



**Conferencia Regional  
sobre Desarrollo Social  
de América Latina y el Caribe**

Brasilia, 2 a 4 de septiembre de 2025

## **Declaration of Civil Society Organizations and Social Movements of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development – 2025**

*For Social, Economic, and Climate Justice, Participatory Democracy, and Sustainable Development for the People of Latin America and the Caribbean*

1. At the VI Seminar for Social, Economic, and Climate Justice, Participatory Democracy, and Sustainable Development for the Population of Latin America and the Caribbean, held within the framework of the VI Regional Conference on Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by ECLAC, we, peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathering leaders of social movements and civil society organizations, councils, forums, trade unions, activists, researchers, teachers, educators, and students.

2. We emphasize that the following groups must be considered priority publics for social development policies, taking into account markers of race, class, gender, and ethnicity in their intersectionalities: women and girls, children, adolescents, youth, older persons, people of African descent, LGBTQIAPN+, persons with disabilities, with rare diseases, in street situations, Indigenous peoples, traditional communities, rural, water and forest peoples, family farmers, quilombolas, riverside communities, urban workers, sex workers, migrants, refugees, stateless persons, Roma, orphans, victims of violence, incarcerated persons, former prisoners, people affected by dams and infrastructure projects, waste pickers, among others who are made vulnerable by markers of difference and their diversities. We reaffirm our commitment to building more just, inclusive, equal, and sustainable societies as a condition for development.

3. Once again, as in the previous edition of this summit, we reaffirm the centrality of public, integral, and universal social protection systems.

### **I. For Social and Economic Justice**

4. As civil society, we reaffirm our commitment to democracy, sovereignty, and human rights in the face of extreme inequality that persists as the 2030 Agenda deadline approaches.

5. Oxfam (2025) points out that 3.7 billion people live in poverty, while the wealthiest 1% accumulated US\$33.9 trillion since 2015. In the midst of a crisis, new billionaires emerge, and the world heads toward its first trillionaires, with US\$6.5 trillion concentrated in just 3,000 people—more than the total needed to achieve all the SDGs.

6. In the region, inequality grows with the advance of private wealth and the weakening of public wealth. Today, 172 million people live without basic needs met, and 66 million face



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severe hunger. Austerity and budget cuts in social protection expand exclusion, while, according to ECLAC (2024), in 2023 interest payments consumed up to 86% of priority spending. Meanwhile, wealthy countries increase military spending and reduce international cooperation. Therefore, we advocate for taxing large fortunes, with revenues directed toward overcoming social inequalities and promoting greater tax justice.

7. Despite some progress, challenges in education remain significant: about 6 million children are still out of school, and one-third of young people have not completed secondary education. Educational inequalities deepen among historically marginalized populations. In addition, there is an estimated deficit of 3.2 million teachers, who often leave the profession due to low salaries, work overload, and lack of infrastructure (UNESCO, 2025). These conditions also have a direct impact on mental health, with educators among the most affected. The eradication of all forms of illiteracy among youth and adults remains an urgent and inescapable task, essential to ensuring the right to quality lifelong education and to reducing social inequalities.

8. We recognize that discrimination in all its forms is a serious obstacle to economic and social development. There can be no development without a public state guarantee of non-contributory and distributive social protection for historically marginalized populations under social risks and exclusions. Therefore, we call on States to intensify efforts to embrace diversity and combat all abominable and contemporary forms of discrimination, oppression, and violence (Seville Commitments, Paragraph 12).

9. We will continue strengthening efforts to collect, analyze, and disseminate relevant and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, and other relevant characteristics in national contexts, including for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (Seville Commitments, Paragraph 63a).

10. The Fourth Conference on Financing for Development brought progress, such as the inclusion of the care economy and commitments to allocate resources to cooperation for social protection policies, but failed to create structural mechanisms on debt and tax cooperation. Without these tools, countries in the region remain constrained by debt and fiscal losses that compromise fundamental rights and sustainable development.

