



FINAL DECLARATION OF THE PEOPLES' SUMMIT LINKING ALTERNATIVES IV

We, the networks, platforms and organisations of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Madrid from 14 to 18 May, at the Peoples' Summit Linking Alternatives IV, hereby claim our right to propose alternatives to the neo-liberal model and to free trade agreements, and believe in our ability to build political and social dialogue between peoples.

We are caught up in a crisis affecting civilisation throughout the world, in which the most vulnerable social groups and the peoples of the South bear the heaviest burden. Whilst millions of workers have lost their jobs and are sinking into poverty and deprivation, the financial system is making multibillion dollar profits with the support of the States of the North.

The global economic crisis is far from being resolved and rescue plans have been aimed at protecting the interests of big capital, as shown by the recent structural adjustment measures required of Greece by the EU and the announcements in the same vein by Spain and Portugal. The history of Latin America and the Caribbean shows the devastating impact of this kind of policy consisting of cutting public expenditure, privatisation and economic deregulation.

At the very time of the second centenary of the early struggles for independence in various Latin American and Caribbean countries, the EU is proposing a strategic "alliance" which represents a return to the past: the creation of a "Euro-Latin American global interregional partnership area", based on the conclusion of a number of free trade agreements in order to protect the interests of European multinationals in Latin America and the Caribbean and preclude any possibilities for regional and bi-regional integration on other terms.

A number of progressive left-wing governments have emerged in Latin America

and the Caribbean, sensitive to the requirements of popular movements, which are seeking alternative paths for development more in keeping with their local circumstances and defending their national sovereignty. The global Right, at the same time as trying to discredit and destabilise those governments, continues to advocate policies in the neo-liberal mould promoted by European multinationals – in particular Spanish multinationals within Latin America and the Caribbean – which have the support of the EU. Strategies such as "Global Europe: competing in the world" and "Europe 2020" will continue to exact a high social price and to exacerbate inequalities between States and within each country.

In Europe, the Lisbon Treaty has strengthened an anti-democratic capitalist model of integration. The privatisation of public services together with the undermining of social and employment rights is consolidating a military, repressive and exclusive Fortress Europe, to the detriment of Social Europe.

In response to this situation, organisation, resistance, dignity, solidarity and social mobilisation are and will be crucial factors in maintaining progress in Latin America and the Caribbean, preventing a return to the past and gaining new ground both in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Europe. Our strategy of struggle and common resistance is based on solidarity between our peoples, in order to build a society in which economic, political, employment, trade union, social, cultural and environmental rights are the top priority and *raison d'être* of government policies.

Accordingly:

1. We emphatically reject the free trade agreements, the partnership agreements and the bilateral investment treaties – or reciprocal investment promotion and protection agreements – concluded between a number of Latin American and European governments, which have been negotiated behind the backs of our peoples and against their interests. In particular we reject the EU Cariforum [Economic] Partnership Agreement, the conclusion of agreements with Colombia, Peru and Central America and the resumption of negotiations with Mercosur.

2. We refuse to accept that development cooperation should form part of these agreements which serve private economic interests. We want cooperation which strengthens the capacity of social actors and states to design and implement policies which seek to tackle social injustice.

3. We reject the implementation of structural adjustment plans and IMF intervention in the countries of Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean in response to the economic crisis. We demand an immediate moratorium on the repayment of public debt and that audits be carried out with a view to cancelling unlawful debts.

4. We will continue to seek real solutions to the environmental and climate crisis that are based on climate justice and the need to change the system, which is destroying the planet. In order to slow down climate change the EU must substantially reduce its domestic emissions of greenhouse gases. We call on European governments to pay the ecological debts they are accumulating

with the peoples of the South, including Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to fund measures to mitigate and increase resilience to the effects of climate change. Given the failure of the Copenhagen Climate Summit, we undertake to implement the proposals agreed at the "World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth" held in Cochabamba in April 2010, such as the creation of a climate change tribunal.

