



CONFEDERACIÓN SINDICAL DE
TRABAJADORES/AS DE LAS AMÉRICAS

PLADA

DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM
OF THE **AMERICAS**

PRODUCCIÓN

Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de las Américas

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A Gustavo Codas (1959-2019), periodista y economista latinoamericano, nacido en Paraguay, quien fuera responsable del diseño de la propuesta de actualización de la PLADA y de su metodología de construcción colectiva implementada hasta su inesperada partida. Sus ideas originales siguen estando representadas en esta versión final.

A Cecilia Anigstein, doctora en Ciencias Sociales, investigadora y docente en la Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento (UNGS), quien realizó la síntesis de la primera versión de la PLADA anteriormente y luego asumió el desafío de continuar y finalizar el proceso de actualización de la PLADA iniciada por Gustavo Codas.

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**Trade Union Confederation
of the Americas (TUCA)**

**Development Platform
of the Americas (PLADA)**



PRESENTATION

As of the onset of the century, the multiple crises experienced regionally and globally have generated responses from the trade union movement of the Americas as a whole, with unprecedented initiatives and powerful strategic momentum. In 2005, we launched the Labor Platform of the Americas (PLADA), while fostering the unitary construction process culminated in the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), founded in 2008.

Based on these successful experiences, we saw the need to advance in broad-based and more ambitious programmatic agreements. In said context, the ongoing emancipatory political projects stimulated progressive transformations in the continent. We decided to strengthen this process by joining our voices in a common and unitary strategy. To that effect, the TUCA began developing a new political tool, the Development Platform of the Americas (PLADA), and launched it in 2014.

The PLADA consolidated guidelines and principles that respond to the aspirations of all peoples of the Americas and the world. To achieve this, the PLADA placed labor, in all

the dimensions, at the center of an alternative development model to neoliberalism. It accomplished great relevance as political and fighting tool to defend and strengthen labor, social and trade union rights at international level. Positioned as strategy of the workers' movement, its approach integrates political, economic, social and environmental rights.

In essence, this document is still valid. As it is the result of a broad-based debate with affiliated and fraternal national confederations, and in conjunction with allied social movements whose struggles are those of the trade union movement. This already manifests unitary positions of a wide range of social organizations of the continent, which also sought, in times of social gains and political advances, to demarcate the profile of the new society to build in order for neoliberalism to remain permanently in the past, i.e. this profile expresses agreements on the "other" necessary and possible America. The development of a platform of unity that goes beyond the short term is an accomplishment of the trade union movement of the Americas.

However, the PLADA needs updating due to political and programmatic reasons. From 2015 to 2016, the hemispheric scenario showed an advance of political forces activating a reactionary programmatic agenda. In quite a few nations, inadequacies in the government management of the progressive political experience were replaced by openly regressive anti-worker and anti-popular policies, by initiatives opposed to regional integration and aligned with the strategy of the United States government.

Over the years, new realities have accumulated that challenge trade unionism and social movements. This has occurred because technological changes and the socio-environmental crisis have allowed changes in the functioning of the world of work, with reversal of social and labor gains, or because political changes have allowed employers to apply new strategies of job precarity and persecution of the trade union movement.

In late 2015, the social movements of the continent held a hemispheric meeting in Havana, Cuba to celebrate the victory accomplished ten years earlier in Mar del Plata, Argentina. In November 2005, pressured by social mobilizations and divided by the strong presence of progressive governments in their midst, the Summit of the Americas rejected the FTAA project (Free Trade Area of the Americas), the main strategy of the United States government to complete their hegemony in the region.

Similarly, that meeting served to update the debate on the challenges of the times. On that occasion, the TUCA participated resolutely in the launch of the Continental Day for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism, as a space to struggle together against the reactionary offensive taking place in the region.

Given this new scenario, the TUCA summoned its affiliates, global unions, fraternal organizations and social networks to a new cycle of debates and proposals to bring the PLADA up-to-date, maintaining its gains in terms of programmatic formulation and making changes - deletions, amendments

or addenda - as required for said update. To the thematic structure of the PLADA, this updated version adds a section focused on discussing the current international and regional scenarios, what is new and what is continuity.

The cycle of the international capital crisis of 2008 has not ended yet; it is combined with unprecedented environmental and social crises for humankind. The progressive political experiences of our region showed their limitations, and the reactionary forces have reappeared taking advantage of the difficulties experienced by our fragile democracies.

We are united in the conviction that the crisis requires an urgent and structural response, with the inevitable participation of the trade union movement, workers' movements, and of the gamut of collective popular expressions, such as the social, indigenous or native, Afro-descendant, peasant farmer, environmentalist, student, feminist, youth, human rights movements; movements for the defense of victims of violence; for diversity; anti-repression movements; producers of the popular and solidarity economy; of popular neighborhoods, organizations for the rights of migrants; educators; and promoters of art and culture; among many others.

In short, developed in the 2013-2014 period, we created the PLADA to respond to a political scenario characterized by programmatic advances that we had achieved in the previous ten years for the region. We sought to systematize the vision of the working class and what societies should target to build more and better social wellbeing and regional inte-

gration. However, the political scenario changed. Now the updated PLADA seeks to become a political tool to organize resistance against the reactionary surge, to defend the working class and our identity. The PLADA gives us leverage to resume the initiative and gain new rights, defend those already gained and consolidate broad-based social and political alliances, and recommence the quest for the "other America".



In memory of Gustavo Cotas

A tireless militant, every day he was actively involved in organizing the working class in all spaces where his dedication and revolutionary heart envisioned the possibilities of struggle and resistance.



NEW INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SCENARIO

2008 was critical for the changes in the international and regional scenario. The neoliberal order of globalized and financialized capitalism exploded into a crisis. The magnitude of this crisis was equivalent to the deep crisis of capitalism in the 20th century, the 1929 crisis, which was followed by the rise of neo-fascist totalitarianism and defeated only with World War II.

Parallel to the 2008 crisis with its critical impact on Western developed capitalism, statistics started to reveal that the hub of the world economy was shifting to the Far East, notably China. Alarmed, the Western powers, especially the United States, watched as their ranking in technological innovation and the size of their gross domestic product (GDP) were surpassed by Asian countries, as engine of the world economy. The phase initiated by the 2008 crisis has brought about a struggle between protectionism and free trade, but beyond the dilemma between closing or opening trade, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are immersed in a production and consumption system that has exacerbated inequality and the concentration of wealth, and is unsustainable from the point of view of the environment and of life.

After two decades of pursuing a unipolar world under the hegemony of the United States and neoliberal globalization, the new world order in the making shows geopolitical tensions exacerbated by economic tensions, creating a scenario of clashes, conflicts and much instability. In the first twenty years of the 21st century, the hegemonic dispute between the United States and the emerging poles has increased, particularly with China in economic matters (there is talk of a “trade war”), and with Russia on the military issue (a “new cold war” has been mentioned). In addition, political and economic conflicts have emerged between the United States and the European Union.

In 2008, the response of the governments of the north was heterodox - they used massive amounts of public resources to bailout large private banks and transnational corporations – deferring their political and economic impact. The elements of tension persisted, radicalizing politics in each country and between regions.

In the last decade, governments arising from popular and anti-neoliberal political forces in Honduras (2009), Paraguay (2012), Brazil (2016) and Bolivia (2019) were quashed by coups d'état. Meanwhile, a new type of siege and destabilizing foreign interference developed, one which combines economic blockades and sanctions with interference in domestic conflicts, including the mobilization of paramilitary groups, religious fundamentalism and mass media, among other resources. This type of foreign interference has been fostered mainly - although not only - in Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua.

This phenomenon has common features of political radicalization that we can identify in all countries. Among them, we highlight the use of mass manipulation mechanisms - legitimized by democratic institutions or the popular vote – which convey militaristic, racist, xenophobic, misogynist and homophobic hate speech. This sort of discourse provokes and intensifies social disintegration, violence, paralyzing and individualizing fear. The possibilities created by new information technologies and big data infrastructures (in private hands and not yet regulated) are placed at the service of reactionary elites which build strong waves of public opinion and operations of political destabilization using mass media resources, such as fake news or robots/trolls on social networks. These mechanisms are complemented and exacerbated with the use of judicial and media instruments to attack the sovereignty and self-determination of the nations and peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as leaderships, governments or political movements and parties that are not aligned with neoliberalism.

This phenomenon of political radicalization has four stages: the victory of Brexit for the separation of Great Britain from the European Union, the election of Donald Trump to the presidency of the United States, the defeat of the peace proposal in the plebiscite of Colombia. These three events occurred in 2016, followed by the victory of Jair Bolsonaro in the 2018 Brazilian presidential election, are the result of hate and fear-mongering policies, which infiltrate entire sectors of the population and influence the political scenario.

Now those eruptions of hate politics are reinforced by tendencies striving to underpin said eruptions and make them permanent. Migration and refugee crises are ongoing and an important fuel for political radicalization in the United States and Europe, whose population is allegedly threatened by the countries in crisis. Much of hate politics in developed countries and popular support for neo-fascist political expressions is caused by fear of “the other”.

This is taking place in a scenario of ever-increasing concentration of wealth, the advancement of economic power over politics, and the capture of democracies by transnational corporations and private banks. Social injustice is on the rise and the possibility of democratic dynamics correcting this injustice is stifled. There is no trust in “politics”.

Nonetheless, these tendencies are being challenged and resisted by a cycle of struggles and mobilizations of the peoples, marking a milestone and tipping point in the second decade of the 21st century, and they are proving to be particularly robust in our continent. Of widely diverse and multisectoral composition and expression, these mass movements oppose neoliberal policies, the commodification of life and neo-fascism. Among their protagonists, two fundamental groups emerge from the depths of the other potential America: the indigenous movement and the feminist movement.

