

To the governments and organizations gathered in Montreal on the situation in Haiti

The recent tragedy in Haiti shocked the people of the world for its destructive impact, the environmental and social consequences, and especially for the loss of human lives. Unfortunately, natural disasters are not new in that Caribbean country, which was impacted in 2008 by hurricanes Hanna and Ike.

Nor is it the first time we have watched the international community make pledges of cooperation and assistance to Haiti. We are concerned, as organizations and social movements and on the basis of permanent contact and consultation with our partners there, that the international response be coordinated on the basis of respect for their sovereignty and in full accordance with the needs and demands of the Haitian people.

Now is the moment for the governments that form part of the United Nations Mission for the Stabilization of Haiti (MINUSTAH), the United Nations, and especially the U.S., Canada, and France, to reassess the many mistaken policies they have implemented in Haiti. The country's condition of vulnerability to natural disasters - in large part caused by the devastation of the environment, the lack of basic infrastructure and the weak capacity of state social action - is not unrelated to these policies, which have historically undermined the sovereignty of the people and their country, thus generating a historical, social, economic, environmental, and cultural debt in which these same countries and institutions have a major share of responsibility. Reparations must be made to the Haitian people for these debts, and all the more so in the face of the present situation affecting the country.

In this regard, we reject the militarization of the country as a false response to the recent disaster, including in particular U.S. unilateral action to send an additional 20,000 troops to safeguard its economic and geopolitical interests. The occupation troops of the MINUSTAH, over the past six years, did not contribute effectively to the stabilization or the provision of infrastructure and public goods, and nothing indicates that maintaining this policy would be effective from now on.

We call on governments and international organizations to immediately and unconditionally cancel the external debt claimed of Haiti, the servicing of which affects millions of lives. We also demand that the resources allocated for relief and reconstruction do not create new debt, or conditionalities that are imposed or any other form of external imposition which vitiates this goal, as is the practice of international financial institutions like the World Bank, the Interamerican Development Bank, the IMF, and the so-called donor countries. We also reject the intervention of private multinational companies who seek to take advantage of this tragedy to reap multibillion dollar profits in the reconstruction of Haiti, as happened in Iraq, or to exploit cheap labor and continue to plunder the country's natural resources.

Haitian society, its organizations, social movements and state representatives should be the protagonists of the international effort to rebuild their country: the first to be heard and the final and sovereign decision over their destiny. The Haitian people have lifted themselves up many times on the basis of their own will, with the strength and conviction of their historical example of having been the first people to free themselves in America. Any cooperation can be effective only if it is based in this commitment and full popular participation.

We are alert, and following developments in dialogue with Haitian organizations, in order to ensure that international cooperation takes place on the basis of this kind of solidarity and that the errors of past policies are not repeated. For a free and sovereign Haiti!

January 25, 2010

SIGNED BY:

Global and regional organizations and networks

Jubileo Sur/Jubilee South – Marcha Mundial de Mujeres/World March of Women – Via Campesina - Amigos de la Tierra Internacional/Friends of the Earth International - Alianza de Pueblos del Sur
Acreedores de Deuda Ecológica/ Southern Peoples' Ecological Debt Creditors Alliance – LDC Watch - Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de las Americas (CSA) / Trade Union Confederation of the Americas - Alianza Social Continental / Hemispheric Social Alliance – Jubileo Sur/Américas / Jubilee South/Americas - Confederación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones del Campo (CLOC) – Programa de Incidencia sobre Deuda Ilegítima de la Federación Luterana Mundial / Program on Illegitimate Debt of the Lutheran World Federation - Réseau CADTM mondial / CADTM International Network – Red Latinoamericana Mujeres Transformando la Economía (REMTE) /Latin American Network of Women Transforming the Economy - Latindadd – Kairos Europa- Africa Jubilee South - CADTM Afrique - Caribbean Policy Development Centre - Grito de los/las Excluidos Mesoamérica – Jubilee South Asia-Pacific Movement on Debt and Development APMDD - CADTM South Asia Network

National and Local organizations and networks

Argentina Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos - ATTAC - Central de los Trabajadores de la Argentina (CTA), Secretarías de Relaciones Internacionales y Derechos Humanos - Centro Cultural la Muralla - Centro de Políticas Públicas para el Socialismo (CEPPAS)- Comisión Justicia y Paz Misioneros Claretianos- Congregación La Santa Unión de los Sagrados Corazones - Dialogo 2000- Equipo de Educación Popular Pañuelos en Rebeldía- Espacio Ecueménico – Estudiantes Haitianos en Argentina - Frente Democrático para la liberación de Palestina - Fuerza Obrera Socialista FOS - Fundación para la defensa del ambiente- El Grito Argentino - Grupo Ecológico 9 de Julio Valles del Carmen - Iglesia de Fátima de Isla Maciel - Iglesia Evangélica del Río de la Plata- Instituto de Relaciones Ecueménicas (IRE) - Liga Argentina por los Derechos del Hombre - MOCASE-V.C - Movimiento de Víctimas de crímenes de Estado en Colombia, Capit. Arg. - Movimiento por la Paz, la Soberanía y la Solidaridad entre los Pueblos

(Mopassol)- Movimiento por la Soberanía y la Integración de los Pueblos MoSIP - Movimiento Social Misiones- Multisectorial de Solidaridad con Cuba- Organización Feministas - Parroquia de Santa Cruz - Partido Comunista - Partido Humanista - Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo Capit. Arg Programa de Incidencia sobre Deuda Externa Ilegítima de la Federación Luterana Mundial- Red por el Uso Responsable del Agua de Traslasierra- Revista "La Resistencia- Servicio Paz y Justicia - Bachillerato UST - Vecinos Autoconvocados de Villa de las Rosas Bangladesh EquityBD - Coastal Association for Social Tranformation Trust Belgium/Bélgica Centre Tricontinental - CADTM Bolivia Capitulo Boliviano de Derechos Humanos (CBDHDD) Brasil Rede Jubileu Sul – PACS - Central Unica dos Trabalhadores (CUT) Brasil - Comitê Pró-Haiti Brasil – CONLUTAS - Auditoria Ciudadana de la Deuda - Centro de Pesquisa e Assessoria – Grito de los Excluidos - Pastoral da Mulher Marginalizada, Regional Norte- Casa da Mulher Oito de Março - Organização Feminista do Tocantins- Red Brasileira por la Integración de los Pueblos - Rede Social de Justicia e Direitos Humanos- Rede Brasil sobre Instituições Financeiras Multilaterais Canadá – Québec Federation de Femmes de Québec - Public Service Alliance of Canada / Alliance de la fonction publique du Canada - Common Frontiers - Canadians for Action on Climate Change - The Social Justice Committee of Montreal – Council of Canadians – Simple Living (Burlington, ON) Cataluyna Asociación Ciudadana anti-SIDA- Educació per a l'Acció Crítica- Observatorio de la Deuda en la Globalización - Veterinarios sin fronteras - Comité Óscar Romero de Santa Margarida de Montbui- Colectivo RETS: Respuestas a las empresas transnacionales - ARAGUAIA amb el bisbe Casaldàliga Chile Amigas de Los Vilos- Movimiento Teología de la Liberación- Internacional Bandera de los Niños- Enrique Orellana, Somos Iglesia Colombia Red Colombiana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio (RECALCA) - CADTM Colombia- Campaña Colombiana "En Deuda con los Derechos" - FENASIBANCOL- Fundau Puica- Mesa Mujeres y Economía - UNEB Colombia- Proceso de Comunidades Negras- PCN Cuba Centro Memorial Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.- Movimiento por la Paz Ecuador Acción Ecológica- CADTM- Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales (Cdes) - Colectivo Feminista- FEDAEPS - Movimiento Tohalli - Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J." (CSMM) El Salvador Colectivo de Comunicadores y Estudiantes Roque Dalton Francia Confédération paysanne - Attac - Europe solidaire sans frontières (ESSF) - Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt Guatemala Pastoral Social, Diócesis de San Marcos Haití Plateforme Haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif (PAPDA) - Plate forme des Organisations Haïtiennes des Droits Humains (POHDH) – Solidarite Fanm Ayisyèn (SOFA) India Vikas Adhyayan Kendra/Cadtm Irlanda Debt and Development Coalition - Latin America Solidarity Centre (LASC) Italia Campagna per la Riforma della Banca Mondiale / Mani Tese - Observatorio sobre Latinoamerica SELVAS Mali Comité pour la Abolition de la Dette México Red Mexicana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio- Observatorio Latinoamericano de Geopolítica Morocco/Marruecos Attac Nicaragua Ecumenical Committee of English Speaking Church Personnel in Nicaragua (CEPRHI) Paraguay Foro de Mujeres del Mercosur Capítulo Paraguay Perú Grupo Red de Economía Solidaria del Perú (GRESP)- Jubileo Perú- Museo Afroperuano Puerto Rico Comité Pro Niñez Dominico Haitiana - Grito de las/os Excluidas/os - Proyecto Caribeño de Justicia y Paz Scotland/Escocia Jubilee Scotland Spanish State/Estado Español Coordinadora Estatal de Solidaridad con Cuba Madrid- ATTAC - Colectivo de Solidaridad por la Justicia y Dignidad de los Pueblos - Ecologistas en Acción- Plataforma Simón Bolívar de Granada- Proyecto Cultura Y Solidaridad- Sotermun- Campaña ¿Quién debe a Quién?- Centro de acción Internacional- Asociación canaria de economía alternativa y de alternativa antimilitarista.moc de Canarias Switzerland/Suiza Solidarité Suisse Trinidad y Tobago

Federation of Independent Trade Unions and NGOs (FITUN) UK/Reino Unido Haiti Support Group – Jubilee Debt Campaign – No Sweat – Kyoto2, Oliver Tickell USA/Estados Unidos United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society - Gender Action - New Rules for Global Finance - Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti - Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns - Quixote Center - Foreign Policy In Focus - Office of the Americas (Los Angeles) - St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America - Just Foreign Policy (Robert Naiman, Policy Director) - Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador - Puerto Rican Studies Association Uruguay REDES/Amigos de la Tierra Venezuela Red Venezolana contra la Deuda – CADTM Venezuela

Individuals

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