11. The 2025 High-Level Political Forum highlighted the weakening of multilateralism and the risks to social and sustainable development agendas. The low participation of civil society and difficulties in adopting the Ministerial Declaration underscore the importance of the Second World Social Summit to reinforce commitments and advance the Pact for the Future and the 2030 Agenda.

**Therefore, we once again demand that States:**



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12. Implement and strengthen public, free, universal, integrated, sustainable, and equitable social protection systems;

13. Support the creation of a binding multilateral mechanism for sovereign debt restructuring and establish a regional pact against tax evasion, illicit flows, and tax havens, with common goals of tax justice and progressive taxation. Such measures strengthen State capacity to finance public policies and invest in strategic bodies responsible for collection, regulation, oversight, and certification, ensuring quality, safety, participation, and social control in economic policy. A fairer tax system increases resources available for technical institutions to fulfill their role of protecting consumers, promoting industrial competitiveness, and supporting the region in achieving the 2030 Agenda goals;

14. Strengthen the role of the State in the free provision of public goods and services, ensuring inclusive, anti-racist, anti-ableist, non-sexist, secular education from early childhood through postgraduate levels and throughout life. Adequate access and retention must be guaranteed. This commitment must also include the effective promotion of formal education in the prison system and for people in street situations, through public policies on work and income that promote decent work and transform the reality of these populations, repairing harms and reducing recidivism. Likewise, full and comprehensive health coverage must be guaranteed equitably, encompassing physical, mental, and social dimensions to ensure well-being and dignity for all people. Adequate housing, transportation, and food must also be guaranteed in a dignified, accessible, and affordable way.

15. Invest more in education with dignified and adequate standards per student, ensuring intersectoral coordination. Quality education must be central to regional development, with social dialogue and political will at all levels (ECLAC/UNESCO 2025). It is essential to invest in national systems of higher education and Science, Technology, and Innovation, capable of producing knowledge essential for sustainable development and reducing social inequalities.

## **II. For Participatory Democracy, Inclusive Governance, and Regional Cooperation**

16. Crises of the neoliberal capitalist system, intertwined with colonial, extractivist, and patriarchal legacies, create subjectivities and mechanisms that deepen the precarization of life and the exploitation of nature, particularly affecting historically marginalized populations marked by race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, disability, age, territory, and nationality.

17. In this context, we denounce the rise of authoritarian regimes and far-right fundamentalist movements, corporate capture of States, and their lack of accountability in guaranteeing human rights. Through the spread of hate speech, the criminalization of human rights defenders and organizations, and the growing restriction of civic spaces in the region, these phenomena intensify violence and inequalities both in physical and digital environments.



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18. We defend a redistributive and participatory democracy that values and recognizes the intersectional diversity of movements and social groups, combating multiple forms of oppression.

**Thus, we call on the leaders of countries in the region to:**

19. Guarantee the right to active and representative participation of all people in the formulation, monitoring, evaluation, and adequate financing of public policies and budgets. It is essential to create plural, flexible, deliberative, permanent, and transparent spaces of participation, such as public policy councils, conferences, and ombuds offices, and allocate public resources to ensure this participation.

20. Commit to greater transparency by creating and strengthening mechanisms for access to information and simplified, disaggregated data to facilitate citizen oversight of public policies and budgets.

21. Establish concrete mechanisms of solidarity-based and humanitarian international cooperation for populations suffering extreme violence in the context of severe challenges to multilateralism, with increasing wars, armed conflicts, and human rights violations. In particular, concerning gender-based violence, violence against children and adolescents, older persons, and the ongoing Palestinian genocide, as well as attacks on Iran, and conflicts in Ukraine, Congo, Haiti, Yemen, Sudan, and Myanmar. Urgent, concrete, and coordinated actions are needed for a just and lasting peace in these regions and for the recognition of Palestine as a sovereign State.

### **III. Sustainable Development with Climate, Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Justice**

22. The climate crisis, aggravated by an extractivist model, reinforces social injustices, environmental racism, and ethnic discrimination, unequally affecting bodies, territories, and populations in their intersectionalities, especially girls and women. It also deepens forced displacement and structural inequalities, which create ongoing effects and impact environmental and mental health, particularly of historically marginalized populations.