The trade and technological war between the United States — increasingly more protectionist — and China — increasingly pro-free trade — i.e. with typical international posi-

tions of hegemonic economic powers in decline and emerging economic powers, respectively, is another factor defining the global scenario. Modern history has already experienced other hegemonic transitions of the global system, and they have always been traumatic.

Lastly, we are enduring another crisis: that of the environment and climate change, the result of the presence of humans and societies in the planet. Contrary to what has been intensely discussed, at least since the 1970s, we see that there are no “limits” to the environment. Instead, we are experiencing a continuum of environmental degradation, the reversal of which is becoming more and more improbable. Given this finding, was the 2015 Paris Agreement of the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP 21) a moment of lucidity of the governments of the world? Not really if we see that the measures adopted were insufficient to stop the advance of the folly, that there was no acceptance of historical responsibility for contributing to the crisis, the model of production and consumption was not discussed, and notably because the following year, Trump, the president of the world’s leading power, decided to walk away from those commitments. Although we could argue that the real reason was the energy revolution of “unconventional” oil and gas exploitation (fracking), the end stage of the decrepit society of fossil fuels and environmental degradation, the actual reason is that the United States has not managed to regain its power or hegemony in the face of emerging Asian capitalism.

A key element is that these transitions are occurring in times of profound technological changes. The impact of the transformations brought about by this fourth industrial revolution is colossal, not only on the world of work and its future, but also on the ways of living of ordinary people. Technological instruments are conditioning the forms of sociability and the factual economic and political powers are manipulating them. The liberal utopias of consumer and voter sovereignty conceal the sovereignty of the algorithms programmed by a company hired to safeguard the interests of the 1% against those of the 99%. And this “new policy” works!

Since the first industrial revolution, at the end of the 18th century, technologies have never been “the problem” of the working class. The problem of the working class have been the social norms imposed by capital. Labor and capital have struggled for over two hundred years in societies built on technological advances. It is the same in this case.

The difference is that the ideological façade is now clear, revealing the new conditions with which capital seeks to subdue workers. We had already heard the arguments in favor of “employability”, i.e. the accountability of individuals in relation to their capacity to be hired, and no longer the social obligation to offer sufficient jobs for the people. Now a full-scale manipulation of the social imagination has been deployed, the so-called “entrepreneurship”; in other words, the transformation of individuals into entrepreneurs, although their condition is that of vulnerable workers in precarious conditions.

This dispute is the very heart of trade unionism, because capital seeks to distance workers from the collective of the working class. As of the onset of capitalism, the nature of the issues facing the working class have been international, derived from the great transformation that occurred in the first globalization of the last 500 years. The current problem is not new, nor is the challenge of overcoming it: capital is internationalized, but the nationalist sentiments have been mobilized by the elites to oppose workers against each other, based on their national origin.

At the beginning of this century, when we decided and concretized the unification of global trade unionism with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and continental trade unionism with the TUCA, our aim was to respond to that historical challenge. When the TUCA discussed the need for a trade union self-reform, our goal was to build a trade union movement able to address the new challenges unfolding at the continental level. Six years ago, the PLADA was a fundamental document reflecting a period of gains of the continental working class and a programmatic leverage to maximize efforts to build societies with social justice and wellbeing.

The change of the times was overwhelming in the region. The reaction of international capital and national oligarchies was swift, taking the form of coups d'état and unique counteroffensive reactionary policies. The new situation of governments with anti-worker policies does not deconstruct the accrual of our programmatic proposals in the

previous period. The peoples of Americas have realized that it is possible to advance in social and labor rights in peripheral countries; that income distribution can be the basis for economic growth, surpassing the “trickle down” neoliberal ideology from the rich to the poor; that public services can be increasingly universal if less and less commoditized; that the integration of our countries can be a way to structure regional value chains to overcome the perverse effects of free trade agreements imposed by the politicians of transnational corporations.

The update of the PLADA is part of the programmatic rearmament of the working class of the Americas. To defend the rights we have already gained, to advance towards new rights, the updated PLADA is a fundamental tool of the programmatic agreements reached by workers of the Americas.

NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LABOR, THE STATE, SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

1. The multi-faceted global crisis generates political crises that undermine national democratic institutions and lead to greater interference by transnational corporations and other powers in the lives of the population. Market solutions have failed in their attempt to address the global crisis.
2. The countries that have survived the financial quake adopted measures that placed work at the center as the main fuel of economic dynamism, preservation of public investment, protection of employment, wage levels and pensions, incentive of consumption and production, and the fight against extreme poverty. However, the recession was profound in the countries that adopted conservative measures, cut social spending and reduced wages and jobs.
3. In recent years, a wave of conservative restoration, based on neoliberal programmatic fundamentalism, has gained traction in the continent. Governments of the region that favor the peoples are attacked with economic blockades and low intensity wars based on civil and military actions. Aggressions against activists,

defenders of the territories and of the rights of the peoples reach degrees of violence and criminalization that would have been unimaginable a few years ago, and unfortunately the region is becoming one of the most hazardous for the defense of human rights and democracy.

4. The advance of the neoliberal model, with the respective electoral victories of characters associated with militarism and/or the business model, takes us back to dark times of suppression of freedoms. Patriarchal and racist dominance are gaining momentum and foster violence against women and indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, generating further social, economic, political and cultural discrimination.
5. Nonetheless, the rapid erosion of right-wing governments in the second half of the 2010s, the popular mobilizations against neoliberal policies and the changing trend in electoral results in some countries between 2018 and 2019 are signs of the clash between progressive and reactionary forces.
6. Building democracy means establishing new relations between labor, the State, society and the environment, with autonomy and separate from the economic elites and financial markets.
7. Labor is the center of an alternative policy. Our vision is a society, whose purpose is to defend life with dignity, rejecting the exploitation of labor. The trade

union movement must be involved in an in-depth debate to broaden the concept of work and reformulate the organization of production and its distribution in our societies. We propose shifting the center of gravity from paid work and the production of goods to the production and reproduction of life, based on social and environmental justice and gender equality. By shifting this paradigm, we make visible the total actual duration of the workday and the extent of the dependency of transnational corporations and elites on unpaid labor.

8. Bringing back the vision of the centrality of work also means recognizing the work required for the production of living. This is the work performed in the home or in the community, mostly by women outside the commercial circuit, whose contribution to economic and social development is not recognized. The use that capital gives to the result of this work is the other side of the misogynistic attacks against women's rights. Patriarchy is not simply a cultural phenomenon. It is a system of domination that generates profit based on the exploitation of unpaid work.
9. Our States must regain control and power over the market. To achieve this, they need to rebuild their capacity to generate income to meet social needs.
10. The State should be seen as the power of the popular majorities, which means participation of workers in public affairs, and not simply calling for government

stewardship or considering the government as another employer.

11. State intervention must ensure full employment, actively promote popular economies and contribute to the redistribution of wealth to counteract the concentrating effect of the market. Sovereign social, fiscal and monetary policies are necessary to address sluggishness or crises. A system of co-responsibilities is required, in which the most important economic and corporate actors assume the heavier burdens and responsibilities to overcome the times of crisis.
12. The State must guarantee universal and quality public services, providing full access of the population to meet their basic needs: fundamental right to water, energy, universal and comprehensive health system, education, security, care. Among the aspects that determine the quality of life, we also need to consider the intangibles such as access to information, political freedoms, respect for human rights, protection of personal data, sexual and reproductive rights.
13. In its first regional surge during the 1990s, neoliberalism sought to dismantle the redistributive capacity of the State, suppressing its strategic role in economic development. The austerity and fiscal balance policies defined in the Washington Consensus, and which were applied with much discipline throughout the continent, left behind public services managed by transnational corporations that are poor quality, expensive, with insufficient coverage and inaccessi-

ble to the popular sectors. Social security has been sequestered by the private sector. In many cases, it is administrated with international vulture funds that receive extraordinary amounts of money, yet provide miserly pensions. The adjudication of public works has been 'cartelized' and used to mobilize discretionary funds. State-run water and energy companies (electricity, gas, oil, mining), public mass transportation companies (aviation, trains, urban transport) and public mass media (television, radio, newspapers, satellite services), among other management and development tools, were withdrawn from strategic and sovereign State management and moved to the private sector, weakening the capacity of States.

14. States should retrieve their capacities lost during the neoliberal decades and foster their reappearance. It is essential to place strategic public services back in the hands of the State, for the economy and for social wellbeing. However, it is not enough. New State-run companies are needed, especially to respond to care needs, to mitigate the effects of climate change and to boost regional economic development.
15. Similarly, States need to strengthen their areas of oversight, verification and inspection to guarantee compliance with public policies and respect for the human, social, political, cultural and labor rights of citizens.
16. Regional integration should not be confused with the flow of trade and tariff liberalization. The

neoliberal paradigm of “open regionalism” needs to be discarded as it leads to competition between countries to generate better conditions for transnational corporations, based on the generation of perverse incentive and deregulation schemes to the detriment of conditions of life, work and environment of our peoples. It is essential to overcome the concept of the link between the countries of the Americas and the industrialized powers as the only path to attain economic development. Our challenge is to advance by reformulating the historical asymmetries between the north and the south, and strengthening south-south cooperation.

