

*Association Network of Afrodescendant Women from  
Latin America, the Caribbean and the Diaspora*



**ARMAAD**

(for its acronym in Spanish)

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**INFORMATIVE BULLETIN**

**1st. Semester 2017**







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## *Presentation*

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We share this publication with the most outstanding information on the activities and Processes that we are leading, energizing and contributing in the region, in favor of building more just, equitable and equal societies, where hopefully in the near future, racism, discrimination and all kinds of violence, have been left behind as a Chapter shameful, but overcome in the history of humanity.

Now, on the threshold of 25 years of experience, this space has grown, Diversified and strengthened. We participated in about 450 Afro-descendant women individually and on behalf of organizations active in 30 countries in Africa, Latin America, Spanish Caribbean, English Caribbean, French Caribbean and Dutch Caribbean; Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Diaspora in Europe, Diaspora in the United States, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

With the efforts and results of our processes of dialogue, dialogue and with the experience and findings that the Observatory is giving us regarding the fulfillment of our Political Platform facing the International Decade for Afrodescendants: Recognition, Justice and Development 2015-2024, we celebrate these first 25 years with multiplied determination and commitment:

**The Decade moves forward and so do we!**





## International Seminar *We are only Guests on Earth...*

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Held from January 3 to 5 in the city of Salta, Argentina, with the aim of recognizing the diverse cultures and religions of Abia Yala and Latin America and learning about their ways of living and their eco-spiritualities, in line with the challenges posed By the pressing problem of the ecological crisis and the "Care of the common house" raised by Pope Francisco in his encyclical Laudato Si ' Of May 2015.

The papal encyclical refers to the fact that "most inhabitants of the planet declare themselves to be believers, and this should cause religions to enter into a dialogue between them, oriented towards the care of nature, the defense of the poor, Building networks of respect and fraternity ". For this reason, an intercultural and interreligious dialogue is necessary for a new ecological ethic.

In addition, this seminar, as its name implies, included an important tribute to the leadership of Honduras Berta Cáceres (1971 - 2016), defender of Human Rights, Women's Rights, who claimed social struggles and denunciation for protection Of the territory inhabited by marginalized, indigenous and peasant communities.

Representing the our Network, participated the national link in Colombia, Aura Dalia Caicedo, She gave the lecture "Religious manifestations from Afro-Colombian Spirituality". Two members of the organization of Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo, Argentina, who also shared some of the experiences they personally shared with Berta

Caceres, supported each other, sharing joys and sorrows, also narrated a little about everything that has meant for them the struggle they faced more than 40 years ago.

There were reflections that, from the different churches present and their spiritualities, questioned, stimulated and warned about the care of the environment, ecology, natural resources, Mother Earth and the Universe, among others. It was interesting how the respect for spiritualities, particularly those of ethnic groups, their traditional religions, the rescue initiatives of these and how they are always in harmony with the sacred environment, was rethought.





## Dialogue Women in the Move: Rights and New Directions

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The Dialogue on Women in Movement was held in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from January 25 to 28, 2017, as part of the Contemporary Feminisms Project. In representation of ARMAAD participated Paola Yañez Inofuentes, Andean Region Sub-Coordinator; Invited as provocative for the discussion, talking about the conservative tendencies, the lack of resources for the agendas of the women and the Political Platform of the afro-descendant leaders of the Americas and the Caribbean.

This Dialogue Women in Movement: Rights and New Directions was developed in coordination with organizations, networks, groups and new feminist initiatives involving Brazilian activists and other Latin American countries. Participants included black, indigenous, LBT, youth, domestic workers, students, high school, bloggers, street women activists, cyber activists, community leaders; As well as experts in Communication, Mobility, public managers, academics, intellectuals and artists.

It was developed in the political context of the feminist struggle for democracy and the rights of women in Brazil and Latin America, to reflect together on the conservative wave that threatens the rights; With the idea of developing a feminist action agenda that will serve as the basis for the following project activity: a call for funding of feminist action in Brazil.

The event was organized by Fondo Elas, a civil society organization founded in 2001, which mobilizes resources in Brazil and abroad to invest in women's rights in areas such as economic independence, human rights advocacy, Access to education, prevention of violence against women, health of women, among others.

Information and photographs by Paola Yañez





## ARMAAD in Preparatory consultations and Civil Society Forum towards CSW61

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In the Consultation and Forum prior to CSW61, more than fifty women from civil society groups and organizations confirmed their presence at the NGO Forum from 6 to 9 February in Panama City. The Civil Society Declaration was presented to the ministers and authorities of the national mechanisms for the advancement of women during the Regional Consultation for CSW61, convened for 7 and 8 February.

These events include the Nicaraguan Dorotea Wilson, General Coordinator of ARMAAD, the Bolivian Paola Yañez, coordinator of the Sub-Andean Region and member of the Advisory Group of UN Women; The Dominican Sergia Galvan (founder of the Network), one of the founders of the Network; And Mireya Peart, National Network of the Afro Network in Panama.

