



**ASAMBLEA
GENERAL OEA**
Juntos contra la desigualdad y la discriminación
PERÚ - 2022



OAS | More rights
for more people

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

October 5th, 2022, 9:00 – 13:00 hs

Lima, Perú

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS OF COALITIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS¹

1. COSATE

The trade union movement of the Americas, represented by its continental organization, the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) and the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE OAS) adopt the following Declaration:

We welcome the slogan of the **convocation "TOGETHER AGAINST INEQUALITY AND DISCRIMINATION"** inasmuch as, as expressed in the preliminary document of the session of the OAS Assembly, inequality and discrimination have a direct impact on the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms affecting democratic governance across the board.

Our history as a workers' movement is a fundamental part of the history of the struggle against inequality and discrimination in all its forms, with a commitment to the in all its forms, with a permanent commitment that we have opportunely reaffirmed in the Resolution reaffirmed in the Resolution of the 4th Congress of the TUCA, in which we warned we warned:

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 presentations completely different from what was sent to the Civil Society Relations Section, are not included in this document.

"...the resurgence of practices, discriminatory and violent discourses which reinforce patriarchal cultural patterns, limit the exercise of rights, deny the rights, deny the pluricultural and multilingual character of our societies, increase exclusion and invisibilize exclusion and make invisible the identities and knowledge of rural, indigenous, indigenous and and knowledge of rural, indigenous, Afro-descendant and migrant women, as well as the and migrants, as well as the recognition of the diversity of family and household forms of family and household constitution, sexual diversity and gender identity.

"The discriminatory discourses that legitimize violence, install "anti-politics" and manipulate people's feelings, are a means to achieve the real objectives of these political projects. The process of extreme concentration of wealth and the advance of economic power over politics is intensifying. Democracies are being captured by the interests of transnational corporations and speculative investment groups in alliance with political elites, national oligarchies and concentrated media".

The fight against inequality and discrimination is currently facing the challenges of a regional situation marked by multiple crises, and that the preliminary document of the Assembly states that: inequality and social gaps are deepened by the persistent exclusion of populations traditionally marginalized from access to basic services, quality education, decent work and justice, a situation that significantly reduces the opportunities for their full and effective participation in democratic life, and that these constitute threats to hemispheric security; that it is necessary to advance in the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalling that Goal 10 and its targets seek to reduce inequalities and disparities of opportunities; that Latin America and the Caribbean are among the most unequal regions in the world, and that the pandemic caused by COVID-19, the economic, climate and food crisis, as well as the international conjunctural events that directly impact the lives of citizens, have intensified structural inequalities.

We cannot naturalize the persistence of problems such as informality and precarious labor conditions; unequal income distribution; gender inequalities; child and forced labor; gaps in access to social protection and essential basic services; extreme poverty; lack of educational opportunities and decent work; and digital divides.

All forms of discrimination, including those based on race, ethnicity, gender, social background, reinforce the dynamics of exclusion, widening the inequalities suffered by our peoples.

The workers' movement of the Americas calls on the governments of the region to strengthen their commitments and act accordingly to reverse this critical situation.

Greater efforts are needed on the part of governments to address, within a framework of policy coordination, the structural problems that shape a matrix of reproduction of poverty, inequality and exclusion in our countries.

In this sense, we demand institutionalized social dialogue with the full participation of social actors as a tool for consensus building that will allow us to mobilize a transformed guide for sustainable, inclusive and socially just development, placing decent work at the center of policies.

The context of crisis demonstrates the importance of having workers' organizations that can represent the legitimate interest of those affected by the scourge of inequality and discrimination in the world of work.

However, the repeated violations of the legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining, manifested in persecutions, assassinations, kidnappings, smear campaigns and forms of discrimination on trade union grounds, erode democratic governance and the real exercise of social dialogue in the countries.

The pandemic crisis has exacerbated violence against historically discriminated sectors, such as women, youth, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant population, LGBTIQ+ population, but we have also seen how criminalization and violence against social and union activists and militants is increasing dangerously in the region.

The lack of action by governments, impunity and the failure to adopt concrete measures for their protection and defense act as stimulators of criminalization and violence.

For these reasons we consider substantive the contribution made by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights through its Advisory Opinion No. 27/21 of May 5, 2021, which has stated that *"the right to freedom of association, collective bargaining and strike are human rights protected within the framework of the Inter-American system, which entails the obligation of States to adopt mechanisms to guarantee them, including access to an effective judicial remedy against acts that violate these rights, the prevention, investigation and punishment of those responsible for violations of trade union rights, and to adopt specific measures for their full implementation"*.

In this sense, we vindicate the role of trade unions as socio-political actors whose representation and participation is not limited to the purely vindicating professional interests, but rather summons them to be part, as actors of development, of the deepening of democratic debates for the concerted construction of a new social contract.

We ratify the postulates and programmatic lines of action expressed in the Development Platform of the Americas (PLADA) as a substantial programmatic contribution of regional trade unionism to the debate on the options/models for the development of the Americas. We reaffirm what is expressed in the PLADA in that:

"The right to decent work, with equality between genders, ethnicities and generations, without any discrimination, constitutes the core of the strategy for sustainable development in the Americas and is fundamental for overcoming the neoliberal model."

For the CFS and COSATE, development as a concept and program of the peoples is based on the principles of social, economic and environmental justice, equality, gender equity and non-discrimination, democracy and human rights.

Sustainable development implies questioning and disputing the current economic order, the commodification and financialization of common goods and the inequalities that underlie the patriarchal and discriminatory system, and for this reason we express that "we are committed to a model that places care and sustainability of life at the center, based on a new relationship with the environment".

We recognize the fundamental role of the States in the fight against inequality and discrimination, reaffirming their role as guarantor of rights, Welfare State and promoter of sustainable and inclusive productive development through concerted policies.

We also warn about the conditionalities that loom over state capacities for the implementation of social protection, equality and sustainable development policies:

- The debts of many countries with private creditors and international financing agencies.
- The conditionalities established in the free trade and investment treaties signed by many countries.
- The costly lawsuits in international tribunals that many countries face for having taken measures or adopted policies that transnational corporations have considered detrimental to their interests and profits.
- Multilateral cooperation flows, which were already deficient before the pandemic, and are currently insufficient to achieve progress on the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The existence of regressive tax systems that penalize lower-income sectors, in addition to the scourge of tax evasion and avoidance that contributes to the existence of "tax havens", depriving nation states of resources to implement policies for social protection, employment, just transition and sustainable and inclusive development.

We advocate a greater commitment on the part of the Organization of American States - OAS -, whose efforts have been insufficient, in compliance with its mandate to promote regional unity and cooperation, in order to strengthen the regional integration of countries and peoples, convening all countries, favoring dialogue and cooperative action in the Americas, within the framework of respect for the sovereignty and self-determination of peoples.

We affirm that for the trade union movement of the Americas, the recovery of the region will not be possible if countries subject to unilateral coercive measures, sanctions and blockades persist. It is unacceptable that millions of people in the region are prevented from accessing their rights as a result of the impossibility for governments to be free to carry out their economic, financial and commercial activities in a sovereign manner and prevented from having access to the financial flows of international cooperation.

We express the need to achieve greater coordination, articulation and coherence between regional and international financial institutions, and the agencies of the United Nations system with a presence in the region, particularly the International Labor Organization (ILO) and its Decent Work Program.

We express our concern over the proliferation of discriminatory discourse against vulnerable groups and minorities, which often contributes to the generation of a climate of hatred and violence in countries, threatening stability and democratic coexistence. We underscore that a substantive part of the democratic functioning of a society cannot do without democratic communication in order to fully comply with freedom of expression and enable access to pluralistic information and diversity.

We also reaffirm our intention to strengthen ties with the Commission and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, calling on the OAS to continue working to guarantee the exercise of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, particularly those related to labor and trade union rights, freedom of association and collective bargaining, as a key condition for combating inequality.

We call for the development and implementation of campaigns and actions against harassment and violence in the workplace through the ratification of Convention 190 by the countries, and the application of Recommendation No. 206 to advance in achieving a world of work free of violence, harassment and discrimination.

The TUCA and COSATE ratify that they will continue to accompany the work of trade union organizations in each country of the region, defending together with them the democratic rights and especially the interests of all workers.

Trade Union Technical Advisory Council of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor
- OAS (COSATE - OAS)

Trade Union Confederation of Workers of the Americas (TUCA)

2. COALITION FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. Yanina Díaz Martell (Human Life International).

The Coalition for Human Development affirms the fundamental dignity of every human person, from fertilization to natural death; their respect, and protection against inequality and discrimination. We condemn any act of violence against any person, without exception, as well as the use of it for ideological, political, or economic purposes.

To think of equality only from the perspective of individualistic conceptions about one's own identity is to disdain other urgent inequalities, such as the scarcity and social injustice experienced by the people of America; discrimination committed against the conceived human being, which is discarded, on account of their vulnerability; the discrimination experienced by terminally ill people, and which are discarded on account of their functionality by euthanasia; inequality and discrimination committed against large families, who are victimized by structures of demographic control, being forced into sterilization, abortion, and contraception. Countless families in Peru, and throughout the continent, could attest to this discrimination in the past and present.

