

## **STATEMENT ON GENDER, ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE BY YOUNG WOMEN ACTIVISTS FROM:**

### **Pacific**

We are local and young women activists in various countries of the Pacific, gathered in Suva, Fiji on 6-9 September 2010 for the Regional Training and Consultation on Gender, Economic and Climate Justice that was convened by the Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) and the Pacific Network on Globalization (PANG).

The Pacific region is confronted by the onslaughts of market forces through processes of trade, financial and services liberalization, and the implication of environmental changes on food security, water scarcity, sea level rise and intrusion. These are causing major upheavals and chaos in our social relationships, communities and societies at large.

In this context, we need policies and programs that empower communities, families and individuals, rather than exposing us to market assault and the changes in climate that affect land, livelihoods, handicrafts, indigenous medicines, staple food, symbolic wealth and our caring social relationships that include women's informal networks of mutual support.

While we are in solidarity with the struggle of people's movements and nongovernmental organizations, a political response based on a feminist interlinkages perspective on gender, economic, and climate justice, is yet another way by which we can contribute to the development of an alternative paradigm of sustainable development in the Pacific.

Such a feminist approach utilizes concepts of social reproduction and women's right over our bodies and sexualities as core principles in our political analyses and actions. By this we mean that care of individuals should not be bargained away by governments when they negotiate trade and environmental agreements like PACER PLUS, WTO, UNFCCC, CBD, etc. In guaranteeing social reproduction, such as health, education, water, livelihoods, etc. the state must also protect and promote the right of women to control our bodies and our sexualities in all places -our homes, schools, communities, etc.

This means putting in place a policy, legislative and program environment that:

- (a) gives justice to women who are physically and sexually abused and denied their sexual & reproductive health life & rights;
- (b) provides equal access, control and ownership of resources of both land and the sea;
- (c) ensures women's meaningful participation in decision making in politics and citizen's mobilizations;

(d) supports the empowerment and voices of Pacific women to confront aspects of our culture that are hampering our development and autonomy; and

(e) ends all forms of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, class, gender identity, sexual orientation and abilities.

Dated: 20 October 2010

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## **Africa**

We are Young African women activists and feminists from various countries who gathered in Accra, Ghana on 20-23 November 2010 for the Regional Consultation and Training on Gender, Economic and Environmental Justice convened by Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) and Third World Network-Africa.

Recognizing the challenges and uncertainties that the Africa region is facing in the context of systemic global crises, we affirm the central role of women in the resolution of these crises and the crucial need to address the gaps and fragmentation in the institutional and policy responses from Governments and global governance institutions. Taking into consideration the ever-increasing pace of globalization and the disastrous impact of the multiple crises of climate, finance, food, and energy, we urge governments and all stakeholders to ensure the long-term sustainability of policies and programs for addressing all the themes of the African Women's Decade. As young women activists, we call for the full ratification and implementation of the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, especially as regards food sovereignty and climate justice, in order to make the African Women's Decade a meaningful reality.

### **AFRICAN WOMEN'S DECADE**

We acknowledge the importance of the African Women's Decade under the theme of "Grassroots Approach to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" launched in October 2010. We applaud the recognition of "Young Women's Movement" as a distinct theme within the African Women's Decade. It is imperative to ensure inclusiveness and to engage meaningfully with members of civil society, especially women's movements, from all walks of life. We call for a fully integrated approach to identifying and addressing the priorities of women across the continent. As young African women, we urge African states to recognize the equal importance of all the themes set out by the African Women's Decade. Recalling the commitments made by African states under the various international and regional instruments for women's human rights and gender equality, we challenge African states to adhere to all their commitments. We also urge other social movements to join forces to hold authorities accountable to their commitments and their responsibilities to the peoples of Africa.

### **THE MAPUTO PROTOCOL**

Alongside others across the continent, we celebrate five years since the African Union Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa came into force following its ratification by 15 countries. The Maputo Protocol, as it is commonly referred to, articulates

women's rights and offers significant potential for ensuring that these rights are promoted, realized and protected. It is noteworthy that the Maputo Protocol recognizes and includes rights that are not embodied in other international instruments such as women's rights to peace and the special protection of elderly women.