The NGO Committee of CSW for Latin America and the Caribbean (CoNGO CSW LAC) launched a consultation with feminist and women's organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean to express their views, information and proposals on the main theme of the next meeting Of the Commission for the Status of Women # CSW61: "The Economic Empowerment of Women in the Changing World of Work."

For the Afro Women Network, participating in this event held on February 6 in Panama City, is very important to influence the inclusion of commitments that guarantee specific actions to reduce the gaps of exclusion and social inequality faced by Afro-descendant women And indigenous peoples of the region and that limit our development and human rights.

This Consultation seeks to provide information on the participation of women in the formal, independent and / or informal labor market, their trade union representation, which occupations concentrate more women, the wage gap between women and men, the characteristics of maternity leave and Paternity and child care services available.

It also explores the barriers that prevent women from entering employment, the role of violence against women and girls, and discriminatory practices against women. Finally, the questionnaire asks for data on existing measures or policies that have succeeded in improving the participation and status of women in employment.

Photo by Paola Yañez Inofuentes





BOSTON PAN AFRICAN FORUM  
[www.bpaf.org](http://www.bpaf.org)

**PAN AFRICANISM IN THE AGE OF TRUMP:  
Strategies for Survival in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**



A Community Forum and Discussion  
Presented by Boston Pan African Forum (BPAF)

Moderator: Dr. Pearl Robinson, Tufts University

Panelists will Include:

Dr. Jemadari Kamara, (Professor, UMass/Boston, Director  
Center for African, Caribbean & Community Development)

Ms. Mari Gashaw (Cambridge Black Lives Matter)

Mr. Al'Amin Cissi (Teacher/BPS & Student Activist of Wheelock College)

Ms. Yvette Modestín (Founder & Director of Encuentro Diaspora Afro &  
Diaspora Regional Coordinator for Network of Afrodescendant Women  
from Latin America, the Caribbean and the Diaspora)

**Saturday, February 4, 2017 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM**

Dudley Library Auditorium, 65 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA

Information by Yvette Modestín





## Political Platform for Afro-descendant Leaders Socializes at Spelman College in Atlanta

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Yvette Modestin, Coordinator of the Afro-American Diaspora Network in the United States, presented this February 10 at the Spelman College in Atlanta, the Political Platform of the Afro-Descendant Leaders of the Americas and the Caribbean, in the face of the International Decade for Women And Afro-descendants.

This is part of a series called "Thinking Deep, Speaking Up and Acting", which is part of the Toni Cade Bambara Chair at the Spelman College Women's Research and Resources Center. Modestin opened the series with the presentation "Women Warriors of the African Diaspora". She highlighted the journey of Afro-descendant women in Latin America and Caribbean.

The event also provided the opportunity to share the Political Platform of the Afro-descendant leaders of the Americas and the Caribbean. It addressed how students and teachers in contact with the community of black and African women, experience differently access to education, sexuality and land.

Several of the participants expressed their desire to join the Network of Afrodescendant Women and and the urgency of continue building a common agenda for Afro-descendant women in the Americas.

Photograph by Yvette Modestin.



## Political training school for Afro-Ecuadorian women is advancing

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During the week, from March 16 to 19, 2017, the fourth module of the School of Political Training and Leadership for Afro-Ecuadorian Women, called "Political Formation, Incidence and Social Management", will be held.

This module was given by Dr. Roxana Arroyo, of Costa Rican nationality, specialist in Human Rights and Human Rights of women. Present professor of the Institute of High National Studies – IAEN (acronym in Spanish).

The training process took place at the Nuevos Horizontes Campus of the Luis Vargas Torres University, city of Esmeraldas, followed by field visits. We appreciate the image and information of Sonia Viveros, national link of ARMAAD in Ecuador: *Black Women of Ecuador: We advance, we learn and we professionalize*. Congratulations!

Information by Sonia Viveros



## Network of Afrodescendant Women launches Campaign for the National Census in Nicaragua

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Under the slogan "As Afro-descendants and proudly Nicaraguans, we want the census to tell us!", Expresses the importance of including the ethnic-racial variable and guaranteeing the participation of the Afro-descendant population (Creole and Garífuna) of Nicaragua in the next census process To be held in the country.

The last National Census of Population and Housing was held in Nicaragua in 2005. For this year in which a new Census is planned, we want to include in the questionnaire and in the census forms and instruments, the question to which people Indigenous or ethnic group? And that in the options of answer specify the two categories afrodescendientes: Creole and Garífuna. This, so that the information allows to obtain updated and disaggregated data by ethnic identity, geographical location, sex / gender and age.

We believe that in order for the collection of data during the census to be real and pertinent, the local population must be involved, particularly the Afro-Nicaraguan Creole and Garífuna populations, in order to be officially visible. For this reason, we are launching the informative campaign called: "Strengthening Afro-descendant Identity and Visibility in the 2017 National Census". Launching activities were carried out and information days were being held in the Autonomous Regions of the North and South Caribbean Coast and in the area of the Pacific through a communicational deployment.