This discarding in the name of human rights puts democracy and the common end of society at serious risk. Skepticism around an anthropological basis that underpins human rights, empties democracy of content and leads to totalitarianism, whether visible or covert, as the history of our continent has shown numerous times.

Expressions such as the equality of women "in all their diversity", in the resolutions of this Assembly, are a sample of terms that are intentionally ambiguous, which divert attention to an agenda of identities, which robs not only visibility but political and economic resources, of the real problems of women. The same could be said of the term "historically excluded groups." Some of the people who protect themselves under these terms are often ignored in their real problems and used for ideological, political, and economic purposes.

That is why the Coalition for Human Development proposes that, in addition to being reviewed these terms, it is presented in the Human Rights Resolution, a section, to solidly base the definition of the human person and his dignity from fertilization. There can be no equality and inclusion, as long as almost 40% of the population of the region lives in poverty and

marginalization² ; as long as in the name of women's equality we discard those conceived; and while in the name of non-discrimination we violate the role of the family as an essential intermediate society of the State. Above all, inequality and discrimination cannot be overcome as long as the sap of the correct notion of the human person does not run down the tree of democracy.³ Without it in the resolutions of this Honorable General Assembly, there will be only attempts at concertation, where States are increasingly unable to dissent and, therefore, the OAS runs the risk of delegitimizing itself.

Let us affirm the transcendent dignity of the human person from fertilization to natural death, and only in this way, will we have taken the first and solid step, to eradicate inequality and discrimination in our continent.

God bless Peru. God bless America.

3. COALITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE AMERICAS. Clara Elena Cardona Tamayo (Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe – RSMLAC).

The organizations that make up the Coalition for Women's Human Rights of the Americas, once again alert the OAS that the consequences of the pandemic and the socio-economic crisis that it brought, exacerbated inequalities and discrimination, especially for women in all their diversities.

According to UN women and UNDP "the poverty rate among women was expected to decrease by 2.7% between 2019 and 2021; however, projections now foresee an increase of 9.1%". More than 4 million women have not been able to return to work, placing the region in the challenge of facing an unprecedented setback in gender equality at work (ILO, 2022).

Inequalities, discrimination and all forms of violence deepened with the pandemic, and are now exacerbated in its aftermath, as they were not addressed with due diligence by the state to achieve social justice for women and their most private environments; Discrimination based on age, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, place of residence, migrant status or for living in conflict territories has intensified and left millions of women without full access to sexual and reproductive health services and educational policies for the prevention and promotion of healthy sexualities, putting at risk the sexual freedom and reproductive autonomy of women, dissidents and people with gestational capacity.

We call for attention to the situation of women human rights defenders, especially women defenders of sexual and reproductive rights in Nicaragua, Haiti, Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay and other countries, who do not have guarantees for the exercise of their leadership and free expression.

The living conditions of migrant women, peasant women, women workers, sex workers, indigenous and Afro-descendant women, women living with HIV/AIDS, women with disabilities, women subjected to abuse and exploitation, women held in prisons, regardless of their age, who suffer in their bodies and their lives from the barriers to access to justice in equality and equity.

The organizations that make up the **WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION** have expressed in the Joint Declaration with the Secretary General and the CIM prepared for this Assembly, that it

² <https://www.caf.com/es/actualidad/noticias/2022/04/5-datos-sobre-pobreza-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>

³ OLLERO, TO., Human Rights: Four Questions for Humanity Experts, AA. VV., El hombre en la sociedad actual, Ed. Colegio Mayor Albalzín, Granada, 1988.

will only be possible to overcome inequalities and discriminations and their consequences if those that impact women are overcome.

Therefore, **WE URGE** the member states to comply with the commitments assumed in the Montevideo Consensus, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Regional Conferences on Population and Development and the Conferences on Women. **WE URGE** them to impose public policies that reach all women in all their diversity and to devote efforts to urgently adopt, without delay, the necessary measures to guarantee the full exercise of the human rights of all women and girls in the Americas, as they cannot be delayed any longer and must be fulfilled and implemented without further delay.

4. COALITION OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL ORDER. María Teresa Chacón Navía (Fundación Centro de Acción).

The 14 organizations that make up the Opportunities for Contemporary Social Order Coalition have a common denominator: social service. It is with great concern that we see that public policies in our countries not only do not address the serious shortages that we suffer, but also that those that are attempted are done with budgetary limitations, lack of vision and severe design errors. The serious health crisis we recently experienced due to covid is an example of this.

There were cases of criminal negligence in some countries. For example, one country literally disappeared its health system and tried to establish a new one with no program, no budget, no diagnosis, just because it was the model of the previous government and the result was catastrophic. In other countries, abortion campaigns were implemented at home, without medical assistance, and even the WHO made such recommendations in the middle of the pandemic in an unprecedented irresponsibility.

Every crisis is a time of opportunity and the post-pandemic context offers us that possibility. Let us move forward together against inequality and discrimination, as the motto of this Assembly states, but let us do so without prejudice, without ideologies, without impositions. To make an invitation of this kind by establishing a list of issues that confront us instead of uniting us, seems like a joke.

A large part of the list of topics to be discussed at the General Assembly are ideologically biased and do not have popular support. It may be that some States include them in their political agendas, but these are far removed from the real needs of the people who need work, access to education and security. These proposed resolutions feed an ideological agenda and may be approved, and may be imposed in the countries, but they will not respond to the real needs of the majorities who will then continue to be discriminated against and in inequality.

We make a respectful but energetic call to this multilateral organization to stop promoting ideologizing agendas and to address the issues that burden our societies, that marginalize them, impoverish them, make them emigrate or live under latent dangers of social instability due to violence, especially drug trafficking, which is the other pandemic. Let us build real Opportunities for Contemporary Social Order and then, yes, we will be able to go together against inequality and discrimination. For the soul of America.

5. COALITION EDUCATION AND CULTURE FOR DEMOCRACY. Jessica Pérez Zapata (Colegio Calacoaya Tierra Nueva A.C.).

We, the member organizations of the Education and Culture for Democracy Coalition, take as our own the motto of the 52nd OAS Assembly "Together against inequality and discrimination" and affirm that this is possible to the extent that we educate our peoples and build a culture that allows us to learn to live together peacefully in democracy. When the possibilities of a scientific education, devoid of ideologies and objective, are taken away from the individual and the people, then we are on the way to indoctrination, which generates inequality and discrimination.

Dogmatic education rejects science and wants to impose paradigms without empirical bases but only sustained from the whim of power to subjugate society and eliminate dissent. Governments that today are inserting in their programs and curricula ideologized concepts on issues of gender, sexuality and restrictions on freedom of opinion are being regressive in rights already granted and recognized in foundational instruments such as the American Charter of Human Rights, among others.

Of course this generates inequality and discrimination: an inequality in knowledge and knowledge, an inequality in scientific objectivity, an inequality to be inquisitive and curious but subdued and indoctrinated, but even more serious, discriminated and discriminating because it is forced to look through a distorting graded glass and that everything that does not agree with is called phobic and accused of hatred.

Ambassadors and leaders of the OAS, let us educate for democracy, for the confrontation of ideas in a respectful but frank dialogue; based on science and not on dogma and much less on the subjugation in which it is intended to impose a single way of thinking on the whole society. Let us go together to put an end to inequality and discrimination, starting by recognizing the foundations on which we are going to build, and those foundations are the founding documents of this organization and the treaties and conventions that assure us all that human rights are inherent, inalienable and imprescriptible; and above all, let us make use of science, which objectively helps us to ascertain truths beyond ideologies and dogmas.

6. COALITION FOR THE RIGHTS OF SEX WORKERS. María Lucila Esquivel (RedTraSex / Asociación Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales del Paraguay "Unidas en la Esperanza")

Mr. Secretary General, Ministers, members of official delegations, colleagues from civil society:

In 2021 we asked ourselves in this space if the governments of the region would really work so that no one is left behind, as proposed by the 2030 Agenda. After 1 year, the facts show that for those of us who practice sex work, the answer is NO.

This assembly proposes to work "For a renewed America". For this we need to be taken into account by this assembly and the governments of the region.

Since 2020 we launched a survey system on violence against sex workers and we managed to record until September 2022 more than 2300 cases of violations of our rights in 15 countries.

Thirty-seven percent of the cases occurred in the street and 25% in closed workplaces, which shows the vulnerability in which we are placed by denying the formal regulation of our work. In

almost half of the cases, the perpetrators were public officials, especially security forces, as well as health and justice administration personnel. Only 15% of the informants filed a formal complaint. One in five obtained a response.

The mafias take advantage of this marginalization to which we are subjected to offer us supposed protection and take advantage of our work. Not because we choose to do so. On the contrary, we continue to be victims of policies that criminalize us and push us underground.

Governments use abolitionist arguments to avoid recognizing sex work. What they need to abolish is the paternalistic logic that does not believe we are capable of thinking and making decisions. If we defy their logic, they punish us with laws that claim to combat trafficking but end up prosecuting us instead of the perpetrators.

The staff of the United Nations, the OAS and other regional mechanisms cannot ignore their mandates and put moral, religious and personal positions before our human rights.

These behaviors increase stigma, discrimination and do not contribute to eradicate them.

