



**Luiza Carvalho**  
**Regional Director UN WOMEN for Latin America and the Caribbean**  
**Panama.-**

REF: Concern on CSW 59 procedure

Dear Luiza:

Please receive our warmest greetings on behalf of the women and feminists of Latin America and the Caribbean through the Committee of NGOs on the Status of Women from Latin America and the Caribbean - CoNGO CSW LAC. We are writing to you to express our concern, and that of the women's organizations of the region, regarding the adopted procedure for the elaboration of the Declaration of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which will take place on 9-20 March 2015 in New York.

As this year marks the 20th anniversary of the IV World Conference on Women held in Beijing, the international community, especially women and feminists, expect this session with great interest because it represents the opportunity to reaffirm the commitment assumed in Beijing, promote the acceleration of its achievements and to readdress the new challenges ahead, which will be linked to the new Post 2015 Development Agenda.

The participation of the civil society and the incorporation of its perspective in this process is key and enriching. Therefore, we are deeply concerned because the procedures that traditionally governed the CSW sessions were changed and now a Declaration is previously considered before its approval at the beginning of CSW 59. This modality overtly leaves aside the participation of civil society organizations, which for decades have been working and providing input to the CSW documents and resolutions.

Limiting the participation of our civil society representatives and organisations impedes the inclusion of our voice as experts, champions and defenders of women's & girls rights and gender equality in these current discussions of delegations. This is a regrettable precedent in the history of CSW which contradicts the UN policies and particularly those of UN WOMEN, which encourages the participation of civil society at all instances, instead of restricting it.

Incorporating the perspective and diversity of women's and feminists' organizations prevailed at the IV World Conference on Women in Beijing and this was reflected in the Platform of Action which is now celebrating 20 years. It was thanks to the presence and pressure of the women's and feminists' organizations that the world advanced in the gender equality agenda and the rights of women. Therefore, we consider the absence of civil society representatives in the discussion on the CSW 59 Declaration a serious step back, which should not set a precedent. The lack of transparency in what will be agreed is an element that affects the validity of the Declaration.

For these reasons, we ask you to transmit our concern to UN WOMEN Executive Director Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka on behalf of the women's and feminists' organizations & civil society organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean.

We hope that these concerns are taken into account so the procedures are kept to guarantee the open and plural participation of all stakeholders: States, civil society and relevant others. This critical so that transparency in decision-making is protected and prominently reflected. This is particularly important in this year when the Commission on the Status of Women honors the commitments made and agreed 20 years ago in Beijing and which have been further advanced in progressive UN sessions and summits and so that we ensure their ratification in 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Committee of NGOs on the Status of Women from Latin America and the Caribbean- CoNGO CSW LAC-

**Mabel Bianco**, Co-Chair CoNGO CSW LAC, FEIM, Argentina; **Lana Finikin**, Co-Chair CoNGO CSW LAC, Sistren Theatre Collective /Groots, Jamaica; **Aidé García Hernández**, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, México; **Delores Robinson**, ASPIRE/NGOs Network for Women Advancement, Trinidad and Tobago; **Dorotea Wilson**, Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora, Nicaragua; **Patricia Jaramillo Guerra**, REPEM, Colombia; **Rocío Rosero**, AC Democracia/REPEM, Ecuador; **Susana Chiarotti**, INSGENAR/CLADEM, Argentina; **Tarcila Rivera y Mariel Bernal**, Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas –ECMIA- and Chirapaq, Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú

