

**Political Declaration of the Networks gathered at the Special Session of the Special  
Committee on Population and Development of the ECLAC.**

**Quito. July 6, 2012**

**Toward the Full Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action for the  
Development Agenda Beyond 2014**

The women of Latin America and the Caribbean, in all our diversity, organized to follow up on the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development's Programme of Action, call upon our governments to guarantee their sovereignty and full separation of Church and State, and the full participation of their societies. We must ensure that in this region, commitments made by Governments are translated into the full realization of collective and individual human rights.

Our region is far from achieving the goals set out in the ICPD Programme of Action. There have been advances, but these have been unequal and insufficient. We are alarmed by those setbacks that violate the principle of progressive realization of human rights and which are happening in various countries.

The process of Cairo Beyond 2014 is a historic opportunity for countries to review their commitments, identify new challenges and emerging opportunities, while recognizing the pending realization of sexual and reproductive rights. In this context, as civil society, we urge governments to consider:

1. Human Rights as the frame of all development policies and programmes.
2. The centrality of sexual rights and reproductive rights of all girls, women, adolescents and young people, in the development and implementation of all health, population and development policies.
3. The full participation of all people who are the subjects of health, population, and development policies, and especially those who have been systematically discriminated against
4. The recognition of inequities. We live in the most unequal region in the world, where women have bared structural and persistent injustices. Therefore, political and budgetary priorities must be directed to meet all women's needs throughout their life cycle, and attend to the specific needs and rights of those who are indigenous, afro-descendant, migrant, poor, live in rural areas, disabled, lesbian, transsexual, transgender, sex workers, and those living with HIV.

As part of the review process of the ICPD's Programme of Action, governments must identify emerging and priority issues. In this regard, we exhort the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to commit to:

1. Ensure that the evaluation and review of Cairo Beyond 2014 be a consultative process between and among governments and civil society organizations, with the active participation of women's groups in all their diversity- ethnic, social, young, and feminists.
2. Guarantee universal and free access to comprehensive and integrated sexual and reproductive health services, with quality, for all women throughout their life cycle.
3. Take all measures to guarantee women's reproductive autonomy, including comprehensive sexuality education, access to all modern methods of contraception,

- assisted reproduction technologies, and access to safe and legal abortion services. In this regard, it is imperative to review laws that criminalize the voluntary interruption of pregnancy. Promote the development and the access to scientific progress in all sexual and reproductive health matters.
4. Eliminate preventable maternal mortality and reduce extreme maternal morbidity.
  5. Recognize young men and women in all their diversity as subjects of rights and establish mechanisms for their meaningful participation in the design and implementation of public policy. In this regard, access to health and education services, including in the sphere of sexuality and reproduction, must be guaranteed.
  6. Prevent, punish and eradicate the trafficking of persons and sexual exploitation, particularly of girls, boys, and adolescents.
  7. Recognize and protect the human rights, including labor rights, of those who work in the sex industry.
  8. Respect the rights of all peoples, especially indigenous and afro-descendant women, to land and property rights and to food sovereignty, and respect their right to free and informed consent in all matters of their lives, including their sexual and reproductive rights, and to a life free from violence.
  9. Implement policies and programs that guarantee girls, boys, adolescents and young people to comprehensive sexuality education, based on human rights and gender equality, and that considers important cultural characteristics and is provided with adequate methodologies, in and out of schools.
  10. Strengthen the government's capacity to gather and analyze quantitative and qualitative data disaggregated by sex, age, race, ethnicity and geographic distribution, for its strategic use in the formulation of health, education and development policies and programmes.

We call on our governments to address the demands hereby issued by civil society in: Panama, Ocho Rios, Montevideo, and the declarations issued by the Afrodescendent, Afrocaribbean and Women of the Diaspora's Network, as well as the Youth Declaration on the Road to Cairo.<sup>1</sup> The feminist women's movements have been critical actors in this process, and from this position we reiterate that this platform exists in order to change women's lives. We categorically reject and will continue to reject any violation of sexual rights and reproductive rights, and demand that Governments renew their commitments to the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

**My body. My territory.**

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<sup>1</sup> Declaration of Panama (2009), Result of the review process of Cairo +15, Ocho Rios Declaration (2012) and Commitment of Montevideo (2012); Results of the consultations of civil society in the context of the review of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action Beyond 2014. Statement of Central America and the Caribbean and the Andean Region of the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and the Diaspora on Cairo +20 and beyond, and Priorities of the Youth in the Road to Cairo.