That is why we request the General Assembly:

- Advance in the regulation of sex work, as proposed by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in its Advisory Opinion 27 of 2021.

- Immediately create a rapporteur ship to draft the necessary resolutions to put an end to the violation of the human rights of sex workers. This would be a great contribution to a renewed and inclusive America.

Regulation of sex work now

7. COALITION BUILDING NEW HORIZONS. Graciela Noguera Ibáñez (Organización Niñez Adolescencia Familia N.A.F).

The motto of this 52nd Assembly is "Together against inequality and discrimination" which fits perfectly with those of us in the Building New Horizons Coalition who have asked me to emphasize that this struggle for equality and non-discrimination must begin by safeguarding the rights of children to a childhood free from ideological bombardment; the right of parents to educate their children, as established in regional conventions; to freedom of expression, conscientious objection and religious freedom, among other rights which, if violated, we will never be able to aspire to a society with equality and without discrimination.

These inalienable rights, already enshrined in international treaties approved in member countries, are now being discussed, provoking controversies that should not be so because they are already legislated. An exceptional and recurrent case is the right to life. There is not a single international treaty or constitutional mandate that eliminates the inalienable and inherent right of every human being to live.

Denying life to a person is the most unequal and discriminatory act that can exist. Every conceived person has the right to live. To deny that right is to suppress all other rights. It may not be a politically correct message for some, or it may not seem progressive to them, but if we

want to build a society that goes against inequality and non-discrimination, let us make sure, in principle, that we all have access to the right to live.

Without life there is no freedom, without life there are no opportunities, without life there are no ideals, without life there is no future. How are we going to build inclusive societies if we eliminate the weak, the defenseless, the voiceless. The reason for the creation of organizations such as the UN, of which this Assembly is the regional representation, is the right of every individual to life and it was necessary to establish it this way, because in the past, regimes considered that some deserved to live and others did not. That some were superior to others and that brought about the greatest conflagration in the memory of mankind.

Human rights are universal, inalienable, unrenounceable, imprescriptible and indivisible and begin with the right to life. Respecting this right and defending it is the only way we can go together against inequality and discrimination.

8. COALITION FOR SOCIETAL PROGRESS. Noemi Manzanera Rochel (Misión Esperanza Profamilia A.C).

I am honored to represent the Coalition for the Progress of Society, which is participating for the fourth consecutive year in this Civil Society Dialogue with the OAS, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be its spokesperson today. I am Noemi Manzanera and I am 16 years old; I am Mexican, from the State of Durango, and I would like to point out to this honorable Assembly that the future and progress of society depends to a great extent on including young people in its design and construction.

I am part of a family with solid Christian values and therefore I know that nothing is possible without the help of the One who made the heavens and the earth. I am a neighbor of Mennonite communities that are an example of prosperity based on the culture of work and effort. And by the advice of my parents, I know that to achieve transcendence in life requires discipline, perseverance and integrity, to never give up my principles.

I see with great concern that our societies are not on the path of progress, rather I notice a great involution, a regression, despite the fact that they call themselves progressive, I certainly see a tremendous social and political decadence that has left our people without hope and without solutions in the short term. It is now so common to see the emergence of new political parties and meet with the contempt of citizens who do not find in them answers to their needs but only more corruption.

The underlying problems remain unresolved and become cyclical or worse, part of everyday normality. However, we do not have to be satisfied and that is why we young people urge that we should not be prevented from participating in the construction of a future that is ours; and that our voice can be heard and taken into account. We do not claim to have magic recipes or to know all the answers, but we offer a different perspective, non-ideologized, invigorated and committed to the common good.

The young people of the Americas are here, accompanied by our parents and guardians, with capacities and skills of solidarity to work together against inequality and discrimination within a framework of guiding principles and values that will make a future of hope a reality.

9. LGBTTTI+ COALITION. Miluska Luzquiños (Trans Organización Feminista).

This year's theme touches directly on the reality of LGBTTTI people in the Americas and we trust that the States will commit themselves to realizing it. An important step would be for them to sign and ratify the American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance and the American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Intolerance.

LGBTTTI people continue to suffer structural exclusion from education, work, health care, access to housing, cultural life and even political life: in most of the Americas, the right of trans people to vote is not respected. As the OAS and the UN have already pointed out, States must survey demographic data on LGBTTTI populations, not only on violence due to prejudice, which continues to be alarming, but also on our living conditions, and develop public policies to reverse the situation of profound inequality, including reparation measures such as a trans labor quota. The increasing migratory flows must be addressed. The criminalization of LGBTTTI migrants increases intolerance and xenophobia.

It is of utmost gravity that forced interventions on the bodies and mental health of LGBTTTI people continue to be commonplace. There is an urgent need for an absolute ban on all so-called conversion "therapies", which are nothing more than forms of torture. The same was said by the UN about non-consensual surgical interventions on intersex children when there is no medical need for them. No country in the Americas has yet banned these surgeries.

We demand the strengthening of public health systems and stress that there is a lack of training for respectful and professional care for the specific needs of LGBTTTI and HIV+ people, especially in the case of trans people, either to accompany their body adaptation processes or to address the consequences of harmful methods to which older trans adults had to resort. Nor is the access of LGBTTTI people to assisted reproduction guaranteed. We deplore that the approach to monkeypox is repeating the stigmatization of gay men that was already done with HIV. We demand the repeal of laws that criminalize HIV.

We wish to insist on the importance of Advisory Opinion 24-17, compliance with which is mandatory for OAS member states. In relation to gender identity, it establishes that the process of registry change must be free and expeditious, at the sole request of the person who requests it. It reaffirms that children are also protected by all regulations that recognize gender identity and expression as a human right and that their progressive capacity must be respected. It also states that it is discriminatory to prohibit marriage for LGBTTTI people and that States should recognize it as a right. It speaks of families, so that the filiation of children of LGBTTTI couples must also be recognized.

We welcome the fact that Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis decriminalized same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults. We hope that the cases still pending in St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados and Grenada will be resolved in the same way and we call on the States that have not yet initiated decriminalization to do so without further delay.

Inequality and discrimination cannot be ended without the equal inclusion of LGBTTTI people.

10. COALITION OF YOUTH AND ADOLESCENT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS. Leidy Johanna Ayala López (Mujer y Salud en Uruguay).

The organizations that make up the Coalition for the Human Rights of Youth and Adolescents of the Americas are here to express our concern about the worsening inequalities, inequalities and violence that directly impact the lives of millions of young people in Latin America and the

Caribbean. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these social problems, condemning 39% of young people in our region to live in poverty and 10% to be destitute.

Unfortunately, these circumstances have a disproportionate impact on those living in rural areas, Afro-descendants, indigenous people and those with low purchasing power, which is reflected in their participation in the productive force. The unemployment rate increased to more than 20%, tripling that of adults. The absence of proactive public policies has the effect that 1 in 5 young people do not study or work, particularly in the case of poor, racialized and vulnerable women. It is urgent that governments assume their role as administrators and work to reduce and eliminate the inequity and inequality gaps in their countries and the region. They must ensure that people have unequivocal access to basic and essential social services such as education and sexual and reproductive health services.

Gender-based violence (GBV) continues to be a widespread and devastating problem according to World Health Organization (WHO) data; 1 in 3 women suffer physical or sexual violence. The context of the COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the incidence of sexual violence against women and girls in all its diversities in the Americas. Data show that this significant increase arose during confinement measures where women, adolescents and youth with disabilities are most at risk of experiencing violence in all its forms. The acts and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity that LGBTTQIA+ youth historically experience were also increased by such health policies. For this reason, governments have the duty to guarantee the access of adolescents and young people to Comprehensive Sexual Education, contraceptives, antiretroviral drugs for people living with HIV, taking into account that HIV is one of the main causes of mortality among adolescents and young people between 15 and 24 years of age.

Finally, we urge all member states and the OAS to be consistent with the slogan "Together against inequality and discrimination". We demand the design and implementation of intersectoral policies that reject moralistic, ultra-conservative, fundamentalist or any other views and positions that undermine the free development of the personality and autonomy of young people and adolescents for the effective enjoyment of their rights. Protecting and guaranteeing the human rights of youth and adolescents in the Americas is a historical debt in favor of social justice.

From here, the Coalition for Youth and Adolescent Human Rights of the Americas wants to make it clear to fundamentalist and anti-rights groups that our struggle is and will be relentless for:

- Access to quality education, including: Comprehensive Sexual Education.
- Access to the productive force: Wages and dignified conditions.
- Free, legal, safe and free abortion: Free and desired maternity.
- Access to health, including: Sexual and reproductive health.
- Life free of violence, including: systemic, structural and sexual violence against adolescents and youth.
- Respect for sexual diversity and dissidence for equality and non-discrimination.

"Nada sobre Jóvenes y Adolescentes sin nosotras, nosotres y nosotros".

11. COALITION OF RELIGIONS, BELIEFS AND SPIRITUALITIES IN THE DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY. Nicolas Panotto (Grupo de Estudios Multidisciplinarios sobre religión e incidencia pública).