#### **Endorsements:**

Red Thread, Guyana; Reacción Climática, Bolivia; Ipas, LAC; Centro de la Mujer Panameña (CEMP), Panamá; Red de Mujeres Afropanameñas (REMAP), Panamá; CorPro Adulto Mayor, Colombia; Movimiento Feminista de Nicaragua; Instituto Hablemos de Nosotras, Nicaragua; Colectivo de Mujeres 8 de marzo, Nicaragua; Fundación Entre Mujeres, Nicaragua ; Voces Caribeñas, Nicaragua; Grupo Feminista de León, Nicaragua; Colectiva Ola Nueva, Nicaragua; Grupo ARTEMISA, Nicaragua; Agrupación de Mujeres Trans y Culturales- AMTC, Nicaragua ; Fundación Puntos de Encuentro, Nicaragua; Colectivo Xochilt, Nicaragua; Colectiva de Mujeres de Esquipulas, Nicaragua ; Centro de Mujeres ISNIN, Nicaragua; AMPDI, Nicaragua; Colectiva de Mujeres de Masaya, Nicaragua; Programa Feminista La Corriente, Nicaragua; Colectiva de Mujeres Jóvenes de Esquipulas, Nicaragua; Colectiva Panteras Rosas, Nicaragua; Grupo de Mujeres Sacuanjoche, Nicaragua; Grupo de Teatro Okan, Nicaragua; Grupo de teatro Hija de la Luna, Nicaragua; Grupos de Mujeres Jóvenes Crecer, Nicaragua; Asociación Mujeres Trabajando, Argentina; GoJoven Internacional; Belize, Guatemala, Honduras & México; Asociación Argentina de Mujeres de Carreras Jurídicas, Argentina; Federación Internacional de Mujeres de Carreras Jurídicas; GESTOS- HIV, Communication and Gender, Brazil; LACCASO - Consejo Latinoamericano de ONG-SIDA, LAC; Espaço Feminista, Brazil; Coalición Nacional De Mujeres Del Ecuador; Red Latinoamericana de Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir; Católicas Pelo Direito de Decidir, Brazil; La Coordinadora Lesbiana y de Hombres Trans COLEHT, Republica Dominicana; Republika Libre, Republica Dominicana; Center for People's Development (CPD), Suriname; Confederación Nacional de Mujeres Organizadas por la Vida y el Desarrollo Integral (CONAMOVIDI), Perú; Centro de Promoción y Defensa de Los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos PROMSEX, Perú; TES. Todo en Sepia Mujeres Afrodescendientes en la Argentina; Women Inc, Jamaica; Asociación Civil Comunicación para la Igualdad, Argentina; Observatorio de Género y Equidad, Chile; Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers; Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers; Corporación Humanas, Chile; Red Voceras Campaña ¡Párala Ya! Nada justifica las violencias contra las Mujeres, Colombia; Centro de Estudios de la Mujer Honduras CEM-H, Honduras; Red Educación Popular Entre Mujeres (REPEM), LAC; Foro Feminista de la Republica Dominicana; Asociación Política de Mujeres Mayas (MOLOJ), Guatemala; Grupo de trabajo de América Latina y el Caribe para la incidencia en el post 2015: integrando agendas globales; Articulación Feminista Marcosur; Campaña por una Convención Interamericana de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos; Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe; Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos- RedLAC; Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos, A.C., México; RUCVDS, Uruguay; Plataforma Nacional por los Derechos de las Mujeres, Ecuador; Confederación Ecuatoriana de Mujeres por el Cambio, Ecuador; Secretaría de la Mujer de la CONAIE, Ecuador; Movimiento de Mujeres de Sectores Populares Luna Creciente, Ecuador; ACDemocracia, Ecuador; Feministas en Acción, Argentina; ACF Valparaíso. Chile; Capítulo Brasil do FÓRUM DE MULHERES DO MERCOSUL; Fundación

Suma Veritas, Argentina; Mujer y Salud en Uruguay –MYSU-; Red Mujer y Hábitat de América Latina; DEMUS Estudio para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer, Perú; Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, Colombia; Center for People’s Development, Suriname; Ultimate Purpose, Suriname; Lobi Foundation, M.A. IPPF, Suriname; Public Services International (PSI); Women’s Righ Center, Suriname; Projekta, Suriname; Cul Consult, Suriname; Cafra Suriname, Suriname; Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar, A.C; YWCA Mundial; Agrupación Ciudadana por la Despenalización del aborto en El Salvador; Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local, El Salvador; Red Salvadoreña de Defensoras de Derechos Humanos, El Salvador; Fundacion Mujeres en Igualdad, Argentina; CMP Flora Tristán, Perú; Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, Perú; CEDEM-Centro de la Mujer, Argentina; Red de Trabajadoras Sexuales de Latinoamérica y el Caribe (RedTraSex), LAC; Organización de Mujeres Tierra Viva, Guatemala; CEPAM Guayaquil, Ecuador, Alianza Política Sector de Mujeres, Guatemala; Ipas México A.C.; Taller Salud, Puerto Rico; Asociación Demográfica Costarricense, Costa Rica; Young Woman Christian Asociation (YWCA), Bolivia; Equidad de Género, Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia, México; Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Genero –ELA, Argentina, Coordinadora de la Mujer, Bolivia, Comité de América Latina y El Caribe para la defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (CLADEM), Secretaria de Igualdad de Oportunidades y Género Secretariado Nacional de UATRE, Argentina, Young Woman Christian Asociation (YWCA), Argentina.