for dialogue in CICAD** and to include the **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights**, in response to the coherence of the inter-American system.

Thank you very much.

17. Coalition on Sexual and Reproductive Rights. Ingrid Galvez (Vecinas Feministas por la Justicia Sexual y Reproductiva de América Latina).

As a Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights we want to point out that:

First: From the Civil Society Organizations we consider that achieving a real renewed America involves moving from the paradigm of development with exclusions to an inclusive one. The meaning of social inclusion is to eradicate the livelihoods that promote inequalities, and the discrimination (ethnic, racial, age, gender, sexual orientation, and others), which conspire against the right to live a dignified life. The true inclusion that makes the achievement of development with peace and social justice supposes a comprehensive and intersectional perspective that allows identifying the innumerable oppressions that threaten human rights.

Second: Nor can we speak of a renewed America if the States continue only with declarative wills and do not translate them into actions with real and sufficient budgets to eradicate all the

violence that women, adolescents, girls, LGBTIQ+ people experience, kinds of violence that have increased during the pandemic.

Therefore, as a Coalition we demand to the States:

- The modification of restrictive and discriminatory laws against abortion to make it legal, safe and free,
- The effective access to justice for victims of sexual violence,
- The access to equal marriage and unions without discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity
- A Comprehensive Sex Education at all educational levels,
- Full access to sexual and reproductive rights, and particularly sexual and reproductive health.

From a global and regional perspective, we support the development of democracies in the region and we are alert to the risk of them in various countries. For this we consider essential the secularism of the State that maintains the essential separation between churches and States.

From this coalition we defend access to sexual and reproductive rights and demand the necessary guarantees for their exercise.

For a renewed America with sexual and reproductive rights!

18. Coalition of Persons of African Descent in the Americas. Gloria Núñez de Silva (Afroamérica XXI Guatemala).

The Afro-descendant Coalition of the Americas considers it important to:

Highlight that we observe with concern that our proposals continue to be put aside and forgotten.

You, as representatives of our States, know that the majority of the Afro-descendant population of your countries is in a situation of poverty, extreme poverty and vulnerability to poverty. Likewise, our leaders are persecuted and killed for protecting our ancestral territories or for reporting on our harsh reality.

Of course, we only have to observe the faces and delegations of our States present here to understand that there are few cases in which we access positions of power in Latin America.

We are firm believers in the phrase that says “A Budget is a declaration of values” and you have proven it this way, by leaving little or no budgets for the few programs and projects that benefit the Afro-descendant population in your countries. At the same time, there are no plans, projects and investment for post-covid-19 economic reactivation aimed at the Afro-descendant population. We even observe it within the IACHR, as the Rapporteurship on the Rights of People of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination, the Rapporteurship with the least budget.

Likewise, we call on our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean to support initiatives that protect and promote the rights of the Afro-descendant people and thus generate more equitable and just societies throughout all America.

Therefore, our Recommendations persist:

- We urgently demand the collection of official statistical data, permanent and disaggregated by ethnicity/race, mainly in health, education, employment and justice.
- We demand to include ethnic / racial approaches in public policies and local, regional and national development plans, and include our proposals.
- We demand protection in favor of Afro-descendant human rights defenders, especially from Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, and measures that respond to the reality of women, youth, migrants and the Afro-descendant LGBTI population.
- We demand the creation of a poverty alleviation program aimed at the Afro-descendant people, and finally, **we continue to emphasize:**
 1. The creation of the Fund for the Economic Development of Afro-descendants in the OAS;
 2. Increased funding for the Rapporteurship on the Rights of People of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination;
 3. The signing, ratification and effective implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance; and
 4. The effective implementation of the guidelines given by the International Decade for People of African Descent, the 2030 Agenda, and the Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025).

19. Coalition Indigenous Coordination Abya Yala. Federación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas, Artesanas, Indígenas, Nativas y Asalariadas del Perú FENMUCARINAP).

The Abya Yala Indigenous Coordinating Coalition greets those present at the 51st General Assembly of the Organization of American States, gathered in Guatemala, via virtual; with the purpose of advancing in the main issues, agreements to the regional agenda, in which the indigenous peoples vindicate ourselves as subjects of law in our great Abya Yala territory.