This campaign reaffirms the importance of including the ethnic-racial variable and ensure the participation of the Afro-descendant population in the National Census. It has audiovisual products: 4 video spots (2 in Spanish and 2 in English-Creole), two radial cartoons (1 in Spanish and 1 in English-Creole), which are being broadcast on radio stations and television channels with coverage in The RACCN and in the RACCS, as well as in means of national coverage. There are also promotional materials such as t-shirts, bracelets, stickers, posters, blankets and banners.





## Presentation of research on Afro-Argentine women

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This research used theater and art as methodology, by the group "All in Sepia - Civil Association of Afro-descendant Women in Argentina", on the family, social and labor reality of Afro-descendant women in the City of Buenos Aires, to know data Subjective and objective. It was done with Women of African Descent Villegas, La Matanza. The calendar of presentations is as follows:

### First Meeting (May 8)

Topics covered in the First Meeting: The Slave trade and racism, Being a black woman in Argentina.

Video of the topics covered in the First Meeting: <https://youtu.be/QtnzQwVEjqU>

### Second Meeting (May 15)

"Certify our existence" Everything in Sepia - Civil Association of Afro-descendant Women in Argentina and Theater in Sepia with Women of African Descent Villegas, La Matanza.

Topic: Violence against black women. Video of the Meeting: <https://youtu.be/wxB5LTj9FGg>

### Third Meeting (June 1)

Work. North American Movie Exhibition (2011) "Maids and Ladies"

It was considered to work with this film since it deals with black women in the domestic service and most of Villegas' companions work in the domestic service. On that basis the investigation was directed.

Video of the Third Meeting: <https://youtu.be/337FqN1vVV0>

### Fourth Encounter (July 10)

Brainstorm. Presentation of the videos of the three previous Meetings and Analysis of the topics that have emerged from the Process for finding solutions and asking the questions they would like to ask other Afro women. Video of the themes of the Fourth Meeting: <https://youtu.be/0qpVMsbD2FA>

### Sixth Meeting

Analysis of the questions of the Questionnaire.

Analysis video: <https://youtu.be/DcADciJOkXU> Information and photography by Alejandra Egido







## Campaign facing the Census in Chile

**CENSO 2017**

**SÚMATE A ESTA CAMPAÑA DE INCLUSIÓN, PORQUE EN ESTE CENSO 2017 TODAS Y TODOS CONTAMOS!!!!**

**PASOS A SEGUIR:**

- 1 Este 19 de abril espera al censista en tu hogar.
- 2 Cuando llegues a la pregunta 16 que consulta si perteneces algún pueblo originario, responde SI (es la forma en que pasarás a la siguiente pregunta)
- 3 Cuando te nombren los 9 pueblos originarios, responde **OTROS**.
- 4 Rellena la variable con **AFRODESCENDIENTE** (es importante que respondas así para después solicitar la segregación de los datos).

PARTICIPA Y SE PARTE DE ESTA CAMPAÑA POR EL RECONOCIMIENTO EN LAS ENCUESTAS DEL PUEBLO AFRO EN CHILE  
**#Afroidentificate !!!!**  
Consultas a: [luandacolectivademujeeres.arica@gmail.com](mailto:luandacolectivademujeeres.arica@gmail.com)

**LUANDA**  
Mujeres Afrodescendientes Arica-Chile

From the Political Platform of Afro-Descendant Leaders of the Americas and the Caribbean, Afro-Chilean leadership has prioritized **Axis 8: Visibility of Afro-descendant Population in National Censuses and Statistics**.

For this reason, they have developed an information campaign, so that the Afro-Chilean population is interested and involved in the process and assumes its identity, given that through census and national statistics with indicators disaggregated by ethnicity, sex and age, it is possible to know the situation of the population Afro-descendant.

The campaign also sought to ensure that the question of ethnic self-identification was recorded in the interview process, and that the response was recorded. Knowing that the national census is the main source of information on the life situation of the population of the localities and municipalities of the country and it serves to formulate public policies at the national, regional and municipal levels. In addition, the results serve to make decisions about how, when and in what amount to allocate resources of all kinds and social investment.

However, on April 19, the national census was conducted, which sought to overcome the errors incurred during the 2012 census (which detracted from the methodological value of this instrument), but the Afro-descendant population was excluded from the process, Having been requested by the Afro-American organizations of Arica, the INE categorically refused to include within this statistical measurement the question about ethnic belonging to the Afro-descendant category, discriminating and making this population invisible.





## ARMAAD joins space of articulation in Latin America and the Caribbean

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The Network of Afrodescendant Women from Latin American, the Caribbean and Diaspora now formally integrates a space of Articulation of National Associations and Networks of NGOs of Latin America and the Caribbean. ([MESA](#)) On 23 and 24 April 2017, ARMAAD participates as a full member, in the General Assembly and the workshop of this MESA, with place in Mexico City.

Our Network will also participate in the Civil Society Consultation on April 25, at framework of the [1st Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#), from 26 to 28 April. ARMAAD joins the 17 National Associations and five Regional NGO Networks that have been part of this articulation space since 2006.

This day of previous events corresponds to an exercise of exchange of information, assessment and definition of principles, criteria and modalities of participation of the various expressions of civil society, in the progress and fulfillment of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, in the Framework of the ECLAC Regional Forums.

