

No silence, no regression, no nostalgia, nor consolation.

Thirty years after Beijing, we want justice

We, diverse women—girls, adolescents, young, adult, and older women; Indigenous, Afro-descendant, racialized, women with disabilities, women living with HIV, domestic and care workers, journalists, human rights defenders, searching mothers, sex workers, lesbians, bisexuals, trans and intersex women; migrants, refugees, exiled and displaced women; peasant, rural, and day laborer women; students, academics, and professionals; as well as unionized and organized women—from our different realities and territories, are here today to demand that our contribution to the sustainability of life, decent work, and social justice be recognized. From our multiple realities and resistances, we demand that all our rights be guaranteed, that financing for movements be strengthened and that we have comprehensive protection conditions to safeguard the lives and struggles of those of us who defend human rights.

Thirty years after the Beijing Conference, feminists from Latin America and the Caribbean recognize the progress made to date: considerable political recognition, greater regional and global coordination, and the consolidation of agendas that place the human rights of women, girls, and people of diverse gender identities and expressions at the center. Beijing was made possible by the power of feminist movements historically organized around the world, particularly in the Global South. Thanks to that collective strength, we have acquired rights in profoundly adverse contexts.

Today, however, we face alarming stagnation and regression. The crisis of multilateralism, corporate capture of democratic systems, and the expansion of anti-rights and fundamentalist discourses jeopardize the just demands for social justice, peace, well-being, and human dignity. We face an escalation of lethal violence, the criminalization of women rights defenders and feminist movements, and an ever-shrinking space for civic participation.

In our region, human rights are violated every day through measures such as states of emergency, indefinite re-elections, the normalization of extreme poverty, systemic racism, systematic violence, collusion between state authorities and de facto powers, and political instability.

It is clear that inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean are linked to international power dynamics marked by colonialist policies inherited from the Global North—still present in our region—that affect the life plans of women in all our diversity. The dispossession of common goods, extractivism, post-disaster public policies that facilitate displacement and financial speculation, the perpetual indebtedness of our countries, and unilateral coercive measures are forms of neocolonialism that undermine dignified life and the ecosystems of the region.

We are witnessing the genocide in Palestine in real time, the civil war in Yemen, the consequences of war in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, and Ukraine, and the humanitarian crisis in Haiti. Wars are not new; nevertheless, the inability—or unwillingness—of states and multilateral organizations to act effectively in the face of the social, political, economic, and ecological catastrophe we face, is. The economic and extractive interests that perpetuate wars to sustain the arms industry are increasingly clear.

That is why we call on Latin American and Caribbean countries to firmly commit to ending wars and genocidal processes, as an essential condition for moving toward societies that center care of people, life, and the Earth.

In this context, it is urgent to recover the profound meaning of democracy and multilateralism, not as ends in themselves or as exercises in empty diplomacy, but as real tools for transforming the living conditions of our communities. International instruments and norms cannot continue to gather dust on the shelves while rights are violated on a daily basis. We are not here to defend institutional rituals in great halls, but to demand dignified lives, free from all forms of discrimination and violence, with access to quality health and education, decent jobs, comprehensive care systems and effective social protection. The legitimacy of the international system is at stake in its capacity to respond to the urgencies of the peoples, not in the repetition of commitments that are never fulfilled.

We call on States to go back to basics: to place life, social, racial, and ecological justice, gender equality, and the protection of human rights at the center. We also invite them to be bold and creative in their responses. Feminists have spent decades building collective, sustainable, and radical strategies that must be recognized and incorporated into State debates.

We demand a feminist fiscal policy—that is, redistributive and unafraid to challenge the interests of those who possess the most capital. Governments must ensure that those who accumulate more pay more taxes, and that public resources are used to guarantee rights for the most impoverished sectors of our societies. Without fiscal justice, there can be no care societies; and without care societies, there can be no gender justice.

We are alarmed by the prioritization of public-private partnerships within commitments, as they open the door to corporate capture. We reiterate the validity of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Montevideo Strategy Action Plan, which offers a clear, articulated, and powerful framework to advance physical and economic autonomies and decision-making power.

To build a true Care Society, it is essential to transform the logic that has sustained the unjust sexual division of paid and unpaid care work. This requires de-feminizing care and support so that they no longer fall solely on women and feminized people; de-familiarizing them, shifting responsibility from families to the state and the community; and de-commodifying them, so that access to care and support becomes universal. This triple transformation must guide public policy and legal frameworks. Care, as a common good, must be a political, social, and economic priority assumed by states, communities, and individuals to collectively reorganize the unequal social order of care.

The right to care for and support for people with disabilities and their caregivers must be pillars of social protection systems, guaranteeing autonomy, equality, and full participation. Autonomy includes having support to provide care. Universal accessibility and reasonable accommodations are key to reducing inequities and exercising rights. Promoting care based on human dignity means moving toward inclusive, barrier-free systems that ensure the active and autonomous participation of all people.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has already recognized that care is a human right, and the Tlatelolco Commitment should take advantage of this opportunity to reach commitments that provide clear routes for progressive implementation, monitoring and accountability. Because we cannot allow the regional gender agenda to be reduced to symbolic statements without content or structural transformations.

We demand clear commitments to the most humanizing agenda of all. The one that promotes an economic, political, social and cultural model that generates wellbeing, is sustainable and puts care at the center. The agenda that has championed the



recognition of the right to decide about our own bodies and life projects. The one that proposes to guarantee social justice with a restorative and restorative approach. The agenda of substantive equality that feminisms sustain.

As a result of the Feminist Forum, we demand that this Sixteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean honors the history that brought us here and recognizes the geopolitical diversity of the region and its problems. What we need are clear political roadmaps, concrete budgets, and political will to confront the structural inequalities that sustain injustice in our societies.

From Palestine to Haiti, we demand peace, justice, and equality!

