

Position of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness in Latin America and the Caribbean (CPDE-LAC): "Towards greater participation of CSOs for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean"

Second High Level Meeting of GPEDC Nairobi-Kenya

We, the **CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness in Latin America and the Caribbean**, made up of NGO networks, social movements from various sectors: migrants, faith - based movements and feminist sector unions, youth, indigenous peoples and peasants attending the Second Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), present hereby our regional perspective and common position.

The regional CPDE group for Latin America and the Caribbean, subscribes to the global declaration of the Partnership (CPDE); For that reason, we will not repeat here the statements contained in that document.

Our Position

1. We reaffirm our commitment to the process of **democratic development** of our Latin American peoples and redouble our efforts to work for a development model that promotes the "*good life*" at social, economic and political level. We pledge to contribute to the elimination of exclusion, poverty and discrimination.
2. We adhere to the principles of the **human rights** - based approach, *decent work*, *gender equality* and *mutual accountability* between multiple stakeholders - State, civil society, private sector, international bodies - for the achievement of effective development cooperation.
3. We identify the great inequalities that we fail to reduce at regional level despite sustained GDP growth in the last decade - our greatest challenge to promote the desired development. Social programs, which feeble manage to reduce a few of these inequalities, are overtaken by the disproportionate concentration of wealth and its accumulation in the hands of fewer and fewer people.
4. Among the inequalities that characterize us, **gender inequalities** are structural in nature and require to be looked at from the existing power relations that are manifested in the high rates of violence in all its forms towards women, with lower income in productive activities and the profound burden of care work that falls on the shoulders of women.
5. We have a critical view regarding the **role of the private sector** in the effective cooperation for development and the new architecture of cooperation that we must forge. We understand that the private sector has a great responsibility as a fundamental part of the world economy. But, not only does it have to offer decent and better paid jobs, but also contribute to the creation of more jobs, guaranteeing these conditions throughout the chain of value over which it has influence. It also must comply with current environmental standards and its fiscal responsibilities in the countries involved.
6. The private sector, when it is postulated as an actor of cooperation, must adhere to the **Istanbul Principles**, especially that of democratic ownership. It must also respect and promote Human Rights, incorporate gender equity and equality, promote environmental sustainability, and practice transparency and accountability.

7. **International cooperation funds have significantly declined** and continue to do so. Especially those that were destined to the Organizations of the Civil Society. This situation weakens social participation and can compromise the same democratic processes in the countries.
8. Regarding **Official Development Cooperation**, the funds are mainly directed towards low-income countries. The proportion of ODA to their budgets has led to a situation of significant constraints on their own public policies. We affirm that middle-income countries (low and high) still have large social gaps, and should continue to be considered eligible for ODA.
9. **We do not accept middle income status** for the countries of the region, and especially for Central America and even Mexico, where inequality, inequity, corruption and impunity are not only maintained but also deepened. The GDP of each country can no longer remain the benchmark, but others that measure inequalities and social gaps.
10. We are pleased that progress has been made in a historic **Peace Agreement** begun in 2012 between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP guerrillas, and we invite the dialogue with the ELN to be initiated promptly to end the bloody conflict that for half a century has caused hundreds of thousands of deaths, violence of all kinds and millions of displaced people, dividing and traumatizing entire generations of Colombians. In this regard, it is important that the national government recognizes the actions of CSOs, their contributions to the implementation and monitoring of the agreement reached with the FARC-EP.
11. We welcome this process, and we encourage the consensus-based conclusion of the current discussions to close the stage of violence experienced, being deeply convinced that the path of peace in Colombia is the path of peace throughout the region.
12. We resolutely reject **the Parliamentary Coup in Brazil** and the dismissal of President Dilma Rousseff, the so-called "soft coups d'état" are nothing more than a new style and form of coup d'état by a sector of the political elite that holds the power, with the complicity of the media, sectors of justice and concentrated economic forces generating popular disarticulation, institutional instability and failure to build democratic processes in the region.
13. We are concerned about the **situation of social, political and economic crisis in Venezuela**, the dismantling of democratic institutions, the difficulties of civil society organizations, and the climate that creates conditions for violent confrontations in the country.
14. We support with great hope the new spaces of dialogue that have been generated through the mediation of Pope Francis and the UNASUR authorities, and we trust that they will bear fruit in strengthening democracy and building peace.
15. In this regard, we advocate for the **enabling environment** for the participation of civil society organizations so that their voices are heard. Today in the region a series of warnings and threats that affect the sector of social organizations must be considered. One of them comes precisely from the States, as well as from the private sector, in the form of laws and controls that restrict and limit the social and political role of CSOs, along with signaling, persecution, intimidation and murder of social leaders.
16. On the other hand, **social organizations are often relegated**, ignored or are unknown in their political and social role. There is a persistent criminalization of the struggles of peoples from the territories in defense of their resources, their dignity and, above all, the hope of living a better world. It is urgent and necessary that the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association, social protest, vigilance and at the same time political dialogue for public advocacy be guaranteed.

17. The region is heavily hit by **drug trafficking and the mafias** operating behind it. The existing traffic with human beings, violence in all its forms, in particular murder of women, mean that organizations must be actively involved in the defense of endangered human rights.
18. We are concerned and denounce the **progress of corruption** that we find in our political, economic, social, legal, and communication systems, which make effective development impossible and produce violence and inequality. This corruption with its own roots in our region is also triggered by external action that is complicit and often co-responsible for these situations.
19. In particular, we draw attention to the loss of enormous fiscal resources caused by **evasion** that significantly affect each of our countries. The evasion we know today is often promoted from the highest sectors of power, including the public sector.
20. The **tax reforms** that are applied in our countries must be progressive and not regressive, as they characterize the tax systems throughout the region. Tax burdens cannot be detrimental to the working class, the middle class, and even civil society organizations if we want to eradicate inequalities.
21. The **perspective of interculturality** is to be considered in the region when it comes to deepening regional integration. It is the basic framework from which the subregions, the national platforms and the sectors that make up our partnership are built.
22. The "*Good Living*" philosophy we share is a new paradigm for development that claims values, beliefs and principles of our ancestral culture and our original peoples. This view of the world is an alternative to the capitalist and neoliberal model. It rejects individualism and extractivism, and has as main idea the community and the collectivity. These values are the fundamental basis of the development that we propose.
23. We consider the **Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development** as the major reference to be considered, within the framework of multilateralism for the rest of the summits. No international development agenda should be below the aspiration of this Agenda. The Civil Society Organizations are committed to that its implementation is effective considering its perspective of rights, integrality and sustainability.
24. We call on the Social Organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean to assume a critical role in all areas of national and international advocacy to work for the democratization of international forums and the social participation of these forums. If we want the development agenda to be sustainable and effective, we must strengthen spaces for global concertation and start more legitimate processes where the peoples are involved.
25. We make a special appeal to the **international community** that will be present at the Second High Level Meeting (2HLM) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) to raise awareness of the challenges existing in our own countries and regions, and above all, to put into practice the commitments we have made to eradicate poverty and inequality at the global level.

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