There is no Democratic Renewal if we are only given 3 minutes to present after collaborating for a whole year in its preparation.

We cannot speak of the American Democratic Renewal, if the current political model and the implementation of megaprojects of the governments in our territories is increasingly violent dispossession, repeatedly violating our fundamental rights, criminalizing and politically persecuting indigenous leaders who defend the territory, violating our right to self-determination that threatens the cultural and intangible heritage, the continuity of life and the worldview of our peoples.

And more if you talk about the signing of the Convention as in Glasgow, for conservation, no to climate change and action with megaprojects, privatization and pollution of water, extraction, mining, or wood or fossil fuels, or of transgenic products.

We cannot speak of the American Democratic Renewal, without the recognition as subjects of rights of the indigenous peoples of Abya Yala. And if there is no respect for our collective rights.

Due to the above, we call on the Heads of State and the OAS:

- We demand that they comply with the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted in the Dominican Republic in 2016 and its action plan regarding the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its immediate implementation. So far, no country complies.
- We reiterate our demand that the form of representation of indigenous peoples within the OAS be through the creation of a permanent American Commission on the rights of indigenous peoples made up exclusively of indigenous brothers and sisters, with its own budget.
- We also demand that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the Justice Center of the Americas and other international organizations contribute to preserving the lives of Indigenous Peoples, through their normative systems and their governments.
- We demand that the member states of the OAS recognize and respect the special indigenous jurisdiction of the Abya Yala peoples and nationalities, within the framework of courts of self-justice according to their worldviews.

In particular, we highlight the manifesto of our sisters, where they expressed their demands to respect their human rights, gathered at the 1st Summit of indigenous women held in May, Cochabamba-Bolivia and the second International Summit of Abya Yala women, held October 2021 in Lima-Perú and we also want to denounce the situation of our indigenous brothers in Colombia, Panama, Guatemala, who are going through a process of escalation of violence by the police, military outside the law, who in view omission and complacent of the Panamanian and Colombian governments have increased their harmful actions against the Indigenous Peoples. Recently in Panama, the Barro Blanco Case, where my Ngäbe-Buglé brothers have been violated, injured by the police, there is plenty of evidence.

Finally, as Peoples of the Abya Yala we demand that the Heads of State fulfill their obligation to respect our right to self-determination, preserve and strengthen our own political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions.

20. Coalition Democracy, Freedom, Justice and Political Renewal. Rosa María Payá Acevedo (Fundación Democracia Panamericana).

It is an honor to address this General Assembly, on behalf of the Democracy, Liberty, Justice and Political Renewal Coalition

For our hemisphere, having tolerated a dictatorship in Cuba for 62 years has meant the end of democracy in Venezuela and much of the democratic instability throughout the region. The permanent council needs to take effective actions in support of democracy for the Cuban people.

On July 11 in Cuba, with hundreds of thousands of people protesting peacefully in the streets in fifty cities, the demolition of the Iron Curtain in our hemisphere began. Because, to the Cuban civil society, and to the movement for the civil rights of an entire people, inside and outside the island, the government of Havana has declared war in public.

Today the Cubans who protested the 11J face hundreds of arbitrary arrests, imprisonment and long sentences, intimidation, beatings, and forced exile for the only crime is to think differently from the officers. Without the urgent solidarity of the nations of the Americas, the democratic awakening in Cuba runs the risk of being crushed with more violence and impunity than is already exercised by the uniformed.

The world cannot be an accomplice in this terminal phase of the Cuban regime. And it must react against this not only economic and political debacle, but also of anthropological damage. The regime wants to sterilize the hope that a better Cuba is possible and the dignity of the new generations defenders of change displeases the corporate-military power.

On November 15, for example, massive protests are called, and the State's response has been to distribute blunt weapons (and even firearms) among workers and students, forced to recruit into repressive commands under the orders of the National Police and State Security. The Cuban people survive under the blackmail that the government is willing to kill, rather than accept the right of Cubans to decide the course of their own country. And I know this well from my own experience, because on July 22, 2012, the government ordered the assassination of my father Oswaldo Payá and my friend Harold Cepero.

