STATEMENT

LATIN AMERICAN ENCOUNTER OF WOMEN DEFENDERS OF HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.

Promoting feminist climate agendas for the defence of territories.

In the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, 45 indigenous, Afro-descendant, quilombola, peasant, urban, popular and mestizo women met in November 2022 for the 1st Latin American Encounter of Women Environmental Defenders for Climate Action. We are members of communities, movements and organisations from different Latin American countries: Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia and Argentina.
**WHO WE ARE**

We are women defenders of the environment and territory, we fight against extractivist mega-projects and the effects of climate change. We act for access to land, territory and common goods, for a life without violence and for the *buen vivir*.

We come from different struggles and have different strategies. Meeting each other was important to strengthen us and to understand that although we come from very different places and conditions, we are united in the defence of the land, the commons, life and territory.

**WHAT DID WE MEET FOR?**

After two years of virtual training in the "Escuela Feminista de Acción Climática EFAC", coordinated by Fundación Plurales, and in the "Escuelita por la Justicia Climática Feminista", coordinated by Colectivo CASA and the Red Latinoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Sociales y Ambientales, we met in person to get to know and recognise each other, exchange experiences, share the diversity of strategies that women have built in the defence of the environment and our territories at local and regional level, as well as to propose new strategies of struggle and cross-border advocacy.
OUR CONTEXT

The social, political and economic regional, national and local context of our territories is alarming and violent not only because of the serious effects of climate change, but also because of the permanent advance of extractivist megaprojects, the implementation of neoliberal policies, the pressure of conservative and anti-rights groups as part of a hegemonic, capitalist, patriarchal, colonialist economic development model. In Latin America there are democratic governments, but some of them act in an authoritarian manner, promoting unequal and asymmetrical power relations. This context affects our peoples and communities, but mainly women and even more so young women and children.

As women defenders on the frontline of conflicts, we have a clear view of the problems and challenges imposed by the current context. The struggles for the defence of our territories, for access to safe water management, for just and equal food security and sovereignty, and for a life free of violence are interconnected; each particular claim does not exist without the other.

WE DENOUNCE

✓ That our bodies, lands and territories are violated by this capitalist, extractivist and anthropocentric system disguised as green development.

✓ The false solutions and false speeches: governments, companies and leaders who sell speeches of clean energy, sustainable mining, biofuels, mega hydroelectric dams.

✓ That States are part of Ecocide, Terricide, Ethnocide and Genocide.

✓ No or little access to land, territory, common and natural goods, education, health, housing, food security and sovereignty, and the fulfilment of ESCR. Land tenure is key because of its link to access to other rights.

✓ The dispossession and eviction from our territories by extractive megaprojects and other activities that exploit the natural resources of the territories.

✓ The deficiency, absence and/or inapplicability of comprehensive public policies with a multicultural and diverse environmental and gender focus.

✓ Public policies are very focused on urban areas, not designed to be applied in rural areas.

✓ That there are numerous difficulties in accessing information (little or no internet connectivity, for example), which prevents greater knowledge of current legislation and access to guarantees of rights and aid or assistance programmes.
That there are few sources of funding for activities that ensure the defence of territories, food sovereignty and access to water and seeds, as well as for the valuation of community economies and the development of plans for adaptation and mitigation of climate change, productive activities and marketing of women and the approach and assistance to the crises caused by "natural disasters" and the special attention of women in this particular context.

That environmental violence against women is invisible, which increases the risks to our communities and to ourselves.

Forced displacement, evictions, migration and human mobility due to mega-projects of death that accelerate climate change.

The co-optation and division of social movements to sustain the capitalist model.

WE DEMAND

Respect for peoples’ self-determination over common goods and the responsible management of these goods.

Equitable redistribution of land and respect for community ownership of land.

The implementation of reparation measures for environmental liabilities.

The recognition of alternatives to the extractivist model that are real climate solutions driven by women and communities.

The non-criminalisation of social protest and particularly of women environmental and human rights defenders.

The promotion of food sovereignty and food security.

Strengthening women’s economic autonomy: support for women-led production and marketing projects.

Access to more flexible, horizontal, transparent sources of funding, in line with local strategies, that respect local culture: that ensure activities to defend territories and food sovereignty, climate change adaptation and mitigation plans, women’s productive and marketing activities, addressing and assisting crises caused by "natural disasters" and the special attention of women in this particular context.

Economic support and recognition of the need for self-care and protection strategies for women in their individual activism and collective processes.

The cessation of extractive megaprojects: We want to demand that life prevails over oil, mining and agribusiness projects. Water sources must not be granted
concessions. The concessions that have currently been granted are next to the water sources that flow down from the mountains to the coast. We are condemned to suffer from diseases and drink contaminated water.

✔ Environmental health justice.

✔ Restorative environmental justice. The guiding principles of Restorative Justice, and therefore restorative practices, are related to harm, participation, reparation of harm and recovery, which are also essential in the process of creating environmental justice.

AS A MOVEMENT, WE PROPOSE

1) Recognise and support women's practices in the territories in the face of false solutions:
   - Agro-ecological agriculture
   - Harvesting and care of water
   - Recovery and bank of native seeds
   - Reforestation of native plants
   - Economic recognition of practices and knowledge carried out by women in the territories.
   - Bio-construction
   - Community ecotourism
   - Reuse of grey water
- Biodigesters
- Ecological cookers
- Urban gardens
- Community environmental monitoring

2) Count the resilience actions carried out by women in the territories to face the climate crisis.

3) Conduct community environmental monitoring.

4) Guarantee protection for rivers and springs and all ecosystems: Amazon, marshes, wetlands, semi-arid, puna, chaco, valleys, tropics, yungas, Andean-Patagonian forests.

5) Promote the ratification of the Escazú agreement in the countries that have not yet done so and give institutionalisation to the countries that have already ratified it.

6) Revaluing the ancestral medicine of the original indigenous peoples.