

ACT Alliance statement of commitments in Latin America and the Caribbean for the regional preparatory meeting of the Nairobi Summit + 25

ACT Alliance as a network of Christian organizations with 37 members in Latin America and the Caribbean and 156 churches and Faith Based Organization (FBOs) in the world, joins the actions to promote gender justice and end inequality, discrimination and gender violence and joins the call to '*Accelerate the promise for the defense of the rights and the freedom to decide of all the people*', made by the Nairobi Summit +25 in 2019.

We recognize at the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development - ICPD, the Cairo Plan of Action (1994)¹ and the Montevideo Consensus, a key framework to promote a dignified life for all people in congruence with our Christian approach based on the promotion of rights.

However, as churches and FBOs with a long history of accompanying communities in vulnerable situations in Latin America and the Caribbean, we express our concern about the persistent violation of the rights of women and the LGBTIQ + community in the region and, for the context that has broadened the gender inequality gaps and represents a setback in acquired rights, through the following regional tendencies:

1. **Trends of fundamentalism** which promote messages that are not compatible with women's rights and have political alliances with power groups in many countries.
2. **Speeches and practices of some churches reinforcing sexist stereotypes** that go against women's rights and sexual diversity, attacking directly the women's sector and the LGBTIQ+ community, creating intolerance and hatred.
3. **Increasing violence against women:** Latin America and the Caribbean is the region of the world with the highest rates of violence against women; every day at least 12 Latin American and Caribbean people are killed every day just because they are women.
4. **Low conditions of access and quality of sexual and reproductive health** services contribute to the reality that indigenous women and Afro-descendants have the highest rates of maternal mortality and teenage pregnancy in the region.

¹ACT Alliance recognizes the resolutions, conventions and documents of the United Nations of the United Nations Security Council to which ACT has agreed to adhere as part of its Gender Justice Policy and the ACT Code of Conduct that specifically relate to the gender. This includes: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG) (2015), Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), United Nations Conference on Population and Development, Cairo (1994), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979), Resolution 1325 of 1 UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 Security Council, Declaration and Program of Action of Vienna (1993), Resolution A / Res / 67 / 146 of the UN General Assembly - Intensification of global efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation (2012).

5. **LGTBIQ+ population are victims of serious violations** of their human rights, particularly life, freedom, integrity, equality, free association and free expression.

6. **Most vulnerable women in migration:** The most extreme situation in the region is in Central America and Venezuela, where the main victims of violence are women, boys and girls, and there are high rates of sexual violence against women.

7. **Feminization of poverty:** In the region, women in poverty benefit less from poverty reduction than men in the same condition. They still spend more than triple the time on domestic work and unpaid care than men.

8. **Low labor participation rate of women:** Today in Latin America and the Caribbean, the female labor participation rate is 26 percentage points lower than that of men and unemployment among women is 50% higher than among men. The gender pay gap persists even when women have achieved greater educational achievements.

9. **Women most affected by climate change:** According to a report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), climate change will have an impact on cultivation processes. It will especially impact women, since they produce between 60 and 80 percent of food in developing countries and half of all countries in the world.

10. **This reality is exacerbated by the persecution of and threat to leaders** and defenders of the environment and human rights that permeates the region. In 2018, 321 human rights defenders were killed for defending their lands and facing practices that affect the environment, in the world and 75% of these attacks occurred in Latin American countries.

Commitments and Actions

As a network of organizations from the religious sector and civil society with presence and experience in the region and with the capacity to accelerate the achievement of the goals of the ICPD Action Plan and the Montevideo consensus, as well as the binding SDGs 3, 5, 10 and 16, ACT members in Latin America and the Caribbean, commit ourselves to:

- **SEXUAL VIOLENCE:** Encourage and accompany the creation and implementation of protocols for the prevention, detection of and attention to violence, with special attention to sexual violence, inside the churches, in FBOs and in their actions with ecclesial base communities and community organizations, with special attention to boys, girls and adolescents.
- **FEMINICIDE VIOLENCE:** Promote and strengthen strategies for pastoral action with a Christian approach based on the dignity and rights of people, which prioritizes the prevention, detection, attention and restitution of rights in cases of femicidal violence.

