



# The Vienna+20 CSO Declaration

On June 25 and 26 June 2013, the Vienna+20 CSO Conference of more than 140 persons from various CSOs around the world gathered at Vienna on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights and its Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action issued on June 25, 1993.

## **Preamble**

### **The Vienna+20 CSO Conference**

Noting the important contributions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as a landmark document for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular the affirmation by States of, among others, the primacy of human rights, including women's human rights; the indivisibility of civil, cultural, economic, political and social human rights; the universality of all human rights, the realization of human rights as a priority objective of the United Nations and a legitimate concern of the international community;

Welcoming the establishment of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights based on the recommendation of the 1993 Vienna World Conference;

Welcoming the impetus that the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action has given to the practice of national human rights plans and the establishment of National Human Rights Institutions within States;

Recognising the considerable progress made in the development of human rights norms and mechanisms since 1993 at the national, regional and international levels;

Recognising also that the implementation of the Vienna 1993 Programme of Action still falls short of its declared objectives in several respects, some of which are identified in the present Declaration;

Considering that the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, issued 20 years ago, does not fully address some of today's challenges in respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights;

Insisting on the human rights obligations of all levels of Government within States, and in intergovernmental organizations;

Reaffirming the principle of non-discrimination and substantive equality, including on the grounds of race, ethnicity, color, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, physical or mental disability, health status (including HIV/AIDS), sexual orientation and civil, political, social or other status;

Recognizing the environmental and ecological dimensions of human rights in ensuring the functioning and sustainability of all global ecosystems, thus safeguarding the rights of nature, Earth and the planet and respecting the rights of future generations;

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening extraterritorial obligations in order to address the challenges of globalization;

Alarmed by growing global disparities and the threat that extreme wealth poses to the right to political participation and democracy, as well as the realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

Emphasising the primary responsibility of States to address the impunity of corruption that continues to violate the full range of human rights;

Deeply concerned about the persistent and growing criminalization of, and assaults upon human rights defenders, especially those working for the rights of women, indigenous peoples, peasants, religious and ethnic minorities;

Facing the increasing impoverishment and exploitation of women in the context of intensifying global capitalism, militarism and persistent patriarchy; and

Alarmed by the violations of individual and collective human rights of people living in situations of conflict, occupation, population transfer, displacement and war;

Recalling the responsibility of States to ensure full reparations for the victims of violations of human rights and breaches of humanitarian law;

Committing to the principles and practice of solidarity and friendship among nations and peoples;

### **Adopts the Vienna+20 CSO Declaration:**

#### **I. The primacy of human rights**

1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Human rights are not derived from States' pronouncements and are not granted by them. Human rights legislation and treaties establish mechanisms for its implementation, adjudication and enforcement and describe human rights in this context. Further steps are urgently needed to ensure legal accountability for human rights abuses.

2. Human rights have primacy over all other rights and interests that States and successive Governments have to consider. Respect, protection, promotion and fulfillment of all human rights are the first responsibilities of States. There is deep concern that the primacy of human rights is not yet reflected in the policies, practices and institutions of a great number of States, including some of the most powerful. Despite the progress made in institutionalizing human rights systems, in policies and political decisions, vested interests, in particular private interests, still tend to prevail, including at the level of multilateral arrangements, bodies and institutions.

3. It is important to recall that the primary purpose of States is to uphold and ensure human rights.

4. Consistent with the overriding human rights implementation principles of self-determination of peoples, nondiscrimination and rule of law, participatory citizenship forms the common, equal and legitimate basis for the implementation of the full range of human rights.

5. A great concern is that human rights law in particular in economic, social and cultural rights remains ill-equipped, lacking adequate forms of legal sanctions, as compared to other legal regimes such as international commercial law.

6. If States and Governments indemnify banks, speculators and other private interests, by taxing people they violate their economic and social rights in a way that is not qualitatively different from other breaches of human rights obligations. Governments and the UN allowing for the participation of corporations in policy making put in question their own legitimacy. We reject the corporate sector, including its foundations and its front groups, misusing the term “civil society” as an identity for themselves.

## **II. Women’s Human Rights**

7. The realization of women’s human rights and gender equality, along with the right to live free from discrimination, lay a key foundation for the whole of human rights. Progressive legal reforms in many States, however, have not been sufficient to ensure women’s enjoyment of these human rights in their daily lives, in part because of the structures and intersections of the processes of capitalism and patriarchy. Women face multiple forms of discrimination due to their complex identities. The Conference therefore insists on the integration of a substantive equality approach, requiring that both in law and practice women must be able to enjoy the full range of their human rights.

8. Violence against women and girls, including femicide/gender related killing, must be met with zero tolerance. States must allocate maximum available resources and take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to prevent, punish, and eradicate such violence, in whatever setting or times of peace, disasters or armed conflicts: impunity must end. The intersection of gender based discrimination, poverty, socio-economic marginalization and violence must be addressed by States, equally the links between militarism, small arms and gender-based violence. Ample attention is to be given to women and girls in all situations of vulnerability who are particularly at risk of gender-based violence. Survivors of all types of violence must have access to comprehensive medical, legal, psychological and economic support as well as access to justice.

9. Economic globalization, financial crises, the privatisation of public services and austerity programs have increased women’s multiple responsibilities and workload in paid and unpaid work. States are called upon to fulfill their obligation to ensure women’s equal rights to social protection, adequate housing, education, equal wages, access to quality health care, child care services, food, safe water, sanitation and a healthy environment, nationally as well as supported by gender sensitive development cooperation. States must also ensure that women have equal access to maximum available resources, equal right to inheritance/property and access to, control over and use of land and other vital productive resources and access to the labor market and decent work. Special attention has to be paid to the protection of human rights in predominantly female labor sectors, and all respective ILO Conventions must be implemented. To redress the power imbalance between women and men, States have to implement special mechanisms and take affirmative action to increase significantly the number of women in decision-making positions at all political levels. Pursuing all approaches to equality, it is essential that unpaid work is recognized in statistics and policy, reduced by public investment, and shared equally by both women and men. States must ensure the effective participation of women in the development of relevant laws, policies and programs, and strengthen mechanisms for accountability.

