

PRONOUNCEMENT OF GRASSROOT WOMEN OF THE HUAIROU COMMISSION IN ECLAC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

January 29, 2020, Santiago de Chile

1. Twenty-five years after the Beijing Platform for Action, we point out that, the economic recipes since the lost decade of the eighties, which enrich the few and impoverish the majority, have generated enormous inequality, violence and exclusion in the well-being of millions of women and men.¹
2. Twenty-five years from Beijing, Latin America and the Caribbean, it cannot stand any more adjustment policies and requires policies to stimulate growth and reduce inequality. Given this, grassroots women demand structural changes in the system and financial and fiscal policies that redistribute income and resources, following the guidelines approved by the countries in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing sustainable development.
3. We demand to eradicate these prescriptions that have precarious employment, increased informality, generated unjust wages, with poor or non-existent social security, huge unemployment rates in the formal market, unequal distribution of the care burden, intensification of our working hours productive and reproductive, obstacles to our businesses and ventures, cities divided with housing, public space, infrastructure and public services, precarious, insecure or non-existent, privatization and cost of public goods - security and education- and enormous environmental deterioration, all of which it leads to unsustainable development processes.
4. Therefore we are calling for a radical change of leadership in formulating and implementing economic and social policy in the region moving forward as the only solution to sustainable development economics. Such organizing of these grassroots social movements and the impacts they have produced affirm that their leadership is essential in producing a new economic model. This must be built from social movements track record in strengthening local economies, producing unprecedented levels of social capital (uncounted in GDP) that has enable families and communities to survive the austerity that the system has produced these past 25 years and manage extreme climate risk.

¹ The weakening of government action must have been supplemented by the unpaid work of women, with which grassroots women contribute through the construction of networks of care and protection in food, security and food sovereignty, of health, care, remittances, eradication of violence, in contexts of emergencies and disasters to attend rehabilitation and reconstruction, we contribute to peace processes, we demand and propose new services in our territories. Given the Latin American and Caribbean context of generalized economic slowdown in countries and sectors (with the lowest rates in the last 70 years), more fragile international commercial and financial markets, deterioration of the region's terms of trade and processes of concentration of income and wealth that are accentuated, we add, then, to the growing and urgent social demands to increase social inclusion in income and public goods, because there are capacities, we grassroots women, we are part of them and we can enhance them

5. The actions led by urban and rural grassroots women social movements and afro-descendant and indigenous women's groups claiming the power and authority of their traditional knowledge and cultural heritage have organized constituencies to co-decided the development agendas that will transform women's life and living. Their activism illustrate their capacities to:

- lead food security and local climate adaption and resilience building initiatives to reduce women's vulnerabilities and protect their assets;

- resist and challenge the structural inequalities that produce substandard living and working conditions for women by demanding governments respond to women's immediate needs women and take responsibility for ending structural and political violence that threatens women's land, houses, livelihoods, safety and rights and more, and

- focus attention on financing women's empowerment and gender equality at the macro and also local, grassroots, community level through decentralized public policies, public works and public budgets that engage diverse social women's movements in development planning, programming and monitoring results and dedicate public investment streams to sustaining these processes.

These contributions are directly relevant to addressing the structural dynamics outlined in the poverty, intersectionality, climate change and care economy sections of the ECLAC economic report and also model bottom up strategies for tackling the poverty, violence and harsh living conditions grassroots women are struggling against in our communities.

6. The new economic model should impulse the feminist, social and solidarity economy and popular finances, with a development bank with resources, preferential interest rates, venture capital, technology and land for women; with fair trade practices; cooperative support; recognition of indigenous reciprocity, unrestricted respect for the planet, mother earth the Pachamama; the valorization of the contribution of our greater position and political participation in decision making; and the dismantling of the culture of privilege and inequality.