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

The historical inequality in social, economic, cultural and political terms is one of the most worrying phenomena that plague our region. Despite the efforts of States and international organizations, pushed by civil society, to confront it in its multiple expressions, we see and experience with concern the growth of economic gaps and the deepening impoverishment of many sectors, aggravated by the pandemic. Political inequality can be seen in the weakness of some Latin American democratic regimes, as well as in the lack of legal and political frameworks that guarantee the exercise of true citizenship and the effective enjoyment of rights for all social groups, especially women, the LGBTIQ+ community, children, people with disabilities, migrants and the diverse indigenous communities of our continent.

In the world of religions, beliefs and spiritualities we also see how these injustices operate, which makes this field both recipient and promoter of these inequalities. On the one hand, there is a growing persecution and irruption of discriminatory practices in the name of religion, especially towards minority groups, which are not only stigmatized in religious terms but also racially and culturally, as is the case with Afro-descendant and indigenous groups. But at the same time, we are very concerned about the way in which religious and faith discourses are instrumentalized and promoted to stigmatize other sectors of society. All this shows the pending debt in our States with respect to greater guarantees not only legal but of effective enjoyment of religious freedom and real secularism (articulated to all the issues addressed in this event), not from a privative and exclusivist key, but of human rights; that is, from a legal-constitutional framework and a public policy that protects and promotes the free exercise of religions and spiritualities, but in turn put limits to discriminatory claims in the name of particular beliefs.

Therefore, as a Coalition:

1. First, we welcome the OAS resolution on freedom of religion and conscience, which enables a general framework of respect and integration of religious diversities and spiritualities, within the framework of a broader set of rights.
2. Second, we recall that this resolution is part of the framework of the Inter-American Human Rights System, which establishes general agreements that apply to all member states on a very broad set of rights. That is why this resolution cannot be used to claim a status of exclusivity or superiority of religious groups that seek to omit or even violate other resolutions and agreements of this system and other resolutions in the name of a particular position. Just as religions and beliefs cannot be discriminated against by their mere existence, neither can religious positions be used to deny the right to other groups.
3. Third, we insist that, as long as there are no truly secular regimes that go beyond the mere legal separation between church and state, that is, regimes that promote plural and inclusive policies, where religions and spiritualities participate from their variety of positions and sensibilities, in support of democratic dialogue, we will continue to see in our countries an inequality towards religions and spiritualities, as well as an instrumentalization of the religious for the denial of rights.

For all these reasons, we ask the member states:

1. To continue fostering spaces of encounter and dialogue with the diversity of religions, beliefs and spiritualities present in this space, without giving privilege to some positions that aspire to a certain majority and monopoly.
2. To investigate and deepen the scope of the resolution on religious freedom, in a key of human rights and democratic deepening, summoning all the voices present.

Finally, we wish to express our repudiation of various communication campaigns and statements made by representatives of civil society that have circulated in recent days, which have questioned both this organization and the Dialogue itself, due to the treatment of various issues within the agenda of rights and inclusion. We defend this space of encounter, with all its possibilities and shortcomings to be perfectible. Religions and spiritualities, in their diversity of expressions, must always bet on the encounter with the other, with the diverse, as something constitutive. To defend the contrary means to deny the very *raison d'être* of the religious and spiritual in its sense of openness, encounter and sensitivity with what surrounds us and, consequently, to deny and violate the rights that are a substantial part of the purposes of the OAS.

Thank you very much.

12. COALITION IBERO-AMERICAN EVANGELICAL CONGRESS. Silka Cecilia Sánchez de González (Asociación Cristiana de la Comunicación).

The *Ibero-American Evangelical Congress Coalition* welcomes the 52nd Assembly of the OAS that has assumed as a post-pandemic theme the motto "Together against inequality and discrimination" and this affirmation is part of our vocation as institutions in our nations. History documents how the missions of faith throughout the Americas contributed to building the educational apparatus since the nineteenth century to reduce illiteracy and social inequality from the north of the continent to Tierra del Fuego.

It has been the evangelical institutions that built schools, hospitals, founded newspapers, temperance clubs to reduce alcoholism and addictions, until today. It has been the churches that have brought messages of hope and reconciliation to society in general and particularly to millions of families in the midst of despair, grief and the irremediable loss of loved ones in the midst of crises such as the covid pandemic.

Churches have never been discriminatory in offering services and help to the needy, no matter who they are, although unfortunately they have been unjustly labeled as phobic for preaching a message that has proven to be relevant throughout the ages and has benefited millions of individuals and families who have found peace and redemption in it. Like any law, precept or rule, it points to conduct, not to the individual. There is no discrimination because this message of harmony is universal.

American societies face a long process of post-pandemic reconstruction, not only in the economic, health or political sphere, but eminently moral. Corruption, drug trafficking, uncontrollable violence, migration and many other social phenomena require joint efforts to reduce poverty, inequality and discrimination. However, any effort is useless if there is not a solid ethical and moral basis for reconciliation and peace. Goodwill, sacrificial service, but above all, a culture of ethics and morality is needed to save the soul of America.

13. COALITION ON FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND EXPRESSION. Erick González Neri (Tlalok-Tlakaj A.C.)

Their excellences;

It is curious that when these forums talk about "discrimination", they focus on sexual discrimination. According to the Latinobarómetro 2021 report, the greatest discrimination is against the poor, indigenous and Afro-descendants.

Is it because they cannot afford to pay political lobbyists?

It is surprising that, in tomorrow's draft resolution, the word "poverty" is mentioned only once, but the term "sexual" 31 times.

And the slogan being "Together against inequality and discrimination". How to explain that the word "inequality" is mentioned only 5 times while "gender" is mentioned more than 50 times?

Poverty is a discrimination that causes millions of people to have a life expectancy of up to 18 years less; that forces them to subsist with shortages all their lives; and that they are more prone to diseases with less access to health services.

And according to ECLAC, extreme poverty in Latin America increased by 86 million people after the pandemic, a setback of 27 years! This should have been the priority issue and not ideological issues.

It is hypocritical to talk about More Rights for More People and that we are Together Against Inequality and Discrimination when countries such as St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Bolivia, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico and Colombia did not support the resolution condemning the acts committed by the dictatorship in Nicaragua.

It is impossible to speak of freedom of conscience when in our countries the mockery of religions is allowed from the Congresses, as it happened in Mexico; or they are persecuted from the Government, as it happens in Nicaragua; or the burning of Churches is allowed as in Chile and Argentina.

And it is necessary to denounce that in this same forum the freedoms of conscience and expression, recognized in articles 12 and 13 of the "Convention", are curtailed when there is a differentiated and discriminatory treatment to those who believe in the Complementarity of Man and Woman, in the beginning of life from conception and its end in natural death; and for being convinced that the treatment of persons should be based on the same dignity, not in subjective or agreed categories.

From the Coalition for Freedom of Conscience and Expression, we agree that we must go together against Inequality and Discrimination. Unfortunately, on this occasion the OAS treated the issue "sideways"; thus becoming accomplices of harassment, discrimination and inequality. Poverty must be made visible. Poverty must be mentioned in the resolutions if what we want is the commitment of the states to fight it.

Let us seek a continent where fundamental rights are respected, without tendencies or activism.

14. COALITION ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS. Irma Ramos (Organización INPPARES).

We consider that the inequalities in human rights that have been insistently pointed out by feminist movements still persist and that there are no concrete actions on the part of most governments in the Americas and the Caribbean to address their causes, as well as to eradicate the multiple discriminations based on sex, gender, ethnicity, class, gender identity and sexual orientation, among others.

Women and girls in El Salvador and other countries in the region continue to be criminally prosecuted for facing obstetric emergencies. In Honduras, emergency contraception continues to be prohibited, even for victims of sexual violence. In Nicaragua, women human rights defenders continue to be illegally imprisoned, harassed and persecuted by the dictatorship. The government of Guatemala leads a conservative crusade against the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls.

In Brazil, there are deep restrictions on abortion and government actions that systematically violate reproductive rights. Colombia still has a worrying maternal mortality rate, mostly among Afro-Colombian and indigenous women. Ecuador maintains barriers for rape survivors to access abortion, and in Peru there is a serious setback regarding the implementation of comprehensive sexual education in schools. In the Caribbean and Central America there is still a total ban on abortion, despite the recommendations of the WHO and human rights bodies, such as the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti and Jamaica; and there are still 7 countries where LGBTIQ+ people are at risk of being criminalized because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. In Uruguay, access to legal abortion has been restricted in many situations, while in Argentina the implementation of the IVE Law is uneven across the country due to the actions of fundamentalist groups. In Bolivia, the health system presents barriers to abortion access, and cases of girls sexually violated and forced to give birth continue to increase.

An urgent solution to SRR violations is required. In this context, we cannot speak of a continent that is moving towards equality because the most basic human rights are not properly guaranteed.

From this Coalition we demand to the States:

- A. Full guarantee of sexual and reproductive rights because they are human rights.
- B. Access to essential sexual and reproductive health services throughout the region, including legal, safe and free abortion as established by the World Health Organization.
- C. Access to modern contraceptives, including emergency contraception, on demand.
- D. Access to comprehensive, scientific, secular and quality sex education, devoid of discriminatory stereotypes.
- E. The immediate modification of legislation that restricts the rights of LGBTIQ+ people.
- F. Non-discriminatory actions to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Finally, we celebrate the States that protect sexual and reproductive rights, in compliance with their international obligations and the strengthening of democracies.