10. The precarious situation of female migrants, displaced women, and trafficked women and girls demands urgent action. As women's migration is widely linked with women's impoverishment and the international gender division of labor which stereotypes women, in particular of discriminated racial and ethnic groups, States have to tackle root causes as well as guarantee the rights and social protection of migrant women in transit and host countries.

11. Women's sexual and reproductive rights must be strengthened and fully realized. States must promote, protect and fulfill the human rights of women and girls to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and reproduction, free from discrimination, coercion, violence or criminalization. Sexual rights include non-discrimination in regard to one's sexual orientation and gender identity. States must work towards the decriminalization of abortion, ensure access to comprehensive sexuality education, contraceptive information and services based on free and informed consent, access to all forms of contraceptives and access to quality and easily accessible sexual and reproductive health services.

12. States must ensure that cultural, traditional, religious ideologies and beliefs are not used to justify violations of women's human rights. Laws and practices, stereotypes, gender norms and roles which discriminate against women or undermine the realization of gender equality must be actively identified and transformed. This could be undertaken both through legislation as well as public education, human rights education in national curriculums and engagement. It is critical to recognize the universality of women's human rights in face of patriarchal culture.

13. Women's access to justice from the local to the national and international levels must be increased. States are called upon to meet their obligation to act with due diligence when implementing gender-sensitive law reforms in line with international legal obligations and to train judges in women's rights. In situations of war and post-conflict, specific measures are needed to ensure women's equal participation on all decision-making levels: negotiation of peace agreements, participation in courts and truth commissions, and in planning and implementation of gender sensitive disarmament and recovery programmes.

14. The United Nations organisations and agencies must accord higher priority to women's rights and the challenges faced by women and girls.

### **III Extraterritorial obligations**

15. Despite the universality of human rights, many States still interpret their obligations as being applicable only, or primarily, within their own borders. The approach of limiting human rights obligations territorially has led to substantial gaps in human rights protection that have become more severe in the context of globalisation over the past 20 years. Some of these are: An absence or inadequacy of human rights regulation and accountability of transnational corporations; the ineffective manner in which human rights law is applied or misapplied to development, financial investment and trade policies; the absence of human rights accountability of intergovernmental organizations as well as of their respective Member States for the impact of acts and

omissions of these organizations; and the lack of recognition by governments and by regional cooperation regimes worldwide of their duties to respect, protect and fulfil human rights abroad, including through the obligations of international and regional cooperation and assistance.

16. States are reminded of their obligation under the UN Charter and human rights treaties to take separate and joint measures to create an international enabling environment conducive to the universal fulfilment of human rights. Without the acceptance and implementation of extraterritorial obligations, human rights cannot be universally realized, nor can they play a substantial role in the regulation of globalization or in clarifying differentiated State responsibilities. States are called upon to fully integrate these obligations as the central terms of reference into their law, policies and practices at the national and international levels and to ensure that remedial mechanisms are in place.

17. National, regional and international human rights bodies are called upon to apply extraterritorial obligations in reporting and monitoring systems, include them in accountability and remedial procedures and strengthen the review of compliance with these obligations in the jurisprudence, and in the interpretation of international law and standards. In particular, States must ensure that these mechanisms serve to guarantee the right to an effective remedy for breaches of extraterritorial obligations. In particular, the UN human rights protection system, including the Human Rights Council, its Special Procedures and the UN treaty bodies, has a fundamental role to play in the promotion of and accountability for extraterritorial obligations and responsibilities of States as well as obligations and responsibilities of intergovernmental organizations.

18. The Maastricht Principles on Extraterritorial Obligations of States, adopted in 2011 by international law experts from all regions of the world, reflect existing international law and standards. They clarify extraterritorial obligations of States with a particular focus on economic, social and cultural rights. Nevertheless, they are applicable to human rights in general. They include the obligations of Member States of intergovernmental organisations and by consequence inform the human rights obligations of those organizations. States and human rights mechanisms must apply the Maastricht Principles and the law and standards on which they are based when acting unilaterally and multilaterally, including through intergovernmental organizations.

#### **IV Austerity, Macroeconomic policies and Financial regulation**

19. The history of global financial and economic crises has illustrated that when governments choose to service financial debts over social ones, and when financial regulation is in the interest of finance rather than people, the most marginalized suffer, while those who profited from financial speculation enjoy impunity. Deep and far-reaching austerity measures in many parts of the world, from the structural adjustment programmes of the last century to the current ones, coupled with long-standing financial regulation failures in the North, have deepened economic inequalities within and between countries, with inter-generational impacts on the realization of the human rights to decent work, an adequate standard of living for all, social protection, food, housing, water, health and education, among others. Externally-imposed solutions to service private bondholders over essential public services have furthermore restricted the capacity of States North and South for financing and meeting their economic and

social rights obligations.

20. Recognizing that economic policies are an exercise of state power, human rights norms and standards must guide all stages of the design, implementation and monitoring of national and global economic policies. People's rights of transparency, access to information and participation must be embedded in how economic policies are formulated, decisions are made and policies implemented. As public servants, all economic policy makers—including central bankers, finance ministers, budgetary and tax authorities and others—must be held to the highest standards of accountability for the outcomes of their decisions across national jurisdictions. The human right to association and freedom from state violence against civil society organizations, human rights defenders and social movements must be protected.

21. Human rights-centered fiscal policies meanwhile provide powerful alternatives to deficit-driven austerity measures. Counter-cyclical, rather than pro-cyclical, macroeconomic policies—subject to *ex ante* and *ex post facto* human rights impact assessments—have been the best safeguard against disproportionate human rights backsliding in changing economic conditions. Governments have duties to use any tools—including budget, tax, monetary, deficit financing, debt resolution and financial regulation—at their disposal to maximize all available resources to fully realize economic and social rights. This duty implies ensuring the fiscal space and progressivity of national tax systems so that public resources are generated sustainably and fully, and distributed fairly to prioritize human rights, especially of the most disadvantaged and marginalized.

22. All States—especially those with most capacity and global reach—have the duty to ensure that their institutions, policies, or private companies, do not erode, through encouraging tax competition, illicit financial flows, or cross-border tax evasion, other State's ability to sustainably resource human rights. Both creditors and debtors must likewise recognize and timely act on their duties to prevent and resolve unsustainable debt situations.