We applaud the 29 countries that have ratified the Protocol so far and in so doing acknowledged its importance as a framework for advancing the rights of women within their states. We call on them to promptly domesticate its provisions within their national laws and policies through parliamentary and other processes, and further ensure its successful implementation. With the same urgency we strongly call on the other African countries that have not yet ratified this important document to do so. We are further calling for the inclusion of sexual rights in the Maputo Protocol as well as in national legislations.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

We demand that solutions to climate change must be based on justice and the full respect of human rights, especially women's sexual and reproductive rights. The principle of responsibility for causes and consequences of climate change must lie with developed countries. Developed countries must re-pay their climate debt by transferring environmentally-sound technologies and financial resources required to enable African countries to shift to low-carbon growth. Priority at the national level should be given to ensuring that rural communities and the urban poor have access to renewable energy sources. Given the scale and damage of the climate crisis in Africa we demand adequate allocation of resources for mitigation and adaptation to climate change through a transparent and accountable fund under the United Nations.

We oppose market-based and false technological solutions to climate change, and reaffirm the moratorium on geo-engineering agreed to by the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya. As young women activists and feminists we also resist attempts to legitimize the Copenhagen Accord and demand that developed countries commit to legally binding targets that result in significant reductions of carbon emissions.

## **FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, WOMEN LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (EPAs)**

Acknowledging the need for food sovereignty and protection of women's livelihoods in Africa, we the young women activists and feminists demand that governments eliminate discriminatory policies and legislation in line with regional and international commitments on women's rights. Women's rights

to land and property must be guaranteed. Laws, policies, procedures and guidelines should be enacted and implemented to ensure that land reforms do not deprive communities of common resources. Women's roles in the agricultural sector, especially the subsistence subsector for food production must be recognized, valued and supported with adequate productive resources. Moreover, bio fuel production should not be promoted at the expense of food production. Food sovereignty, in particular the protection of traditional knowledge and indigenous biological resources as well as the right to safe and nutritious food must be guaranteed. The Precautionary Principle should be respected in all agricultural technological innovations. Furthermore, we demand a moratorium on genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

We are deeply concerned that the EPAs that are currently being negotiated pose a threat to women's livelihoods across Africa in relation to gender, economic and environmental justice. Young women activists and feminists will be monitoring African governments and continuing to oppose the entering into EPAs. We will hold African governments accountable for ensuring sustainable development policies with women's rights and gender equality at their core.

Dated: 10 December, 2010

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## Latin America and Caribbean

[ESPAÑOL]

Nosotras, jóvenes feministas activistas de América Latina y el Caribe nos reunimos en Montevideo, Uruguay entre los días 18 y 21 de marzo del 2011 en la Consulta Regional y Capacitación para el Fortalecimiento e Incidencia en justicia de género, económica y ecológica convocada por Alternativas para el Desarrollo de las Mujeres en la Nueva Era (DAWN) y la Oficina de Educación y Género (GEO) del Consejo Internacional de Educación de Personas Adultas (ICAE). En este espacio construimos colectivamente la siguiente declaración:

Reconocemos la realidad dinámica y compleja de nuestra región, donde coexisten gobiernos neoliberales y progresistas, donde los derechos humanos y particularmente los de las mujeres han sido limitados por fuerzas conservadoras, y donde las desigualdades materiales continúan ampliándose entre géneros, raza/etnias, y clases.

Reconocemos que el actual modelo imperante de crecimiento y desarrollo basado en la mano invisible del mercado que la mayoría de nuestros gobiernos conoce, practica y promueve, ha fracasado. Rechazamos estos modelos que se basan en el extractivismo y los patrones de producción y consumo actuales, que no contemplan una visión integrada del desarrollo, sino que por el contrario, profundizan las desigualdades sociales y la insostenibilidad ambiental. Estos son a su vez, modelos heteronormativos, racistas y colonialistas entre cuyas consecuencias económicas se manifiesta la discriminación laboral, la falta de acceso a la seguridad social y a una educación de calidad por parte de personas afrodescendientes, indígenas, migrantes, homosexuales, lesbianas, transexuales e intersexuales. Las crisis sistémicas en nuestra región ocurren en un contexto de profunda disparidad entre el Norte y el Sur globales, cuyo telón de fondo es la división internacional del trabajo históricamente injusta, que se refleja en la división sexual del trabajo de la economía global de los cuidados.