The Cuban regime never responds to proposals for concord and reconciliation, nor does it favor any type of civic dialogue. They came to power by force and that is the only tool that sustains their power at the moment. Let us not allow them to impose on us in Cuba and, by extension, on all the peoples of our hemisphere, such an equation, as anachronistic as it is criminal.

Those who never allowed free and plural elections, nor do they respect the principles of the Inter-American Charter, have no place at the Summit of the Americas, which is a strategic meeting place between the democratically elected representatives of each of our peoples.

What Europe has just done to support the liberation of Cubans, Latin America can now also do with respect to one of its neighbors, Cuba, whose regime prevents the Cuban people from being represented in this continental organization. In the name of historical truth and social justice, I ask you not to leave Cubans alone. Don't leave us alone.

Thank you very much

21. Coalition for Societal Progress. Elsa Adané Méndez Álvarez (Centro de Desarrollo Integral Nueva Vida Internacional A.C)

22. Indigenous Nations and Organizations Coalition. Clément "Clem" Chartier (Métis Nation).

Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas have suffered the brunt of the COVID 19 pandemic. As States roll out measures to bring their economies back toward normality, this cannot and must not be done without the active participation of Indigenous peoples and nations.

States must make provisions in their budget allocations directed to Indigenous peoples' governments, organizations, and communities in amounts sufficient to enable them to re-establish their capacity to generate economic activities affected by the pandemic.

While making monetary provisions to enable Indigenous peoples and communities to rebuild their economies, it is also important that those countries which can afford it, provide vaccines to countries less fortunate that then must identify Indigenous peoples as a priority. Until Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas are vaccinated, they will remain at risk and economic recovery will be next to impossible.

We again call upon State governments and the Organization of American States to make space and real participation within the machinery of the OAS and the Summits of the Americas for Indigenous nations and peoples. In this call for inclusion and accommodation, we rely on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which received wide-spread support when adopted in 2016.

We do not accept being categorized as part of Civil Society, rather, we must be respected as the original peoples of this continent and accorded our rightful place within the OAS. We must be accorded our own space within the meetings of the OAS and its subsidiary organs. We should not have to compete with Civil Society in order to have a voice at General Assemblies or other meetings of the OAS.

We are also concerned that the OAS efforts to give life to the Declaration through the four-year Plan of Action adopted in June 2017 has run its four-year mandate without having reached its objectives.

In light of the pandemic and the greater need for such an action plan for implementation of the Declaration, we urge the OAS General Assembly to extend the Plan of Action for another four years or more along with increased initiatives and measures to ensure its success. In this sense, we encourage all Member States to contribute to a Fund to ensure that the OAS does in fact have the capacity to carry out the Plan.

Finally, we call upon the Secretary General to set up a process of engagement between Indigenous peoples and representatives of Member States in order to explore mechanisms necessary to drive Indigenous peoples' direct participation within the OAS, as well as initiatives to promote the Declaration and the implementation of a renewed Plan of Action, including on-going consultations with Indigenous peoples.

Finally, we thank his Excellency Secretary General Almagro for participating in two virtual interactive meetings with the American Council of Indigenous Peoples in April and September of this year.

Marsii, Gracias, Thank you, Merci

23. Coalition on Freedom of Conscience and Expression. Maviela León (Compartimos Mundo A.C.).

24. Coalition for Access to Justice and the Rule of Law. Andrea Garzón (Compartimos Mundo A.C.)

25. Coalition Youth and Liberties. Franco David Matas (Organización Frente Joven de Argentina).

We are living in an era that demands leaders who are capable of meeting the enormous challenges facing our peoples, challenges that affect, above all, youth. We need leaderships that defend fundamental rights and freedoms, those that we need as human beings to develop and live a full and peaceful life. The motto of this meeting is: "seek a renewed America."

But how can we speak of a "renewed America" when the priority of certain sectors represented in this body, far from betting on the union, systematically and intentionally propose confrontation, as if it were a battle, between men and women, between rich people and poor, between blond and brown, between children and adults, between believers and non-believers.