23. Human rights-centered financial regulation is essential to protect the public, especially the most marginalized, from financial sector abuses and the threat of global financial systemic collapse which gave pretext for austerity. States with greater capacities in global economic policy-making have greater responsibilities to protect human rights. This implies restoring the public role in effectively regulating financial markets and the banking system. Firewalls should be set up to prevent any resolutions of failing financial institutions from relying on public funding. Governments meanwhile must ensure that no one is above the law by breaking up “too-big-to-fail/jail” financial institutions and holding all those responsible for the financial crisis to account, criminally when relevant.

24. Internationally, States are obliged to shape, regulate and tax any cross-border financial flows in rights-realizing ways, ensure that universal human rights standards inform, and where in conflict, take primacy over trade, investment, debt, tax or finance commitments, ensure the highest standards of financial regulation across jurisdictions, and reform the international monetary system so it enlarges the space for governments to formulate and implement fiscal and monetary policies that support human rights.

## **V Binding obligations and regulation of TNCs**

25. Over the last 40 years, efforts at building consensus on binding international systems of responsibility and accountability for human rights abuse by transnational actors and in particular transnational corporations as well as other business enterprises have been undermined by strategies of corporations and complicit States. The result has been non-binding, voluntary approaches that provide “guidance” and recommend good corporate practice, but avoid sanctions and allow corporate abuses to continue.

26. In the meantime, the growth of binding global trade and investment instruments provide for both a framework of responsibility that leaves the majority of States little choice but to facilitate and protect transnational corporate investment opportunities. This happens at the expense of international human rights, labour and environmental protections, and a protective environment, facilitated by the prevailing trade and investment regime, where transnational actors and in particular transnational corporations (TNCs) as well as other business enterprises are given impunity for abuses and crimes they commit.

27. Social movements and civil society condemn the systematic violation of fundamental rights of workers in corporate enterprises (e.g the right to freedom of association in unions and the right to bargain collectively) as well as the denial of decent work conditions and work in life-threatening situations such as in unsafe buildings and mines.

28. The operations of many TNCs and other business enterprises cause the devastation of livelihoods, territories and the environment of the communities where they operate; they pursue the commodification of essential services and of nature itself. Many TNCs and other business enterprises also violate or are complicit in violations of human rights, erode the basis of food sovereignty, pollute water sources and lands, and plunder natural resources.

29. The Vienna+20 CSO Conference therefore calls on States to urgently develop and institute binding systems of international regulation and norms that TNCs should respect, and which States will have the obligation to ensure, by establishing strong legal systems of accountability for violations of rights and effective remedy and justice for all affected people, including along the supply chain. To do this the Conference strongly urges States to hold accountable those transnational actors, TNCs and other business enterprises that violate the provisions of the international bill of rights, the core conventions of the ILO, international environmental law and the rights of nature and the provisions of national constitutions and other legislation.

30. The Conference calls on States to develop a new international legal body, complementary to national jurisdictions. It should have the necessary instruments and mechanisms to ensure that corporate entities cannot evade accountability using the corporate veil. It must also effectively implement binding obligations on transnational actors and in particular TNCs and other business enterprises which will be judged and sanctioned when these are violated and crimes are committed.

31. To complement this system at the national level, all states are called upon to embed



the Maastricht Principles on the Extraterritorial Obligations of States into their systems of law and practice.

32. States are called upon to withdraw from the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and other similar international investment dispute mechanisms, in favour of exercising national sovereignty in managing investment and trade disputes.

33. States are reminded of their legal obligations including extraterritorial obligations to safeguard their capacity to respect, protect and fulfil when they enter any trade and investment treaties and in particular to exclude investor-state dispute provisions. Therefore, we urge all States to undertake comprehensive Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIA) before entering into negotiations and before ratifying any international agreement. Furthermore, strong and binding labor, human rights, conflict of interest policies and environmental safeguards must be incorporated in any trade and investment agreement in order to ensure human rights are fully respected.

## **VI Food and nutrition**

34. The Conference condemns the violations of the right to adequate food and nutrition that result in hunger, malnutrition and related diseases, most of them affecting small scale food producers, marginalized urban and rural workers, discriminated social groups, the unemployed and their families. States are called upon to implement public policies that respect, protect and fulfil, individuals', groups' and peoples' equal access, without any discrimination to basic resources (land, water, seeds, credit); jobs and decent living wages; essential public services (water, sanitation, education, quality healthcare); social protection and social security, including basic income, in line with the food sovereignty framework.

35. Private corporate abuses are strongly condemned such as land and resource grabbing, expansion of capital intensive mono-culture for the production of GMO crops and agrofuels, payment of exploitative wages, union busting, violence against and criminalization of the struggle of communities in defence of their rights, breaches of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent relevant WHO resolutions, the marketing of unhealthy ultra-processed foods and beverages, the financialisation of food commodity markets, and the poisoning of the soil, water and food with agro-chemicals. States are called upon to introduce strong human rights-based regulations on the activities of these corporations in their territories, as well as in other countries, in line with the Maastricht Principles on Extraterritorial Obligations.

36. States must fully respect, protect and fulfil women's rights and design and revise laws to ensure that women are accorded full and equal land rights, as well as take other necessary measures to give women access to credit, capital, appropriate technologies, markets, and information.

37. States are called upon to reorient their policies and decisively support sustainable agriculture and food systems that integrate gender, participatory and nutritional dimensions. The new policies must be human rights-based and must aim at promoting food sovereignty, stopping the rampant trend of land grabbing, regulating corporate

private sector investments in agriculture, increasing the diversification of smallholder agriculture, promoting agro ecological methods, providing a range of local varieties rich in all nutrients, and supporting agricultural research.

38. Agricultural and food workers feed the world, but their families are amongst the most malnourished and food insecure. Furthermore, the vital contribution of women small-scale farmers and producers to global nutrition should be widely recognized and valued. The lack of purchasing power of men and women wage workers, in rural and urban settings, is one of the main causes of hunger today. Wage earning food workers must be assured living wages and small-scale farmers/producers fair prices that provide them a fair income with which to support their families and guarantees they have access to adequate, affordable, nutritious and safe food and potable water.