The MESA seeks to formulate an agenda of common responses to the challenges of Latin America and the Caribbean, so that NGOs meet and dialogue with other political, governmental and non-governmental, social and academic actors; Among other objectives, to support the formulation of alternatives for human and sustainable development, including equity and social justice, with special attention to gender, race and ethnicity, and environmental balance for present and future generations; That fight for a sustainable environment in particular against the global warming of the planet.





## Network of Afrodescendant Women strengthens participation capacity in ECLAC regional forums

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On April 24 in Mexico City, the Workshop on principles, criteria and modalities of civil society participation is held in the ECLAC Regional Forums; Organized by MESA, an space of articulation of national associations and networks of NGOs in Latin America and the Caribbean, of which ARMAAD is a member.

During the workshop, Luz Elena Baños Rivas, General Director of Relations with Civil Society Organizations ([DGVOS](#)) was present at the levels of information, dialogue, consultation, participation and analysis, ascribed To the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the federal government of Mexico; Who among other things \* indicated "(...) to work Agenda 2030 from a regional perspective, in the forum of this 25 do a work of support not to lose the effort of civil society to focus on how you want to participate In the implementation of the Agenda ".

As part of this workshop, it is placed in the debate and collective reflection that in all ECLAC forums and spaces, there must be a critical-purpose participation of the interesting parties. In that sense, the construction of participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in ECLAC is a permanent process, which must be pushed constantly, with priority in field demarcation, and community-based organizations.







## ARMAAD at Civil Society Meeting and High Level Forum on Sustainable Development

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The Afro Women Network was present at the Meeting with Civil Society of Latin America and the Caribbean held in Mexico City (April 25), and was accredited to participate in the Forum of Latin American Countries and The Caribbean on Sustainable Development (26-28 April), with the objective of integrating an articulating group of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), establishing the bases of a mechanism of participation for the regional implementation of Agenda 2030.

The associations and networks of organizations, with literature and theoretical creation around the Sustainable Development Objectives (ODS) and Agenda 2030, we are informing and explaining what we are doing, this is known as citizen diplomacy; Contributing to democratize participation in these processes and in other spaces of the United Nations System such as ECOSOC, Groups, Principals and other stakeholders.

ECLAC has suggested moving forward with a new paradigm in the development and structural changes model, considering the participation of the different social sectors, defining means of implementation, challenges of the member states with disaggregations by age, gender and ethnicity. In this line, the changes and trends to be considered in the implementation strategy must be taken into account, in accordance with the social, cultural, political and economic phenomena and situations in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.







As a result of the Meeting, a Statement from Organizations and Feminist Networks was drawn up and an OSC Statement to the Forum.

In addition, it emphasizes the approach, dialogue and collective reflections about the necessary questions and clarifications, in accordance with the principles, criteria and mechanisms that must be assumed by ECLAC for the participation of CSOs in the Annual Regional Follow-up Forum to Agenda 2030 For Sustainable Development:

- Identify what mechanisms or modalities of participation are proposed for the participation of CSOs, both in the day dedicated to the consultation, as well as in formal spaces and parallel events.
- Define the messages that are intended to be sent to governments for the implementation of Agenda 2030: Integrality, Multilateralism, Alliances, Indicators, Financial and non-financial means, multi-stakeholder participation mechanisms, and so on.
- Ask governments how the indivisibility of ODSs can be applied in policymaking and how the three domains of governance will be integrated into the implementation of Agenda 2030.
- The monitoring of civil society can have different modalities, either through the elaboration and presentation of reports, or through dialogues, dialogues and advocacy with other actors.
- It is important to identify or map participation mechanisms for advocacy by country and by region.



## Campaign for recognition and strengthening Of the Afro-descendant Identity in Peru

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This awareness campaign started in 2016, has been aimed at the participation of society. To participate is democracy, to participate is communication, while to be able to communicate something it is necessary to have solid arguments and it is there where our work aims, to give to the society of solid arguments to look at the ethnicity from a approach of rights and not like a separatist pretense or Ethnocentric.

The next National and Housing Census will be held in Peru in September and the campaign is strengthening Afro-Peruvian self-identification, so that statistical data will effectively become political instruments for the defense and demand of human rights and citizens and Provide information to properly guide National Development policies, plans and programs, as well as determine the most urgent needs of the population.

We are at the beginning of a process that has to happen in the public presentation of the

socioeconomic reality of the peoples who have contributed and contributed to the construction of our Country.

For Afro-Peruvians this process is a challenge that presents us with the history and the opportunity to demonstrate our capacity for articulation, our organizational strengths, our alliances and commitments and the moment for the state to recognize that pending slope that has to do With the recognition of our contribution to the configuration of the country in its cultural diversity and in the heroic acts hidden in our official history.

According to Cecilia Ramírez, coordinator of the Andean sub region of the Network, "The approach of a census that includes the ethnic variable after 77 years, also demands to strengthen our communication bridges and fine-tune our social mobilization strategies to join together With our sisters and brothers Indigenous, Andean Amazonian design of a common strategy of great encouragement.



