

DECLARATION OF CARACAS

January 2006

ANOTHER INTEGRACION IS URGENT, POSSIBLE AND NECESSARY

We, men and women citizens of Our America, organized in networks and institutions working for the defense and improvement of the rights in our society, worried about the present and the future of the region, we got together during the VI World Social Forum to examine the conditions in which it is possible to advance toward a genuine integration based in the respect for the dignity and the rights of the people, in the recognition of the people, through their collective representations, are able subjects in the decisions on regional and national politics.

We VERIFY that Latin America lives a new time. The exhaustion of the neo-liberal model and the growing dissatisfaction with its impacts in the life of the majorities are opening steps to more sensitive governments towards the popular interests. This new situation, accelerated since 2000, shows signs of the political rise of new actors, as can be seen in the presidential election –that we greet— of an indigenous, Evo Morales, in Bolivia, and of a woman, Michelle Bachelet, in Chile.

We VALUE the ongoing vigorous social mobilization for the defense of the common goods, against the privatization of the public thing and in favor of economic models oriented to the welfare of the majorities. The dynamics of the social movements has transformed the political field by redefining the way to do it and by including new faces in the public setting.

We IDENTIFY this moment as an opportunity offered to the organized communities, the parties compromised with the social interests and the governments of a new type, to achieve deep changes in the culture and the political systems, tending toward the democratization of power and the civic control of the State and the actors governed for the logic of the market. This opportunity has limits therefore faces powerful interests that could react with aggressiveness.

We AFFIRM the people's rights to a development based on the social inclusion and the respect for the economic, social, political, cultural and environmental rights in the preservation of our natural and cultural patrimony, in a control of the energy and natural resources that assure the welfare of the future and present generations

We APPRECIATE the rise of a citizenship that surpasses the national enclosures. Such citizenship express itself through networks, coalitions, platforms and articulations with the participation of social movements and non-governmental organizations, that defend the public goods, spread the democratizing impulse and the internationalization of ideas, initiatives and progressive struggles.

We OBSERVE that the rights have been cut with regard to national borders and the way is open for discrimination and exclusion due to race, origin, sex, sexual option or nationality, so the citizens of Our America are far from living like equals. This situation affects mainly, millions of migrants, refugee and displaced persons who suffer the denial of essential rights according with their dignity, despite of their documental or legal situation.

We CONSIDER that integration is a disputed field today, in which different social projects are faced. The present hegemonic project integrates above all, the market; it develops in function of the large corporations and of the financial capital, does recognize the social thing, violates the human rights and imposes itself behind the backs of our societies. The hegemonic integration sacrifices the dignity of the people to the accumulation of capital that increases misery, marginalizes entire regions and makes unfeasible the civilized cohabitation.

We RECOGNIZE that the hegemonic project is faced by an integration open to a decisive participation of the communities, which respects the cultural identities and the collective rights, the organization and life's ways of the indigenous people and the afro-descendent communities as collective subjects of rights, that places the dignity of the people, the solidarity and the cooperation, above the economic interests and of the State's reasons, proposing economies for the national sovereignty and the general welfare.

We PERCEIVE that this time favors our action as organized forces for the defense and improvement of the rights. Nevertheless, it is necessary to take more audacious steps to ensure the democratization of the democracy, expanding the exercise of the citizenship and enable an autonomous role of our countries and our region in the international concert.

THE ORGANIZATIONS, NETWORKS, INSTITUTIONS AND CITIZENS OF OUR AMERICA:

We CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT the impositions of the economic power that subordinates our countries and produces, through its public politics, the concentration of the wealth and the consequent increment of the inequality and the poverty.

We CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT the dictations of the rich countries, the international regulation's institutions and the governments that sacrifice the lives, particularly, those of the indigenous and the afro-descendents, the migrants, women, children and people of scarce resources, and aim for the same possibility of a better future, for the sake of the economic growth and of the capitalist accumulation.

We CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT that the indigenous people are ridden off their rights, that their territories are violated, get despoiled of their natural resources, get snatched of their right to their own development and their communities are des-structured increasing the mass of the poor of the continent.

We CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT that two hundred twenty million Latin-Americans live in absolute poverty, without enjoying the rights which assure a harmonious life according with their condition of human beings, neither that thirteen million migrant and displaced persons be deprived of their rights because they don't have a document, or that other thirty-three million migrant, refugee and displaced persons live in conditions of poverty and marginality.

We CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT the existence of laws used to restrict the freedom of movement of the citizens in our continent, such as the recent laws of United States Border Security or the Migration and Immigration of Costa Rica, which violate the Human Rights recognized internationally.

We CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT the destruction of the public thing and the abduction of the politics by elites who do not have another interest than their own benefits and because of it they surrender to the interests of the transnational capital, they ruin the conquered democratic advances and they transform the democracy in a mere instrument of social control and manipulation of consciences.

We CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT that the perversion of the private thing and the patriarchal culture force women and girls to be victims of the domestic violence, of the human traffic and deprive them of the enjoyment of its reproductive and sexual rights, limit them in the exercise of their civil and political rights and confine them to the domestic work and the family care.

We CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT that concerning the integration's matter, the initiatives of the governments are ruled according to the interests of the large corporations and the international financial system, acting only with the logic of the enlargement of markets.

We CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT corruption as an instrument of governance nor the impunity that stimulates, contaminates and diffuses these practices in forms of sociability, in the political system and of the apparatuses of government,

We CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT the destruction of the people's inalienable right to decide on its own destiny and that the majorities of the population be treated a second class citizenship, criminalizing their organizations and even imprisoning their representatives because of their aspiration to be subjects of their own history.

OUR CONTINENT AND THE COUNTRIES WHICH MAKE PART OF IT, HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN AUTONOMOUS AND SOVEREIGN INTEGRATION, EXPRESION OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY OF THE MAJORITIES.

According to this statement, we ASSUME THE FOLLOWING COMMITMENTS:

We PROPOSE to act jointly in the construction of a democratic culture and democratic ethics, in which the citizens can participate and exercise social control as responsibilities in the public action, at the same time that, perform a central role in the political system including parties and governments.

We PROPOSE to work, from our organizations, towards a deep political reform of the parties and the public institutions. It comes from the fact of recognizing the centralist, vertical, hierarchical, patriarchal and authoritarian character of our political culture and to surpass them through the decentralization and the socialization of the power, the implementation of participatory mechanisms of decision such as the referenda and plebiscites, the consultations to the indigenous people in agreement with the ILO's Covenant 169, besides creating new forms of collective decision.

We PROPOSE to work for the right to information and the access to the public information as a tool for the political education and for the democratization and the social control to the mass media, as essential condition for the democratic life and the exercise of the citizenship.

We PROPOSE an integration of companies that surpass the exclusion that segregates and discriminates, seeking the integral development either as human right, and the development of all the potentialities of the people and the communities, the regions without exception and our nations, societies that assure its members the full enjoyment of their collective and individual rights.

We PROPOSE to build societies and secular states respectful of the diversity and guarantees of the pluralism, in which any idea would not be imposed as matter of fact, and in which it could be possible to develop all the dimensions of the human beings in an environment of tolerance.

We PROPOSE that our economies grow in function of guarantying the rights of the people and the sovereignty of our nations, to enable the existence of societies and truly democratic States. It supposes to privilege the sustainable production and the labor force, to promote the technological and scientific development, to generate equilibrium between the sectors of the economy and the regions in each country and among the different cultures through the redistribution of the wealth and the opportunities. A development providing equilibrium among the countries of the region --based on the recognition of the differences, the asymmetries and the specificities, from the complimentary and the solidarity's actions Such development model should fortify the internal market, to create forms of supportive economy, to promote alternative markets and to use common goods in a rational way to assure the welfare of the majorities.

We PROPOSE that the Latin-American States agree at last to the condition of instrument for the general interests and therefore subordinate the economy to the democratic politics and favor a new model of development, understood as the enjoyment of all the civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, in the framework of equity, of justice and sustainability.

We PROPOSE to reaffirm the Latin-American identity as constellation of multiple and diverse identities called to be promoted in the confluence with the different torrents of

the contemporary world but knowing of their own meaning. This meeting again of Latin America with herself is a precondition of an authentic integration and will imply a renaissance that awake the energies of the region; inspire the democratization of our States and allows the search of more fair and just societies.

We PROPOSE to fortify the social movements and the networks that are mobilized in search of the rights and in exercise of the citizenship. This implies to be articulated, to build common agendas and to act in a joint way in the national and international settings as factor of democratization to all the levels. It implies also to build instruments and mechanisms to fortify the organizations and its proposal capacity.

We PROPOSE to achieve a work of civic education understood as political education, that permit the self-appraisal, the inclusion and the strengthening of the organization of men and women, the beating of the history of domination in which the majority of the Latin-Americans have been assigned second class citizen's condition.

Because we understand our central role in the construction of hope, of a new political culture and of really democratic institutions that guarantee a future with equity and justice for the present and the coming generations, we invite all the networks, organizations and social movements to participate and to be articulated in a movement of movements that build a Latin-American citizenship and try another integration as necessary, possible, and urgent purpose.