39. The reform of the Committee on World Food Security (2009) clearly reaffirmed the central responsibility of States in the governance of food and nutrition security in consultation with other non-State actors, particularly those most affected by hunger and malnutrition. This is seen as a very important step. The Conference calls upon States, especially rich ones, to fully abide by this multilateral mechanism and stop undermining it through initiatives that bypass the CFS and only serve the interests of their corporate partners.

40. Breastfeeding is the most cost-effective nutrition intervention to address child malnutrition. However, it faces many barriers such as the aggressive marketing of baby foods by corporations. States are called upon to ensure full implementation of the Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding, to position breastfeeding as a norm, to respect and promote community-based, food sovereignty approaches to complementary feeding and to address unwelcomed incursion of medicalized, processed, and globalized ready-to-use commercial foods into young child feeding, thus protecting children's and their mothers' rights to adequate food and nutrition. Justiciable maternity entitlements must be instituted by all States to support mothers.

41. States are called upon to regulate through legally-binding instruments food corporations producing ultra-processed foods and beverages that promote and foster inadequate diets linked to the increasing prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases. States must sternly guard their food policy development and implementation from conflicts of interest resulting from undue influence leveraged by corporations and/or "private-public-partnerships", including in the UN and especially in the WHO.

## **VII Torture, cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

42. Twenty years after the Vienna World Conference it is time to renew the universal commitment to eradicate torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (ill-treatment) not only in law but also in practice. Today, as in 1993, torture and ill-treatment continue to be inflicted on individuals in all regions of the world, typically with full impunity being the rule rather than the exception. The Conference is also concerned that torture is disproportionately inflicted upon the poor, marginalized and those belonging to minority or migrant communities. States are called upon to address this problem requiring comprehensive anti-torture and non-discrimination policies. Torture and ill-treatment must and can be largely eradicated

not only in law but also in practice if the international community accords highest priority to it.

43. The coming decade must be one of implementation and enforcement. There has been progress, especially the coming into force of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT). States should now engage in a campaign making ratification and implementation of the UNCAT, including its individual complaint function, and OPCAT fully universal. Engagement should not only be formal by ratification and superficial cooperation with the Committee Against Torture (CAT), the Sub-Committee on the Prevention Against Torture (SPT), and other anti-torture bodies as it is often the case, but lead to the implementation of their recommendations. Universal and regional mechanisms need to become real agents for domestic change. Political mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process are called upon to systematically re-enforce recommendations of the treaty body system, and address States' non-cooperation with the CAT and SPT.

44. Torture and ill-treatment must be tackled through an integrated and holistic approach combining effective prevention, protection of victims and survivors, access to justice for remedy and reparation, and full accountability for any act of torture and ill-treatment. Monitoring places of detention by civil society is fundamental. The emergence of national preventive mechanisms is encouraging, but concern remains in a number of cases about their lack of independence, resources and effectiveness. Progress by increasing safeguards against torture must be matched with equal efforts to ensure accountability for torture. As long as those practicing or facilitating torture know that they will not be brought to justice and face consequences, the culture of torture and impunity will not be broken. Effective investigations and prosecutions must become a rule and not the exception. The international community has to invest in efforts to ensure that investigating and prosecuting authorities see it as their legal and ethical duty to bring those responsible for torture to justice.

45. The responses to terrorist attacks have led in some quarters to a questioning of the absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment in the name of national security. The damage done by global anti-terrorism laws, policies and practices on the absolute prohibition has not yet been undone. Many of the laws and policies adopted provide a framework which gives rise to torture, ill-treatment and impunity. These laws and policies must be repealed or revised to be human rights compliant.

46. There is concern about the emergence of cooperative forms of torture and ill-treatment, notably through the international cooperation of intelligence services in the name of countering terrorism. These violations must be brought to justice and intelligence services and intelligence cooperation must be fully accountable under international law. The States are requested to ensure that security actions comply with the highest standards of accountability and that national security defences and state secrecy privileges do not defeat remedies and reparation for victims of torture.

### **VIII Private security and military operators**

47. Torture and other serious human rights violations are increasingly associated with non-state actors, notably private military or security operators. Core functions of the

state are delegated to private actors, but states cannot free themselves from their responsibilities under international law through the privatization of security. States retain their obligation to protect all persons within their jurisdiction from the impairment of their human rights by business and non-state actors. At the same time, those non-state actors, such as private military and security operators must be held responsible for conduct that nullifies or impairs the human rights of individuals. An effective system of legally binding standards and effective domestic and international mechanisms is needed to ensure full respect for international human rights law, and in particular the right to remedy and reparation of victims of serious human rights violations. The conference calls upon States to adopt a legally binding instrument on regulating private military security companies.

### **IX Human rights defenders**

48. Strong civil society, including human rights organisations, well-connected domestically, regionally and globally is fundamental for the protection of human rights. The continuous use of reprisals to human rights defenders, including lawyers or journalists who take up human rights violations domestically or internationally, remains a burning concern. One of the greatest advancements over the last twenty years has been the formal recognition of the need for special protection of human rights defenders, culminating in the adoption of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and the establishment of mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders at the regional and universal level. At the same time there is reason for concern over the decreasing space for human rights defenders in many places of the world and the serious attacks and threats faced by them as well as the impunity for such attacks. Special attention must be paid to women's human rights defenders as they are persecuted not only for defending human rights, but also for transgressing gender norms.

49. States are called upon to devote extra efforts internationally to guarantee an effective physical protection of human rights defenders and to end impunity for attacks on them. A sea-change is needed from a control to an enabling environment, and for States to see human rights defenders as pillars of a free society. The criminalization of human rights defenders and the use of law to curtail rather than to protect defenders are alarming. Attention is called to new trends such as the criminalization of defenders including their access to funding. It must be ensured that the rights in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders are fully safeguarded and that the global human rights movement can act in solidarity.

### **X Human rights in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda**

50. States have to reaffirm the primacy of human rights in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. For this matter the Vienna+20 CSO Conferences requests States to transform the current aid-based model into a new universally applicable framework based on human rights and well-being, gender equality, social and economic justice and respect for planetary boundaries. The inherent dignity of rights-holders must be respected by States as primary duty-bearers, as well as by all development actors. A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is integral to the full enjoyment of human rights.