17. Strengthening regional integration processes will bring dignity to our peoples. We will not be able to strengthen our democracies and sovereignty without a regional integration strategy to hinge the historic proposals of solutions proffered by workers, peasant farmers, indigenous communities, Afro-descendant peoples, feminist and environmentalist movements, and each political subject willing to build unity in a framework of diversity and plurality, in accordance with constituent principles of justice and reciprocity.
18. We propose a development strategy in which labor, in conditions of justice and dignity, is the core element. It organizes the State for society and the environment, and regenerates the capacity of the State to oversee and regulate the market in order to meet current social needs and secure those of future generations.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

19. The sustainable development approach arose from progressive awareness raising on the contradictions between the capitalist model of predatory development, the assurance of good quality of life for citizens, the right of peoples to development and the verification of physical limits of the planet to meet the demands of humankind under the current paradigm of production and consumption. These contradictions have been exacerbated by the imposition of the neoliberal logic, leading to a situation where the forces of capitalism act uncontrolled, dismantle citizen rights, destroy natural resources and lead the planet rapidly to an unprecedented economic, social and environmental catastrophe.
20. The point of departure was the definition of the World Commission on Environment & Development, established by the United Nations in 1983 “sustainable development meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.
21. For trade unions, the notion of sustainable development is an alternative that puts labor at the center

and addresses the matrix of neoliberal thinking; it is a way of understanding and organizing the essential aspects of social life based on a new logic; and a response built by and for the popular majority. The current conditions are favorable to launch a new development agenda for the self-determination of nations, peoples and democratic States.

22. This is the vision of development that trade unionism is building: it reaffirms the pillars of decent work, distribution of wealth, participatory democracy, gender equality and equity, social protection and inclusion of all, environmental justice and a fair transition, thus integrating the political, economic, social and environmental dimensions. Development cannot be achieved without the full inclusion and participation of women and youth. In all the components of the PLADA, gender equity and youth participation are crosscutting and enabling approaches.
23. The challenge of the 21st century is for the peoples, and not transnational corporations and the powers of the north, to determine the social and political course of the continent. This joint effort should seek to bolster genuine social alliances converging in a counter-hegemonic development agenda capable of containing and harmonizing the different voices.

POLITICAL DIMENSION

Participatory Democracy Complementarity between representativeness and instruments of popular consultation and direct participation

24. The consolidation of democracy requires the participation of society as a whole in decision making. Citizen representation must be democratic, equitable and embody the plurality of society. It must provide social justice, promote freedom of association, equality and equity, guarantee gender parity by creating mechanisms or instruments to secure the empowerment and mainstreaming of women and young people into social and political activities.
25. Direct participation and representative democracy are not contradictory. Participatory democracy implies coordination and complementation of representative institutions with binding popular consultation instruments and direct participation. This means: expansion of mechanisms such as economic and social councils, tripartite social dialogue institutions, consultations, referendums, plebiscites, consultative

spaces for dialogue of civil society, cabildos (similar to citizen assemblies) and rallies, in order to strengthen political decision making at the local, subnational, national, subregional and regional level.

26. We need to ensure that the mechanisms of participation achieved through the struggle of the peoples and the defense of democracy are not subject to censorship or regression - already under way with the conservative reinstatement of neoliberalism - that undermines popular participation and the sovereign decisions made by the initial constituent assemblies.
27. We are committed to the parity democracy. A stronger democracy enables the fulfillment of gender equality. Quantitative and qualitative parity representation is a core pillar of the full exercise of the human rights and citizenship of women, as well as of their participation in the structural decision-making of States, trade unions, bodies of social dialogue and multisectoral representation.
28. The creation of instruments that bring social organizations and the State closer, and which promote the joint and coordinated formulation, execution and evaluation of public policies is a priority, for them to play an effective role in local, national and supranational decision making.

Reforms of the political and judicial systems to prevent the interference of economic corporations in the functioning of democracy

29. Reforms of the political systems in our countries, where the legacy of dictatorial or authoritarian regimes persist and restrict participation, attack the organizations representing the working class and peoples, and criminalize their leaders and fighters.
30. Promotion of new constitutions arising from truly participatory constituent processes, which provide guarantees of substantive democratization and rights for all.
31. Elimination of private financing from election campaigns. Donations from large corporations to campaigns must be forbidden. It is the responsibility of the States to guarantee plural and equitable electoral campaigns for all the political options, by providing adequate financing.
32. Move forward in citizen oversight by outlining an institutional architecture for binding social controller-ship and public accountability of government authorities, with transparent mechanisms. Drug trafficking or paramilitarism use corruption as their means and resort to acts of violence against trade union leaders and organizations. Combating corruption requires the defense of democratic participation, and labor,

environmental and human rights, and consequently, should be included in the union agenda.

33. The expansion of platform economies and digitalization encompass both production and labor processes, as well as other areas of societal life. A byproduct of this phenomenon is the increasing transfer and virtual storage of large volumes of personal data, provided voluntarily and involuntarily by workers and consumers in general. These data flows are managed by private companies and State agencies posing serious risks of their misuse, including unauthorized marketing, violation of people's privacy, political and ideological manipulation. States need to promote coordinated data protection policies based on social discussions on the topic, defending privacy and controlling the storage, processing, use, transfer and sale of data through national, regional and international regulatory frameworks.
34. Trade unions need to be aware of the strategic role played by the concentration and accumulation of data in the current capitalist economy, its effects on work processes and conditions, on democratic life and the exercise of individual and collective rights, and to understand the power relations that they generate or reinforce, especially in relation to youth as the ones who interact most through digital devices. The working class must know, investigate, demonstrate, organize and develop alternative proposals against the phenomenon of capture, management, use and

sale of the personal data facilitated by the new digital technologies.

35. Democracy in the countries of the region is threatened by a worrying process of judicialization of politics. Lawfare i.e. the use of the law as a weapon of political warfare, has extended in the region and has been aimed at persecuting and criminalizing leaders, political parties, organizations and movements that represent alternative projects and oppose national or foreign oligarchies.
36. The judicial systems inherited from the dictatorships have become a reserve and instrument to sustain reactionary initiatives and institutional destabilization, on many occasions driven by the interests of transnational corporations. In order to guarantee the validity of the rule of law, it is essential to reform the national judicial systems and the international legal system in order to guarantee the preeminence of international law on human rights over the private commercial law expressed in the free trade and investment agreements.
37. The TUCA supports the draft agreement on transnational corporations and their supply chains with respect to human rights, presented at the United Nations (UN) in October 2017 by the Global Campaign to Claim the Sovereignty of Peoples, Dismantle the Power of Transnationals and End Impunity. We support the negotiations of the UN Human Rights

Council in their quest for a legally binding international instrument on transnational corporations, related to human rights, that holds their decision-making centers accountable for human rights violations throughout their entire supply, production and value chain; that imposes provisions that guarantee the strict enforcement of laws against the formation of private monopolies and oligopolies; that remove the so-called “corporate veil” concealing the true identity and power structure of the supply, production and value chains, and an international court on transnational corporations and human rights. To this effect, trade unions of the Americas, in coordination with the ITUC and global unions, must play an active role in the execution of an agreement that includes the guarantee of the exercise of all workers’ rights.

Democratization of communication to expand citizen participation and oversight

38. We stand radically against the vast power of national or transnational mass media and their major political interference in the continent. We reject the formation of monopolies and oligopolies in the ownership and control of the mass media acting as de facto powers in society and in States. The trade union movement, along with other social popular actors, must participate actively in the agenda to democratize communication.

39. Public policies are required against the concentration of the media, as well as promotion of diverse actors in the ownership of the mass media. In this regard, we call for the recovery of the public nature of communication, the reconstruction of quality public media that were directly attacked by the neoliberal offensive, State and sovereign administration of the electromagnetic spectrum and of digital telecommunications, proportional and equal distribution of the electromagnetic spectra and of national digital telecommunications among commercial media, the public sphere of the State, and trade union and social organizations.

40. The workers’ movement prioritizes the recognition, promotion and guarantees for community, alternative and independent audiovisual media, including the Internet, as spaces to exercise citizenship and foster social development. Hence, we propose the creation of new mass media for and by popular movements and trade union organizations, which promote a cultural change, eliminates patriarchal, racist and discriminatory patterns, and promotes the inclusion and expression of diversity.

41. We promote freedom of expression that opposes corporate media interests that only see the media as instrument for their profitability and impact on political decision making. The freedom of expression that we champion is only possible to the extent in which legal, technological and communicative conditions

are ensured. These conditions also require the incorporation of commercial and State media into the legal frameworks of social audit mechanisms.

42. The regulation of the media must include legal sanction of actors promoting fake news to manipulate public opinion, influence electoral results, incite political persecution, discrimination and other consequences that alter the course of our societies and contribute to unstable scenarios and human rights violations.

Substantive participation of trade union and social movements in regional integration processes and institutions

43. One of the features of the so-called progressive cycle was the advance of regional integration processes: Mercosur (Southern Common Market) was strengthened; ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our America), UNASUR (Union of South American Nations) and CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) were created. In 2009, the Organization of American States (OEA) lifted the sanctions that had burdened Cuba since 1962 at the meeting in Honduras. In 2015, for the first time, the government of Cuba participated in the Summit of the Americas. However, in the last five years several countries initially questioned and then left the

UNASUR and launched PROSUR (Forum for the Progress of South America), fully aligned with the pro-US agenda. In 2017, Mercosur suspended Venezuela, and, after the OAS's strategy of repeated interference against its sovereignty, Venezuela withdrew from said organization. The attack of several right-wing governments to UNASUR and the initiative to replace it with PROSUR, which we reject as a right-wing offensive against the integration of the peoples, shows that this is cause for dispute between projects of society.

44. We fight for regional political, economic and cultural integration by and for the peoples. It entails social wellbeing, recognition of cultural diversity, respect for sovereignty and the right to development. It promotes social justice, collective rights and self-determination in order to guarantee a politically and economically stable region.
45. In parallel, the TUCA mobilizes its strategy of social alliances and commits to harmonized coordination with other popular movements to advance in forms of integration between the peoples based on their struggles and the construction of alternatives against the capitalist system. To democratize regional processes, we need to build a counterhegemonic regional institutionality based on trade union and social movements, with spaces for actual participation at all levels: national, regional and continental.

