

## **Managua Declaration**

### **Preparatory Meeting of the III Encuentro of The Afro-Caribbean and Afro Latin-American Women's Network and of the Diaspora And the Regional Conference of the Americas Regarding the Progress and Challenges In the Action Program Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Other Related Forms of Intolerance.**

**Managua, Nicaragua, July 14-17<sup>th</sup>, of 2006 -07-16**

We, the representatives of the Afro-Caribbean and Afro Latin-American Women's Network and of the Diaspora, delegates of organizations of Afro-descendant women and independent women of the following countries: Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United States, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá, Perú, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela, gathered in the city of Managua, Republic of Nicaragua, from the 14 to the 17 of July of 2006, invited by the Organizing Committee led by the organization "Caribbean Voices", with the support of the Interamerican Foundation, the Global Afro-Latino and Caribbean Initiative and the University of the Autonomous Regions of the Nicaraguan Caribbean URACCAN; after a rich process of reflection and collective analysis about the ancestral, cultural, spiritual, historical, political and social context and the impact of the present economic policies, such as the negotiations of the commercial treaties such as ALCA, CAFTA and the TLC:

1. We re-affirm the historical validity, the political recognition of the Afro-Caribbean and Afro Latin-American Women's Network and of the Diaspora, our commitment to continue to promote the construction of a collective leadership and the consolidation of the broad movement of Afro-Caribbean, Afro Latin-American and of the Diaspora to incorporate the perspectives of gender, ethnicity and race.
2. Recognizing the existence of new forms of racial discrimination and alerting about the new conservative and nationalistic tendencies; re-affirming the eradication of poverty and the lack of acknowledgment of the impact of racism as a factor of exclusion.
3. Assuming the task to continue the struggle against sexism, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all types of discrimination in our societies and States; focusing on the category of analysis of the intersection of gender, ethnicity and race
4. Validating the political agreement of the Network as a space for discourse and as a political instrument for reflection, exchange, denunciation and proposals for the defense of human development of the Afro-descendant women; and giving priority to the development of new alliances to transform the societies in which we live, under the principles of accountability, mutual respect and solidarity.
5. Recognizing that the process of discourse and the construction of power is based in the interaction of women as social actors stemming from their daily experiences regarding our ancestral and cultural traditions; and that our visibility has given a qualitative and

quantitative jump motivated by a common agenda; giving more potentiality to the regional spaces that have a relationship with the analysis of the economic models and their impact, and the learning of political practices.

6. Recognizing that the United Nations system is presently in a debilitated state and the responsibilities of the States do not respond adequately to the human rights discourse and are more a product of the market, rather than protection or guarantees for all citizens; highlighting that the objectives of the Development of the Millennium will not be effective unless they incorporate the ethnic racial variable.
7. Valuing the creation of institutional spaces world wide such as the Human Rights Permanent Forum of the Afro-descendants, the United Nations Working Group for the Afro-descendant People, the Black Parliament of the Americas, the Strategic Afro-Caribbean and Afro Latin-American Alliance as well as others at the national and local level in our countries, a product of the influence and strength of the organizations of women participating in the Network and the Afro-descendant or Black movement.

We declare that after a long debate, we reached consensus on the following:

- I As part of the civil society, the Network will define in macro form the regional guides and the organizations and/or members will define their national and local activities in micro form, giving feedback to their discussions in parallel form; consequently is pertinent the elaboration of a Strategic Plan with goals for the next three years.
- II To strengthen the Network, promote alliances with the women's movement, the feminist movement and organizations that work with Afro-descendants' human rights; with the objective of widening the opportunities and the empowerment of the Afro-descendant women with an emphasis on rural women.
- III To develop actions in a united way that will update the national diagnosis with a focus on gender, ethnicity and race; to improve health conditions with an emphasis in the sexual and reproductive rights and HIV and AIDS; formal and informal education; economic and cultural development; communications and use of new technologies; leadership capacity; influence and political participation; democracy and human rights with emphasis in regional connections for better use of resources, thematic connections, reaffirming our identity, spirituality and cultural values.
- IV The Network will carry out the incorporation of its agenda to include themes of high concern such as the situation of migrant women and/or displaced women with emphasis on Colombia, Haiti and the United States (Katrina); promoting campaigns of massive denunciation, political missions with site visits; as well as making visible the effects on the rights of the Afro-descendant women in the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, sponsoring the creation of Observatories of Gender, Ethnicity and Poverty.

- V For the effects of the administrative organization and the political representation of the Network, the following determinations were made:
- a. The new Regional Coordinator is Mrs. Dorotea Wilson Thatum of “Caribbean Voices” of the Republic of Nicaragua. Similarly this organization will be the Network’s headquarters
  - b. A Regional Coordination Team of 9 members was created:
    1. Two (2) delegates from Brazil to be defined
    2. Ivette Modestin, United States
    3. Elizabeth Suarez, Uruguay
    4. Cecilia Moreno, Panama
    5. Ann Mac Kinley, Costa Rica
    6. Nirva Camacho, Venezuela
    7. Sonia Viveros, Ecuador
    8. Ana Irma Rivera, Puerto Rico
  - c. The period for membership will be of three (3) consecutive years, with a six (6) month transition
  - d. The Regional Coordination Team will have its first working session on October, 2006
- VI. We, the Afro-descendant women integrating the Afro-Caribbean and Afro Latin-American Women’s Network and of the Diaspora, recognize and at the same time, acknowledge with sincere and profound gratitude, Dorotea Wilson Thatum and her working team and through them the people of Nicaragua, who made possible the organization, realization and culmination of this meeting; that we commit ourselves to give back the experience and the cultural, spiritual, and socio-political strengthening obtained in this event when we return to our countries.

We so sign in the city of Managua, Republic of Nicaragua, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July of 2006.