51. States need to ensure that any sustainable development framework, its goals, targets, and indicators, are aligned with economic, social, cultural, civil, political and environmental human rights as a non-negotiable base. This is necessary to prioritize human dignity and address the multidimensional nature of poverty over any other consideration, including economic growth indicators for their own sake. This also requires States to reject public private partnerships as a model for national development and for any global partnership for development.

52. States have to respect, protect and fulfil the economic, social, and cultural rights of all peoples, with prioritization of marginalized groups without retrogression and on the basis of non-discrimination and equality, immediately ensuring universal social protection floors, universal health coverage, adequate food and nutrition, water, sanitation, education and housing. For this purpose, any new targets and indicators have to be disaggregated, time-bound and equity-sensitive and consistent with the progressive realization of human rights. They have to protect workers' rights, guarantee minimum wages and pensions, close gender, ethnic, regional and other wage gaps, and restrain excessive levels of compensation.

53. States are called upon to develop effective mechanisms, including mandatory, integrated human rights and environmental impact assessments, to empower and enable all people, including marginalized, disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, to hold States, international financial and other institutions, and business enterprises accountable for their economic, social, and environmental impacts domestically and extraterritorially.

54. The Conference calls for a robust system of prevention, criminalisation, enforcement and sanctioning of environmental crimes from local to global levels as recommended by the International Conference on Environmental Crime, and advance the proposal to include ecocide to the list of crimes under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

55. States must apply policy coherence for development as a fundamental criterion for the post-2015 framework, guided by human rights and environmental law, apply the 'do no harm' principle at all levels and establish global and national mechanisms to ensure coherence, including a monitoring mechanism and means for redress.

56. States are called upon to fully respect the Rio Principles, including common but differentiated responsibilities and the right to development within ecological limits, and to set up democratic and accountable institutions at all levels, and locally foster subsidiarity. They requested to respect and protect access rights as embodied in Rio Principle 10, including access to information, public participation, and access to justice.

57. States need to ensure greater participation of people, including affected individuals, communities and peoples, and resist interference by corporate interests, in the process of formulating and monitoring future sustainable development goals. States are asked to integrate sustainability as a human rights principle to be monitored in the ongoing Universal Periodic Review or a similar modus established under the High Level Political Forum, and need to tackle the structural drivers of inequality, including discrimination,

ecological degradation, climate change, the poorly regulated financial system, and global trade and investment regimes, by which economically powerful, including private interests dictate development to the detriment of the public interest.

58. States are asked to redouble their efforts to achieve the MDGs until 2015, and to take commitments on official development assistance targets seriously and to renew them as a means of helping countries to achieve transformational, structural change. States should ensure that resources are generated fully, sustainably and distributed fairly, at all times prioritizing the most marginalized. States' domestic budget, tax, monetary, anti-corruption and development aid policies should be made congruent with human rights. States must ensure the progressivity of national tax systems, combat cross-border tax evasion, and regulate licit and illicit financial flows. Targets to eliminate extreme poverty and redistribute extreme income and wealth must be included beyond an overall focus on poverty reduction and well-being.

59. The Vienna+20 Conference calls upon States to discourage over-consumption, abstain from commodification of nature and integrate environmental protection with economic and social development to prevent further climate change and ecological devastation. States have to enact, implement, and enforce environmental policies and regulations such as phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, and drastically cutting greenhouse gas emissions with the aim of transitioning to a zero/low-carbon economy. They should take measures to reduce waste and curb pollution of the air, land, and water, and implement the 'polluter-pays principle,' effectuate monitoring and implementation, and vigorously promote sufficiency and eco-efficient technologies, recycling, remanufacturing, reuse of waste materials, and increased product durability, applying the precautionary principle in the case of new technologies.

60. States should enact and implement policies to increase sustainability by ensuring that water use, fishing, agriculture, logging, and mining activities take place within sustainable limits while protecting the human rights, livelihoods, and access to resources of local peasants, fishers, and indigenous peoples. States have to ensure the meaningful participation of affected communities at all stages, including assessment and analysis, program planning and design, budgeting and financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of investment and development policies and projects including the principle of free, prior, and informed consent.

61. States have to respect and protect civil and political rights, including the freedoms of association, expression, information, assembly, and political participation so as to enable an empowered civil society. They need to enact and implement policies that curb the power and influence of financial interests in political life and greatly expand awareness of people's right to participate in public affairs.

## **XI Social security**

62. The right to transfers and services safeguarding social security is indispensable for the exercise of many other human rights. Social security has to cover the full life cycle and be available to each individual without discrimination. The level of transfers and services must be sufficient for the rights-holders to live in dignity. This includes a guaranteed basic income sufficient to access adequate food, housing, clothing and an

adequate standard of living under all circumstances. Urgent attention is necessary to develop and strengthen social security systems in low income countries. States are called upon to strengthen social security in times of crises. The right to social security is not a sign of affluent States, but a universal element of human society. The Conference rejects measures that try to adjust budgets by safeguarding vested interests and cutting social security services. Such retrogressive measures are violations of human rights.

## **XII The right to an effective remedy for human rights violations**

63. The Conference welcomes the progress achieved since 1993 towards the global realization of the right to an effective remedy and reparation for human rights violations, including through the elaboration of international standards and mechanisms and their improved implementation at the domestic level. This right is an integral element of all other rights, and a prerequisite for their full realization. It is also a fundamental component of the principle of accountability and the fight against impunity for human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law. Be it recalled that an effective remedy must result in reparation and justice for victims in the forms of restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, guarantees of non-repetition and satisfaction, including the right to know the truth about the circumstances in which violations have taken place.

64. The right to an effective remedy requires equal access to justice, including administrative, political, quasi-judicial and judicial mechanisms, without discrimination of any kind, for persons at the local, national, regional and international levels. The Conference welcomes the increasing recognition of this imperative since 1993, as reflected in the legal and political commitments and measures undertaken by States at the national and international levels. The Conference is concerned, however, that despite these advances, many States have not fully and effectively implemented their obligations, including pursuant to universal and regional human rights instruments to which they are parties. States are therefore called upon to implement in good faith the obligations concerning the right to a remedy, and to cooperate in strengthening the right to remedy and access to justice at national, regional and international levels. Moreover the Conference calls upon States to ensure for civil society and groups affected by violations their significant and effective participation in human rights mechanisms.