The Americas as territory of peace and fulfillment of human rights

46. Peace is an asset of humankind. It is based on the dignity of people and built on the fulfilment and interdependence of human rights, respect for the sovereignty of nations and democracy. It is a permanent task, the result of social justice and solidarity between peoples and nations.
47. Peace does not only mean the end of armed conflict, but of all forms of violence, authoritarianism and dispossession or dismantling of rights. The construction of peace must also take into account environmental matters and include reciprocity in the use and management of the commons, for the control of which wars of all proportions are initiated, with a combination of multiple military, media, economic and cultural strategies.
48. The TUCA promotes the construction of peace with social justice through the negotiated political solution of armed and political conflicts within countries and between countries, condemns coups d'état and destabilizing foreign interference. The TUCA stands for a political solution built on the principles of international law, democracy, sovereignty and the self-determination of peoples and nations.
49. For a continent without wars and zero foreign military bases in the countries of the Americas, because

they impede regional peace and stimulate mistrust between our countries, promoting an arms race and violating the principles of self-determination of peoples and national sovereignty over the territory. We promote the establishment of a national and foreign demilitarization program, the suspension of new military facilities, a program to close the military bases, the withdrawal of foreign missions and troops from the countries of the Americas. Lastly, we stand for military spending to be invested in science, technology and education.

50. The trade union movement of the Americas repudiates repression anywhere in the world: it threatens freedom and the construction of peace. The American continent must be a space of respect for and among persons, peoples and nations. We demand the end of the criminalization of collective actions and social struggles. Effective mechanisms are required to bring to justice the intellectual and material authors of these abuses, as well as individual and collective reparation for the victims.
51. We strive to limit the arms trade and to curb their trafficking in the region through strict border checkpoints of producer and exporter countries. Similarly, the implementation of population disarmament programs is also required, with restrictions on the sale, possession and carrying of weapons.
52. Imperial domination is not only exercised through military domination. The control of States and

peoples is also imposed through economic, ideological, technological and political coercion. We condemn imperialist espionage and any form of interference by States and corporations in the sovereignty of nations.

Recognition of trade unions as instrument of democracy and the exercise of human rights

53. With our permanent values of solidarity and non-discrimination, and through our presence and role in the workplace and in society, trade unions have a unique ability to work for democracy and the full exercise of human rights for all citizens of the continent.
54. The search of States for a paradigm of alternative development to neoliberalism requires the construction of a proactive trade union agenda in the area of international cooperation, based on the assumption that trade unions are actors of development and the promotion of democracy.

Cultural self-determination of native, indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples Recognition and respect of plurinationality

55. This development strategy will encourage the enactment of laws and policymaking that respect pluri-

nationality, cultural diversity and interculturality in fair and mutually respectful conditions, especially in relation to their original languages, tongues, dialects and territories.

56. We note that the institutional mechanisms for sovereign protection and self-determination have been achieved thanks to the social mobilization of indigenous, native and Afro-descendant peoples, the main targets of State and paramilitary repression. Today more than ever before, the enforcement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is necessary in order to achieve the cultural and ethnic self-determination of persons, peoples and nations.
57. The Americas must establish specific measures to end the genocide once and for all, and guarantee the protection and preservation of the cultures and rights of indigenous, native and Afro-descendant peoples. For the TUCA, it is essential to promote alliances with organizations of indigenous, native and Afro-descendant peoples. Our brothers and sisters have their own fundamental expertise and practices to achieve their own alternative development. The experience of applying ILO Convention 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples has been positive as a form of solidarity of trade unions and organizations of indigenous and native peoples to confront the predatory actions of governments and companies in their territories. It is important to strengthen this coordinated action before the regulatory control system of the ILO.

Fair distribution of income, profit, wealth and surplus

58. To a large extent, the unfair distribution of income, profit, wealth and surplus is a consequence of the commoditization of the region's economies and the economic concentration brought about by the transnationalization of capital. The intervention of national States and regional integration organizations, as well as the defense of freedom to organize and the independence of the trade union movement are necessary to revert social inequality and guarantee decent minimum wages, collective bargaining and freedom of association.
59. A fair and progressive distribution is possible with full employment in decent conditions and safeguarding wages against the volatility of economic cycles. To achieve this, it is essential to consolidate the capacity of the State to organize and regulate production, distribution and consumption. The TUCA calls for governments and international organizations to

enforce a national and international legal system that holds companies accountable for their conduct at the local level, and in the countries and territories where their activity, or part of it, is carried out.

60. Public and participatory management of the access to essential and strategic resources of essential infrastructure and control over the dominant economic actors involved in the supply, value and production chains are necessary conditions to achieve the distribution of wealth. It is also important to promote national and sub-national participatory budgets, which encompass planning, management, evaluation, follow-up and control of public spending.

Regional Integration

61. For the TUCA, regional and subregional integration processes are tools for the development of our peoples. Their agendas must go beyond strictly commercial objectives and seek an identity based on the common values of the peoples of the region, such as human rights, solidarity, productive complementarity, cooperation, social justice, respect for differences, autonomy, sovereignty, and the preservation of biodiversity.

62. The alliance of the TUCA with the other social movements will prioritize influencing and participating

substantively in regional integration processes and institutions to promote integration of peoples and safeguard democracy and the social and political gains already achieved.

63. We call for the maintenance and promotion of regional integration instruments that foster relations of equality among the nations of the continent, and for the reformulation of integration policies that conceal forms of domination of some countries over others. We warn and express our concern about the current process of weakening and breakdown of several regional integration institutions, specifically UNASUR and CELAC which, since their creation have sought peace and democratic stability in the continent.

64. The characteristic of new trade and investment liberalization agendas is their asymmetry, with negative effects on the production systems of the region. They are also instruments of the big powers to take over markets. They exacerbate the asymmetry between enriched and impoverished nations and increase the power of corporations and of the big powers against the peoples. They propose changes that resume the offensive of transnational capital from the times we combatted the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) but pushing twice as hard. Consequently, the negotiation of services goes beyond the proposal expressed in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and imposes the business paradigm on

State-run services and companies. We have transferred the commitment to go beyond WTO objectives to new agendas, such as e-commerce, which involves debates on labor relations and the role of technology in social wellbeing. The inclusion chapters on transparency or domestic regulation imposes filters on policies and institutionalizes lobbying. Regarding intellectual property, the commoditization of nature and life continues based on WTO rules, as well as on the deployment of new multilateral instruments consolidating the dominion of patents. The common denominator of these changes continues to be the intense secrecy that seals and shields these agendas.

65. It is necessary to revisit Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), the bilateral Agreements on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments (BITs) and all other international or regional agreements that only promote free trade and the unrestricted operation of transnational corporations. These need to be replaced with broad-based agreements which strengthen trade and investment relations between our countries, while prioritizing economic and social development and widespread and deep participation of our peoples in the regulation of the different aspects of such agreements. Therefore, we reject the signing of those FTAs, BITs and agreements of the like that exacerbate the commoditization of production and do not take into account the requirements of the region or that place commercial law above human

rights. We recommend the renegotiation of existing agreements in order to incorporate these concerns. For all the above reasons, we reject the deployment of the European Union-Mercosur agreement.

66. In contrast to these liberalizing agendas, we propose alternatives, such as fair trade agreements which respect labor rights. We stand for international trade in a framework of fair agreements between the parties that respect the hierarchy of human rights, that foster equal standing between the nations of the continent, and that respect the principle of special and differential treatment for relatively less developed countries, including the reformulation of the integration policies that conceal forms of domination of some countries over others.

Conditioning and orientation of foreign investment and of transnational corporations towards national development projects

67. Not every investment is positive. To date, investment promotion and protection policies do not respond to the needs of the peoples. We need to impose conditions on foreign direct investments to ensure that they always contribute to national or regional sustainable development projects, boosting production chains in the less developed areas that contribute effectively to the generation of decent employment.

68. The international investment protection regime, largely defined by the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development), expands north-south asymmetries while granting investors the possibility to prosecute national States through ISDS mechanisms (Investor-State Dispute Settlement), the ICSID (International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes), which operates under the World Bank and other arbitration courts. We reject foreign investment protection policies that place commercial law above human rights and give transnational corporations the opportunity to sue States for their public policies and regulations.

69. Some progressive Latin American governments developed alternatives to Investment Protection & Promotion Agreements (IPPAs) seeking to control the conditions with which investors could sue their countries. We need to revisit some of these proposals as alternatives to policies that only perpetuate the power of transnational corporations and deploy instruments that consider investment needs, without increasing the huge exposure to which countries are subjected under the current instruments.

70. Our proposal to stimulate intra-regional investment in Latin America and the Caribbean does not give absolute freedom to transnational corporations to stipulate the conditions of production, contracting, exporting and transfer of dividends. The governments of the region must re-regulate and control the

performance of transnational and trans-Latin corporations, in an effective manner, throughout the entire production chain. This involves substituting the BITs and reformulating national laws and regional frameworks that regulate the flow of direct foreign investment. Similarly, our vision of an interregional investment policy must ensure the consultation and participation of civil society in general, and of the labor movement in particular.

Complementarity and diversification of production

71. The planning and promotion of macroeconomic and sectoral development policies that foster the complementarity and diversification of production in the continent are an instrument to suppress price competition between countries, a downward race to attract foreign investment based on wage reductions, tax cuts, job precarity and the regression of environmental standards.

72. At the same time, complementarity of production can contribute to diversify and de-commoditize our economies, and add value to our production.

73. We need to encourage the deployment of the production chain of the different productive sectors, increasingly and mostly, in the countries of the region, in order to advance to a broad-based and dense

regional integration of production. We need to foster the development and establishment of the links of the production chain where most knowledge is added to production, and that allow most ownership of the generated value.

74. The deployment of mechanisms to promote diversified production matrices needs to consider the reproduction of agents and smaller economic units, with high capacity to generate decent employment and that stimulate the development of domestic markets, access to sustainable consumption of the majorities, and reduce dependency on the unsustainable extractivist model.
75. Effective State control of transnational and trans-Latin corporations and production chains of goods and services requires effective sanctions on companies and their contractors that violate labor rights, violate freedom of association, incur in acts of discrimination and violence, or affect human rights and environmental sustainability. The participation of trade unions and social movements in the oversight and regulation of companies firstly requires more participation in the natural spheres of these actors, such as workplaces for trade unions and local governments for social movements.