Resistimos la financiarización, mercantilización y privatización de la naturaleza y condenamos el uso y difusión de las tecnologías que ponen en peligro el bienestar de la Madre Tierra, y que son una falsa solución a la crisis climática. Estas incluyen: los agrocombustibles, los organismos genéticamente modificados, la nanotecnología y la geoingeniería, así como los mecanismos de reducción de emisiones por deforestación y degradación (REED+<sup>1</sup>), las plantaciones de monocultivos y otros megaproyectos. También rechazamos el desarrollo y generación de energía nuclear que no representa una solución a la reducción de gases de efecto invernadero y que por el contrario ostentan un riesgo serio para la subsistencia de todas las formas de vida en el planeta.

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<sup>1</sup> REDD+ es un mecanismo propuesto para mitigar el cambio climático. Busca reducir las emisiones de GEI mediante el pago a las naciones en desarrollo para que detengan la tala de sus bosques; incluyendo a ello, el potencial de conservación, el manejo forestal y el aumento de reservorios de carbono en ellos. Este mecanismo es una estrategia que apoya la mercantilización de los bosques y el carbono, permitiendo a los países desarrollados continuar con las emisiones a través de sus grandes industrias y transnacionales.

Creemos que el contexto anteriormente mencionado exige una reformulación radical de las políticas y prácticas de desarrollo. **En la medida en que la calidad de la democracia depende de la participación igualitaria entre mujeres y hombres, incluyendo la participación de las y los jóvenes en los espacios de toma de decisión, nosotras jóvenes activistas feministas de América Latina y el Caribe proponemos el siguiente plan de acción de 12 puntos:**

1. Exigimos que los gobiernos garanticen la participación activa de mujeres y jóvenes en los procesos de búsqueda de un nuevo modelo de desarrollo que de respuestas a las diversas problemáticas que hoy tenemos que enfrentar producto de las crisis financiera, política, climática, alimentaria, energética y de cuidados. Esta participación es crítica para el fortalecimiento de la autonomía y libertad de los pueblos para definir su presente y futuro.
2. Exigimos a nuestros gobiernos el reconocimiento constitucional de los Derechos Económicos, Sociales, Culturales y Ecológicos, y la creación de los mecanismos idóneos para su justiciabilidad. Además, demandamos una política social integral que redistribuya equitativamente el poder, los recursos, los ingresos y los servicios, atendiendo las diferencias de sexo, etnia, raza, clase, orientación sexual, generacional, discapacidad y creencias.
3. Reafirmamos la importancia de la Plataforma de Acción de Beijing (1995) y el Consenso de Quito<sup>2</sup> (2007) que han sido producto de las luchas de las mujeres por la justicia. Exigimos la formulación de políticas nacionales y mecanismos para su cumplimiento.
4. Exigimos el reconocimiento y la cuantificación del trabajo de las mujeres en todas las modalidades (remuneradas formales e informales, precarias y no remuneradas), valorando el aporte significativo de las mujeres al sistema económico así como a su propia calidad de vida y dignidad.
5. Demandamos el acceso universal a la seguridad social, el desarrollo de servicios públicos de cuidados para niñas, niños, jóvenes y personas adultas mayores sin importar su orientación sexual, así como la ejecución de políticas dirigidas a la redistribución equitativa del trabajo remunerado y no remunerado entre mujeres y varones.
6. Exigimos el reconocimiento de las familias homoparentales en los sistemas estadísticos nacionales y las políticas públicas de la región.
7. Exigimos la plena vigencia de los Estados Laicos, el reconocimiento y la garantía de la salud y los Derechos Sexuales y Derechos Reproductivos, así como la despenalización y legalización del aborto, para el ejercicio pleno de los derechos de las mujeres a tomar decisiones libres e informadas sobre su maternidad y evitar las muertes por abortos clandestinos.

