

NO MORE INJUSTICES AND INEQUALITIES



Say no to the ratification of the Agreements negotiated by the European Union with Central America, Colombia and Peru.

Manifesto of Central American, Andean and European Organizations, Networks, and Social Movements.

The VI European Union-Latin America and Caribbean Summit of Heads of State and Government took place in Madrid, Spain on 18 May 2010. During this event, negotiations for an Association Agreement between the EU and Central America, and a Multi-party Trade Agreement between the EU and Colombia and Peru were concluded.

The different networks and social movements from the three regions, who were in Madrid during the People's Alternative Summit, discussed the reach and possible impacts of the Agreements, and established that they would coordinate activities to inform and raise public awareness, as well as carrying out advocacy work and direct action around the inherent dangers of the Agreements. As part of this process, we publish the following Manifesto:

The economic world crisis has questioned the 'free trade' model on which the agreements are based. The predominant free trade logic of the Agreements negotiated between the EU and Central America and between the EU and Colombia and Peru, corresponds to a model which is now strongly questioned. This model will fur-

thermore severely limit the autonomy of the States involved, to promote and define regional and national development policies in favour of the majority of their citizens. In addition, the conclusion of these agreements take place in a context of multiple crises, related to economics, climate, energy and food, a context that strongly affects the Southern countries, especially Central American and Andean countries, due to their particularly vulnerable environment.

1. From Association Agreements to Free Trade Agreements

The Agreements chiefly favour the commercial interests of the EU, including access to markets and a range of services, investments, governmental ownership, and intellectual property. In exchange, the Central American countries, as well as Colombia and Peru, have obtained 'certain advantages' in market access. These advances only consolidate these countries' current access to the General Preference System (SGP), restating their role as raw material exporters, and thereby their vulnerable position on the international market.



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2. Largely asymmetric Agreements

As far as development, wellbeing and standards of living are concerned, there are huge asymmetries between the EU and Central America, Colombia and Peru. The decrease of these differences between and within the regions was to be a priority in the negotiations. Nevertheless, the Agreements do not incorporate truly effective mechanisms that could contribute to reducing the asymmetries. On the contrary, the negotiations increase these inequalities.

The results of the dairy sector negotiations are an example of this inequity. The entrance of highly subsidized European dairy products will provoke a shift in the Central American and Andean markets, and therefore affect local producers and compromise those regions' food sovereignty. This is even more significant if we consider that milk is essential to the family diet.

3. The Agreements do not favour, but in fact harm the current regional integration process

One of the fundamental objectives of the negotiations was to reinforce the sub-regional integration processes in Central America and the Andean region. This was also a characteristic which would differentiate them from the previous Free Trade Agreements negotiated with the United States. However, the process of negotiation showed important incoherencies in this matter. As far as the Andean integration process is concerned, the fact that only Peru and Colombia were accepted to continue the negotiations, has contributed to an increase in tensions among the member countries of the Andean Community. Similarly, the inclusion of Panama as part of the Agreement, without being part of the *Central American Economic Integration System* (SIECA), and after having announced its withdrawal from the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), affects Central American institutional integrity.

The government of Ecuador has announced its willingness to discuss a Trade Agreement for Development with the EU. The lack of flexibility showed by the EU in previous discussions, however, points to the unlikelihood of reaching true negotiations under these con-

ditions. Nevertheless, in light of this situation, we are asking not only that this process be carried out in full consultation and consensus with the population, but that it also should respect the Ecuadorian Constitution, and principles of equality contained within the concept of *Buen Vivir*. We organizations, networks and social movements will closely monitor the direction that these conversations take.

4. The liberalization of natural resources and strategic sectors limits development possibilities and impinges upon the sovereignty of the State

European and American multinational corporations have coveted the natural resources, biodiversity, ancestral knowledge, public services, water supplies, and mineral and energetic resources of Central America and the Andean region. The Agreements favour the corporations' interests in these areas. To place sectors which are strategic for regional development at the disposal of European corporations affects future possibilities for regional economic integration and State sovereignty, and reasserts the free trade model, while ignoring its consequences.

5. The Agreements could increase current conflicts in Colombia, Peru and the Andean region

The extractivist models applied currently, both in Central America and the Andean region, have been rejected by the population and caused social movements to defend territory and natural resources, especially among indigenous and afro descendant peoples. The Agreements negotiated with the EU tend to strengthen this model, which will aggravate existing social and environmental conflicts.

6. The Agreements do not favour the defence and promotion of human rights above free trade

Besides containing decisions which will affect the economic, social and cultural rights of Central American, Peruvian and Colombian peoples, the Agreements do

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not include effective mechanisms to condition commercial preferences on the fulfilment of human rights; nor do they contain mechanisms for trading sanctions to confront human rights violations.