Common financial markets and institutions and monetary coordination

76. Creation of development banks and public, State and regional financial institutions, and underpinning and strengthening of existing ones. Public banking must finance social investments, production, and the social and solidarity economy with social participation, and must control and regulate private banking by demanding social, environmental and labor matching payments.
77. Application of instruments to develop markets, financial institutions, infrastructure and regional monetary coordination, such as that detailed in the proposal to create the Banco del Sur (Bank of the South). Special commitment and financial leverage of the countries of the region is required for actual and effective implementation of this kind of initiative, so that it is not mere lip service.
78. Development of reciprocal financial, currency or countervailing instruments, in order to complement and minimize the use of foreign currency in the countries of origin of the traders executing intra-zone foreign trade transactions. Advance in the guidelines of macroeconomic coordination to avoid spurious competitiveness gains between countries of the region and provide greater macroeconomic stability at the regional level to our countries.

79. Creation and strengthening of regional compensatory funds for periods of low commodity prices and financial crises in the countries of the region, in order to harness macroeconomic variables and safeguard workers' rights. Ban on financial speculation (futures and options) related to food commodities.

80. Rejection of public debt, the payment of which absorbs monies that could be assigned to sustainable development and that leads the economies of our countries to dependent and vulnerable insertion in the international system. Illegitimate foreign debts incurred by the poorest countries should not be paid. Popular participation, transparency of the programs, origin and destination of the funds and borrowing mechanisms of each country.

National and regional infrastructure for sustainable development

81. The function of infrastructure (including related to telecommunications) is to create the conditions and facilitate the deployment of a development project. They should be designed and built to integrate peoples and to complement production in the region. They must target the connection and flow of people and products in fair and open conditions.

82. In this regard, the scale of the design of the infrastructure must be continental. States must commit to

the attainment of true integration of the infrastructure of the continent in order to promote sustainable development, full employment and communication of peoples, for which existing projects need to be completed and new ones need to be developed. For this purpose, prior consultation and participation of workers is fundamental.

83. Review privatizations and prevent new ones in strategic development sectors. Resume the participation of the public sector in strategic, energy and telecommunication companies, as well as in companies of natural resource exploitation and basic infrastructure networks by implementing an asset capitalization policy and securing environmental justice in their operations as a core pillar. We need to update the debate on which strategic industries and sectors of our countries will be able to leave behind the unsustainable development models.

New progressive taxation

84. Towards a new taxation to gradually levy taxes on profit, high income, wealth, assets and luxury consumption. Whoever earns more and is wealthier, must pay more; and whoever earns less and is less wealthy, must pay less.

85. Extension of the tax base to other types of currently exempt income, such as profit, capital gains, stock

dividends and extraordinary earnings. Levy special taxes on estates, inheritances, mergers of transnational corporations with national companies and on primary extractive activities, based on differential income due to the existence of non-renewable resources.

86. Comprehensive reformulation of the value added tax and differentiation between basic and luxury goods, with differential rates and exemptions.
87. Effective control over tax evasion and tax avoidance by strengthening the various State services responsible for taxation, increasing the number of inspectors, mainstreaming technology and improving fiscal cooperation between States to undertake joint international investigations.
88. Directing tax waivers, the adoption of new taxation and exemption policies towards sustainable production, contributing to the complementarity of regional production, to social inclusion and equality. Demand States to be bound to publicly disclose the fiscal benefits and tax exemptions granted to companies.
89. Creation of an international tax on financial transactions and on speculation, similar to the Tobin rate.
90. Transnational corporations must pay higher taxes than domestic middle and small-scale companies. We demand mechanisms for greater transparency of companies, such as country-by-country reports of their profits and financial movements. It is essential

to protect whistleblowers and secure adequate inspections.

Comprehensive agrarian reform. Progressive eradication of the transnational monopoly in seed production and sale

91. Comprehensive agrarian reform to redistribute, de-concentrate and democratize the land. Agrarian reform is an instrument for generation of employment, democratization of property, more balanced occupation of territories and rational use of resources.
92. Eradication of agribusiness modalities that combine transgenic seeds and agro-toxics in large monocultivated areas, in a scenario of increasing concentration, foreignization of the land and seeds, and financialization of the activity.
93. State control of the land market, setting limits on the size and use of properties to combat financial speculation on agricultural properties and products. State intervention for democratization of the land market, land management and agricultural zoning, to help revert ongoing foreignization processes.
94. A State policy that does not prioritize large private companies and reverses the seed monopoly. Creation

of State-run companies or cooperatives to sell seeds and guarantee universal access to them. Rejection of seeds manufactured by transnational agribusiness corporations and breach of their patents.

95. Deployment of mechanisms to ensure fair prices, technical assistance and lines of finance to small-scale farmers, and to family and peasant agriculture. Control over intermediation agents, securing better conditions and higher prices between producers and marketers.
96. Consolidation of the inclusion of women in production through programs of income transfers, soft credit and access to land ownership tending to gender equality and equity.
97. The violation of the property rights of indigenous, native and Afro-descendant peoples over their territories cannot be based on justifications related to development or national interest that disrespect their rights, given that these territories are crucial to their cultural, social and material survival.
98. Effective State control on the inputs used in agriculture and livestock activities along the entire production chain and their impact on the health of workers, communities, territories and biodiversity. Progressive eradication of the use of agro-toxics that endanger the lives of workers, and incentives for research on sustainable techniques and inputs.

Producing for food sovereignty and security, defending territories and the commons

99. Food sovereignty is the right of peoples, communities and countries to define their own agricultural, fishing and artisanal policies and their ways of organizing workers for food production, so that these activities are environmentally, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique circumstances. This includes the right to decide on which food and how to produce it.
100. Regional sovereign and self-sufficient food production. In favor of an agriculture with diversity of producers and diversity of products that is environmentally sustainable over the years.
101. It is a priority to redefine the profile of export-oriented activities and the overexploitation of resources that is detrimental to the commons, and to family and peasant farming.
102. States must define a national strategy to ensure food sovereignty and food security for all the peoples, involving: sustainable food supply in urban and rural domestic markets; support and incentives for family and peasant farming to foster the diversification of products with more jobs in the rural sector and autonomy for farmers; policies promoting the transformation of production processes into sustainable

processes adapted to the needs of the region; and regulation of regional markets to establish fair conditions for the import and export of food products between the countries of the region.

103. The agricultural sector needs techniques and technologies to secure preservation of the soil, efficiency of water resources and non-polluting cultivation methods, ensuring environmental justice. Regarding the above, it is very important to recover and strengthen ancestral and agro-ecological practices and knowledge, our own technological innovations, taking into account the social relations and cultural contexts of the areas in which the crops are grown.
104. Recognition and promotion of agro-ecology as ethical, economic, political principle and way of living. Peasant farming has the conditions to address the double challenge of the climate and food crises.
105. Environmental education for sustainable consumption. Inform the population on which are transgenic foods and whether agrotoxics have been used.

Development of research and regional transfer of technology

106. It is essential to accompany these guidelines with active policies promoting science and technology. The transfer of assets, knowledge and technological

lessons learnt must become an installed capacity under the control of our countries, to the detriment of the “turnkey” models that exacerbate dependency. Only in this way will our countries insert themselves as appropriate into global and regional production, supply and value chains, in lieu of based on the depredation of commons, overexploitation, informality and job precarity.

107. To overcome the technological gaps and inequalities between the nations of the north and the nations of the south, as evidenced in the patent and registration system and in technical and scientific development, we must establish guarantees to access knowledge and facilitate transfer processes and access to technology to the least developed countries. Technology transfer from countries of the north to countries of the south should not generate dependency or indebtedness.
108. Promotion of financial institutions and instruments at the regional and subregional level to provide soft loans to countries and producers to develop technology, innovate and diversify production, thereby generating new expertise in the production of goods and services. Regional development banks need to generate specific lines of credit. This financing must be subsidized and long term.
109. Strengthening of lifelong professional training on the reconversion, updating and recognition of the

knowledge of workers affected by the mainstreaming of new technologies. Training plans in cutting-edge and environment-friendly technologies for microenterprises and SMEs.

110. Promote the investment of a minimum of 1% of GDP in research and development (R&D) activities in the countries of the region, in line with the best practices recommended by international and regional organizations in the field of science and technology. As the bulk of investment in R&D is made by the State in most of the countries, the role of the State as investor in R&D needs to be strengthened and private producers need to be encouraged to also invest in this activity. Investment should also be promoted in technologies that reduce the environmental impact of the production of goods and services by preempting the possibility of natural catastrophes.
111. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) and new developments in digitalization are an essential and crosscutting support for all production, political and cultural activities. These technologies can be allies of this development alternative and must be part of the State policies aimed at social equality.
112. Promote and strengthen initiatives targeting social evaluation and control of technologies, fostering thorough knowledge of the different kinds of technologies deployed in our countries and their consequences on the population. Also, facilitate the partic-

ipation of social movements in said social evaluation and control of technologies, and encourage our own development of relevant technological instruments, customized to the different territorial realities.

State and participatory planning of the popular and solidarity economy

113. Food sovereignty, redistribution of care with an anti-patriarchal vision, participatory democracy, vision of water and energy as human rights and preservation of the commons are closely and strategically linked to the proposals of popular and solidarity economy and to our vision of development.
114. We need public financing policies, subsidies, collective investment strategies and creation of specific funds for projects of the popular and solidarity economy, prioritizing infrastructure, technical assistance for planning, management and marketing of products and services, as well as support in the initial stages.
115. Access to, and priority of the cooperative, popular and solidarity economy in State procurement at all levels.
116. Promotion of cooperative values in the communities and territories where the popular and solidarity economy is implemented, and in the regions where

we need to transform the existing predatory productivist economy.