## Workshop to strengthen the impact of civil society before the OAS

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The Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women, in coordination with the International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights, organized the Workshop on the Impact of Civil Society on the Organization of American States (OAS) and its various bodies, Which was given by the Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights from 3 to 5 May, in the city of Heredia, Costa Rica.

Among the objectives of the workshop was to publicize the content of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance, adopted by the General Assembly of the OAS in Antigua Guatemala in June 2013.

In addition, it was hoped to provide a general overview of the OAS and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as well as in the process of approving international conventions and at the same time generate a political advocacy strategy for significant participation in The 47th General Assembly.

This type of event contributes to the installation and strengthening of capacities and competencies in Afro-descendant Latin American leaders and to generate the basis of a strategy of Incidence of Central American civil society with respect to the Universal Human Rights System and in particular in the OAS and The Committee that monitors the Convention.



Photographs by Teresa Mojica and Beatriz Amaro







## Meetings-Workshop for coordination and monitoring of the Observatory

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These meetings were held from May 26 to 28 in Managua, Nicaragua; And June 1 in Mexico City, with the following objectives: To monitor and evaluate the operation of the Observatory and the team in the countries of Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Uruguay; Provide an induction to country officials from Belize, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic, for integration into the Observatory Team; And Resume and strengthen agreements, responsibilities and commitments for the continuity of the Observatory in each country.

Participants: Dorotea Wilson (General Coordinator), Vicenta Camusso and Lourdes Martínez (Uruguay), Aura Dalia Caicedo and Audes Jiménez (Colombia), Mireya Peart and Hermelinda Rodríguez (Panama), Ingrid Lambert (Costa Rica), Bertha Arzu and Nedelka Lacayo Honduras), Altagracia Balcacer (Dominican Republic), Phyllis Cayetano (Belize), Gloria Nuñez (Guatemala), Cecilia Ramírez (Peru), Karen Salomon And Perla Wilson (Nicaragua), Sonia Viveros (Ecuador), Paola Yañez (Bolivia), Gisela Arandía (Cuba), Teresa Mojica and Malinali Vásquez (Mexico) and Joanna Wetherborn (Observatory Team Coordinator).

Both activities shared the main political and operational criteria taken into account for the management of the Observatory, including: recommendations and good practices for safe navigation, privacy, anonymity and computer security to avoid risks and vulnerabilities as users of new information and communication technologies And in the handling and use of various equipment and devices.

The priorities of Axis by country and the situation of the countries vis-à-vis the Observatory were socialized. It was hoped that all the countries represented in the Meeting-workshop would be formally integrated. However, in the case of Belize, there is a limitation that the online tool, manual and all materials are only in Spanish. In the case of Cuba, the main limitation is that the Internet service can not be freely accessed. And in the Dominican Republic, it would be necessary to make the pertinent consultations on if and how to register information in the Observatory, taking into account that in the context of the country there is no constitutional or official recognition of the afrodescendence.

In the case of the Southern Cone, Lourdes Martínez Betervide, besides being responsible for managing the Observatory with data from Uruguay, has the materials and access data to replicate the workshop with information from Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil. She will make a process of reply with the partners of those countries.







## Find next, the Axes of the Political Platform prioritized by each country

=Countries that started in 2016

=Countries that started in 2017

=Countries that could start in 2017

=Countries to be confirmed

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Country	Axes prioritized
<b>Argentina</b>	VIII. Visibility in National Census and Statistics IX. Protection and opportunities for children, adolescents and youth Afrodescendants XIII. It is necessary to protect migrants
<b>Belize</b>	V. Education for all and all and Quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care XI. Access to Natural and Economic Resources X. It is urgent to protect the environment
<b>Bolivia</b>	I. Fighting Racism Is Everyone's Responsibility III. We Want to Decide Our Future V. Education for all and all and Quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care XI. Access to Natural and Economic Resources XVI. We Want Access to Justice
<b>Brazil</b>	I. Combating racism is the responsibility of all II. We want a dignified life without poverty III. We want to decide our future IV. Our civil rights are Human Rights V. Education for all and all and quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care VII. No more violence towards Afro-descendant women IX. Protection and opportunities for children, adolescents and youth Afrodescendants X. It is urgent to protect the environment XI. Access to natural and economic resources XVI. We want access to justice XVII. They must guarantee our citizen security
<b>Chile</b>	VIII. Visibility in National Census and Statistics IX. Protection and opportunities for children, adolescents and youth Afrodescendants XIII. It is necessary to protect migrants
<b>Colombia</b>	II. We want a dignified life, without poverty VIII. Visibility in National Census and Statistics
<b>Costa Rica</b>	IV. Our civil rights are human rights VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care IX. Protection and opportunities for children, adolescents and young Afrodescendants
<b>Cuba</b>	V. Education for all and all and Quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care X. It is urgent to protect the environment XI. Access to Natural and Economic Resources
<b>Diaspora (USA)</b>	I. Fighting Racism Is Everyone's Responsibility VII. No more violence towards Afro-descendant women IX. Protection and opportunities for children, adolescents and youth Afrodescendants
<b>Ecuador</b>	I. Combating racism is the responsibility of everyone VII. No more violence towards Afro-descendant women IX. Protection and opportunities for children, adolescents and young Afrodescendants





