



Statement, on the eve of the IV International Conference on Financing for Development

GENDER EQUALITY MUST BE A PRIORITY AS A STRATEGY FOR THE GOOD OF HUMANITY.

We, the undersigned organisations, are part of the "Lima Group", a space that brings together various partners of Bread for the World in Latin America, whose common goal is to fight for gender equality, against economic, political and religious **fundamentalisms** and for women's rights in their broad diversity.

In this time, the positions and backtracking of some governments are affecting the principles that have governed the last 30 years and the commitments of the Beijing Platform for Action.

We, as well as many other feminist spaces, are concerned about the democratic setbacks at a global level and the precariousness of the rights of the most vulnerable populations.

For this reason, in the framework of the IV International Conference on Financing for Development, we want to express the following:

- **Gender equality and feminist cooperation must be a priority in the development agenda in order to reduce inequalities and sustain l o n g - t e r m change.**

Hate speeches that affect these struggles are dangerously increasing, validating authoritarianism and violence, putting at risk the sense of wellbeing and the intersectional defence of human rights.

- **Market logic and trade can no longer be allowed to be prioritised over human well-being.** The climate emergency, environmental disasters, displacement scenarios and forced migration, gender violence and wars are evidence that this model has to change and put human beings back at the centre.
- **A series of legislative measures are being promoted in Latin American countries to limit the actions of human rights defenders, creating a context of criminalisation that must be rejected. One way to do this is to strengthen funding for organisations** that defend rights at the institutional level, and not to allow their voices to be silenced. They are the ones who resist and resiliently oppose the violation of rights, dictatorships, wars, environmental depredation, male violence and discrimination in its different manifestations.
- **If companies want to contribute to development, they must start by paying their taxes in the countries where they are established.** Disproportionate tax benefits and corruption affect public spending by the state and, therefore, investment in social development policies. The commitment of companies to human rights must start with abandoning colonialist logics, respecting the environment, promoting equality and respect for natural resources. We only have one planet, and its destruction or damage by the

the enrichment disproportionate enrichment, is
evidence of the dehumanisation we
are reaching.

- **We demand that states do not limit public spending, using the façade of austerity.** States are the guarantors of citizenship and should not continue to act in a logic of permanent privatisation that blurs their role, in favour of the wealth of the few and the precariousness of the majority of the population.
- **We say no to wars, no to the grave violations of human rights** that are taking place in the Gaza Strip and in Ukraine, no to the new forms of patriarchal colonisation that are being deployed in the world. We affirm dignity and life.

As feminists, we call on decision-makers to no longer allow abuses of power or legitimise authoritarian regimes. **We call on those who define financing for development to defend gender equality as a principle and as a human right, to support the fight against discrimination in order to advance the SDGs and protect humanity from a global catastrophe.**

- Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán, Peru.
- PROMSEX, Peru.
- Fundación Mujer y Futuro, Colombia.
- SOS Corpo, Feminist Institute for Democracy, Brazil.
- Consorcio Oaxaca, Mexico.
- Centro Juana Azurduy, Bolivia.
- Fundación Protestante Hora de Obrar, Argentina.
- CEDEAL, Ecuador.