117. Cooperatives and the popular economy should not be confused or used as means of intermediation and to defraud workers. Nor should this term be used to justify and naturalize informal, precarious work, child exploitation or slavery.



ECONOMIC DIMENSION

Decent work

- 118. The right to decent work, with equality between genders, ethnic groups and generations, without discrimination, is the essence of the sustainable development strategy of the Americas, and fundamental to overthrow the neoliberal model.
- 119. Fight against jobs in informal conditions of the informal and formal economy, and against precarity and/or false “entrepreneurship”, especially when arising from outsourcing processes (subcontracting and “per agency” employment) or as part of the strategy of global production chains or digital platforms.
- 120. Eradication of forced labor, employment in conditions tantamount to slavery, trafficking in persons, child labor, as well as the smuggling of migrants.
- 121. The new forms of precarity, facilitated and strengthened with the use of new technologies, underscore the need to redefine our strategy to formalize jobs. A

formalization policy will not be successful if it does not achieve the direct or indirect incorporation of workers into the automation and digitalization processes, or in the new sectors, such as those based on the economy of digital platforms and their variants. The recording of job positions means formalization only when there is strict compliance with the four pillars of decent work and guarantees for the exercise of labor and union rights.

122. Equal remuneration and rights for work of equal value. Public policies are required to close wage and income gaps between genders. Public policies and measures adopted in tripartite spaces must inevitably include mechanisms against discrimination in the workplace, and segregation and feminization of labor sectors with more precarity and less pay.
123. The action of young workers is fundamental to empower and revitalize the trade union movement. Only in this way will we be able to respond to and propose actual solutions to the serious issues affecting youth in the world of work of the Americas. States need to prioritize access to a first job with decent work. Youth must play a lead role in the formulation of the public employment policies of each country.
124. The emergence of new jobs in the scenario of accelerated technological transformation and profound energy transitions requires major changes in the processes and forms of organizing labor and produc-

tion. Workers today and in the future will face major individual and collective challenges. The global trade union movement has raised the red flag about the somber scenario projected for the entire working class. We are possibly facing competition between workers and technology for productivity and profitability, in a context of excessive unemployment and precarity. In this competition, the hegemonic vision presents a situation in which workers only have one option: extend the workday and accept wage cuts. However, from the perspective of the working class and the trade union movement, the challenge is to establish who and how to own the additional technological proceeds. Similarly, the collective reduction of work hours can contribute to controlling unemployment and improving living conditions, without causing loss of wages or rights.

125. Automation or ways of replacing workers with technological equipment are new challenges for States, including protection of the unemployed, social security and training for new jobs of displaced workers. The trade union movement must demand protection measures against such changes. Young trade unionists wish to participate actively in the innovation of trade union organizing in the informal sector, in the collaborative or platform economy, where the labor rights of the young are increasingly violated with false “new forms of labor relations” under the guise of entrepreneurship.

126. Building national decent work plans as spaces for public deliberations and tripartite social dialogue that include the formalization of rights-based employment, the development of labor standards for youth, the strengthening of labor inspection in ministries of labor, the generation of formal rights-based employment, guarantees for collective bargaining, the exercise of freedom of association and solidary social security.
127. Revitalization of the regulatory role of the ILO as organization created to generate equality where there is inequality, through the ratification and enforcement of its conventions by all member countries, with trade unions playing a lead role.

Effective freedom of association and collective bargaining

128. Workers, regardless of their immigration status, gender or nationality, are entitled to organize without restrictions, to embrace the type of structure and forms of representation collectively agreed on, to exercise the right to strike, to bargain collectively, to participate in the distribution of gains; in the private and public spheres; in the formal and informal economy; in the urban and rural sectors of the economy; in venues and workplaces; on digital platforms or in export processing zones; at the level of the company,

group of companies, sector of activity or production chain; and at the local, territorial, subnational, national, regional and transnational levels.

129. End of the persecution and violence against workers who organize and fight. Independence and autonomy of the trade union movement in relation to the business sector and governments. Elimination of restrictions on strikes and of the imposition of mandatory arbitration and greater accuracy in the regulation of essential services.
130. Elimination of pseudo-unions dominated by employers or by the State. Prohibition of protection contracts (collective agreements between employers and a trade union controlled by them) to force workers to join the employers' preferred trade union.
131. The State must intervene to ensure that judicial bodies regulate legally ambiguous employment situations, business fraud, semi-autonomous relations and outsourcing that engenders precarity. It is essential to strengthen oversight of compliance with suitable inspection and provision of resources.
132. Collective bargaining is a right enshrined in the main international agreements on human rights and one of ILO's core labor rights. The legislation must promote collective bargaining through rules and regulations that guarantee effective bargaining and the rights of social actors, without affecting collective autonomy and respecting the principles of

freedom of association. Collective bargaining needs to be fostered in multiple spheres with coordination and organized decentralization. We stand for the application of the erga omnes (i.e. general) effect for the entire sphere of representation.

133. The mainstreaming of the gender approach into collective bargaining is a priority of the trade union movement of the Americas. For this purpose, it is necessary to ensure the participation and representation of women in bargaining processes. Collective bargaining and tripartite social dialogue are the natural framework to promote and concretize policies of family-work co-responsibility based on equality, as well as measures for wage equality between men, women and LGBTI people working in similar or equivalent jobs in terms of professional category, level of training or qualifications required, responsibility, risks involved, etc.

Universal and solidarity social security as fundamental right

134. We champion national social security systems based on the principles of universality, solidarity and inclusion, and the public nature of lifelong fringe benefits, especially during childhood and old age. Social security for all needs two components: a basic public pillar financed with progressive taxes (levied on cap-

ital, levied on large gains), which provides benefits to all, and a contributory public pillar with tripartite financing. Each State must commit a percentage of the national budget to expand the coverage of social protection based on a comprehensive, universal and gender-equal perspective.

135. The elimination of models based on individual capitalization, private profit and financial speculation is a priority of the working class. States must guarantee social protection of the entire population. Social security and pension systems based on individual capitalization reproduce and exacerbate the inequalities already affecting the labor market. Workers in informal, temporary or discontinuous conditions are not able to form part of and remain in these systems. In addition, the track record of women affected by shared responsibilities of care, unemployment or wage gaps have a significant impact on the density of their contributions. It is important to note that distribution systems based on solidarity and redistributive, contributory and non-contributory mechanisms are instruments to reduce these inequalities.

136. Universal social protection policies need to be harmonized with decent employment-generation policies. The goal is to avoid creating a society divided into those who have work and those who receive assistance. This is the way to combat poverty effectively.

137. Policies related to the organizing care need to be

considered as elements of social security. A social security system can be a tool to increase gender equality and equity to the extent that in which the sexual division of labor is denatured and the unpaid care provided mostly by women is recognized, as well as how the sexual division of labor produces discontinuous, unstable and precarious trajectories, with shorter periods of contribution and lower wages. To the extent in which social security schemes establish gender-neutral criteria in the right to and magnitude of fringe benefits, inequalities will persist.

138. Participation of workers' organizations in the design, implementation, execution and control of the new social security policies, whether formal or informal, paid or unpaid work. It is necessary to raise awareness on jobs that help us live, yet operate on the margins of commercial relations, without recognition or payment, and with total exclusion of rights.
139. We note with concern that international organizations are pontificating on the urgent, profound and necessary reform of the social security and social protection systems achieved in the 20th century. Under the guise of their unsustainability, they promote the definitive dismantling of these solidarity welfare systems. The trade union movement of the Americas has a programmatic accumulation in this regard and is capable of intervening, with its own weight and voice, in the spaces where the main guidelines are being formulated, mainly the ILO.

Comprehensive public care systems

140. It is essential to recognize and reappraise care work as pillar of all forms of organizing workers in the global capitalist economy. The aspects of production and reproduction and care need to be recognized as employment and seriously considered in the process of overcoming social and gender inequalities. In particular, we need to recognize the contribution of unpaid work to the wellbeing of families, communities and to sustainable development. The first step is to incorporate domestic work and unpaid care and their measurement into the national accounts and public statistics.
141. The State is responsible for promoting public policies that recognize the social need for care work and facilitate co-responsibility through public services and infrastructure for the provision of quality and accessible care to the entire population, ensuring the rights of caregivers and of those receiving care.
142. The care policy should be promoted in three main areas: a) the company, evaluating the reduction of work hours without reducing wages so that the right of workers to take care of family responsibilities and obtain parental leave is seen as corporate social responsibility; b) the State, through comprehensive public care policies that include public investments in infrastructure, social protection, and inclusive and

universal care services, with gender equality, ensuring the right to receive care and the labor rights of caregivers; and c) education and awareness raising programs and campaigns to deconstruct the patriarchal culture and ideology, give social value to reproductive work and for same to be embraced between genders with a shared sense of responsibility, equality and respect for diversity.

143. Efforts should be reinforced to secure the rights of domestic, household or private home workers and their equalization with the entire working class.

Trade union self-reform

144. Our strategy is socio-political trade unionism. We reaffirm that trade unionism must be independent of governments and the business sector, but not indifferent to conservative and anti-popular political projects. Trade unions, regardless of the free political choice of workers, must fight for government projects that respond to the interests of the working class and in favor of the peoples.

145. The main challenge of the working class is organizing diversity seeking the greatest possible unity, through internal democracy, freedom of association, and expanding and strengthening the unionization of all workers.

146. To achieve this, we propose changes in the internal structures of trade unions and legal reforms to promote and strengthen bodies representing workers in the different workplaces; expand representation to include workers in conditions of informality and precarity, urban and rural, of public or private sectors, migrants, of outsourcing and subcontracting firms, of employment agencies, hired through new technologies, Internet platforms or apps, export processing zones, organizations of the solidarity and popular economy, unemployed, retirees and pensioners. We seek major participation of women and young people in trade unions, and parity representation in all decision-making structures.