65. The progress achieved since 1993 in the human rights protection and in the development of systems and mechanisms for this protection, at national, regional and international levels, includes the establishment of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as prescribed in the Vienna Programme of Action, as well as the establishment and operationalization of communication procedures for most international human rights treaties. These include, among others, the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR as recommended in paragraph 75 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the third Optional Protocol for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Criminal Court established to hold perpetrators for certain crimes under international law accountable. At the national level important legal developments can be welcomed, such as the advancement of National Human Rights Institutions, the national preventive mechanisms under the Protocol to the Convention against Torture, as well as the national monitoring mechanisms foreseen under the CRPD.

66. The Conference also welcomes the continuing development of regional systems to promote and protect human rights, as recommended in paragraph (I)37 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, but is nonetheless concerned that some of these systems and standards have been hampered or weakened by politically driven attacks and measures that undermine their effectiveness, including in advancing access to justice and the right to a remedy. Particularly alarming is the adoption in 2012 of the ASEAN Declaration on human rights, which effectively undermines universal human rights law and standards.

67. Despite the many advances regarding equal access to justice and the universal right to a remedy, and considering some retrograde measures undermining these principles, a great deal remains yet to be done. All persons should have access to effective international remedies, at the universal and regional levels, including judicial remedies, for breaches of international human rights obligations where the State is unable or unwilling to provide remedies, or where such remedies are ineffective or have been exhausted. In this respect, the Vienna+20 CSO Conference calls on all stakeholders, including States and civil society to accelerate discussions with a view to the establishment of a World Court of Human Rights, which, acting in complementarity with existing universal and regional mechanisms, will allow for rights holders to have access to an independent international judicial body to seek remedies and reparations for violations of human rights guaranteed in the principal universal human rights treaties.

68. Immediate measures are called for to advance and strengthen the existing international judicial and non-judicial mechanisms, including treaty body communication procedures and regional human rights systems. Robust action is requested to ensure enforcement of decisions.

69. The Conference requests the development of international standards to ensure the effectiveness of remedies for human rights violations, abuses and crimes committed by intergovernmental organizations and entities, such as by international financial institutions and peacekeeping forces, and non-State actors, such as armed groups and businesses, including transnational and national corporations.

70. The Conference calls for the universal ratification of the principal human rights treaties and their optional protocols.

### **XIII Indigenous peoples**

71. Despite the great efforts made for the human rights protection of indigenous peoples, in particular through the adoption in 2007 by the UN General Assembly of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and through other international instruments, and country-specific legislation, the conditions of inequality and inequity continue for Indigenous peoples, and so do the situations of poverty, the barriers to accessing basic services, the inequality and inequity of opportunity. Despite some progress in political and social representation, and human rights, these obstacles impede sustainable development. States fail to comply with their international human rights commitments to protect the individual and collective rights of the indigenous peoples.



72. The Conference calls upon States to recognize communal forms of land use and the understanding of territory for the indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples have the right to live freely in their own territories. The close relationship of the indigenous peoples with the soil has to be recognized and understood as the basis of their cultures, their spiritual life, their integrity and economic survival. In particular, trade and investment agreements affecting intellectual property rights threaten the way of life of indigenous peoples. Nevertheless, this right is violated – and this in almost all countries. By imposing megaprojects that expel indigenous peoples from their lands, exploit their natural resources and destroy the health of their soils, the indigenous peoples are forced to reduce their existence to small pieces of land. This means an enormous threat to the very future existence of indigenous peoples.

73. The Conference calls upon human rights mechanisms to include in their policies specific measures to ensure the human rights of indigenous peoples. For this matter States are asked to integrate into their legislations and implement the right to free prior and informed consent and to recognize the collective rights of indigenous peoples when elaborating public policies aimed at affecting the lives, either directly or indirectly, of Indigenous peoples.

#### **XIV Peasants**

74. Over the past 20 years, struggles and joint mobilizations of peasant communities, organizations and movements have been developing in many States of the world. The importance of peasant farming in the production, quantity and quality of food for the eradication of poverty has been increasingly recognized. Many States in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted food sovereignty in their constitutions. States should adopt an International Convention on the Rights of Peasants. The UN is in the process of preparing a Declaration to this regard. There already exist similar agreements to protect other groups, such as indigenous peoples, women, children and migrant workers.

75. With all the advances achieved, the situations of violence against and killings of peasants still increase, even in countries where progress has been made through agrarian legislation that includes rural communities. On every continent, the methods of physical and psychological violence to evict thousands of peasant communities have intensified. There is reason for concern that the legitimate interests in environmental protection and overcoming world hunger have in many cases been exploited by States to serve the private financial interests of agribusiness, banks and others at the expense of peasant communities.

76. States, the UN, its associated agencies and inter-governmental organizations are called upon to assume their responsibilities as States' authorities, and exercise their powers to serve human rights instead of business enterprises linked to large corporations that have converted agriculture, food, and even famine in large parts of the world into a business that maximizes the profits of a few, concentrating land and natural resources in the hands of a minority. Governments must meet their obligations as States by implementing human rights-based land and agrarian reforms that function for the majority and the common good, and are not at the service of groups of

concentrated capital perverting the function and fate of lands, territories, waters, forests and biodiversity.

### **XV Fishers**

77. Fisheries and aquaculture provide livelihoods and income, both directly and indirectly, for a significant share of the world's population. The vital contributions from fisheries and aquaculture however remain constrained by an array of problems including poor governance, weak fisheries management regimes, conflicts over the use of natural resources, the persistent use of poor fishery and aquaculture practices, a failure to incorporate the priorities and rights of small-scale fishing communities, and injustices relating to gender discrimination and child labor.

78. Recent attention to gender equity, child labour, fair trade and rights to decent work in the fishery sector point to the rising importance of human rights in this sector. Despite the widespread adoption of human rights principles over the last 20 years, however, progress of human rights in the fisheries has lagged behind other sectors. It has been overshadowed by concerns to clarify and limit fishing access and user rights to prevent ecological collapse. Therefore, there is still a big gap between the policies made at the global level and the actual practice on the ground as reflected in the lives of fisher communities.