LET US WORK FOR AN AMERICAS THAT MOVES TOWARDS THE FULL EXERCISE OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS.

15. COALITION DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND POLITICAL RENEWAL. Danilisa Peña (Juventud LAC).

The peoples of our continent are going through complex years. In addition to experiencing the most serious pandemic of the last 100 years and the highest inflation of this century, we are facing a serious degradation of democracy, expressed in the unpunished maintenance of authoritarian regimes; the installation of new caudillos who undermine institutions, allowing and benefiting from the advance of drug trafficking, corruption and organized crime; and the systematic violation of human rights in the cases of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua. All of the above has provoked an unprecedented migratory crisis in our history, due to the number of people in transit and the number of borders they cross.

Tolerating the Cuban dictatorship for more than 60 years has cost our continent the collapse of democracy in Venezuela and Nicaragua. The Cuban regime is an exporter of repression, as recently reported by the United Nations independent international fact-finding mission: "Several former DGCIM officials told the Mission that Cuban State agents have instructed, advised and participated in intelligence and counter-intelligence activities with the DGCIM. The Mission also reviewed confidential written agreements between the Governments of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Cuba, which formally granted the Cuban Government a role in the restructuring of Venezuelan military counterintelligence services and the training of officers. These agreements date back to 2006 and the cooperation would continue". It is time to stand with the Cuban people, because Cuba's freedom is fundamental to peace, democracy, justice, stability and prosperity in the Americas.

It is time for the democracies of the Americas to unite against dictators. We endorse the Declaration of the Democratic Governance Group that met at the recent Ninth Summit of the Americas and reinforce the call to the states gathered in this General Assembly to condemn dictatorships and take the following actions to promote the right to democracy of the peoples of the Americas:

1. Eliminate all forms of political violence and the immediate release of all persons deprived of their liberty for political reasons in all countries, in particular in Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Bolivia.
2. Protect vulnerable and especially exposed groups, such as: the Afro-descendant community, indigenous peoples, corruption whistleblowers, human rights and environmental defenders, LGBTIQ+ communities, persons with disabilities, children, women, adolescents, youth, the elderly, migrants, refugees, stateless persons, academics, journalists, and those in situations of mobility.
3. To condemn the destabilizing actions of the Sao Paulo Forum and the Puebla Group in the Hemisphere, as well as the interference of the Cuban dictatorship in any other State.
4. Denounce the State terrorism and crimes against humanity of the Cuban regime. Stop making concessions to the Cuban dictatorship and take action in support of the Cuban people's right to democracy as established in the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
5. Vigorously enforce national and international laws prohibiting the modern slavery and human trafficking practices of the Cuban dictatorship. Cancel any existing contracts through the Cuban State and hire Cuban workers directly.
6. Use all available tools, including the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, to address the threat posed by the Cuban regime. The Cuban dictatorship should

continue to be excluded from the international forums of the Organization of American States until it complies with the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

16. COALITION REDLAD INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE AS A BASIS FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION.

Marta Gaba (Centro Ecuatoriano de Desarrollo y Estudios Alternativos CEDEAL).

Latin America is the most unequal region in the world. The life expectancy of a person from one neighborhood to another can vary by more than 10 years, much more if we consider whether the person is a woman or a man, if he/she is a migrant, if he/she belongs to an ethnic or racial group, and almost twice as much if he/she is a trans person.

However, ECLAC indicates that inequality in the continent should not only look at income, but also at inequalities in access to work, health, education, administration of justice, pensions, participation, nutrition and other basic services.

Although before the pandemic the continent had managed to reduce poverty and coverage in access to services and rights such as education and health, this had not been transformed into real opportunities for social mobility, and the levels of inequality in the distribution of wealth and opportunities continued to be abysmal. Unfortunately, the pandemic widened the gap even further: poverty increased, disproportionately affecting different segments of the Latin American population.

There are several criteria that structure inequality in the continent. Socioeconomic origin is an immediate one. Gender is another; women experience various forms of inequality on a permanent basis and in all spheres. The difference in access to health opportunities, work, income and education are not the same for men and women, even regardless of origin or socioeconomic status. A structural factor in discrimination is that established by stereotypes and prejudices surrounding sexual orientation and gender identity, the consequences of which force people of sexual diversity to opt for ostracism as a survival mechanism.

Ethnicity is another criterion of exclusion and discrimination. The continent has a persistent history of exclusion and discrimination against the Afro-descendant and indigenous population.

Age also plays a role, as well as disability, migratory status, sexual orientation and gender identity. All this makes it very difficult for us to work in inclusive dialogues, to be innovative in the social aspect.

The conditions of the workers' sector also do not reflect the profitability levels of Latin America.

Before concluding, we would like to mention an issue that is rarely touched upon and is of growing relevance in the continent: discrimination on religious grounds. In a continent where the Christian approach predominates, religions and spiritualities face greater challenges. We require greater efforts. Measures to increase the voice of indigenous representatives, Afro-descendants, the LGBTIQ+ community, women and migrants. It is necessary to implement policies that value difference; overcome systemic racism and guarantee gender equality.

17. COALITION FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW. María Anne Quiroga (Gender F).

Ambassadors,

There are many of us women who are members of the Access to Justice and Rule of Law coalition, and from our respective countries, we have always worked to ensure that the daily problems of the women of our continent are taken into consideration, promoting for them access to impartial, prompt justice, capable of giving them relief and peace.

This year, we have witnessed a real stubbornness on the part of those who want to include the term "women in all their diversity" in the text of the Resolution, which we consider to be a serious problem. Replacing "women" with "women in all their diversity" implies considering women as an abstract, subjective and undefined concept. It has the effect of destroying the ground on which our rights are founded and supported, transforming it into quicksand. With quicksand, ambassadors, we will only sink deeper and deeper. Thus, kind Assembly that listens to us today, we affirm that:

Equality and non-discrimination are not being promoted when in the text of the resolution, "diversity" is mentioned 23 times, but poverty is mentioned only once, this being the greatest problem of our continent, of which women are victims more than men.

Equality and non-discrimination are not being promoted when parity between men and women is promoted while affirming that any man can, one day, decide to be a woman because he perceives it that way. Or that we biological women can no longer, in our sports, compete on equal terms.

Equality and non-discrimination are not being promoted when an intersectional approach is promoted, which implies considering our vulnerabilities as points to be added and accumulated, in order to benefit from privileged access to justice.

Equality and non-discrimination are not being promoted when the Inter-American Commission of Women declares, in its strategic plan 2022-2026 that it wishes to list feminist organizations to work with, de facto excluding organizations such as ours, who work every day so that women can access justice, simply because we dare to objectively define a woman.

Your Excellencies, our request is simple: respect the mandate that our countries have entrusted to you. I would like to end by making my own the words of Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito, of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in the case of Vicky Hernández v. Honduras, who warned that this view of women would imply that "not only feminism would disappear, but also the theory of human rights, which is also based not on feelings or self-perceptions, but on objective and scientific categories".

**18. COALITION FOR THE DIGNITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE AMERICAS.
Elizabeth Francisca Campos Sánchez (Comisión de Damas Invidentes del Perú – CODIP).**

The regional and sub-regional organizations of the Americas representing persons with disabilities, recognized by the OAS and the United Nations System, together with national, regional and local organizations of persons with disabilities, extend our warmest greetings to the OAS Secretary General's Dialogue.

On this occasion we would like to invite the Organization of American States, all its agencies, especially the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, its autonomous and decentralized bodies, and the Inter-American Human Rights System, to promote a dialogue, a conversation, in which we include persons with disabilities from indigenous peoples and different ethnic

groups. In which we recognize the diversity within disability and the multiple needs of these people.

The agenda we propose should be translated into a set of actions to be taken by the States through a new legislative development or inclusive public policies or administrative acts, in which the solution to all the problems affecting persons with disabilities of the native peoples and different ethnic groups of the Americas is assumed in a cross-cutting and effective manner. Ensure that these people see the social gaps they have historically faced reduced. Let us ensure that all persons have the right to quality education, health, employment, and participation in their communities, in an intercultural manner. That these people do not continue to be invisible, ignored or hidden by their families because of their disability. People with disabilities want to be active players in the development of our communities. To this end, States must guarantee effective access to quality education, health, employment in all its forms and social protection, recognizing the access needs of each group of persons with disabilities, without undermining their cultural identity.

Public policies must go beyond the principles of non-discrimination and full inclusion, and must ensure plans, programs and public investment that lead to the improvement of the quality of life of persons with disabilities, recognizing that without inclusive budgets, no rights are possible. Rights without budgets are not rights. All people have to participate. They must have an active participation in their communities, politically, in the economy, in the development of their communities, they must have a predominant role.

This call is urgent because not only were we left behind, we were left out and a set of decisions are being made about us without us. Today it is almost impossible and unfeasible for us to influence the decisions that affect us.

We also urge the OAS to assume an effective role of articulation with the States in order to make the participation in public, political, social, economic and cultural life of persons with disabilities who are part of the ethnic groups and native peoples of the Americas a reality.