Promotion of anti-patriarchal models

147. This alternative for development does not reproduce previous and current models of gender inequality and focuses on overcoming patriarchy as regime for social domination. The status of women can only be transformed to the extent in which changes are fostered in the forms of social production and reproduction, in the structures of power and authority, and provided women are recognized as active agents in all social, economic, cultural and political processes.
148. Strengthening policies and mechanisms for equality and non-discrimination at work, considering

discrimination as any distinction, exclusion or preference based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, political opinion, nationality or social origin with the effect of altering or annulling equal opportunity and equal treatment in the workplace. This includes access to vocational training and admission to employment in the different occupations and working conditions. Special measures to meet the specific needs of people based on gender, age, disability or family responsibilities, which will not be considered discriminatory to the extent in which they promote equality and equity of opportunities and treatment.

149. Promotion of sexual and reproductive health and legalization of abortion. Comprehensive sex education and the right to voluntary termination of pregnancy. Assurance of sexual and reproductive rights that respect the diversity of gender identities and forms of family composition.

150. For gender equality and equity to be possible, we urgently need to eradicate all forms of violence against women: physical, psychic, economic, patrimonial, in the workplace and family, symbolic, in social networks, especially the most extreme and lethal form, femicide. States, at all levels, are responsible for formulating public policies to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women. The different forms and manifestations of violence against women impede their personal development, undermine their

rights and restrict their public, economic, social and political participation.

151. For harassment and violence-free workplaces. Violence and harassment negatively affect women's participation in employment, the quality of their work and their participation in trade unions. Their impact affects urban and rural, private and public, formal and informal workers, self-employed workers, workers in export processing zones or in digital platforms, in each country and sector. Cyberharassment and cyberbullying exacerbate the risk of violence. It is urgent to pass national legislation to end violence and harassment against women in the world of work.

152. Creation and strengthening of tripartite commissions on equal opportunity between men and women throughout the region as consultative mechanism and promoter of social dialogue, decent work, and gender equality and equity.

153. Given the "feminized" nature of conditional cash transfer programs (CCTs), there is the temptation to consider them public policy for women. If it were so, they would act on the elements stalling women's autonomy and act on the main obstacles to gender equality. However, a close look at these programs generates doubt and to question whether, like so many other programs targeting women, they lack the gender perspective.

Regional citizenship and migrant rights

154. Recognition of the double contribution to economic, social and cultural development of migrants both in the State of origin and in the host State.
155. Free movement of people, of workers, the right to migrate, not to migrate, to remain or to return with dignity. Migrants, whether documented or not, must be entitled to the same rights as other citizens. The option to migrate should not face barriers and obstacles, nor should migrants be subject to criminalization. States must ensure the right to return of migrants who decide to return to their country of origin.
156. Recognition of the principle of non-repatriation in the cases of human rights violations in the countries of origin, in the cases of victims of terrorism, human trafficking, sexual and labor exploitation, accidents in the workplace and repression due to political and/or union activity.
157. Establishment of a regional system to validate and standardize professional certifications and formal education degrees. Strengthening of existing systems, in order to guarantee respect for professional and labor qualifications obtained in the country of origin of migrants.
158. Creation of regional mechanisms to eliminate the abuses of financial intermediation with the remittances of migrant workers.

159. Establishment of regional pension and social security systems. Application of the Ibero-American Multilateral Social Security Agreement for disability, old age and survivor benefits.
160. Expansion, consolidation and synchronization of public services for migrant workers: work and job offers, information and processing of documentation, national and regional regulations, vocational training alternatives, in order to contribute to fight against labor informality and discourage the proliferation of private illegal employment agencies for migrants.
161. The trade union movement prioritizes the defense of the rights of migrant workers and the inclusion of youth in the coordination of national, subregional and continental work groups defending and organizing migrants.

Continental policies for the prevention and eradication of all forms of violence

162. Regional policies to prevent and eradicate criminality and insecurity, child exploitation, human trafficking, organized crime, drug trafficking, femicide and all forms of impunity, which strengthen their continuity.
163. State policies in the Americas for the elimination of all forms of child exploitation, with a comprehensive

approach to guarantee the attendance of children and adolescents to public and free schooling as of preschool.

164. Eradicate all types of discrimination based on ethnic-racial elements, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, appearance or physical condition, religious belief or political affiliation.
165. Decriminalization of youth and active participation of young people in the construction of the security of our peoples. Expansion of the political space for young workers to organize and be empowered as active social, trade union and political subjects.
166. Promote the ITUC program called Global Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labor and Trafficking in Persons to stimulate respect for the fundamental rights of workers.
167. We uphold the immediate ratification of ILO Convention 190 on the Eradication of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work in all the countries of the region. We call for the formulation of public policies in a framework of participatory social dialogue. We must work tirelessly on prevention and awareness raising, and designing protocols for action and protection of victims through collective bargaining, to adapt the general standards to the reality of each sector, so that we can guarantee violence and harassment-free workplaces.

Public, free, universal, secular and intercultural lifelong education

168. Education is a fundamental and universal human right, a social public asset, an essential guarantee for lifelong fair development. It must leverage development and must be public, free, secular, quality, guarantee access to the most advanced knowledge and to comprehensive training. Educational policy needs to be horizontal and democratic concepts and methodologies to interpret and transform reality, and must be considered a social investment.
169. Technical and vocational training must respond to integral and sustainable development strategies of our societies. We reject the commercial and instrumental approach, the strategy of which is to train machines for the labor market. Vocational training must be comprehensive, integrated, continuous and lifelong, placing workers at the center of the action. It should seek to connect training with the socio-labor world; the culture of work with technical expertise; trade union formation with lifelong vocational training, guaranteeing the defense of social and labor rights and supporting the development of organizations.
170. Formal education must be developed based on public policies that integrate the approach of lifelong, integral, continuous, secular, compulsory, free, public,

intercultural education with academic excellence, with equal opportunity and access for all. States must guarantee the access and permanence of women and men for the full exercise of their citizenship.

171. Incorporation into the curricula of content on labor rights, freedom of association, collective bargaining, social security of workers, the principles and values of the social and solidarity economy, based on the equality between genders, ethnic groups, native peoples and generations.
172. Expansion of gender-based education and vocational training programs, seeking continuous and lifelong formation, as well as the acquisition of tools, skills and abilities to enter the world of work.
173. Eradication of unpaid child labor and family exploitation through the universalization of education and the fight against illiteracy and school dropouts.
174. Promotion of the universalization of higher education. The tertiary and university system must provide free access, guaranteed by the State, to the entire population. We must definitively discard the elitist university system that reproduces the neoliberal models of domination and formulates doctrines of submission to the dictates of the market giving a pseudo-academic format to policies contrary to the interests of the majority. We stand for popular universities, committed to human development, that respond to local,

regional and national needs, while being part of the world of knowledge. Quality public universities in the most backward territories, providing teachers, researchers and support staff who fully respect the rights of workers to upward social mobility, equality and development in a framework of social justice.

175. The trade union movement of the Americas champions the public education system as a social policy of action and State responsibility, rejects neoliberal policies of total or partial privatization, and the outsourcing of services undermining access to free and quality education for most of the population.

Public, free, universal, inclusive and equal health promotion system

176. Prevention and public, free, universal, inclusive and equal healthcare for all, in all workplaces and housing areas. Primary care is the first structural level to preserve health as per the Declaration of Alma-Ata.
177. Equal, inclusive and universal access to a package of essential quality vaccines, medicines and technologies as required for epidemiological profiling in each territory and/or country, based on health as collective right. We uphold public and regional production of vaccines and medicines, with breach of patents.

178. We reject the business logic that dehumanizes public healthcare and public-private partnership models that increase costs while diminishing quality.
179. Healthcare without discrimination, with gender equality, respect for diversity in sexual orientation and gender identity, which does not discriminate based on ethnicity, race, religion, disability or age. This includes the right of women to decide on their own body, not be penalized for the voluntary termination of pregnancy and to give birth in humane and respectful conditions.

Healthy and safe workplaces

180. Occupational health is a fundamental human right. It is built in an adequate work environment, with fair working conditions, where workers develop an activity with dignity and participate to improve their health and safety conditions. Promotion and implementation of the proposals contained in the Trade Union Occupational Health Strategy for the Americas of the TUCA.
181. Strengthening of the tripartite social dialogue on occupational health. Participation of trade union delegates in the labor centers to improve working conditions and the work environment.
182. Adequate inspection and control, with a gender per-

spective, that makes the invisible visible. Strong and effective national public inspection and control institutions for compliance with the prevention obligations and the penalization of companies. Reinforcement of the technical bodies of occupational health. The occupational health promotion strategy must cover all links of the production chains and include outsourced and subcontracted workers, whether informal or casual.

183. Deployment of an integral system of occupational hazards and occupational diseases based on an integral perspective of physical and mental health, with prevention as its universal and priority pillar.
184. Creation by governments, with trade union participation, of reliable information, registration and notification systems of accidents and diseases, respecting the right to confidentiality. Design and implementation of surveys on working conditions.
185. A national strategy for the defense of the health and safety of the lives of workers needs to take into account the impact of climate change. Special emphasis should be given to mining and energy extractive activities, to chemical industries and their derivatives, and agricultural undertakings in which workers and the communities living on the territories are overexposed to the deterioration of their health. Environmental health is a basic condition to guarantee the human right to health.

A fair transition

186. A fair transition is a priority of the trade union movement in the face of the negative consequences of climate change and the environmental crisis suffered by the peoples. It is a global movement that clearly requires the harmonization of the principles of social and environmental justice. Fair transition is a set of policies designed to ensure that the transition and the path towards low greenhouse gas production provides decent living and decent working conditions, respect for human rights and equal opportunity for affected workers and communities, especially among the peoples and nations of the south.