79. The Conference calls upon States to ensure that the voices of all stakeholders are heard and represented in efforts to foster good governance for responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through for example the widespread implementation of the principles enshrined in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the 2012 Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, as well as of the provisions of the international guidelines currently under development for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries. The insecurity among fishers living in poverty can be most effectively addressed by social and political development that invokes the existing legal human rights framework. The customary rights of fishers and fishing communities to the coast and coastal resources should be protected.

### **XVI Workers' Rights**

80. Workers are often denied access to the basic rights covered in the ILO's Core Conventions, in particular the right to decent work and occupational safety, as well as the freedom of association and the right to bargain collectively. The use of temporary employment agencies has dramatically increased all over the world and employers often use temporary agencies in order to avoid their legal obligations and replace direct and permanent employment. This precarious work contributes to the erosion of workers' ability to exercise their rights, to join trade unions and to bargain collectively with their employers for decent work.

81. Governments should take the necessary measures to ensure that the rights of workers are protected, whether they are local or migrant workers. Migrant workers should be protected from xenophobia and discrimination in employment, at the workplace and in all social spheres.

## **XVII Migrant and Refugee Rights**

82. States have to guarantee and implement the human rights of migrants, refugees and displaced persons as enshrined in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ILO Conventions 97, 143, 181, 189, the Maritime Labour Convention of 2006 and the Refugee Convention (1951) and Protocol (1967). The Vienna+20 CSO Conference calls upon States to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and the ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Work. While the advances made since 1993 are acknowledged, there is a need to recognise the gaps in implementation, and the conditions (climate change, environmental disasters, economic and investment projects, land expropriations, political persecution, wars and occupations) which further increase the vulnerability of migrants and refugees. All asylum seekers and refugees have the right to protection.

83. All migrants and refugees should be able to exercise their rights without distinction of any kind (as to gender identity, race, sexual orientation, language, religion/conviction, political or other opinion, ethnic or social origin, nationality, age, economic position, property, marital status, birth or immigration status); be assured of respect for their cultural identity, and enabled to maintain their cultural links with their State of origin. In particular, governments are called upon to enact and implement legislation that enables migrant women and migrant children, regardless of status to access basic services including education; and to have recourse to the justice system and to protection against all forms of violence.

84. States need to ensure protection of the rights of all migrants and refugees including unaccompanied children, in transit and passage through borders, whether in regular travel or when caught in crisis situations or in distress. Migrants and refugees who experience rape, trauma or other forms of violence when in transit, have the right, irrespective of status, to be assisted by the State in receiving appropriate assistance and access to justice. States are asked to urgently end the criminalisation of migrants and refugees, to regularise those who are undocumented, and to stop the growing use of mass detention and expulsion, including violent border regimes (e.g Mexico-US and EU-Mediterranean). We also remind States of their responsibility to insist on a zero tolerance to racism and to effectively address the intense xenophobic attacks on migrants and refugees and the islamophobia towards people of Muslim origin.

85. Migrant workers and refugees shall enjoy treatment equal to that of nationals of the State of employment with respect to remuneration and other conditions of work, as well as in terms of employment, including the right to join trade unions and other associations. There must be strong controls over, and monitoring of, recruitment agencies. They shall also enjoy the same treatment in matters of social security, access to health and welfare granted to nationals, the portability of pensions, and paths to citizenship, guaranteed in the legislation of the State as well as in bilateral and multilateral treaties. States must ensure the elimination of slavery and forced labour, and enact specific legislation guaranteeing the rights of migrant domestic workers (who often work in slave like conditions) to ensure decent conditions of work and protection from abuse. Furthermore, states need to ensure effective implementation of standards and mechanisms to regulate the migrant labour recruitment industry.

86. States need to implement coherence in the post 2015 development agenda - ensuring economic, trade, investment and development policies that guarantee the human rights of people (food, shelter, education, health) and make migration a choice and not a necessity. States are asked to recognise the contributions of migrant and refugee communities to development in host countries and to facilitate their contributions to economic and human development, especially in countries of origin.

87. The Conference calls upon States to enact and implement national legislation to comply with the full range of provisions in international conventions that pertain to migrants and refugees; to guarantee the implementation of the outcomes of the UN High Level Dialogue on global migration governance in the context of the UN normative framework; and to institutionalize the participation of migrant and refugee organisations in future governance mechanisms.

### **XVIII Displacement**

88. Internal displacements persist, due to forced eviction, climate change, environmental factors, land grabbing, market forces, land and property speculation, development policies and projects, land reform, urbanisation, economic deprivation, persecution, multiple evictions, conflict, occupation and war. Human rights violations both cause and accompany these displacements in a world with one billion people still homeless and/or without adequate housing. The costs and consequences of forced eviction have mounted since 1993. Civil society organizations and human rights defenders have struggled to monitor forced evictions and see them adjudicated. Quantifying the actual losses, costs and damages that deepen poverty and lead to more displacement, slums and homelessness, is necessary for facing up to the true consequences of forced eviction and displacement and for providing adequate reparations. Within this context it is essential to take account of the disproportionate impact of displacement on women and children.

89. Already 20 years ago, States recognized forced eviction as a gross violation of human rights, in particular the human right to adequate housing. The bundle of rights violated by such practices reaches a scale that can constitute grave breaches prohibited in humanitarian and criminal law, including the push and pull factors of population transfer. Human rights norms increasingly oblige States to refrain from, prevent, prosecute and remedy such violations. Meanwhile, forced eviction and displacement epitomize protracted crises, necessitating global reform and transitional-justice processes that recognize and ensure reparation of victims, end impunity and pursue national reconciliation.

90. The Vienna+20 Conference calls upon States to ensure that adequate housing and alternatives to forced eviction and involuntary resettlement are integral to post-2015 social development goals, and to redouble efforts to implement existing national and international law and policy mechanisms and obligations to prevent and remedy forced eviction and displacement at the level of central and local authorities, as well as globally. Where legal and policy gaps exist, States must create these standards and mechanisms to ensure enforcement of the human right to adequate housing, including freedom from forced eviction and displacement.