19. INDIGENOUS NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS COALITION. Clement Chartier (American Council of Indigenous Peoples -ACIP).

This is a timely topic, especially for us, the indigenous peoples of the Americas, a name given by outsiders to our respective nations and homelands.

Throughout the past decades we have continued to raise our rights, issues and concerns in this and similar fora within the OAS. We will not repeat them all today, but we will highlight that, at least in part, our voices were heard to the point that your General Assembly, working over several decades in collaboration with our representatives, adopted in 2016 the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (ADRIP). The following year, your General Assembly adopted a four-year plan of action to bring the Declaration to life, and last year expanded that plan.

However, we are saddened and disappointed that no measurable or concrete results have been achieved with the adoption of the Declaration and Plan of Action. While we appreciate your efforts to celebrate our diverse cultures, much, much remains to be done.

The COVID 19 pandemic may be partly to blame, but surely this cannot be the only reason for the lack of progress we have witnessed since 2016-2017.

Speaking of the pandemic, all national governments in the Americas must take proactive steps to address the devastation caused to the social and economic life of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, who in many of the American States have borne the brunt of the pandemic. As the American States implement measures to return their economies to normalcy, the active and meaningful participation and engagement of Indigenous Peoples, nations, communities and governments must be ensured.

In order to ensure that indigenous peoples and communities do not face inequality and/or discrimination in coping with this critical situation, States should provide in their national and regional government budget allocations to national and regional governments, organizations and communities of indigenous peoples sufficient amounts to enable them to restore their capacity to generate economic activities affected by the pandemic, including in the area of agriculture and other traditional resource uses.

The recent Summit of the Americas was once again a show of inequality and discrimination against Indigenous Peoples. We were surprised and dismayed that the government of the United States of America knowingly excluded us from participating in the Summit through our own forum, in addition to denying us the simple request to make an intervention from our own virtual Summit of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, which we convened for that specific purpose.

In this regard, we thank His Excellency Secretary General Almagro for addressing our virtual summit, as well as the government of Canada for providing the fiscal resources for our virtual summit to take place.

Looking ahead, we again call on State governments and the OAS to give space and real participation within the machinery of the OAS and the Summits of the Americas to indigenous nations and peoples.

As we have said over and over again during the last two decades, we do not accept to be categorized as part of Civil Society or Social Actors. We must be respected as native peoples of this hemisphere and have our rightful place within the Organization of American States. We should have our own space in the meetings of the OAS and its subsidiary bodies. We should not have to compete with Civil Society representatives to have a voice in the General Assemblies or other OAS meetings.

Furthermore, a three-minute presentation for the entire population of the indigenous peoples of the Americas is definitely an egregious inequality and a manifestation of discrimination.

We are also concerned that efforts to bring the Declaration to life through the Plan of Action adopted by the OAS GA in June 2017 and expanded at the last OAS GA have not yielded tangible results.

In order to combat further inequality and discrimination, we ask the Secretary General to establish a process of engagement between Indigenous Peoples and State representatives to explore the necessary measures or mechanisms to enable the direct participation of Indigenous Peoples within the OAS, as well as special initiatives to promote the Declaration and its renewed Plan of Action.

In this context, we encourage all American States to contribute to a Fund to ensure that the OAS and Indigenous Peoples have the capacity to carry out the Plan.

In closing, we look forward to working with you, but it must be done as equals and with respect.

Thank you.

**20. COALITION OF HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE AMERICAS. Luis Carlos Rodríguez de la Cruz
(Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento- CODHES).**

As the Human Mobility Coalition of the Americas, we are concerned about the particular affectations experienced by migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees, who have been forced to move for multiple reasons and in conditions of vulnerability, accentuated by differential aspects such as age, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability and poverty itself, for which we present some issues that we ask the States to work on jointly and as a priority:

1) We call on States to reaffirm their commitments derived from the instruments of international human rights law and international refugee law, including the regional definition of a refugee in the 1984 Cartagena Declaration. In this sense, it is a duty to guarantee, without discrimination and in accordance with international standards, the right of each person to leave his or her country, the right to seek and receive asylum, access to other complementary forms of international protection, as well as to facilitate mechanisms for migratory regularization, guarantee the principle of non-refoulement and the prohibition of rejection at the border.

2) Ensure non-criminalization for irregular entry into the territory, ensure family unity and refrain from separating families, guarantee respect and protection for those who have been forced to travel in caravans and the right of individuals and groups to defend the rights of migrants. The disappearance of migrants at borders and sexual violence, especially against women and girls, are of concern. It is essential to adopt coordinated measures at the national and regional levels aimed at preventing these forms of violence, guaranteeing reparation and justice for the victims, including the search for missing migrants and the identification of the remains of deceased migrants.

3) It is important to ensure access to basic rights, including the right to identity, nationality, access to justice, education, work, health and sexual and reproductive health, as well as the prevention of discrimination, violence, including gender-based violence and xenophobia that mainly affect children, women, LGBTQ+, Afro and indigenous populations.

4) To fight against inequality and discrimination, we call for the redoubling of efforts for the formulation and implementation of public policies for the socio-cultural and economic integration of migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees, as well as the elimination of the militarization of borders. Only in this way and with prevention strategies is it possible to reduce the risks generated by the different forms of human trafficking, labor exploitation, forced recruitment and smuggling of migrants. Finally, we call for progress in regional and coordinated responses, based on the guarantee of human rights and the principle of co-responsibility among States, ensuring mechanisms for the active participation of civil society, migrant organizations and other allies. The context demands that States consider the elaboration of a Convention on Human Mobility in the Americas that would allow for a better response to the causes and new challenges of the growing forced migration in the continent.

21. COALITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE AMERICAS. Francisco Quintana García (Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional).

The Coalition of Human Rights Organizations of the Americas is concerned about three issues.

First, we express our deep concern about the continued deterioration of democratic institutions in numerous 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. Some of the countries of greatest concern in this regard are El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Likewise, we deplore the deepening militarization of public security, as is happening in Mexico, moving away from democratic principles and human rights. On the other hand, we demand respect for freedom of expression in the context of peaceful demonstrations throughout the continent and condemn the excessive use of force in this context, as recently occurred in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Cuba. We also urge that electoral processes in the region, such as the one that has taken place in Brazil, be monitored to ensure conditions for free, fair and transparent elections.

Second, we express our concern for the situation of human rights defenders in various countries, including, among others, defenders of the environment, sexual and reproductive rights, women's rights, children's rights, LGBTTTIQA+, justice operators, indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders, and independent journalists, who continue to be victims of threats, aggressions, espionage, criminalization, attacks, forced displacement, stigmatization, and assassinations. Latin America is the region with the highest number of murders of human rights defenders. In 2021, 358 human rights defenders were murdered in the region. Against this backdrop, we demand that States guarantee the right to defend rights, investigate threats and murders of human rights defenders and adopt adequate mechanisms for their protection.

Third, we urge States to reaffirm their commitment to the effective functioning of the Inter-American Human Rights System. In order to strengthen the system of nomination and election of positions, we urge States to commit to promoting internal nomination processes that take into account gender parity, are transparent and participatory. This requires that States nominate and vote for suitable persons to serve on these bodies. In other words, the persons nominated by the States must be persons of high moral quality, recognized expertise in human rights, who act with independence and impartiality and contribute to the representative, geographically balanced and gender-balanced integration of the ISHR bodies.

Finally, it is necessary to underscore that it is not possible to achieve the objective of combating inequality and discrimination that this General Assembly has set for us if we do not combat and eliminate the practices that aggravate the historical inequalities that characterize our region and that have been amplified by the pandemic, the global economic crisis and war. States must redouble their efforts to achieve respect for human rights. We reiterate that in any discussion, the voices of peoples, groups, victims and organized civil society must be heard.

22. COALITION YOUTH AND LIBERTIES. Santiago Guevara Araos (Casa Infantil Ammi).

We, the youth of the continent, view with great concern what is happening around us: poverty is increasing, democracy is in danger, violence is on the rise, and freedom is being restricted. Faced with this panorama, we, the youth of the Americas, raise our voices and demand commitment and action.

In this assembly we have been convened under the slogan "*Together against inequality and discrimination*", but in reality we witness many incongruities:

There is talk of fighting discrimination using a discourse that is itself discriminatory. A discourse that calls groups with different opinions "anti-rights", even cataloguing them as "the worst threat to human rights", fomenting violence and hatred. The OAS itself has given priority to particular sectors of civil society, and has worked closely with them, excluding others.

Ambassadors, exacerbating confrontation and polarization harms the continent; a fragmented and disunited America is weaker.

In recent days we have shared through our networks the threats we identified in the resolutions you will address this year, and we want to tell you that we are closely following your work with great concern.

Ambassadors, there can be no prosperity without freedom. There can be no freedom if States and our representatives become complicit in its systematic limitation, and there is no freedom when supranational powers are used to interfere in the laws of countries to impose an agenda that does not respect the values of the people or their right to have their laws chosen by those who govern them.

Finally, ambassadors, we would like to point out that the youth of the region are also very concerned about the authoritarian backlash. Our struggle must be for freedom and democracy. Authoritarian power specializes in rhetoric and we do not want our peoples to become subjects or manipulable clients.

