

Integrated Rapporteur of the South American Region

The assistants to the meetings of the South American Region reached the following conclusions of convergence:

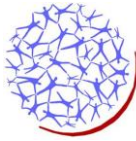
1. On the conception of universalism and social security

The universalism to which one aspires for the Region is linked to the concept of expanded citizenship, of state responsibility and public dominance and, therefore, should not be conditioned to the capacity of paying people. It is a concept linked to the principles of solidarity, integrity and equity, in that it recognizes the diversity of human needs and points to a redistribution of wealth. In this perspective, social security must guarantee interdependent human rights, such as work, education, decent housing, land, health, social security and (protection against) occupational hazards, to prioritize the protection of decent life and of the well-being of people in the action of states and in the societies, above the strengthening of the market and the concentration of wealth.

2. On the challenges

From the recognition of a predominance of reforms of social security systems in the Region clearly guided by liberal values and privatization of services and institutions to promote the global accumulation of capital, progress towards building universal systems of social security involves a series of disputes that should happen in different levels:

- 2.1. At the ideological level, the need to confront the prevailing liberal values that sustain themselves on individualism and defense of property and accumulation above all, to foster cultural change towards a solidary, inclusive ethics, based on human dignity in all scenarios of everyday life, public and private.
- 2.2. Economically, it is essential to confront the myth of the financial unfeasibility of universalism, to move into a social and state understanding of the economic effects of prioritizing investment in social security. It implies also to affect the concentration of ownership, the structure of production and the development model to make it sustainable, welfare-oriented, with formal, fair, stable and dignified labour relations. Also, the competition at the economic level requires building progressive tax structures and reorientation of the distribution of resources to the priority of public investment, with rigorous state and social control.
- 2.3. Politically, the central element is the radical democratization of societies. This implies to affect the structure of political systems of representation and participation, so that we can transform state institutions, in their legislative, executive and judicial spaces.
- 2.4. In terms of social mobilization, a deeper everyday life debate about universality through new forms of relationships between different political subjects, today disjointed and with persistent divergences, for the identification of convergences and the construction of political and strategic unity, at the local, national regional and global spheres. The mobilization involves active citizen participation, with new public deliberative and decision-making spaces, with capacity of social control of public affairs.



2.5. Internationally, the recognition of the global dimension of the challenge of universalization of social security implies the urgent need to provide sustained international action, based on solidarity between the organizations, and to take advantage of the existing intergovernmental spaces, which rely on representation mechanisms from the civil society, to affect the international political agendas.

3. On the agenda

Regarding the agenda, proposals were made in two major strategies:

3.1. Social mobilization:

- Dissemination of the products shown in this conference in all the existing spaces of social organizations in the countries.
- Convene national conferences that will contribute to the unity of civil society around universalism in social security and which will be preparatory for regional conferences and the Second World Conference.
- Develop local and national processes of political education using all available means.
- Encourage the creation of new local and national spaces of effective participation and social control and incidents in public decisions on social security.
- Create mechanisms of approach to strategic social and political actors, such as students, universities, youth, leaders and political parties.

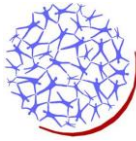
3.2. Internationalization:

- Communicated to progressive governments of the Region to demand their support in the inclusion of universal systems of social security in the regional political agenda.
- Develop a mechanism of occurrence on the UNASUR agenda and in the existing sub-regional intergovernmental spaces.
- Develop a Regional Observatory on Universal Social Security, which feeds on local and national contribution, in four strategic areas: legal bases, structure of social protection, operation and financing. This instancy should allow us to put knowledge to work for the development of specific technical proposals.
- Support international connections between the national processes of civil society aimed at strengthening sub-regional dynamics.
- Firm articulation of the Region to the World Health and Social Security Forum.

4. Proposal of motions of solidarity:

The following expressions of solidarity are proposed by the Conference:

- With the people of Haiti, due to the critical humanitarian crisis derived of global exploitation.



- The people of Honduras, due to the exacerbation of political conflict that has implicated in selective killings.
- To the native people of Formosa (Argentina) due to the persecution to which they have been submitted.
- To the Cuban people for their heroic resistance to the international blockade.
- A call for world peace, threatened by the resurgence of conflict in the Koreas.
- With the indigenous peoples of the Brazilian Amazon and for the ratification of Convention 169.