23. Therefore, just transitions are urgent, including in the energy transition and agricultural model, for buen vivir, placing decent work, the eradication of child labor, in line with ILO instruments, human rights, and the commons at the center of development.

24. It is likewise indispensable to ensure universal access to safe, quality drinking water and to implement a plan with urgent targets for the universalization of basic sanitation, an essential condition for improving quality of life, preventing diseases, and promoting public health.



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25. Climate, gender, racial-ethnic, and generational justice further requires guaranteeing the right to sexual and reproductive health, with full, comprehensive, free, safe, intercultural, and non-discriminatory access, along with the promotion of comprehensive sexuality education.

26. We reaffirm that mental health is a transversal and indispensable component for achieving social and climate justice. It must be recognized as a fundamental human right and a condition for the full exercise of citizenship, explicitly included as a priority axis of action, with adequate investments and mainstreaming across public policies.

27. We reaffirm the urgency of a regional commitment to a new climate diplomacy, with concrete actions focused on just transitions and public climate financing, including the reduction of public financing that drives environmental degradation and biodiversity loss (GBF, Target 18), popular participation in decisions regarding NDCs, adaptation, and intersectional climate justice.

28. We defend the strengthening of public goods, local economies, and the role of the State in guaranteeing the common good and popular sovereignty. In this sense, investing in technical-scientific institutions is fundamental to ensuring that goods and services available to the population meet standards of quality, safety, and sustainability.

**Therefore, we demand:**

29. Just transitions, with energy sovereignty and protagonism of social actors in the territories;

30. Public investments in socio-bioeconomy, agroecology, care economy, and solidarity economy, with an intersectional approach;

31. Implementation of food sovereignty policies and hunger eradication, with protagonism of historically marginalized populations;

32. Recognition and historical reparation of racial and gender inequalities;

33. Regional adoption of SDG 18 (Ethnic-Racial Equity) and support for proposals to create other SDGs, such as those on culture, Indigenous peoples, and people in street situations, as concrete commitments of the 2030 Agenda;

34. Promotion (in line with ILO standards) of decent work—urban and rural—as a pillar of sustainable development, guaranteeing freedom of association and unionization, collective bargaining, eradication of child labor, as well as universal social protection;

35. Promotion of climate change policies specifically for children, in light of the principles of human dignity, environmental justice, and intergenerational equity;



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36. Promotion of sustainable development built on solidarity-based, associative, and cooperative foundations, ecological, feminist, anti-racist, centered on decent work, mental health promotion, social justice, and overcoming structural inequalities;

37. Adherence to the commitments established in the UNDRIP and UNDROP declarations, recognizing and strengthening the knowledge, practices, and resistance of peoples who live in and care for the territories, with active participation in defining and implementing the policies that affect them.

#### **IV. Recommended Government Commitments**

38. At this VI Seminar, we renew our alliances among the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, and we reiterate our expectation that governments of the region assume clear, measurable, and binding commitments in preparation for the World Social Summit.

**Therefore, we propose:**

39. **Establish national targets for the participation and representation of civil society and social movements** in public policies, with budget allocation, equity, and transparency;

40. **Place all human rights and the rights of nature at the center of development**, recognizing their indivisibility and interdependence;

41. **Recognize the human right to migration**, with reception and integration policies for people displaced by conflicts, climate change, emergencies, or economic crises;

42. **Establish intersectional action plans**, with class, race, gender, territory, age, and disability perspectives, for the eradication of extreme poverty, including the participation of children, adolescents, and youth in the drafting of such documents;

43. **Create, institutionalize, and strengthen specific commissions** for historically marginalized populations mentioned above, including people in street situations, as a way to ensure their effective participation, recognition of their rights, and promotion of equity in decision-making spaces;

44. Social justice, equity, and sustainability are urgent. Concentrated wealth, racism, patriarchy, and environmental destruction threaten the present and the future. We reaffirm: **without the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, there is no 2030 Agenda.**

We call on States, the United Nations system, and the international community to listen to the cries of the territories and turn promises into concrete action. **We will continue collectively, in networks, in resistance, and in hope!**