Democracy is built on freedom, participation, protection even for those who are about to be born, and above all, service to the least favored and solidarity.

Our continent is plural and diverse, rich in resources and above all valuable for its people. Let us not allow differences to divide us, and prioritize some over others based on their personal preferences, and let us not allow authoritarianism to destroy us by taking away our freedom.

Ambassadors and countries of the Americas, let us concentrate on what really matters. Let us dream and work together for a better continent. A continent where we can all truly fit, not only those who defend a progressive agenda with selfish interests that benefit themselves. Let us build an America that is just, united, free, and with opportunities for all. We are certain that a society that understands the true meaning of freedom is, in turn, a society of solidarity capable of responding to the needs of individuals and families. Only there will we find the true development of our nations.

23. COALITION OF PERSONS OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS. Oswaldo Bilbao Lobaton (Centro de Desarrollo Étnico CEDET).

Honorable representatives of States, of the Organization of American States, members of civil society and business here present, on behalf of the Afrodescendant Coalition of the Americas, we present our proposals:

The States should feel ashamed that our proposals to reduce the multiple poverty, inequalities, violence and structural racism that the region faces, continue to be ignored, and the data of the region proves it, the probability that an Afro-descendant child dies before reaching one year of age is higher than that of non-Afro-descendants, according to ECLAC data.

We note with concern 1) the increase in new forms of racism, hate speech, homo-trans-bi phobia, emerging from conservative and extreme right-wing groups, 2) how our rural and urban communities continue to be hit by the lack of investment and the dire consequences of drug trafficking and armed conflicts that some countries face, and their activists continue to be

murdered and excluded from the protection programs offered by the States, and 3) the increase in racial profiling actions by state officials and the inadequate judicial response to our cases.

Today, we continue to await the promised investment to overcome the increased poverty and violence we continue to face by COVID-19.

We emphasize that while displacement and irregular migration is a new process for many, the Afro-descendant population has been a historical and current victim of these processes, and we continue to be invisible in the programs that are undertaken. Likewise, we cannot remain silent in the face of the actions and strong violations of human rights due to statelessness processes that continue to be experienced in the region, especially in the Dominican Republic.

Finally, we call on the English-speaking Caribbean States to play a more active role in initiatives that protect and promote the rights of Afro-descendants.

Therefore, our recommendations:

- The urgent signing, ratification and effective implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance;
- The creation of the Afro-descendant Economic Development Fund in the OAS that responds to our realities and intersectionalities such as gender, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, migratory status, stateless or internally displaced, and others;
- We urgently demand the collection of official statistical data, permanent and disaggregated by ethno-racial and gender in health, education, employment, and justice;
- We demand the inclusion of ethnic/racial approaches in public policies and local, regional and national development plans; and
- We urgently demand protocols to monitor migration systems and their response to the Afro-descendant population, especially in Mexico and Central America, in addition to generating actions for the prevention and eradication of statelessness in the Americas, advancing with the Global Plan of Action to End Statelessness (2014-2024) and the 2014 Brazil Plan of Action.

24. COALITION INDIGENOUS COORDINATION ABYA YALA. LOURDES HUANCA ATENCIO (Federación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas, Artesanas, Indígenas, Nativas y Asalariadas del Perú -FENMUCARINAP).

25. COALITION OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES VS. INSTITUTIONAL CORRUPTION. Mateo Arana Brando (Red de Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil Pro Yucatán A.C.).

Honorable Secretary General, Distinguished ambassadors and representatives of civil society:

The current regular session of the General Assembly is based on the motto "Together against inequality and discrimination," which takes on greater meaning if we take into account the current context in the region. In recent months we have witnessed the atrocious religious

persecution in Nicaragua and the political harassment of opponents in Cuba, as well as discrimination against those who promote respect for human dignity and freedom in all corners of the Americas, who have been labeled as "anti-rights" and as "the main threat to the continent".

In this context, the multiple interferences of some organs of the Inter-American System in national legislations are framed, which represents a serious violation of the sovereignty of the States. Such is the case of Guatemala, which was included in Chapter IV.B of the Annual Report of the IACHR for its firm stance in defense of human dignity and the strengthening of the family, even equating it with the worst dictatorships of the continent. Or El Salvador, which has been required, through court rulings such as *Manuela vs. this State*, to modify its criminal policy and is now being pressured to eliminate some of the protections for the unborn established in its legislation.

Meanwhile, the real needs of millions of Americans continue to deepen. Hundreds of people live under the yoke of criminal groups, making the region the most violent in the world, considering that, according to UN data, the continent accounts for 37% of homicides on the planet, when it concentrates only 8% of the world's population.

According to ECLAC estimates, by 2022, 33% of the population will live in poverty. In a single year, the number of hungry people in Latin America increased by 4 million according to FAO, so that today more than 56 million people suffer from malnutrition. Unemployment rates are the worst since 1994, according to the ILO, and 28 million people are looking for work without finding it. By 2021, 114 million children were absent from school according to UNICEF, the highest rate in the world.

In the Resolutions on the table of this Assembly, only one mention is made of poverty, three of education and one of health; while intersectionality is mentioned 13 times and a biased view of diversity 23 times.

It is imperative that this regional forum, as well as the States and civil society in the Americas, prioritize the pressing needs of their inhabitants. This will not be possible if those who make up the Inter-American System see those who think differently from them as enemies and not as allies in these common objectives. Nor will it be possible if the power and influence of this organization is concentrated on promoting an ideologized agenda that does not represent the majority of citizens, thereby weakening the self-determination of peoples who legislate in favor of the inalienable rights of individuals and legally coercing those who do not yield to this worldview.

In short, an equitable and inclusive America requires the unappealable values of freedom, respect for human dignity, protection of life in all its stages and equality before the law. This institution must retake its founding principles and be a promoter of the rule of law, democracy and human rights without ideological bias and without exception.

Thank you very much.

26. COALITION ON DRUG POLICIES. Pablo Cymerman (Intercambios Asociación Civil).

In various regional and international scenarios - such as at the UN General Assembly by the president of Colombia or as proposed by different governments of the region at the VIII Latin American Conference on Drug Policy held in Buenos Aires last August or the positions taken by different governments and civil society at the recent thematic session of the CND on the implementation of all international commitments on drug policy held a few days ago in Vienna - the need for a new regional and multilateral pact where a new approach to drug policies in the region is discussed has been pointed out, given that previous recipes have not worked and have not reduced the illegal market.

It is time to recover key positions previously adopted by the OAS General Assembly. We refer, among others, to the Declaration of Antigua Guatemala "For a comprehensive policy to address the world drug problem in the Americas" of June 2013; and the Resolution on "The promotion and protection of human rights in the search for new approaches and effective solutions, in the development and implementation of policies to address the world drug problem in the Americas" of June 2014.

It is clear that policies focused on prohibition, criminalization of producers, distributors and consumers, eradication of crops, militarization and hindering transit flows have produced counterproductive effects and that, despite them, drug consumption and trafficking have not decreased in our region.

That is why the call to unite against inequality and discrimination must summon us to move decisively from punishment to care. An America with social inclusion and without stigma must be an America with drug policies based on respect for rights, social justice and public health.

For all these reasons, we urge Member States to:

- End repressive drug policies in line with the June 26, 2022 declaration of United Nations human rights experts. We call for an end to the criminalization of people who use drugs and respect for the principle of proportionality, by establishing alternatives to incarceration and reducing penalties for drug-related offenses, ensuring that prison is only used as a last resort.
- Address the problems associated with drug use and dependence from a public health perspective. Universal and always voluntary access to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, harm reduction and social integration services should be guaranteed.
- Ensure the quality of services and provide sufficient resources. Care services for people with problem drug use should be based on scientific foundations and conform to ethical principles. It is essential to have the necessary budget and human resources to structure a network of varied services that address differentiated problems. We call for more resources to be invested in prevention, treatment, harm reduction, education and rehabilitation under a continuum of care perspective and with a gender focus. Continuous training of professionals is key to guarantee the quality of services.

- Facilitate unrestricted access to health care for persons deprived of liberty with problematic drug use. Access should be to services similar to those available in their community. In no case may their procedural situation be used as an argument to prevent the initiation or continuation of treatment.
- Do not apply policies that put the lives of indigenous, peasant and Afro-descendant communities that cultivate illicit plants at greater risk. Reducing violence and building new indicators of success of drug policies related to the production of coca, poppy and marijuana crops in the continent is a necessity. Policies to contain and reduce such production cannot continue to be based on indicators of hectares cultivated, farmers prosecuted or seizures carried out. New indicators that include the reduction of rural poverty, access to basic education and health, the number of kilometers of roads built, and the number of licit products that access markets under fair conditions from peasant areas must be taken into account.
- Guarantee respect for human rights in all measures undertaken. We request that consideration be given to 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 of States in this area.

Finally, we urge OAS Member States, with the full participation of civil society, social and academic organizations and the contribution of inter-American multilateral agencies (CICAD, IACHR, CIM, PAHO) and of the United Nations (UNDP, High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNAIDS, UN WOMEN, WHO) to continue and reopen the debate on the issue, WHO) to continue and reopen a broad, inclusive and taboo-free debate on the design and implementation of drug policies with a vision and anchored in sustainable human development, human rights and public health in accordance with new experiences and taking into account the old and new challenges in this field.

