



Political Declaration: 10 years of the Montevideo Consensus

The networks, organizations and collectives of civil society: feminists, indigenous, Afro-descendants, LGBTI+, youth, seniors, people with disabilities, sex workers and local communities, among others, who are committed to the follow-up of the Regional Conference on Population and Development (RCPD), and to the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, are gathered, in the framework of its fifth Presiding Officers and the extraordinary session on the tenth anniversary of this transcendent regional agreement, to state that:

The Montevideo Consensus represents a fundamental milestone in the promotion and protection of human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean, and we celebrate its importance as a comprehensive document that addresses a wide range of issues crucial to sustainable development and the individual and collective well-being of all people in their different stages of life.

Throughout this decade, we have witnessed the strengthening of a strong feminist movement and the expansion of youth networks and organizations representing the diverse voices and experiences that enrich our struggle for human rights and equality. These movements and expressions of struggle have been fundamental for justice, defense and promotion of autonomy and rights, as well as for denouncing violations of these rights.

In addition, we have seen significant advances in the promotion of policies, programs and regulations that place information and education, the secular state and the rejection of the criminalization of reproductive autonomy and people's sexual lives at the center. These advances have been reflected in national legal frameworks, in recommendations of human rights monitoring bodies and in judicial decisions that have broadened and deepened the protection of sexual and reproductive rights in the region. In particular, we welcome the advances in the fight for abortion rights with the decriminalization and liberalization of laws in several countries in the region. These achievements are a testimony to the regional commitment to promote policies that respect and guarantee the right to make free, informed, autonomous and responsible decisions about one's sexuality and reproductive life.

The Montevideo Consensus has undoubtedly been an important tool for young people to demand their rights in terms of comprehensive sexuality education, gender equality and active participation in the region and, thanks to this and the struggle of those of us who defend these rights, there have been significant advances. The recognition of the rights of older citizens and the promotion of active, dignified and healthy ageing have also been achieved to a large extent.

However, despite these achievements, we recognize that:



- Girls, adolescents and youth in the region continue to be victims of sexual violence, facing unintentional or unwanted pregnancies, child marriage, forced unions, lack of access to decent employment, gender and socio-economic inequalities, racialization towards indigenous, Afro- descendant and black women, and other forms of racism and discrimination. All of the above restrict and hinder their bodily and economic autonomy, as well as their full potential for a dignified life. In some countries, it is precisely young people who are the main focus of gang violence or organized crime, which makes them victims of forced recruitment, extortion, disappearance, trafficking for sexual exploitation and even death.
- Ten years after the Montevideo Consensus, no warning mechanisms have been established to highlight the violation of rights to which indigenous women, youth and girls are subjected, such as the criminalization of indigenous knowledge and practices, particularly midwifery, and the lack of consent for sterilization or the use of contraceptive methods.
- Our region has the highest rates of criminal violence against LGBTI+ people, and despite some legal frameworks and protocols, justice systems have not responded to murders, disappearances and hate crimes. In addition, LGBTI+ populations face discrimination in the health and education systems, and difficulties in accessing decent jobs and housing, with serious implications for autonomy and self-determination, as well as achieving international development and poverty elimination goals; they have not been included in national registries and statistics, a basic input to guarantee their protection and the development of public policies.
- The CM calls for the expansion of gender-sensitive social protection and social security systems for informal workers, including sex workers, but across the region there are increasing violations of their rights.
- Despite being the most progressive and forward-looking agenda in the world, the CM has not expressly incorporated those living with disabilities since its adoption. This omission today more than ever is expressed as a demand and a debt of the CRPD that must be settled.
- The CM offers unique opportunities for intersectional actions. However, significant challenges remain in terms of poverty, health care, social inclusion and the protection of the most vulnerable sectors.

In this context, we would like to point out pressing challenges to be addressed in the region, which include:

1. Promote continued efforts to achieve full implementation of the Montevideo Consensus.
2. Eliminate preventable maternal mortality and drastically reduce unplanned, unwanted and non- consensual pregnancies among girls and adolescents.
3. Design and implement strategic plans, policies and programs with sufficient budgets to comply with the Consensus, with emphasis on chapter H, in accordance with CEDAW Recommendation 39 on the collective and individual rights of indigenous women and girls.



4. Ensure the inclusion of intercultural, intersectional and intergenerational perspectives, with ethnic and linguistic relevance in health services.
5. Ensure that mechanisms are in place for young people to participate in decision-making and in the construction of public policies and to access education, health and housing services, among others.
6. Promote the full incorporation of indigenous and Afro-descendant people in decision making, including through prior, free, informed and consensual consultation.
7. Ensure a dignified and full life for elders, guaranteeing mechanisms for them to participate in matters that concern them.
8. Promote health, education and care policies that recognize the needs and rights of persons with disabilities, responding to them in an efficient and respectful manner, without tutelage or discrimination.
9. Ensure LGBTI+ populations a life free of violence, and access to health services with full guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights without discrimination and that promotes their full development.
10. Achieve the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV within a framework of respect for human rights and guarantee comprehensive services and access to treatment.
11. Recognize sex work as work, as ruled by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.
12. Bring the progress we have been able to celebrate to Central America, the Dominican Republic and the English-speaking Caribbean, where abortion is still strictly criminalized and women are denied their reproductive autonomy and threatened with the loss of their freedom if, for any reason, they decide to terminate a pregnancy.
13. Regulate conscientious objection so that it ceases to be an obstacle for women and people with gestational capacity - in their wide diversity - to access legal and safe abortion services.
14. Promote comprehensive sexuality education that enables a cultural change to eliminate homophobia; and that considers sexual orientation, gender identity and expressions, as well as sexual characteristics to determine government actions.
15. Fight against chauvinistic violence and treat victims of sexual violence - and any type of gender- based violence - in a timely manner and without re-victimization.
16. Allocate specific budgets and commodities to address sexual and reproductive health Reproductive health for everyone, at all stages of life, including legal, safe and free abortion care.
17. Generate mechanisms for the evaluation of public policies on population and development based on statistics disaggregated at least by sex, gender identity, age, cultural belonging, ethnic or racial self- identification and disability.
18. Generate programs of attention to migrant populations, from a perspective of portability of rights that emphasizes treating and minimizing the risks faced by women in transit.
19. Put an end to extractivist practices and megaprojects that exploit our territories, generate forced displacement and damage our environment.



Ten years after the Montevideo Consensus, we reaffirm our commitment to the struggle for equality, human rights and social justice in the region. The fundamentalist threat is expressed

in multiple ways, attacking freedoms, criminalizing social movements, putting women's rights defenders at risk and pushing for reversals. Conservative or openly anti-rights governments are installed in the region, progressive struggles confront them and in the best of cases manage to transform them or at least stop them. Ours is a region of advances and setbacks, where we live a cultural battle for equality and human rights.

We will continue to work in partnership with governments, multilateral bodies, and other stakeholders to ensure that the Consensus commitments are effectively implemented.

We want to use this space to speak out on the horror of war and its consequences. We condemn the Hamas terrorist attack in Israel while also condemning - in the strongest terms - the disproportionate revenge that has claimed thousands of innocent Palestinian lives. The call to stop the genocide heard in the streets of our countries is strongly reiterated here, calling on the governments of our region to take action to put an end to it. Peace can never be an excuse for war.

Next year marks the 30th anniversary of the global Conference on Population and Development. We call on Latin Caribbean states to become actively involved and to bring to the global discussion the commitments made in our region, as well as the advances agreed in this, our Montevideo Consensus.

As a civil society, as feminist and youth movements, and as thematic and identity networks, we will continue to be a legitimate and representative voice for people who face inequalities in securing and accessing their rights. Our fight is for a world in which all people can fully exercise their rights, live in dignity, free from violence, and contribute to the sustainable development of our societies. The Montevideo Consensus is a fundamental roadmap on this path, and together, we will continue to work to make it a reality in the daily lives of every individual in our countries.

#MontevideoConsensusForAll

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Aquelarre, República Dominicana
Articulación Alerta Montevideo, Bolivia
Articulación Feminista Campaña 28 de Septiembre Bolivia
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