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<sup>2</sup> Consenso de Quito, Décima Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe. CEPAL.

8. Exigimos el cumplimiento por parte de los gobiernos de la CEDAW<sup>3</sup>, la Convención de “Belem Do Pará”<sup>4</sup> y la Convención y protocolos de Palermo<sup>5</sup>, como mecanismos de prevención y erradicación de todo tipo de discriminación, desigualdad y violencia hacia la mujer. Los gobiernos deben prestar especial atención al combate de la trata y tráfico de mujeres, y del feminicidio. Los altos índices en la región de estas problemáticas demuestran la falta de voluntad política para combatir estas realidades que afectan la vida de niñas y mujeres. Los gobiernos deben también garantizar la erradicación de todo tipo de violencia y fundamentalismos, basados en ideas misóginas, homofóbicas, lesbofóbicas, transfóbicas asegurando la integridad y autonomía de los cuerpos, especialmente los de las mujeres.
9. Demandamos la creación de un Tribunal de Justicia Climática de América Latina y el Caribe que establezca responsabilidades por las consecuencias del cambio climático y la deuda ecológica incurrida por los países desarrollados , y que incluya programas de financiamiento para las comunidades más afectadas, priorizando a las mujeres.
10. Nosotras afirmamos que nuestro planeta es un ente vivo con derechos y espíritu y en éste sentido, hacemos un llamado para el diálogo ciudadano a fin de construir colectivamente el principio del “Buen Vivir” como alternativa necesaria para lograr el respeto por los derechos humanos de los pueblos en armonía con los derechos de la Madre Tierra.
11. Convocamos a movilizarnos y actuar contra la militarización, las políticas armamentistas-imperialistas, gobiernos dictatoriales y a solidarizarnos con las crisis sociales, ambientales y humanitarias, para el pleno respeto de los derechos humanos de los pueblos, especialmente de Honduras, Haití y Japón.
12. Hacemos un llamado al diálogo y la articulación entre movimientos sociales, en particular con las mujeres jóvenes en toda su diversidad para participar e incidir en los procesos políticos, sociales, económicos y ambientales, a nivel local y regional.

Fecha: Marzo 2011

[ENGLISH]

We, the young feminist activists from across Latin America and the Caribbean gathered in Montevideo, Uruguay from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2011 for a Regional Consultation

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<sup>3</sup> Convención sobre la Eliminación de Todas las Formas de Discriminación contra la Mujer. 1979, Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

<sup>4</sup> Convención Interamericana para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar la Violencia contra la Mujer. 1994, Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, OEA.

<sup>5</sup> Convención de las Naciones Unidas contra la Delincuencia Organizada Transnacional. 2000.

and Training Institute on Gender, Economic, and Ecological Justice convened by Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) and the Gender Education Office (GEO) of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE). In this space we collectively developed the following declaration:

We recognize the dynamic and complex reality of our region, where neoliberal and progressive governments coexist, where human rights, particularly those of women, have been constrained by conservative forces, and where material disparities across gender, race, ethnicity and class continue to widen.

We recognize the failure of the prevailing growth and development models, driven by the invisible hand of the market that the majority of our governments practice and promote. We reject these models based on *extractive-ism* and the current production and consumption patterns that do not contemplate an integral vision of development but on the contrary, deepen social inequalities and undermine environmental sustainability. These are hetero-normative, racist and colonialist models among whose economic consequences are labor discrimination, lack of access to social security and quality education for persons of African descent, indigenous people, migrants, homosexuals, lesbians, transgender and intersex persons. The systemic crises in our region is happening in a wider context of deep disparity between the global North and South based on a historically unfair international division of labor and reflected in the sexual division of labor of the global care economy.

We reject the mercantilism and privatization of nature and condemn the use and dissemination of technologies that endanger the welfare of Mother Earth and are false solutions to the climate crisis. These include agrofuels, genetically modified organisms, nanotechnology and geo-engineering, as well as mechanisms for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+<sup>6</sup>), monoculture plantations and other mega-projects. We also reject the development and generation of nuclear energy, which does not present a solution to reducing greenhouse gases and instead poses a serious threat to the survival of all life forms on our planet.

