

**Declaration of the Afro-Caribbean and Afro Latin-American Women's Network
In the Context of the Regional Conference of the Americas, Santiago + 5
Regarding the Progress and Challenges in the Action Program Against Racism,
Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Other Related Forms of Intolerance.**

As Afro-Caribbean and Afro Latin-American women we represent more than 70 million human beings who in their majority live in conditions of poverty, exclusion and invisibility.

As Afro-Caribbean and Afro Latin-American women we participate in the political and economic processes of our countries and we contribute with our efforts and work at all levels of society.

The commitments that the States assumed in the year 2000 during the Santiago Conference, in preparation for the World Conference against Racism, Xenophobia, Racial Discrimination and other related forms of Intolerance, that took place in Durban, South Africa in the year 2001, represented in that instant, a hope and encouragement for the Afro-descendant people of the Region and particularly for the Afro-Caribbean and Afro Latin-American women.

We, the Afro-Caribbean and Afro Latin-American women and from the Diaspora, gathered in Managua, Nicaragua, in July of the year 2006, en route to the fifth evaluation conference of the commitments made in Santiago to take place in Brasilia, Brazil from the 26 to the 28 of July of the year 2006; we salute the Regional Conference of the Americas regarding the progress and challenges of the Action Program against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and other related forms of Intolerance.

1. We re-affirm and remind the Governments, the commitments adopted in the Preparatory Conference of the Americas that took place in Santiago, Chile in the year 2000, as well as in Durban, South Africa in the year 2001.
2. We exhort the States to adopt with urgency as many measures they have at their disposal to reduce the negative impact of the implementation of neo-liberal policies in the lives and situations of the Afro-descendant women.
3. We re-affirm that is necessary to guarantee that the reality of the Afro-descendant women is made explicit in the adoption of the Inter-American Convention against Racism and Discrimination.
4. We exhort the States to take measures for the creation of a permanent Forum about afro-descendants in the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations, based on the premise of gender equity.
5. We encourage governments to work in the elaboration of an international marker for racial equity that would allow adequate, standardization and regularization of

- the examination of the present forms of discrimination and racism, its quantification and the formulation of specific indicators, taking into consideration the particular realities of the Afro-descendant women.
6. We are encouraged to see the adoption of public policies in some countries of the Region, which include and take into consideration the realities of Afro-descendant women, such as the creation of mechanisms and the adoption of legislation and affirmative actions. These efforts have been, however, not sufficient and do not represent the recognition of the realities of the afro-descendant women on the part of all the States in the Region.
 7. We exhort to all the States to adopt measures to make the situation of Afro-descendant women, visible in national statistics.
 8. We urge the States that in the struggle to combat ethnic, racial and gender discrimination, they guarantee the participation and perspective of young Afro-descendant women in all their diversity (rural, urban, migrant, sexual diversity, among others) who live in extreme vulnerable conditions and under multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination, therefore we urgently exhort to resolve the situation of human trafficking, sexual and reproductive rights, access to sexual health services and reproductive health, and equal access to education and in the labor market.
 9. We exhort all States to adopt measures to improve the sexual and reproductive health of Afro-descendant women.
 10. We ratify the need to adopt measures to stop the impact of the prevalence of HIV and AIDS in the life of Afro-descendant women.
 11. We exhort all the States to take measures to guarantee that immigration policies don't violate the human rights of Afro-descendant people.
 12. We exhort all the States to adopt measures of affirmative action that allow the increased political and social participation of Afro-descendant women in the spaces of power and decision-making.
 13. We exhort all the States that all women's national mechanisms, plans and policies are defined to specifically address Afro-descendant women
 14. We exhort all the States to adopt measures to stop gender violence and against women that particularly impact Afro-descendant women, such as human trafficking which exploits them sexually for commercial gain.
 15. We exhort all the States to adopt measures so that in the plans, policies and programs to fight poverty, the particularities of Afro-descendant women are taken into consideration

16. We demand that the States approve public policies, to assign resources in their budgets and to create national mechanisms for the implementation of the Durban and Santiago accords with the specific presence of Afro-descendant women.
17. We urge all the States to create mechanisms for following up, monitoring and implementing the Durban and Santiago accords with the specific presence of Afro-descendant women.

We declare that the States must ratify the commitments subscribed in the Santiago Conference of 2000 and in the World Conference against Racism, Xenophobia, Racial Discrimination and Other Related Forms of Intolerance that took place in Durban, South Africa in 2001.

We come together with the conviction that the commitments of the Santiago and Durban Conferences are ratified and that they are translated into concrete national actions for the inclusion of Afro-descendant women for the achievement of peace, equity and racial justice for our people.