Caracas, January 2006

Signed by

Internacional Networks

ALIANZA ESTRATEGICA DE ORGANIZACIONES AFRODESCENDIENTES DE LAS AMERICAS Y EL CARIBE
ARTICULACIÓN FEMINISTA MARCOSUR – AFM
ASOCIACIÓN LATINOAMERICANA DE ORGANIZACIONES DE PROMOCIÓN – ALOP
CARITAS CENTROAMERICA, MEXICO Y PANAMA – CAMEXPA
CENTROAMERICA POR EL DIALOGO – CAD
COMITÉ LATINOAMERICANO PARA LA DEFENSA DE LOS DERECHOS DE LA MUJER – CLADEM
CONSEJO DE EDUCACIÓN DE ADULTOS DE AMÉRICA LATINA – CEAL
COORDINADORA REGIONAL DE INVESTIGACIONES ECONÓMICAS Y SOCIALES – CRIES
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE DERECHOS HUMANOS – FIDH
FUNDACION EMANCIPACION PARA LA UNIDAD DE AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE
GRUPO SUR
HABITAT INTERNATIONAL COALITION - HIC
OBSERVATORIO CONTROL INTERAMERICANO DE LOS DERECHOS DE LOS MIGRANTES – OCIM
ORGANIZACIÓN REGIONAL INTERAMERICANA DE TRABAJADORES - ORIT
PLATAFORMA INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS, DEMOCRACIA Y DESARROLLO – PIDHDD
PROGRAMA MERCOSUR SOCIAL Y SOLIDARIO – PMSS
RED COMUNIDAD E-DUCATIVA
RED INTERCONTINENTAL DE PROMOCION DE ECONOMÍA SOCIAL Y SOLIDARIA – RIPESS,
CAPITULO AL

National Networks

ASOCIACIÓN BRASILEIRA DE ONG – ABONG

ASOCIACIÓN CHILENA DE ONG – ACCIÓN
 ASOCIACIÓN DE INSTITUCIONES DE PROMOCIÓN Y EDUCACIÓN – AIPE, BOLIVIA
 ASOCIACIÓN NACIONAL DE CENTROS DE INVESTIGACIÓN, PROMOCIÓN SOCIAL Y DESARROLLO –
 ANC, Perú
 ASOCIACIÓN POLÍTICA DE MUJERES MAYAS – MOLOJ, GUATEMALA
 CAPITULO BOLIVIANO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS, DEMOCRACIA Y DESARROLLO – CBDHDD
 CAPITULO DOMINICANO PIDHDD
 CAPITULO SALVADOREÑO PIDHDD
 CONFEDERACIÓN NACIONAL DE COMUNIDADES DEL PERÚ AFECTADAS POR LA MINERÍA –
 CONACAMI
 COALICIÓN DE ONG DE DERECHOS HUMANOS – PIDHDD, Venezuela
 CONVERGENCIA DE ORGANISMOS CIVILES A.C., México
 COORDINADORA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS DEL PARAGUAY – CODEHUPY, CAPITULO PARAGUAYO
 DE LA PIDHDD
 ENCUENTRO DE ENTIDADES NO GUBERNAMENTALES DE DESARROLLO, Argentina
 ESPACIO DESC – CAPITULO MEXICANO DE LA PIDHDD
 FORUM BRASILEIRO DE ECONOMIA SOLIDARIA – FBES
 LIGA INTERNACIONAL DE MUJERES POR LA PAZ Y LA LIBERTAD – SECCIONAL COLOMBIA
 MOVIMIENTO NACIONAL DE DIREITOS HUMANOS, BRASIL
 MOVIMIENTO DOS ATINGIDOS PE LAS BARRAGENS – MAB, BRASIL
 MOVIMIENTO NACIONAL DE MENINOS E MENINAS DE RUA, BRASIL
 PLATAFORMA COLOMBIANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS, DEMOCRACIA Y DESARROLLO – PCDHDD
 PLATAFORMA DHEC BRASIL
 PLATAFORMA INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS, DEMOCRACIA Y DESARROLLO
 PIDHDD – CAPITULO PERUANO
 PLATAFORMA INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS, DEMOCRACIA Y DESARROLLO
 PIDHDD – CAPITULO GUATEMALA
 PROGRAMA MERCOSUR SOCIAL Y SOLIDARIO – SEPA, Paraguay
 RED DEBATEDUCACIÓN, ECUADOR
 REDE SOCIAL DE JUSTIÇA E DIREITOS HUMANOS, BRASIL
 REDE FEMINISTA DE SAUDÉ, BRASIL
 REDE FEMINISTA DE SAUDÉ E DIREITOS REPRODUTIVOS, BRASIL
 UNIÓN NACIONAL DE INSTITUCIONES PARA EL TRABAJO DE ACCIÓN SOCIAL – UNITAS, Bolivia