Thank you very much.

27. COALITION CITIZEN’S FORUM OF THE AMERICAS. Molvina Zeballos Manzur (Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo – DESCO).

The consolidation of democracy and the reduction of inequality in Latin America, a Civil Society perspective.

The global crises -health, energy, food, climate-, the increase in poverty and exclusion, generalized violence (particularly violence against women, the LGTBIQ+ community, defenders of indigenous territories and other vulnerable groups), in addition to the flow of migration and forced displacement due to precarious conditions and few opportunities, especially for young people and women, have a major impact on Latin America, although we are not the only region suffering from these problems.

At the same time, the political institutional crisis and restrictions on civic space have accentuated problems that were already visible, limiting citizen action. On the other hand, the sustained economic growth of the region in the previous decade has not meant a definitive break in our

poverty levels or in the wide inequality gaps we have historically suffered. We have shown our immense fragilities, as countries and as societies, by being highly exposed to global instabilities and crises, which have added to our structural problems, which have not been reversed despite the cycle of economic growth we have experienced.

In addition, the distance between rulers and citizens has increased, causing increasingly compromising situations for the validity of a quality democracy. The distrust generated by practically all institutions, from Congresses and governments to judges and prosecutors, from central agencies to local governments, as well as the advance of authoritarianism in some of our countries, are factors of fundamental concern in the continent.

For citizens, the poor results of public management and our extreme exposure to situations of insecurity are due to the fact that governments function following their own or private objectives, making conflicts of interest invisible and leaving aside any consideration for the common good, as has occurred, for example, in disputes over land ownership of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. Moreover, this perception of insecurity and instability increases when there are no adequate standards of transparency and accountability or citizen control mechanisms do not work or are simply non-existent, in addition to the lack of regulation of the private sector involved in megaprojects.

The growing threat to the legitimacy of democratic institutions generates inescapable challenges for governments and for society through its organizations. Democracy must be strengthened, guaranteeing the inclusion and recognition of the diverse identities of Latin American citizens, including indigenous nations, Afro-descendant peoples, women, rural inhabitants, migrants, LGBTIQ+ people and their organizations, religious actors and faith-based organizations, among other vulnerable groups. Likewise, we consider the valuable contribution of the intersectional view to make visible the different forms of struggle.

From the Citizen Forum of the Americas, a platform for the strengthening and dialogue of diverse and inclusive civil society, we salute the 52nd OAS Assembly for its commitment to the fight against inequality, discrimination and social injustice.

28. COALITION FOR VENEZUELA. Juan Carlos Viloria (Venezolanos en Barranquilla).

An America united against inequality and discrimination is the maxim that summons us to this General Assembly; the Coalition for Venezuela reiterates its willingness to analyze, discuss and advance together in the implementation of policies to combat the lack of opportunities and inequality, especially in those people who are in a situation of human mobility.

As we welcome the return to face-to-face meetings after these last two years of virtuality, we thank our Peruvian brothers and sisters and Peru for their warm reception.

Messrs.

Secretary General,

Assistant Secretary General,

Heads of Delegation,

Friends all.

The post-pandemic economic recovery has revealed the harsh realities of the hemisphere, more than 200 million people live in poverty, 50% of the population is in the informal sector, 85 million children depend on at least one ration of food in their school environment; with the resilience that characterizes our peoples, integration is not only the end, but also the means to achieve development and progress in our communities, countries and the hemisphere.

We recognize the efforts that the OAS has been making through the adoption of resolutions and the promotion of inter-American standards to combat inequality, but there is still a long way to go.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will require a considerably greater effort, which prompts us to urgently request that the States present at this assembly:

- First, to guarantee the right to identity, starting from the protection crisis faced by millions of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection in the region.
- Second, to move towards comprehensive, sustainable and resilient social protection systems that guarantee access and universal coverage of the right to health.
- Third, strengthen the processes of validation and homologation of academic degrees -especially those of higher education-.

To this end, it is essential:

- First, establish formal and permanent mechanisms that enable the participation of civil society, especially of people in a situation of human mobility, at all levels of governance, especially in national and regional multilateral forums such as this one.
- Second, foster public-private partnerships and increase direct funding for initiatives of civil society organizations, especially those led by refugees and migrants working for socioeconomic integration.
- Third, recognize the legal identity of refugees and migrants, and provide identification to those who are unable to obtain or renew that of their country of origin.

We call on those States that have not yet done so to ratify the Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. This is a key instrument to ensure compliance with human rights in our region and the protection of the most vulnerable populations.

We hope that this dialogue will be fruitful and allow us to continue building joint agendas that identify concrete actions and tools to combat the inequality and discrimination that our communities, especially refugees and migrants, experience on a daily basis, in accordance with the Declaration of Los Angeles, signed at the recent Summit of the Americas.

29. COALITION OF COMMUNITIES OF AFRICAN DESCENT. Ana Silva Villa (Centro Familiar Afro Santeño - CEFAS).

30. COALITION LIFE AND FAMILY. Maximiliano Germán Dayer (Asociación Salud Mental CETPA México, IAP).

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

I have the honor, as spokesperson of the Life and Family Coalition, which represents 79 associations of the Continent, to read the declaration that has been drafted by leaders -women and men- of the coalition and agreed upon by our members.

Our organizations work for the well-being and rights of citizens, women and men. Particularly for children from the first moment of their conception, adolescents, the elderly and families in general.

During the difficult period of the COVID-19 pandemic, the family was the institution that ensured the psychological and emotional support of children and adolescents, demonstrating once again its role as the basic cell of society and the best place to protect their rights.

Therefore, we are concerned about how the family is presented as an eminently hostile environment for children and adolescents. Once again, Ambassadors, we insist that the approach and perspective from which society must be viewed is from the perspective of the family, since we are all part of one.

We are convinced that, in order to eradicate situations of violence, public policies are needed in the internal sphere of the Member States and not an increase in legal instruments, since these already exist.

If its purpose is to defend children, its efforts should focus on the fight against child trafficking, their use in the pornographic industry, their hypersexualization through audiovisual propaganda, child prostitution, structural poverty, the lack of quality education and the lack of containment of socially vulnerable families with children as members, are the problems that still persist in the Americas -and that have not yet found a solution- due to the lack of political decisions.

We reaffirm, once again, that the CRC must always be the beacon that points the way to the protection of children and adolescents. It contains the tools that States must use in their policies on children.

We invite you to join us in our work to ensure that this Organization addresses the reality that affects our children and that the CRC materializes in public policies that result in the well-being of families, children, adolescents and, therefore, our society. Enough of persecuting and discriminating against families.

Thank you very much.

31. COALITION FOR AN INTER-AMERICAN LABORATORY ON POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION. Aixa Armas (Asociación Civil Mujer y Ciudadanía).

Your Excellency Secretary General Luis Almagro Lemes, His Excellency Néstor Méndez, Assistant Secretary General, Dear Heads of Delegation, colleagues from civil society and other members of the public present, good morning to you all.

I am addressing you in my capacity as spokesperson for our coalition, as a member of the organization Mujer y Ciudadanía, and on behalf of the Inter-American Agency for Public Innovation, the coordinating organization of our coalition.

"Together Against Inequality and Discrimination" is the theme of this General Assembly. From the civil society organizations that make up our coalition we maintain that these ideals cannot be achieved today without the component of innovation.

In 2019 this assembly held its regular session under the theme "innovating to strengthen hemispheric multilateralism", then in 2021 the theme focused on "a collaborative approach to address vulnerabilities and build resilience in times of crisis", and finally last year the central theme of this meeting was "a renewed America".

Innovation, collaboration, resilience and reinvention would seem to be irrefutable pillars when addressing the challenges facing our continent today. However, the citizens of our America continue to face realities in our countries that are far from these 4 standards.

Our coalition was created 3 years ago with the mission of generating a hemispheric space to design proposals within the framework of experimentation, research and dissemination of innovative methodologies and tools, with the objective of generating multi-sectoral solutions to add public value and provide new channels for participation and collaboration in the face of the challenges of the Americas.

We reaffirm once again the need to invoke the power granted by Article 53 of the OAS Charter, which allows the General Assembly to create new entities. This is a key step in enshrining the recommendation for the creation of an Inter-American Laboratory for Political and Social Innovation.

We strongly encourage Member States to review and promote the creation of this Laboratory, a space to promote public innovation in the hemisphere. We also consider that the framework mechanism of the last Summit of the Americas can serve as an ideal scenario for the latent need for the creation of this entity and the selection of its first members.

As we mentioned in our intervention at the last General Assembly, the Inter-American Laboratory for Political and Social Innovation should have representation from all the sub-regions of the hemisphere, with experts from North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean as representatives. Likewise, and as also mentioned, initially, the pillars of the Laboratory should be framed within the four pillars of the OAS; Human Rights, Democracy, Security and Development. We have also proposed that the meetings of this entity could be held annually, at the OAS headquarters in Washington DC or in any Member State that so desires. Finally, we have considered that these General Assemblies are the precise scenario for defining and approving the Laboratory's Action Plans for a period of between 2 and 5 years.

Thank you very much.