

DECLARATION OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY BEFORE THE VIII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

The Latin American Observatory on Human Trafficking and Trafficking (ObservaLATrata), which brings together 76 civil society organizations, 25 universities, 6 national networks and 3 international networks of the Americas and the Caribbean, through its Peruvian Chapter chaired by CHS Alternativo, for the VIII Summit of the Americas to be held in Lima, Peru, from April 13 to 14, 2018, presents the following Declaration:

Considering that the VIII Summit of the Americas will have as its thematic axes the "Democratic Governance against Corruption" and "Corruption and Sustainable Development", the presidents of the member countries of the Organization of American States (OEA / Ser.E GRIC / CA-VIII / doc.2 / 17), will meet to discuss and make international and national policy agreements.

Considering that the Second Work Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015-2018, approved at the Fourth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons (OEA / Ser.K / XXXIX.4RTP-IV / doc. 4/14 rev.1), establishes in its General Guideline No. 7 *"Include trafficking in persons through integrated strategies and / or broad action plans, related to ... corruption ..."*; and in the General Guideline No. 28; which, by this logic should be strengthened, *"[...] national laws, programs and policies, with a view to combating corruption, including corruption in the context of trafficking in persons, and ensuring that these acts be: promptly and effectively investigated, prosecuted and punished"*;

Emphasizing that this requires, in accordance with General Directive 13 of the same plan, *"To allocate specific budgetary resources in the Member States to implement actions to combat trafficking in persons"*. This is a situation that not only mainly affects children and adolescents, but also women and other people in situations of vulnerability, in the Americas and the Caribbean, in a serious, systematic way that violates human rights, governability and institutionality, affecting the human and sustainable development of peoples;

Taking into account that at the 165th Period of Sessions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Observatory presented the Report *"Trafficking in Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean,"* which shows that all the countries of the Americas and the Caribbean present situations of Human smuggling and trafficking. The main institutional factors common in our countries that favor these crimes are: poverty and inequality, informality, the weak presence of the State, the scarce budget and especially, corruption, which increases and accelerates crime, favors impunity and increases their social tolerance;

WE DECLARE THAT:

It is essential that the participating countries of the VIII Summit of the Americas commit themselves to effective measures and policies, to face corruption in all fields of social, economic and political life of our countries, as well as their diverse criminal expressions among which is the favoring of human trafficking.

We urge the States to make the fight against human trafficking a priority action and, to that extent, comply with the financing of the work plans already agreed upon by the high authorities of our respective countries and to deepen the agreements of and between States for the fight against corruption, which accelerate and facilitate human trafficking, especially the socioeconomic, cultural and institutional factors that motivate the existence of these crimes that seriously threaten the human and sustainable development of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Lima, March 22, 2018.