<b>Guatemala</b>	V. Education for all and all and quality VI. We need comprehensive, sexual and reproductive health care VII. No more violence towards Afrodescendant women
<b>Haití</b>	V. Education for all and all and Quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care X. It is urgent to protect the environment XI. Access to Natural and Economic Resources
<b>Honduras</b>	IV. Our civil rights are human rights VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care VII. No more violence towards Afro-descendant women
<b>México</b>	IV. Our civil rights are Human Rights V. Education for all and all and Quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care VIII. Visibility in National Census and Statistics XIV. To the rescue and recognition of our Heritage
<b>Nicaragua</b>	V. Education for all and all of quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care VIII. Visibility in National Census and Statistics XI. Access to Natural and Economic Resources
<b>Panama</b>	I. Combating racism is the responsibility of all II. We want a dignified life, without poverty III. We want to decide our future V. Education for all and all and quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care VII. No more violence towards Afro-descendant women IX. Protection and opportunities for children, adolescents and youth Afrodescendants X. It is urgent to protect the environment
<b>Paraguay</b>	VIII. Visibility in National Census and Statistics IX. Protection and opportunities for children, adolescents and youth Afrodescendants XIII. It is necessary to protect migrants
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	V. Education for all and all and Quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care X. It is urgent to protect the environment XI. Access to Natural and Economic Resources
<b>Peru</b>	I. Combating Racism is the responsibility of everyone V. Education for all and all and Quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care VIII. Visibility in National Census and Statistics IX. Protection and Opportunities for Children Adolescence and Youth Afrodescendants
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	V. Education for all and all and Quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care XI. Access to Natural and Economic Resources X. It is urgent to protect the environment
<b>Uruguay</b>	III. We want to decide our future IV. Our civil rights are Human Rights V. Education for all and all and quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care
<b>Venezuela</b>	I. Combating racism is the responsibility of all II. We want a dignified life without poverty V. Education for all and all and Quality VI. We Need Integral, Sexual and Reproductive Health Care





## ARMAAD accompanies the struggle of the Afro-Colombian people

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*The Network of Afrodescendant Women from Latin American, the Caribbean and Diaspora meet at Managua, Nicaragua, accompanies the Afro-Colombian people in their just struggle against the systemic violation of the human rights of Afro-descendant communities in Buenaventura and Chocó.*

*We are alarmed that in the midst of a peace process, which has generated so much national and international expectations, new and repeated expressions of violence, racism and discrimination, exerted by the government and paramilitary groups against historically excluded populations are evident.*

*We are concerned about the living conditions of girls, boys, young people, women and men who are the population of these territories and the decisive workforce of that region used for the benefit of transnational corporations and national capital are the fundamental victims of Expropriation and eviction.*

*We recognize and support emerging activism in the face of government repression, paramilitary groups and foreign capital, which has motivated their just peaceful social mobilization in the exercise of their citizenship to demand the immediate and effective attention of the authorities.*

*We demand that the government of Colombia comply with the 2016 civic pact and Implementation of ethnic affairs within the framework of the peace agreement.*

*We urge the international community to influence a way out of this conflict. Afro-descendant women of the continent will maintain vigilant.*

*May 27 of 2017.*



## Afro-descendant women demand Integral Health Care

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On May 28, the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women Commemorates Women's Day of Action for Women's Health. Through our Political Platform, Afro-descendant women of the continent demand that our states and governments develop programs to guarantee the integral, sexual and reproductive health of Afro-descendant women; Respect for their rights and sexual and reproductive autonomy; Respect for the practices of Afro-descendant traditional medicine; And through the generation of statistics disaggregated by ethnicity and race in the health system.

### **In this subject, we have five concrete demands:**

1. That States develop programs to protect the integral, sexual and reproductive health of Afro-descendant women, as well as to promote respect for their sexual and reproductive rights.
2. That States improve coverage and access to health for all Afro-descendant women, through quality comprehensive services, as well as ensuring ethnic, racial and gender criteria in health plans. We demand respect and incorporation into the national health system, practices and knowledge of Afro-descendant traditional medicine and be accessible to those who request it.
3. That Ministries of Health and Health Surveys generate statistics disaggregated by ethnicity-race, as an instrument for diagnosing the situation of Afro-descendant populations, especially women.
4. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) should contribute to the implementation of methodologies for the generation of ethnic-racial health statistics in order to make the situation and condition of Health of women of African descent.
5. That States implement an equitable social security system and without ethnic-racial discrimination and gender, which guarantees the rights of Afro-descendant workers and ensure that employers comply with their obligations.







## Reviewing indicators for implementation of the Montevideo Consensus



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We participated in the second Workshop to review progress in the preparation of the proposal for indicators for the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, held in Mexico City, on May 30 and 31, with the objective of Review Indicators Metadata and Refine the proposal for Indicators for the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus (MC) arising from the III Regional Meeting of the Board of Directors (October-2016).