We cannot speak of a renewed America when, throughout America, we are led by governments that are inspired by a misnamed "progressive agenda" that has little of progress and even less of renewal. While unemployment and homelessness reach historic peaks in our countries and economies collapse, our authorities enact laws against the fundamental human right: the right to life, without which there would be no other rights, promoting abortion and euthanasia.

While the governments of America look to one side in the face of the oppression suffered by the Cuban and Venezuelan peoples, victims of (who would have thought ...) communist tyrannies, our rulers implement public policies brutally disconnected from reality, promote failed ideologies and far from the ordinary citizen who only deepens violence and hatred.

At the same time, states and international organizations are increasingly meddling in our families and in the education of children. Insecurity in the hemisphere grows and immigrants suffer more than ever and it seems that their objectives are arbitrarily to ignore these problems.

For all this, we stand before you and ask that you address the concerns of Americans and stop creating false dichotomies.

Ambassadors, we demand that you DO NOT look to the side ... DO NOT be indifferent. To attend to real problems with real solutions. We want policies based on values that defend all human beings, not just some. We want leaders who are not influenced (other than puppets) by big lobbies or money. Only through your commitment and action will we be able to rescue the destiny of our Nations and our peoples from failure.

Ambassadors, let's focus on what really matters, let's dream together of a renewed America, a truly renewed America. Fair, supportive, free, and with opportunities for all. An America that finds hope in its youth. Do not divide us anymore, at the moment when we need to be more united than ever. The COVID pandemic taught us that no one is saved alone. Let us not forget!

26. Coalition of Self-Determination of Peoples vs. Institutional Corruption. Andrea Velásquez (Asociación Familia, Desarrollo, Población FADEP).

27. Coalition Life and Family. Gilberto Fabián Maldonado (Frente Nacional Pro Vida y Pro Familia Paraguay – FRENVIFA).

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and, Representatives of the different Member States, Your Excellency the Secretary General of this Organization.

Today I have the honor to introduce myself to you as the spokesperson for the Life and Family Coalition, which represents 75 associations from all over Latin America, to be able to communicate this statement, which has been drafted by women leaders of the coalition and agreed between the associations to the which I represent today.

Every day, through our organizations, we work for the well-being and rights of women, unborn children, girls, boys and adolescents, young people, families, and the elderly, especially in vulnerable conditions. In this daily work, we have realized that the fundamental motor for development is the woman and the different roles that she has in this society: as a person, as a professional, as a mother, even as a civil servant.

In all her roles, women stand out for their ability to focus on details, for their decision-making based on the process and not only on the result, for leading focused on people, for safeguarding the values in the family and society, all of which makes her different from man. Therefore, it is necessary that the discussions and policies in these forums be carried out from an integral perspective of women, in which their different capacities are taken into account so that every woman can achieve a full life and contribute to society from the richness of her feminine being, in order to positively impact the future of generations to come.

The commitment of this Organization and its institutions, especially the Inter-American Commission on Women, must go beyond a reductionist approach to women, in which they simply speak of their reproductive aspect as something negative that has to be eliminated.

The priority for women is access to education, even before gender equality (which by the way has come to disappear for women) because in order to achieve equality we first need to have the opportunity to access education, since this it is the true way to empower women. An educated woman will have greater job opportunities, better health because she will be aware of what it means to take care of her body. An educated woman will not easily allow a violent situation in which she is treated as a thing and not as a person.

The role of women as mothers should be applauded and celebrated every day by all of us, because even those who speak out against motherhood are sons or daughters. From this organization, policies of family and work conciliation should be promoted, so that every woman can develop in her profession as well as in her motherhood.

In addition, initiatives are urgently needed to fight against the pornography industry, the number one reason for sexual abuse and the number one client of human trafficking, in order to respect and care for women. Did you know that 94% of pornography videos show violence against women as acceptable and even enjoyable? This is unacceptable.

We need to join forces and work for a society that offers more and more real opportunities for women and their full development. It is undeniable that the future of our nations depends on the integral development of women in all their stages of life, from the womb, their full

development from girl to adult woman, as well as their stages as mother and grandmother. Well, in all these stages the contribution of women to the family and therefore to our society is invaluable.

