



Fundación para Estudio e
Investigación de la Mujer

DECLARATION OF LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL NETWORKS ON THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

From August 3 to 5 the Women's Meeting for Latin America and Caribbean Regional Networks was held in Panama to analyze the implementation process of the International Conference of Population and Development Program of Action upon the 15th anniversary of its approval in Cairo.

This meeting was convened by regional networks, especially the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network –LACWHN-, with the support and collaboration of the Regional UNFPA Office. More than 40 representatives of 30 regional and international networks took part in the meeting.

The goal of the meeting was to analyze the implementation of the Plan of Action in the countries of the region and determine future actions for the next five years, in which time the goals of the Cairo Plan of Action should be met. This process began with a preparatory meeting among regional networks representatives that was held in August 2008 in the framework of the International AIDS Conference in Mexico. The preparations continued at the feminist meeting in Mexico in March 2009 and at the United Nations Conference on Population and Development meeting in New York at the end of March 2009 where the Cairo Plan of Action was reviewed. In this meeting the representatives of Latin America and Caribbean networks and of networks from other countries attended and defended the Cairo principles, promoting its ratification and fulfillment, which led to an important declaration adopted by the CPD (www.feim.org.ar/pdf/Declaracion_LAC-CPD-NY-2009.pdf).

With these preliminary events, a Regional Meeting was organized to broaden the discussion of the agenda for the next five years and to identify future actions.

The meeting in Panama began with the presentation of a regional assessment by UNFPA's Regional Director, Ms. Marcela Suazo, and by Lilian Abracinskas of MYSU (Uruguay), on behalf of Civil Society organizations (www.feim.org.ar/pdf/Pres_Lilian_Abracinskas_Panama-2009.pdf). Afterwards, the specific situation of the region was analyzed by topics and countries and the points to be included in the Declaration that was adopted at the end of the meeting were considered. The Declaration was signed by 29 regional networks, the majority of which represent organizations of youth, women, health, sexual and reproductive rights, indigenous people, afro descendents and ethnic groups, elderly women, sex workers, women living with HIV/AIDS, and women's development and trade networks, among others.

This Regional Declaration also is the regional networks' contribution to the NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health that will be held in Berlin at the beginning of September.

The Regional Declaration is attached, and can also be consulted on FEIM's website at: www.feim.org.ar/pdf/Declaracion_Redes_LAC_Panama-2009.pdf.

Sincerely,

Mabel Bianco
President of FEIM