We believe that the afore-mentioned context demands a radical reformulation of development policies and practices. **As evidence shows the quality of democracy depends on equal participation of women and men, including the youth, in all aspects of decision-making. We young feminist activists from across Latin America and the Caribbean therefore call for the following 12-point action plan:**

1. We demand that our governments ensure the meaningful participation of women and young people in designing new development models that address the diverse problems we face stemming from the financial, political, climate, food, energy, and

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<sup>6</sup> REDD+ is a proposed mechanism to mitigate climate change. It looks to reduce GEI emissions through payment to developing nations to deter deforestation which includes the potential for conservation, management of forests and to increase the number of carbon reserves. This mechanism is a strategy that supports the merchandising of forests and carbon foot-prints, allowing developing nations to continue emissions through its large industries and multinational corporations.

care crisis. Such participation is critical in strengthening peoples' autonomy and freedom to define their present and their future.

2. We demand that our governments constitutionally recognize Economic, Social, Cultural and Ecological Rights and create mechanisms to enact them. We further demand an integral social policy that equitably redistributes power, resources, income and services taking into account gender differences across ethnicity, race, class, sexual orientation, generation, ability and belief.
3. We reaffirm the importance of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the Quito Consensus<sup>7</sup> (2007), both hard won gains of women's movements struggle for justice. We demand compliance through the formulation of national policies and mechanisms .
4. We demand the recognition and quantification of women's work in all its modalities (formal and informal remunerated, precarious and non-remunerated), giving value to women's significant contribution to the economic system as well as to their quality of life and dignity.
5. We demand universal access to social security, development of public services for children, youth and the elderly, regardless of their sexual orientation, as well as the execution of policies focused on the equitable redistribution of paid and unpaid work between women and men.
6. We demand recognition of homo-parental families in the national statistical systems and the public policies of the region.
7. We demand full respect for the secular state, the recognition and guarantee of sexual and reproductive rights and health as well as the decriminalization and legalization of abortion, thereby affirming women's right to make free and informed choices and preventing deaths due to clandestine abortions.
8. We demand government compliance with the CEDAW<sup>8</sup>, the Convention of "Belem Do Pará"<sup>9</sup> and the Convention and Protocols of Palermo<sup>10</sup>, as mechanisms to prevent and eradicate all forms of discrimination, inequality and violence against women. Governments must give special attention to combating the trafficking of women and *femicide*. The high rates of these problems in the region show the lack of political will to fight these realities that threaten the lives of girls and women. Governments must also fully guarantee the elimination of all forms of violence and fundamentalisms based on misogynist, homophobic, lesbian phobic, trans-phobic ideas, insuring the integrity and autonomy of the body, especially that of women.

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<sup>7</sup> The Quito Consensus, 10<sup>th</sup> Regional conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. (CEPAL). A consensus agreement adopted by 33 governments at the 10th session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in 2007.

<sup>8</sup> Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979, United Nations General Assembly.

<sup>9</sup> Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women, 1994, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights., OAS.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. 2000.

9. We demand the creation of a Climate Justice Tribunal for Latin America and the Caribbean that establishes responsibilities for the consequences of climate change and the ecological debt incurred by developed countries including financing programs in communities most affected, giving priority to women.
10. We affirm that our planet is a living entity with rights and spirit and in this regard, we call for citizen dialogues to collectively construct the principle of “buen vivir” (good living) as a necessary alternative that respects the human rights of peoples in harmony with the rights of Mother Earth.
11. We call for mobilization against militarisation, imperialist arms policies and dictatorial governments, and form solidarity around issues of social , environmental and humanitarian crises with full respect for peoples’ human rights, especially in Honduras, Haiti and Japan.
12. We call for greater dialogue and articulation among social movements, particularly among young women in all their diversity to participate and influence the political, social, economic, and ecological processes, at local, regional and global levels.

Dated: March 2011

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