187. Fair transition is able to generate and guarantee decent work, universal social protection, freedom of association, collective bargaining, social justice, gender equality and equity, food and energy sovereignty, with preservation of the commons, self-determination of peoples and nations, in a framework of participatory

democratic processes that encompass all stakeholders.

188. There will be no fair transition if economic decisions continue to be dominated by globalized finance and their pursuit to transform all activities into business. A sustainable society will only be possible if we push away capital and financial speculation.

189. We propose the creation of fair transition agendas and bodies for tripartite social dialogue at the global, regional and national level, with budgetary guarantees for their financing and implementation and that respect human rights as their fundamental premise. In the fair transition, we must demand priority access to funds for the territories that are losing most to climate change in the different countries in order to reduce inequalities.

190. Promote reconversion and transition actions for the sectors of the economy that most pollute the environment, especially considering the impact that these actions could have on workers and communities, and adopting effective measures to counteract these impacts. States must deploy strategies to protect the population at risk. Transitions will be fair only if they ensure training, requalification and development alternatives that include affected workers and communities, as well as social protection in the processes of change.

191. In research and technological development, early assessment of social and environmental impacts and their effects on employment is mandatory, with prior and extensive democratic consultation.

192. Throughout the last decade, the international and regional trade union movement has placed the concept and principle of fair transition on the agenda of the ILO, of the UN Climate Change Summits and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as in alternative spaces such as the Peoples' Summits. Although fair transition emerged as the result of the collaboration of the trade union movement with the environmental movement, and has been expressed in different ways in the different regions, fair transition is now acquiring new meaning as response to the impacts of the boom of digitalization and the 4.0 revolution on the world of work. Today fair transition appears as a cross-cutting necessity that allows us to discuss the false solutions proffered by transnational corporations and governments of the big powers, in a scenario of multiple and accelerated transformations. We reject the capture of the concept and meaning of fair transition by transnational corporations as a way to disguise their extractive activities and violation of labor rights.

Environmental Justice

193. The principle of environmental justice asserts that no group of peoples or nation should be burdened with a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences under the current development model. The environmentalist and alternative globalization movements call for payment of the historical debts accumulated by industrialized countries of the global north to the countries of the global south for plundering their commons, strategic resources, unfair trade and environmental destruction, and also for greater responsibility of the big powers and transnational corporations in the destruction of ecosystems and carbon emissions. The ecological debt has four components: 1) carbon debt (disproportionate pollution of the atmosphere due to greenhouse gas emissions; 2) biopiracy (intellectual appropriation and commodification of the ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples and peasant farmers); 3) environmental liabilities (ecological costs associated with the extractive economy and agribusiness for export); and 4) transport of toxic waste (export of toxic waste from central to peripheral countries).

194. For the TUCA, environmental justice needs to address the relations of power and domination between society and the environment, culture and ecosystems, recognizing the ecological debt of the global north to the global south, and working towards a

change of system in which peoples' sovereignty opens paths towards self-determination and to new relations between society, the market, the State and the environment. We demand an environmental policy that addresses asymmetries between social classes at the national level, and between nations of the north and nations of the south at the international level. All nations are entitled to sustainable development.

195. Recognition of the principle of common -but differentiated- responsibilities (CDPR) and different capacities as the cornerstone of the international climate change regime. To overcome the environmental and climate crisis, it is crucial to identify those responsible for major damage and must bear major responsibility as regards the deployment of actions and initiatives to adapt to the new reality and undertake the required structural transformations. We require clarity in: 1) the goals of emission reductions; 2) adaptation; 3) financial, technological and human support, as well as strengthening their commitment to (4) fair transition; and 5) development of common standards.

Defense and preservation of the commons

196. The commons are natural and socially constructed elements of a collective and transgenerational nature. Territories, land, biodiversity, water, seeds, forests,

energy, ancestral knowledge, science, care, health and education are commons. Commons are not limited to the national and local levels. Some commons are shared across borders and sometimes have regional and global reach, such as those linked to the internet and the digital economy.

197. The commons embody a broad-based movement that seeks social and environmental justice. In order to transform social relations, we need to own the crucial principles of wealth distribution, democratization and collective decision-making, the need to radically transform our relationship with nature, the model of development, production, distribution and consumption of our societies, the core of which is the restructuring of the reproduction and sustainability of life (through the reorganization and equitable redistribution of care in families, communities and States).
198. To guarantee the sovereignty and self-determination of the peoples over the commons, we need bodies of democratic participation and decision-making at the local, national and regional level. Care standards of the environment must not become excuses to commoditize the commons.
199. Interculturality, recognition of environmental knowledge and practices, protection of our genetic resources against biopiracy.

Water as human right

200. The State must guarantee the right to water through universal drinking water and sanitation services, operated by the State and communities, with the participation of workers and their communities. Similarly, it is of paramount importance to regulate and control the use of water in production and by companies.
201. We champion a new medium and long-term vision of integral management of water and basic sanitation as essential condition for human and non-human life. We reaffirm our call for universal access and our opposition to the privatization, commodification and financialization of water.
202. We promote the watershed vision, which includes preservation of basin headwaters, lagoons, moorlands, glaciers, mirrors of water and aquifers through controls to large mining establishments, and integral treatment of effluents in the mining, oil, metallurgical, residual and other megaprojects, in order to protect the quality of continental underground water resources. The pollution of surface, underground and atmospheric waters by production activities also includes agriculture through the incorporation of agrochemical substances in surface and underground watercourses.
203. States are responsible for the preservation of the

national marine-coastal areas and for deep waters. Protection of artisanal fishing, with sustainable aquaculture development, decent employment and for popular consumption. Zoning of extractive marine reserves on national coasts.

204. Special protection must be in place for all essential ecosystems that guarantee and regulate the hydrological cycle, with effective social participation in decisions affecting water and the control of water provision services.

Sovereignty and democratization of energy with sustainable matrix

205. Energy is a right and access to it must be universal. To address the environmental and climate crisis, we need to redefine the energy matrices to guarantee the transition to clean energy, as well as to ensure that oversight of current and future energy and energy systems is democratic and open. This entails reclaiming the legacy of the fight for public services, and the questioning and demand for their ownership, including energy.

206. Overcoming the energy crisis is fundamental for the construction of an alternative model for the region as it concentrates a varied energy matrix with a strong impact on the dynamics of the economies

of our countries, often times controlled by private and transnational corporations. The construction of a sustainable energy matrix requires consideration of global environmental issues such as climate change, depletion of energy resources, etc., as well as local environmental issues such as pollution, loss of biodiversity, and guarantees for the exercise of labor rights.

207. The demand for hydrocarbons should not be an excuse to exploit non-conventional resources using polluting techniques with negative impact on the local population, such as fracking. Similarly, the implementation of these polluting techniques through agreements with transnational corporations should not jeopardize energy sovereignty and democratic control over hydrocarbon resources.

208. We propose the diversification of energy systems based on clean, renewable technologies and with low greenhouse gas emissions. We should base the reformulation of energy matrices on evaluations and studies for the prevention of potential environmental, social and cultural impacts. The exploitation of energy, where people express their uncertainty regarding the environmental and social consequences of these establishments, requires investment in the burden of proof. It is not the people who must prove scientifically how they are going to be affected, but the corporations themselves need to prove that there will be no negative effects, without acceptance of these studies as burden of proof. The only possibility of acceptance

of scientific proof must be solely by comparison with independent studies guaranteed by the State.

209. Tighter restrictions on concessions to energy projects, ensuring social dialogue and prior consultation with the affected population. It is essential to respect all agreements in force that guarantee prior consultation, such as ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of and the recently approved Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement).
210. Gradual reduction of dependence on fossil fuels through transformation of each economic activity. Although it is imperative to reduce the share of fossil fuels in energy matrices, we need to create the conditions for renewable energy alternatives not to be coopted by concentrated sectors that, based on the market logic, promote excluding projects, create technological dependency and foster precarity.
211. Expand public (and strictly regulated private) investment in alternative models of non-polluting energy, such as solar and wind, with social oversight. Implement distributed generation as an alternative to centralized generation, to promote the implementation of energy policies that recognize the diversity of local and community options, while avoiding mega-centralized energy systems.

212. The State must promote and regulate the construction of high performance housing and buildings that minimize the loss of energy.

New paradigm of production, distribution and consumption with present and future environmental sustainability

213. Promote a new paradigm of sustainability based on socio-environmental equilibrium with the involvement and participation of communities, workers, peasant farmers, native, indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples.
214. Revisit the entire transportation of passengers and goods. Local development and decentralization of production contribute to reducing the distance between production centers and consumption centers, minimizing energy expenditure. Mobility policies must bear in mind the promotion of short circuits of production and consumption, allowing urban and rural areas to communicate easily in the territories, based on the perspective of food sovereignty and local development. Public transport is a right and must be environmentally and socially sustainable, with quality services that enhance the quality of life of users. We need to reduce individual means of transport, and overcome the dependency on motorized transport with low passenger-fuel consumption ratio. This

is possible by developing collective mobility plans with trade union and community participation.

215. Against open sky mega-mining. Small-scale mining and underground mining also have an environmental impact and their implementation must be subject to technical analyses and democratic decision-making. It is necessary to take into account the problems of sustainable land management linked to mining and exploitation of fossil fuels.
216. Promotion of legislation that mainstreaming the principle of non-regression for environmental regulations and preventative principles that entail that certain products cannot be used massively until reliable evidence is available that they do not harm the environment or human and animal health.
217. For a new paradigm of materials management, with emphasis on recycling and reuse of products, without jeopardizing the environment or the generation of decent work.
218. Restrictions on the planned obsolescence of the goods and services produced, taking into account the impacts of the dematerialization and treatment of waste.

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