The working group of country delegations, feminist networks and other civil society organizations (Network of Afrodescendant Women, Neighbors, HILGA, IPPF, Continental Youth Alliance, ALAPO, Women's Network for Health, RESURJ IPAS-Nicaragua), reached important agreements on indicators and metadata for each of the Consensus Chapters, for approval at the III Regional Conference on Population and Development, Will be held in November in El Salvador.

The metadata are, at a minimum, the necessary definitions, indications, sources and procedures (including formulas or algorithms in their final format, when possible) for the calculation of the indicators for the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development Comparable way in time and between countries. They should be synthetic and precise and indicate possible difficulties in measuring and are intended to provide countries with some methodological guidelines that allow them to calculate the indicators in a similar way so that they can be comparable.

This meeting, co-ordinated by ECLAC-CELADE (specialized statistics organization) and UNFPA for Latin America and the Caribbean, had at least two main characteristics: the presence of technical staff from institutions responsible for producing statistical information that had not Meetings, and the high degree of receptiveness to the proposals made by the civil society networks present in the meeting.





One of the main concerns is the harmonization of systems for the production of statistical information, especially in relation to the measurement of poverty and resources, including the integration with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The need to ensure the comprehensiveness, mainstreaming and economics of indicators was emphasized; As well as in the agreement to take literally the indicators that come from the SDG, such as goal 17.18, which establishes "By 2020 (...) significantly increase Page | The availability of timely, reliable and high-quality data broken down by income group, gender, age, race, ethnic origin, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other relevant characteristics in national contexts."

From the Afro Network suggestions were made to:

***Chapter H (Indigenous people: interculturality and rights)***

-In those countries where Afro-descendants are recognized as Peoples, this chapter and its indicators also apply to them

- The ethnic categories used should be representative of self-identification, recognizing the different forms of self-empowerment of peoples and communities. This is because when the options in the instruments or surveys are closed or limited, it does not really give the option and creates risk of minorization of the indigenous and Afro-descendant populations. The criteria for defining identity should not be considered as the only elements of language, dress or physical features, since Identity involves cosmovision, spirituality, the proper forms of organization and resolution of conflicts, and in general everything related to the daily life.

**Chapter I (Afro-descendants: rights and combating racism and racial discrimination):**

- Include the reference of the International Decade for Afrodescendants 2015-2024

- In the notes of all the indicators, add the reference to Resolution 68/237 of the United Nations General Assembly; The reports and recommendations of the main mechanisms for the follow-up of these issues within the United Nations system are: the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD); Of the Working Group of Experts on Afro-descendants; And of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

- Public expenditure on actions aimed at guaranteeing the rights of the Afro-descendant population must be measured; And (ii) denominator: total public expenditure.

- It is important that countries that may from now on incorporate ethnic-racial disaggregation, including specifically the Afro-descendant category (and their self-nominations), do so as not to continue accumulating structural debt of visibility for their Afro-descendant population,

The results of these censuses and statistics guide public policies and public investment to overcome the inequality gaps that historically have led to the exclusion of black and Afro-descendant populations.

- The full participation of Afro-descendant populations in the production of official statistics must be at all stages, from the design of the instruments to the evaluation of implementation, not only for the Afro-descendant population to be surveyed and surveyed, Can decide on the processes for the collection and processing of this data.





-Although in many countries of the region there are no specific laws or regulations that guarantee participation quotas and representation of Afrodescendants, their existence or absence should begin to register in all reports.

Some operative agreements were defined for the following process. Such as:

- In the case of the proposed indicators for the MC monitoring that have been taken from the indicators for the monitoring of the SDG, the official metadata is used without any change, except for those exceptions in which the OSD indicator has been adapted and modified.

-The tab to be used for the meta data, will include a new box to place all connections with the sources of the indicator to be taken into account (MC, SDG, regional conferences of women, etc.)

-Incorporate the inputs according to the criteria mentioned.

-In the specific cases of incorporation, changes or suppression of indicators that Were agreed in plenary:

- a Voluntary termination of pregnancy (Uruguay proposal)
- b Treatment of the group of 10 to 14 years; And
- c SDG indicator 5.3.1 on "child union" and "precocious" is incorporated from the group of 20-24 years.

-Complete in each tab the reference to the priority measures and indicators with which the indicator is linked throughout all the chapters, to recover principles of integrality, transversality and economy of indicators.





## Conversation on the reality and challenges of Afro-Peruvian women

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Under the name "Afrodescendant Woman: Realities and Challenges in the Peruvian Context", it developed as a space for reflection on the condition of being a woman and Afro-descendant, black, samba, mulatto or brunette in the country. Its development was carried out by Giovanna Sofia Carrillo Zegarra (journalist and activist), Ysabel Correa Salazar (journalist, singer, activist and rastafarih) and Andrea Ortiz (afrofeminist and activist), under the context of Afro-Peruvian Culture Month.