## **XIX Rights of the child**

91. Despite making up around a quarter of the world's population and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) being the most ratified human rights treaty, 20 years after the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action children are still not respected as rights holders. The Vienna+20 CSO Conference calls for the universal ratification of the core child rights treaties - namely the CRC and its Optional Protocols, including its individual complaint procedure - by all UN member States and for measures to ensure comprehensive coordination and effective implementation of these standards. At the international level, given the range of mechanisms and initiatives taken on child rights by UN Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures who do not work specifically on child rights, it is essential to create a coordinating Child Rights Unit within the OHCHR.

92. Protection of children's rights and the prohibition of discrimination based on young age must be established as a cross-cutting concern for legislation, policy-making, implementation and monitoring that should also be reflected accordingly in child-friendly budgeting at the national level. Measures taken must be inclusive of all children, with particular attention being paid to the most marginalised and vulnerable groups of children. All States Parties must respect and implement the right of the child to have his or her best interests assessed and taken as a primary consideration (cf. CRC Committee's General Comment No. 14 (2013)). States need to address the child right to participation in all matters to their concern as an underlying challenge for implementation of all children's rights. Consequently, the post-2015 agenda should build on the rights and expertise of all children and take their views into account when considering next steps. States should ensure that children can access justice in a child-friendly way when their rights are violated, including through the establishment of independent children ombudsperson mechanisms in all countries.

## **XX Rights of older persons**

93. Population ageing is one of the most significant global trends in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and this sector of society is increasingly vulnerable to human rights violations. Although there is a continuing effort to mainstream older people's rights within existing human rights frameworks, it is evident that existing mechanisms are limited. There has been a call for a new international instrument, a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. CSOs and in particular International NGOs working in the field of ageing actively support this initiative which was also supported by the General Assembly Resolution 67/139 of 20 December, 2012. The Conference calls upon States and NGOs to provide inputs to the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing on issues referred to in said Resolution and support proposals for a legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons, based on the holistic approach in the work carried out in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women, and informed by the contributions from the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002.

## **XXI Sexual orientation**

94. Human rights are based on personal dignity, including the development of one's identity without discrimination. This includes the right to develop one's own sexual and gender identity and the right to form a family. Majoritarian preferences in these fields must not interfere with individual choices. States are asked to respect, protect and fulfill these rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons and to promote societies that further develop the free expression and exercise of identity. States should in particular protect such freedoms against dogmatic fundamentalism that suppresses and discriminates against people because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. States have to make sure that all persons can freely develop and exercise their sexual orientation and gender identity under the protection of the law.

## **XXII Persons with Disabilities**

95. The rights of disabled persons are recognized in a wide range of norms in the international human rights system. Nevertheless many disabled persons continue being separated, excluded and harassed. Discrimination, injustice and social inequality affect the lives of millions of disabled persons who are kept from accessing rehabilitation services, are unemployed and seeking employment in vain, are not properly attended by the education system, or confront enormous barriers that prevent them from developing their capacities, because they face limitations arising from city planning and architecture, transport and communication that are incoherent with the basic criteria of universal accessibility. In this context the Disability Convention was approved along with its Optional Protocol. Their objectives are to promote, protect and fully ensure all human rights and fundamental freedoms of disabled persons. The Vienna+20 CSO Conference calls upon the States to maximize efforts to guarantee for disabled persons a system promoting, protecting and realizing these rights in conditions of equality. These efforts have to include public policies on all levels of the State with the goal of ensuring to all disabled persons bigger opportunities to participate fully and effectively in political, economic, social, cultural and technological life.

## **XXIII Human Rights Learning**

96. Recalling that already 20 years ago the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action recommended that States ensure wide human rights education programs, the Vienna+20 CSO Conference highlights the imperative of integrating an ongoing process of human rights learning throughout the world to which the highest priority must be given. The Post-2015 development framework should be guided by women and men across communities worldwide. This can only be achieved through people learning and getting to know human rights as relevant to their daily lives, discovering how to differentiate symptoms from causes as a way to achieve full equality without discrimination. States are called upon to launch massive efforts that foster people's self empowerment so they can forcefully demand full realization and accountability empowered by their human rights learning.

97. All women, men, youth and children must learn, know, own, and be guided by the human rights framework as a powerful tool and strategy to participate as equals in the

decisions that determine the fate of their lives and to demand needed economic and social transformation. People have to move from charity to dignity, and to belonging with respect and trust in their communities. It is imperative that the Post 2015 agenda emphasizes the need for an ongoing process of learning human rights as a way of life the world over to complement and add the missing link to human rights education articulated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and achieve economic and social justice for all.

98. The human rights framework has to be center stage in all future activities. States and civil society should develop regional, national and community plans on human rights including national strategies for ongoing human rights learning. Resources must be allocated to increase and integrate such learning within government structures, in schools, in work places, in cultural and religious institutions. In the years to come, there is a need for lifelong human rights learning for both rights holders and duty bearers. The struggle for human rights and its realization for humanity must be the overarching goal.

#### **XXIV Conclusion**

99. The First World Conference on Human Rights took place in Tehran 1968. The Second World Conference was held in Vienna 1993, 25 years later. After another 25 years in 2018 the time will have come for a Third World Conference addressing issues of worldwide concern, including those raised in this Declaration. For this matter the Vienna+20 CSO Conference calls for a Third World Conference on Human Rights in 2018 that will:

- build upon the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993,
- respond to the concerns raised in the current declaration,
- put in place an effective system for holding third parties, such as the private corporate sector, to account for human rights violations,
- operationalize the primacy of human rights and guarantee the full realization of human rights for all.

100. The demands made in this Vienna+20 CSO Declaration will be followed up by various CSOs involved in the Conference. The results of monitoring the implementation of the recommendations and requests made in this Declaration should serve as a useful input to the Third World Conference envisaged in five years from now.

101. The Conference discussed this Declaration based on months of extensive prior consultation and negotiation in various preparatory groups on the different parts. The Declaration was adopted with broad support, with diverse views on some points. The process leading to this Declaration brought together people of CSOs from a wide range of fields. They are united in their commitment to reclaim the primacy of human rights in times of crises. The process has deepened their unity to further cooperation and solidarity in working towards an empowered and renewed human rights regime globally.