Finally, we take this opportunity to ask the member states to ensure that the institutions that are part of this Organization focus on the priority issues that will enhance the role of women in today's society. Studies show that the profitability of companies rises, by involving women with a solid education and complete health in all their spheres. Poverty and crime rates are lower in societies where women have more opportunities.

Let's not put off this work any longer: the more real opportunities women have, the more development our families and, therefore, our society will have.

28. Coalition for an Inter-American Laboratory on Political and Social Innovation. Carlos Eduardo Vargas (Agencia de Innovación Pública Interamericana).

"A renewed America", is the theme of this General Assembly. From the civil society organizations that make up the Coalition for a Laboratory for Political and Social Innovation, the question remains as to whether this issue is clamor or affirmation.

In 2019 this assembly held its regular session under the slogan "innovating to strengthen hemispheric multilateralism", later, last year the theme focused on "a collaborative approach to address vulnerabilities and build resilience in times of crisis. "

Innovation, collaboration, resilience and innovation seem irrefutable pillars when we tackle the challenges facing our continent today. However, the citizens of our America continue to face realities in our countries that are far from those 4 standards.

Our coalition was created 2 years ago with the mission of generating a hemispheric space to generate proposals within the framework of experimentation, research and dissemination of innovative methodologies and tools, with the aim of generating multisectoral solutions to generate public value and provide new channels of participation and collaboration in the face of the challenges of the Americas.

We reiterate the need to invoke the power granted by Article 53 of the OAS Charter, which allows the General Assembly to create new entities. This action is necessary to establish the recommendation for the creation of an Inter-American Laboratory for Political and Social Innovation.

It is within the framework of these ideas that the Coalition for an Inter-American Laboratory for Political and Social Innovation bets on this General Assembly as a historic moment for the promotion of a new regional scheme, and in this sense, we urge the Member States to Recommend the creation of this Laboratory, a space to promote political and social innovation in the hemisphere. We also believe that the forthcoming IX Summit of the Americas could serve as the ideal setting for the final creation and selection of the first members.

We are convinced that the Inter-American Laboratory for Political and Social Innovation must be representative of all the subregions of the hemisphere, with experts from North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean as representatives. Likewise, we consider that, initially, the pillars of the Laboratory should be framed in the four pillars of the OAS; Human

Rights, Democracy, Security and Development. We also propose that the meetings of this entity take place annually, at the headquarters of the OAS in Washington DC or in a Member State that so provides. Finally, we consider that the eventual 52nd General Assembly in 2021 will be the precise setting to define and approve the Laboratory's Action Plan from 2022 to 2026.

Over the next few days, we have the opportunity to turn the theme of this assembly into an affirmation. Only through concrete, open and collaborative actions can we truly be recognized as a renewed continent. It is possible, it depends on us. Thank you.

29. Coalition of Communities of African Descent. Silvana Versissimo (Rede Mujeres Contra la Violencia).

The situation of the black population in Latin America and the Caribbean is alarming, with an increase in cases of racism, assassinations and persecution of Afro leaders, religions of African and quilombolas, an increase in the genocide of black youth, the femicide of young people and black women increased, between 2020 and the number of black women murdered according to gender status grew by 54% while the rate of murdered white women fell by 10% in the same period; the criminalization of human rights defenders, especially black women, since they are the women who are effectively the object of punishment or criminal prosecution when complaints are made for violations of the health system, they are also the most affected by the absence of a public health policy offer for the black population, the main ones being the lack of access to justice and the basic rights that should be guaranteed to the black population and are not, they are among 70% of the 14 million unemployed in Brazil, 40% of unemployed people in Colombia are Afro, and 65% of informal workers throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, without a signed work portfolio, that is, the rights of the Afro population are not being guaranteed and public policies do not have access to that population, which amounts to more than 200 million Afro people, 54% of the total Brazilian population; In the case of Afro-descendants, the political situation, with the extreme right-wing racist and exclusive government, is making actions difficult, and accentuating the advance of institutional racism, violence, persecution, aggression and deaths of the black population of Brazil , Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala.