- **PREGNANCY IN ADOLESCENTS:** Promote and strengthen strategies for pastoral and community action in the prevention of adolescent and child pregnancy.
- **MATERNAL / CHILD MORTALITY:** Promote and strengthen strategies for pastoral and community action in coordination with the State, in the prevention and maximum reduction of maternal / child mortality.
- **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS:** In alliance with women's movements and LGBTIQ+ groups, promote and strengthen strategies for pastoral action, with a Christian approach based on dignity, for the promotion and defense of their sexual and reproductive rights.
- **ZERO GENDER VIOLENCE:** Promote and strengthen strategies for pastoral and community action with a Christian approach based on the dignity and rights of people for the prevention and eradication of gender-based violence. ▪
- **PROMOTION OF THE ICPD PLAN OF ACTION:** Promote, accompany and sustain “improbable, but possible dialogues” within the religious sector to rebuild forces around the promotion of fundamental rights promoted by the ICPD Plan of Action. ▪
- **PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUITY:** Cultivate advocacy processes to promote public policies and the governments’ attention for the fulfillment of women's rights, and to mobilize the construction of gender equity policies of ACT members in the region.
- **DECONSTRUCTION OF GENDER STEREOTYPES:** Use and take advantage of information and communication technologies to build a narrative that contributes to equity, foments the deconstruction of gender stereotypes and promotes new masculinities.
- **OVERCOMING THE TABOOS AND OPPOSITIONS TO COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL EDUCATION:** Arising from the Christian call and vocation to care for the lives of all people, promote awareness and information strategies for overcoming existing taboos and opposition to address comprehensive sexual education in churches, Christian educational institutions and FBO, thus including the inter-institutional articulation for the promotion of campaigns for comprehensive sexual education.
- **SUPPORT FOR BLACK, INDIGENOUS AND RURAL WOMEN** in relation to local causes that privilege the intersection of gender, ethnicity, self-esteem, identity and black, indigenous and rural culture.

FURTHERMORE:

- **Develop studies and investigations that allow us to understand the fundamentalist religious movements** in order to be able to elaborate content and messages that counteract their speeches and highlight their political, ideological and economic interests.

- **Promote strategies for approaching and sensitizing young people** so that they get involved in the work of preventing violence against women and the LGBTIQ+ community, with a focus on gender and new masculinities, promoting nondiscrimination and the inclusion of this population.
- **Comprehensively address the impact of migration** on women and families and in contexts of emergencies and disasters.
- **Incorporate a gender perspective in emergency care plans** and in the humanitarian aid protocols implemented by ACT members in the region.
- **Promote good practices of population characterization** that allow the cultivation of better processes of targeting in their interventions.

We commit ourselves to carry out these actions and commitments, incorporating the process accelerators identified by the ICPD action plan:

- 1) Empowerment of women and gender equality
- 2) Youth leadership;
- 3) Political and community leadership to accelerate the process
- 4) Innovation and data
- 5) Alliances

ENDORSEMENTS OF FORUMS

Foro ACT Argentina

Fundación Protestante Hora de Obrar C
entoro Regional Ecuménico de Asesoría y Servicio - CREAS
Federación Universal de Movimientos Estudiantiles Cristianos - FUMEC ALC
Servicio Evangélico de Diaconía – SEDI
Iglesia Presbiteriana de los Estados Unidos
Church World Service América Latina y Caribe

Foro ACT Brasil

Concejo de Iglesias Evangélicas de Brasil: Alianza Bautista de Brasil, Iglesia Apostólica Católica Romana, Iglesia Episcopal Anglicana de Brasil, Iglesia Evangélica de Confesión Luterana en Brasil, Iglesia Presbiteriana Unida e Iglesia Ortodoxa Siria de Antioquía Koinonía
Fundación Luterana de Diaconía
Diaconía Brasil
CESE
Christian Aid

Foro ACT Colombia

Diakonía Latinoamérica

Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia
ACT Iglesia Sueca
FELM -Agencia de la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Finlandia
WACC – Asociación Cristiana de Comunicación
Fundación Mencoldes
Heks –Organización de Ayuda de las Iglesias Evangélicas de Suiza
Federación Luterana Mundial - Servicio Mundial, Programa Colombia
Lutheran World Relief

Foro ACT Costa Rica

Iglesia Luterana de Costa Rica – ILCO

Foro ACT Guatemala

Centro Evangélico de Estudios Pastorales en Centroamérica – CEDEPCA
Concejo Ecuménico Cristiano de Guatemala Conferencia de Iglesias Evangélicas de Guatemala -
CIEDEG
Iglesia Luterana de Gutemalteca -ILUGUA
Ayuda de la Iglesia Noruega -AIN
Christian Aid Federación Luterana Mundial –FLM

Foro ACT Honduras

Christian Aid Diakonia Organismo Cristiano De Desarrollo Integral De Honduras - OCDIH
Asociación de Organismos No Gubernamentales -Asonog
Asociación de desarrollo Pespirense -ADEPES
COPA
CDH
Federación Luterana Mundial F

Foro ACT Nicaragua

Centro Intereclesial de Estudios Teológicos y Sociales - CIEETS
Acción Médica Cristiana

Foro ACT Perú:

Diakonía
Pan para el Mundo
Lutheran World Relief
Iglesia Metodista del Perú
Paz y Esperanza Perú
Alfalit Servicio Ecuménico de Pastoral y Estudios de la Comunicación -Sepec
Red Uniendo Manos Iglesia Luterana del Perú
Diaconía
Concilio Nacional Evangélico de Perú - CONEP
Proceso Cairos

Foro ACT Salvador

Sínodo Luterano Salvadoreño

Federación Luterana Mundial – Programa Centroamérica

Alfalit

Christian Aid

CREDO