Additionally, it is worth highlighting that the conclusion of the negotiations was prioritised above any consideration with regards to good government or human rights. Neither the crisis for democracy in Honduras after the coup, nor the serious violations to trade union freedom in Colombia, Guatemala and Panama during the negotiations managed to alter their course.

These facts show incoherence on the part of the European Union, since it prioritised the completion of the Agreements and failed to insist on effective protection measures.

7. The Agreements limit the possibilities for civil society participation during their implementation

During the negotiations, the proposals and recommendations of a number of organisations and social movements from the three regions were overlooked. The Agreement does not include a binding mechanism for the participation of a diverse and broad range of organisations and social movements. The planned Forums are insufficient mechanisms for participation and do not guarantee transparency or democracy in the Agreement.

8. The Agreements overlook the Environmental Impact Assessments

The environmental Impact Assessments, commissioned by the European Commission and published before the end of the negotiations, however incomplete, nevertheless referred to impacts in certain sensitive areas. These warnings were totally overlooked when the text of the Agreement was completed, showing no intention of confronting these possible impacts.

In conclusion, considering that the economic crisis continues, that the Agreements favour the commercial interests of the EU, that they compromise strategic State resources, that they weaken the regional integration processes and that they do not imply progress in terms of human rights protection or improvements in standards

of living, or in decreasing social inequalities, **the organisations signing below, who come from the three regions and are concerned about these negotiations, demand that all parliaments involved in the ratification of these agreements, begin a debate about them, taking the following points into account:**

- **There are lessons to be learned from the global crisis resulting from the failure of the neoliberal model on which the Agreements are based.** Priority should be given to Treaties and Conventions on Human rights and Environmental protection rather than to commercial interests.
- **The principal aim of the Agreements was to reduce the existing asymmetries between the parts,** yet these inequalities were not taken into account, resulting in unjust and unequal Agreements.
- **The initial purpose of the Agreements was to contribute to the strengthening of the regional integration processes,** yet the results indicate a move in the opposite direction.

Considering the abovementioned points, we urge all parliament members concerned **to vote against the ratification, in order to create the possibility for a real discussion on relations between the EU, Central American and Andean region, from a new perspective, in equal conditions,** and with a renewed agenda incorporating civil society organisations.



Against the ratification of the Agreements For the promotion of true justice and conditions of equality between our regions.

February 2011

Signatories:

Europe: CIFCA, Grupo SUR, International Office on Human Rights – Action on Colombia ODHACO, Oxfam, Solidar, Partido de la Rifondazione Comunista/Izquierda Europea, Red birregional Enlazando Alternativas. **Germany:** ATTAC Alemania, Centro de Investigación y Documentación Chile Latinoamérica FDCL, Informationsstelle Peru (Freiburg), Peru-Gruppe (München), PowerShift, World Economy, Ecology and Development - WEED e.V. Ökumenisches Büro für Frieden und Gerechtigkeit, e.V., Arbeitskreis Internationalismus der IG Metall Berlin, Informationsbüro Nicaragua. **Belgium:** Broederlijk Delen, CNCD-11.11.11. **Spain:** Asociación Entrepueblos, ATTAC-España, Ecologistas en Acción, HUACAL (ONG de Solidaridad con El Salvador), Iniciativas de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo ICID, Intersindical Valenciana, PlasPaz, Plataforma Asturiana Paz y DDHH para Colombia, Plataforma Justicia por Colombia España, Plataforma Rural/Alianzas por un mundo rural vivo, Red de Semillas “Resembrando e Intercambiando”, Red de Solidaridad para la Transformación Social REDS, Salva la Selva, Secretaria d’Organització Intersindical CSC, SETEM, SODEPAZ, Soldepaz Pachakuti. **France:** Comité Pérou, Fondation Artisans du Monde, France Amérique Latine - National FAL, Collectif Guatemala, Collectif ALDEAH. **The Netherlands:** Transnational Institute TNI, X minus Y Solidarity Fund. Ireland: Grupo Raíces (Grúpa Freamhacha), Latin American Solidarity Centre (LASC). **Italy:** A Sud- Italia, Annalisa Melandri activista por los derechos humanos. **Latin America:** Alianza Social Continental ASC, Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción al Desarrollo, A.C. ALOP, Asociación Latinoamericana de Micro, Pequeños y Medianos Empresarios, A. C. ALAMPYME, Global Network América Latina, Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo PIDHDD, SERPAJ América Latina. **Central America:** Capítulo centroamericano ASC, Centro América por el Diálogo CAD. **Costa Rica:** Comisión Nacional de Enlace CNE, Ditso. **El Salvador:** CEICOM, CORDES, Red de Acción Ciudadana Frente al Libre Comercio e Inversión SINTI TECHAN, Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña UNES. **Guatemala:** Colectivo de Organizaciones Sociales COS, Consejo de Investigaciones e Información en Desarrollo CIID, Movimiento Tzuk Kim-pop (Altiplano Occidental de Guatemala). **Honduras:** Bloque Popular, Coalición Hondureña de Acción Ciudadana CHAAC. Frente Nacional de Resistencia Popular Honduras. **Nicaragua:** Coordinadora Civil/ CAD Capítulo Nicaragua, FUMEDNIC, Movimiento Social Nicaragüense Otro Mundo es Posible. **Mexico:** Alianza Internacional de Habitantes, Asociación de Derechos Humanos del Estado de México ADHEM, Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos y Víctimas de Violaciones de Derechos Humanos en México AFADEM FEDEFAM, Centro de Derechos Humanos Coordinadora 28 de Mayo ODH, Fundación Diego Lucero A.C., Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos LIMEDDH, Observatorio Nacional de Prisiones México ONP, Red de Alerta Temprana de México, Red de Mujeres Líderes por la Equidad y una Vida Libre de Violencia A.C. - D.F, Red Mexicana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio RMALC, Red Universitaria de Monitores de Derechos Humanos RUM, Tenaces, Colima. South America: Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas CAOI. **Argentina:** ATTAC Argentina, Movimiento por la Paz, la Soberanía y la Solidaridad entre los Pueblos MOPASSOL, Organización de Naciones y Pueblos Indígenas en Argentina ONPIA-, Unión del Personal Civil de la Nación UPCN, Seccional provincia de Buenos Aries. **Bolivia:** Consejo Nacional de Ayllus y Markas del Qullasuyu CONAMAQ. **Colombia:** Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca – ACIN, Asociación Salud al Derecho, Central Unitaria de Trabajadores CUT, Coalición de Movimientos y Organizaciones Sociales de Colombia COMOSOC, CODIEPSIR, Colectivo Informativo Susurro, Colectivo Pensamiento Crítico, Comisión Colombiana de Juristas, Comisión de Protección y Seguimiento del Páramo El Almorzadero, Coordinación Colombia Europa Estados Unidos, Entre Redes, Equipo de Asesorías de proyectos de desarrollo integral comunitario “APRODIC”, Escuela Nacional Sindical, FUNCOP-CAUCA, Fundación Rostros y Huellas del Sentir Humano “Garifuna”, Marcha Mundial de Mujeres – Colombia, Mesa de Trabajo Mujeres y Economía, Movimiento Afrodescendiente Huellas Africanas, Movimiento de Cristianos/as por la Paz con Justicia y Dignidad MCPJD, Movimiento Franciscano por la Paz MOFRAPAZ, Movimiento Nacional por la Salud y la Seguridad Social MNSSS, Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia ONIC, Plataforma Colombiana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo, Red Colombiana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio RECALCA, Red Nacional de Mujeres Afrocolombianas Kambirí, **Roberto Achito:** Autoridad Tradicional Emberá, SINTRAFEC, SURCULTURA, Unión Nacional de Usuarios de Servicios Públicos. **Ecuador:** Acción Vital, Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales CDES, Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos “Segundo Montes Mozo S.J.” CSMM, Colectivo de Mujeres Acción Política por la Equidad APE, Colectivo para las Alternativas Humanas, Confederación de Pueblos de la Nacionalidad Kichwa del Ecuador ECUARUNARI, Democracia Socialista, Ecuador Decide. **Peru:** Confederación Nacional de Comunidades del Perú Afectadas por la Minería CONACAMI, Marcha Mundial de las Mujeres de Perú, PLADES, Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad RedGE. **República Dominicana:** Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos de Republica Dominicana CNDH. **Venezuela:** Central Socialista de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de Venezuela CST, Federación de Obreros Universitarios, Federación de Sindicatos de Profesores Universitarios FENASINPRES, Federación de Trabajadores de la Harina FETRAHARINA, Federación de Trabajadores de la Industria Gráfica FETRAIG, Federación de Trabajadores de Telecomunicaciones FETRATELECOMUNICACIONES, Federación de Trabajadores del Sector Eléctrico FETRAELEC, Federación de Trabajadores Universitarios FETRAUVE, Federación Nacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores de la Salud FENASIRTRASALUD, Federación Nacional de trabajadores del Sector Público FENTRASEP, Federación Unitaria de Trabajadores de Petróleo y Gas FUTEP, Fuerza Socialista Bolivariana de Trabajadores, Sindicato Nacional Fuerza Unitaria Magisterial SINAFUM, Sindicato Unitario de la Construcción SUTAC.