According to the data provided by the United Nations in the framework of the examination of Colombia before the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), between January 2016 and mid-2019, more than 704 social leaders have been assassinated. "Every 72 hours a leader has died. The State has the duty to protect all its citizens" said the expert, who received information according to which 30% of the victims belong to ethnic groups, which are only 14% of the Colombian population.

With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation got even worse.

Regarding housing deficiencies, such as poor sanitation, the proportions recorded are higher among blacks than among whites.

Studies on the demographic and socioeconomic conditions of the population show the social profile of the Afro population as strongly impacted by social deprivation, housing, sanitation, education, employment and income. In addition, data on mortality, morbidity, disability, access to services, quality of care, living conditions and environmental factors are metrics used in the

construction of health indicators, which are translated into relevant information for the quantification and evaluation of health.

Recommendations:

1- That Afro population of the Latin American and Caribbean countries access the covid 19 vaccination in all areas, quilombola communities, palenqueros, peripheral neighborhoods, rural neighborhoods and where there is a greater concentration of this population.

2- Emergency actions on the employment and income fronts aimed at the black population, the most affected by unemployment, which already exceeds 54 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean, the 70%.

3- That the governments of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean comply with the international agreements and actions to which they are signatories, such as the Durban Pact, the Decade of Afro-descendants, the Convention for the Elimination of the Fight against Racial Discrimination and other national and international treaties, with the objective of combating and confronting institutional racism, which each year impedes the development of thousands of lives of Afro-descendants.

5 - Guarantee of the human rights of the black population

6 - Validation of the secular nature of the State and respect for freedom of belief, mainly in Brazil, which is a country that discriminates against religions of African origin, which has led to several violations, such as the murder of priests of religions of African origin , the burning of the places of worship of these religions, as well as persecution and religious racism

7 - Implementation of public policies aimed specifically at the black population, which guarantee health, education, employment, housing, income generation, quality of life, basic sanitation, social promotion.

8 - Health programs, social inclusion and employability of young black women and post-pandemic women, as they are the most affected by the coronavirus, finding themselves in a greater situation of vulnerability.

9- Promotion of post-pandemic employability programs aimed at the African population in Latin America and the Caribbean.

30. Coalition for Venezuela. Juan Carlos Vilorio (Venezolanos en Barranquilla).

Hunger, disease, scarcity and lack of supplies, unschooling and insecurity advance without respite, taking away opportunities for a decent life for an entire country, more than one generation, our Venezuela, have we really included, listened and cared to all the people in the discussions, in the decision making and implementation of effective solutions to the challenges we face today as a society?

Sirs

President of the General Assembly,

General secretary,

Deputy Secretary General,

Heads of delegation,

Friends all.

A renewed America, even more so in the current context, demands the participation of all of us, civil society, especially organizations led by refugees, migrants and returnees have been essential support in the care and assistance to the second major crisis of Refugees and migrants in the world, today Venezuelans continue to roam on this continent, from the Andean region, to the southern cone, from Central America and the Caribbean to the north, seeking international protection, exposing themselves to various risks that we have seen increased through the victims of human trafficking and trafficking networks, sexual, labor and child exploitation, our role has been strategic in promoting and executing integration initiatives as an axis for the development of the communities that receive us.

Resources to care for the situation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants will continue to be insufficient, as we have shown in the last two years if states do not honor the principles of the Global Compact for regular, safe and orderly Migration, as well as the Global Pact of Refugees; Only through regularization will there be integration and contribution to development, essential to also ensure an effective post-pandemic economic reactivation;

Without leaving anyone behind, the causes of this scourge require immediate attention, without further delay, Venezuela and the Venezuelans cry out for justice, we advocate before the plenary of this Assembly and the member states, to comply with and enforce the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

As it is my turn to close this dialogue, on behalf of the more than 80 members of our Coalition for Venezuela, we ask the General Assembly for the following:

1. Strengthen the protection, registration and identification mechanisms for people in situations of human mobility,
2. The opening of a humanitarian channel, which allows the safe and orderly regular transit of refugees, migrants and returnees,
3. Guarantee access, regardless of immigration status, to the COVID-19 vaccine,

Democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas.