ENCUENTRO REGIONAL URGENTE POR LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS 2025

Urgent Regional Meeting for Human Rights

Reflections and Horizons for a New Time

Introduction: A Necessary Dialogue to Strengthen Democracy

In a context of profound global and regional reconfiguration, marked by the weakening of democracy, the advance of authoritarian discourses, and the exacerbation of structural inequalities, the most relevant human rights organizations in Latin America met in Buenos Aires in September 2025. The "Urgent Regional Meeting for Human Rights" represented a key moment in a process of collective deliberation on the challenges of the present and the paths toward the future.

Facing a scenario of an external "polycrisis" and a necessary internal reflection on the relevance and forms of intervention of the movement, the meeting was proposed as a space for an honest and deep political conversation.

Over three intense days, the discussion moved away from everyday urgencies to address the fundamental questions: What does it mean to defend human rights today? What unites us as a movement when past consensuses seem exhausted? What tools and narratives do we need to build an alternative future to the one proposed by authoritarianisms?

This document presents a synthesis of the main reflections and future perspectives that emerged from this dialogue. It is not a record of closed conclusions, but the reflection of a living debate that seeks to be a starting point to strengthen the human rights movement as a transformative force capable of meeting the challenges of our time.

1. A Shared Diagnosis

The first part of the meeting was dedicated to building a common diagnosis of the current conjuncture. There was a broad consensus that the region is going through a complex moment, affected by global trends such as the crisis of multilateralism, the corporate capture of states, and the rise of authoritarianism. Added to this are structural challenges like the climate crisis, inequality, and the protection of civic space.

Alongside this external analysis, the participating organizations conducted a valuable reflection on the human rights movement itself. It was acknowledged that there is a need to strengthen the connection with social movements and to adapt strategies to a new political and

communicational context. Far from being a pessimistic view, this reflection was proposed as an exercise in responsibility to ensure the relevance and potency of the work in defense of rights.

Two central convictions emerged from this diagnosis:

- **The need for a strategic agenda:** It was identified that, beyond the diversity of issues, it is fundamental to articulate a common strategy that gives meaning to the coordination. The goal is to move from reacting to building a proposal for an alternative future.

- **The centrality of disputing meaning:** The effectiveness of other actors in offering narratives of the future and understanding what the population hopes and fears. Therefore, one of the most urgent tasks is to rebuild a utopia of our own, an idea of positive change that mobilizes and provides a horizon for human rights struggles. In this framework, the defense of common goods and of a democracy with social content emerged as potent and unifying perspectives.

2. Rethinking Action: Strategies for a New Time

Faced with the question: What to do? The conversation addressed a critical and constructive analysis of the movement's tools and practices, to identify new alliances and horizons.

The effectiveness of traditional tools was assessed, and a strong consensus emerged on the need to rethink their scope and, above all, the ways of communicating to appeal to broader audiences in an era of "post-truth" and disinformation.

In this regard, the discussion yielded several strategic lines for the future:

- **Build our own narratives:** It was concluded that an urgent task is to build a narrative that is our own, proactive, and engaging, that reconnects human rights with people's daily lives.

- **Innovate in tools and languages:** The necessity of experimenting with digital tools and new technologies for communication and organization was posited as unavoidable, learning from phenomena like youth digital communities and drawing closer to technology and popular communication movements.

- **Strengthen coalition work:** It was reaffirmed that working in alliance is always more potent. Coalitions with diverse and "improbable" actors were especially valued, as they combine knowledge and experience to achieve greater impact and legitimacy.

- **Towards a political dialogue with international cooperation:** The model of international cooperation and its functioning were discussed. It was pointed out that, in a critical context, it is fundamental that funding models adapt to strengthen long-term political processes instead of fragmenting them with short-term projects that foster competition. Therefore, it was concluded that it is necessary to open an honest and constructive political dialogue with cooperation agencies to jointly think about more flexible, brave, and strategic forms of support that respect the autonomy of civil society

agendas and are conceived as an alliance for social transformation.

- **Communicate solutions:** The importance of not only focusing on criticism, but of articulating and communicating concrete, realistic, and executable proposals that respond to the problems affecting citizens, was highlighted.

3. Towards a Common Horizon

Towards the end of the meeting, the path forward was projected, transforming the energy of the dialogue into initial agreements and common horizons.

Two core political axes for a possible shared agenda clearly emerged from the conversations:

- **The defense of an inclusive democracy:** A fundamental consensus was the need to dispute the meaning of democracy to fill it with content that links it to the everyday demands for security, equality, and well-being.

- **The fight against racism as a non-negotiable pillar:** It was recognized that racism is a structuring element of inequalities in the region. Therefore, the anti-racist struggle must be a transversal perspective that permeates all human rights work.

The meeting concluded with the commitment to give continuity to the process initiated, materializing the spirit of collaboration in concrete actions. The need to strengthen networking, build a common political horizon, and deepen outreach to new actors, such as youth and social movements, was identified.

The spirit of collaboration born in this meeting will materialize in a series of future actions and conversations to shape these and other initiatives. This document will serve as a main input to collectively define the next steps and continue articulating this process. The aspiration is for this momentum to generate a sustained collaboration dynamic that strengthens the human rights movement as a force with real impact in the region. The process is already underway.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Artigo 19

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales – CELS

Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos del Paraguay - Codehupy

Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos de Perú

Conectas Direitos Humanos

Consorcio Para el Diálogo Parlamentario y Equidad Oaxaca

Cristosal

Dejusticia

Derechos Digitales

Centro de Políticas Públicas y Derechos Humanos (Perú Equidad)

Iniciativa Global para los Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales - GI ESCR

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law - ICNL

INREDH

Justiça Global

Observatorio Ciudadano

Oficina en Washington para Asuntos Latinoamericanos - WOLA

Proyecto de Derechos Económicos Sociales y Culturales - PRODESC

Red Latinoamericana de Estudios Críticos del Discurso y Pobreza - Redlad

Terra de Direitos

Vía Campesina

Women Equality Center -WEC

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