National Organizations

ARGENTINA: COMISION ARGENTINA DE JURISTAS, GRUPO DE ESTUDIOS SOBRE EDUCACIÓN EN
 CÁRCELES – GESEC, CENTRO DE PARTICIPACIÓN PARA LA PAZ Y LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS –
 CEPADHU
 BRASIL: ABRANDH, AÇÃO EDUCATIVA, AGENDE, ASSOCIAÇÃO MULHERES BRASILEIRAS, CEAP,
 CENDHEC, CFEMEA, COMISSAO PASTORAL DA TERRA, CRIOLA, FALA PRETA, FAMÍLIA E
 SOCIEDADE, FASE, FIAN BRASIL, FUNDAÇÃO PERSEU ABRAMO, INESC, INSTITUTO BÚZIOS,
 INSTITUTO TERRA VIVA – MULHER, INTERCAMBIO CULTURAL CHILE-BRASIL, JUSTIÇA GLOBAL,
 MOVIMENTO SEM TERRA, NÚCLEO DE ENSINO, PESQUISA E EXTENSAO EM EDUCAÇÃO DE JOVENS
 E ADULTOS E EM EDUCAÇÃO POPULAR DA UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE PERNAMBUCO
 (NUPEP/UFPE), SOCIEDADE MARANHENSE DE DIREITOS HUMANOS, SOCIEDADE PARAENSE DE
 DIREITOS HUMANOS, SOS CORPO, TERRA DE DIREITOS.
 CHILE: PET
 COLOMBIA: COLECTIVO DE ABOGADOS JOSE ALVEAR RESTREPO, ASOCIACIÓN DE ESTUDIANTES
 Y CREADORES COLOMBIANOS EN FRANCIA - COLCREA
 ECUADOR: ASAMBLEA PERMANENTE DE DERECHOS HUMANOS – APDH, CENTRO DE FORMACIÓN
 DE MISIONERAS INDÍGENAS, INSTITUTO FRONESIS, MOVIMIENTO VANGUARDIA POLITECNICA,
 GUAYAQUIL
 ESPAÑA: INICIATIVAS DE ECONOMIA ALTERNATIVA Y SOLIDARIA – IDEAS, IEPALA
 GUATEMALA: ASOCIACIÓN DE SERVICIOS DE CAPACITACIÓN TÉCNICOS Y EDUCATIVOS –
 SERCATE, CAIDH, CENTRO PLURICULTURAL PAR ALA DEMOCRACIA (MIEMBRO DEL MOVIMIENTO
 TZUK KIM POP), PROYCTO DE DESARROLLO SANTIAGO - PRODESSA, SERVICIOS JURÍDICOS Y
 SOCIALES – SERJUS
 HONDURAS: INSTITUTO HONDUREÑO DE DESARROLLO RURAL – IHDER
 MEXICO: CASA Y CIUDAD, CATEDRA UNESCO, CENTRO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS, ECONOMICOS
 SOCIALES Y CULTURALES – CEDHESCU, CENTRO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS “FRAY FRANCISCO DE
 VITORIA OP”, CENTRO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS MIGUEL AGUSTÍN PRO JUAREZ, CENTRO DE
 ESTUDIOS SOCIALES Y CULTURALES ANTONIO DE MONTESINOS, CENTRO DE REFLEXIÓN Y
 ACCION DE FOMENTO CULTURAL Y EDUCATIVO – CEREAL, COMISION MEXICANA DE DEFENSA Y
 PROMOCION DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS, DECA EQUIPO PUEBLO, DEFENSORIA DEL DERECHO A

LA SALUD, ECOSOL, ESPACIO DESC, FIAN MEXICO, FUNDACION AHORA, LIGA MEXICANA POR LA DEFENSA DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS – LIMEDDH, OFICINA REGIONAL PARA AMERICA LATINA DE LA COALICION INTERNACIONAL PARA EL HABITAT – RADAR
NICARAGUA: CENIDH
PANAMA: CARITAS, PANAMA
PARAGUAY: CODEHUPY
PERÚ: APRODEH, CEDAL, CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS Y PROMOCIÓN DEL DESARROLLO – DESCO, CENTRO FLORA TRISTAN
REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA: CENTRO CULTURAL POVEDA, CENTRO DOMINICANO DE ESTUDIOS DE LA EDUCACIÓN
URUGUAY: COMERCIO JUSTO, MUNDO AFRO
VENEZUELA: CENTRO DE SERVICIO POPULAR – GSCESAP, CESAP – SINERGIA, COORDINADORA DE PARTICIPACIÓN COMUNITARIA EN SALUD, EFIP, INSTITUTO DE EDUCACIÓN LABORAL – INEL, INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y DEFENSA INTEGRAL AUTOGESTIONARIA – INDIA, PROGRAMA VENEZOLANO DE EDUCACIÓN, ACCIÓN EN DERECHOS HUMANOS – PROVEA, RADIO ALTERNATIVA DE CARACAS

For space reasons, we abstain to register the names hundreds of people who have subscribed this declaration. We deeply thank all of them for their support.