5. We support all the struggles of the peasant movements in Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe for peoples' food sovereignty, for agricultural reform, against genetically modified crops and in defence of their territorial lands. Family-based, small-scale peasant agriculture feeds the peoples and cools the planet.

6. We will continue our fight for participatory, direct and pluralist democracy and will oppose attempts to curb it. We support the struggles against impunity and for justice for the victims of genocide. We reject the criminalisation of social protest.

7. We demand the breaking off of diplomatic and financial relations with the Government of Porfirio Lobo in Honduras, which several governments have refused to recognise. That government is the product of a coup d'état, elected undemocratically and sustained at the cost of the repression of social movements and the infringement of human rights. We support the struggle of the Honduras Popular Resistance Front and its struggle for a constituent assembly.

8. We refuse to accept militarisation and the view which, under the pretext of humanitarian aid, disregards the capacity of the Haitian people to define its own destiny. We demand respect for the sovereignty of the Haitian people, the cancellation of the country's external debt and payment of reparations.

9. We call on the EU to revoke the Common Position on Cuba.

10. We accuse the EU, its institutions and its governments of flagrant complicity in human rights infringements, for example in Colombia, Honduras, Peru, Guatemala and Mexico, countries in which social activists are murdered every day and popular protest is repressed.

11. We condemn the immigration policies being implemented by the EU, because they pose a serious threat to democracy and peace between our peoples by fuelling xenophobia and racism. We share and support the struggles of migrant movements and networks against Fortress Europe, with its internment camps for foreigners and its "Return Directive", rightly known as the "Directive of Shame". This migration policy represents the other face of Capitalist Europe.

12. We denounce the militarisation of our two continents and, in particular, the pro-war Government of Colombia. The establishment of seven United States military bases in Colombia represents a threat to the peace and stability of the region. We repeat our condemnation of the EU's pro-war policy in Afghanistan under the auspices of NATO and the use to sustain a machinery of war of millions of euros of resources which could be used for other - social - priority

needs.

13. We support the struggle of the Greek people to defend its rights, which represent the rights of all European peoples.

14. We are committed to working towards a strengthened political arena based on solidarity, in which a wide variety of social and political movements participate and who advocate an alternative social, economic, gender, political, environmental and cultural integration to that proposed by the European Union (EU) and various governments in Latin America and the Caribbean.

15. We undertake to strengthen and consolidate our struggles against corporate power and to start a new chapter in the work of the Linking Alternatives Network aimed at establishing a binding international instrument for the trial of economic crimes. The "European Union and Transnational Corporations in Latin America. Policies, instruments and actors" session of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT) has been a step in this direction.

16. We support and are part of the struggles being waged by the Afro-descendent populations, women, young people and the marginalised of Latin America and Europe, who are hit hardest by the effects of the [economic] crisis.

17. We adopt as our own the struggles and claims of indigenous peoples for "el buen vivir" [good living], the creation of plurinational States and the recognition and protection of the rights of Mother Earth, which contribute to the need to develop sustainable, responsible and fair forms of consumption and production.

18. We applaud the commitment of the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to break with centuries of economic dependence, the plundering of natural resources and the pillaging of territorial land.

19. We call on the peoples of Europe to rise up and build a different Europe. We thank the members of the Spanish organisations for their efforts and help in staging our Peoples' Summit Linking Alternatives IV and we extend a welcome to those who are already willing to start preparations for the Fifth Peoples' Summit Linking Alternatives to be held in 2012.

We dedicate this Summit of the Peoples to the memory of the indigenous activist Betty Cariño, who was murdered in Oaxaca (Mexico) on 27 April, for her work against transnational mining corporations. We give this tribute on behalf of all those who have been murdered for their social and political struggle, and all victims of the unfair and exclusive neo-liberal model in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe.

Madrid, 16 May 2010

Peoples' Summit Linking Alternatives IV