It was discussed that the struggles of Afro-descendant women must start from assuming them and not silencing them. Under the assumption that they are not hypersensitive women who are seeking to be protagonists of situations of racism and sexism. It is not a question of victimization, but of identifying persistent racist insults, actions and mentalities in peruvian society. It is to advance and be Capable of responding to and punishing expressions such as "my black woman", "the black woman who is beautiful and attractive", as expressions of sexual harassment in the streets and hypersexualization of the bodies of black women as if they were not worthy of respect and recognition for their contributions and not just for their appearance.

It is a matter of making visible in every possible space and showing precisely those contributions to the construction of the country, demystifying macho, paternalistic and capitalist prejudices in which the social conceptions derived from pigmentocracy (classification based on the color of the skin), must Reconfigure itself and implant new spaces and public policies that allow to advance in the self-awareness and self-identification of the Afro-Peruanity.

"If society is still established in an order of merely white, homophobic and non-secular purchasing power, our struggles will be slow and blocked ... The Western look and cosmovision with lack of Africanness make us weak and easy prey of the system".

In that sense, it was emphasized that the development and knowledge of the African heritage in all spheres derives from this reaffirmation that the Afro-Peruvian identity of women is strengthened and resisted against any form and attempt to undermine their culture, their practices, customs and Modus vivendus that connect them with Mother Earth Africa. "The appropriation of our identity as descendants of African ancestors ensures a strong fight for the elimination of racism, "they said.

They also referred to Afro hair, Afro-descendant skin melamine, ancestral practices, clothing influenced by ethno-African heritage, and discriminating situations that daily harm, are important factors strengthen in feeling of belonging with women and Afro-Peruvian people in The process of self-acceptance against the oppressions of the system and its western configurations of beauty and femininity.

Information and photography by Wynnie Ann Karamanti







## Conversation on Decoloniality and Black Feminism



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On June 14, in an auditorium of the Central American University (UCA) of Managua, Nicaragua, Joanna Wetherborn and Ileana Vallejos on behalf of the Network of Afrodescendant Women from Latin American, the Caribbean and the Diaspora, and the national organization named Caribbean Voices (which has a clear multicultural and multiethnic political commitment), led the conversation between Decoloniality and Intersectional Feminisms for social advancement: Contributions of black feminisms and social movements, within the framework of a day called "Entrepreneurial People co-creating a world with Justice, Dignity and Sustainable Life ", organized by ICCO Cooperation-Nicaragua.

Starting from the critique to feminism and hegemonic social movements from the West and Eurocentrists who for a long time did not recognize that their practice reproduced the same problems that they criticized (stereotyping and inferiorizing nonwhite populations and women).

While they questioned androcentric universalism, they produced applied categories with a totalitarian pretension. In the mid-1970s, this claim began to be questioned from postcolonial and intersectional feminisms, which aim to denounce the racist nature in many dynamics and interactions rooted on a personal and collective level.

That is why black and decolonial feminisms in Latin America, bet on incorporating the voices of black and Afro-descendant women, historically marginalized and conditioned to be subalterns. They represent a theoretical proposal and ethical commitment that aims at the construction of new forms of political and academic relationship from diversity.

With this discussion, Wetherborn and Vallejos provided reflections on decolonization, systems of oppression and the privileges of the "white latin", and invited to raise the necessity of feminize anti-racist struggle and blacken the feminist struggle. It is necessary to make visible and recognize the participation and contributions of Afrodescendants at all social fields, particularly in the dynamics and enterprises, both social, as economic. Similarly, there is ample documented evidence of costs of discrimination, racism and exclusion, in the development of societies and in the sustainability of life.





## ARMAAD takes position in the Inter-American Afro-descendant Forum and OAS Assembly

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The Inter-American Forum Against Discrimination, held in Cancun, Mexico, on June 16 and 17, 2017, will be held in Cancun, Mexico, where different Afrodescendant organizations of the Americas, such as the Association Network of Afrodescendant Women from Latin America, the Caribbean and the Diaspora (ARMAAD), share experiences and discuss public policies to promote the inclusion of Afro- The socio-economic sphere, especially in the face of pre-established issues in the convening of the event, in order to make recommendations to the heads of state and organs of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Dorotea Wilson, general coordinator of ARMAAD, shares the experience with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and General Assemblies: This participation allows us to make visible the situation of Afro-descendant women, as well as the Afro-descendant population in general, and influence the meetings of leaders Of the continent.

The great challenge we have is to translate these conceptual advances and international commitments into actions at the national level that make sense to improve the lives of Afro-descendants. [Her full paper in Spanish is available here.](#)

The member states of the Organization of American States have adopted a series of resolutions to promote the participation of civil society in the different areas of work of the organization, including the General Assembly, special meetings of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, The Summits of the Americas process, among other spaces.

These participation spaces are key to promote topics of interest to the civil society organizations, sharing experiences and promoting change before governmental entities; As well as make recommendations to official documents on the various topics related to OAS.





The Inter-American Afro-Descendant Forum is a space where different organizations of Afro-descendants from the Americas share experiences and discuss public policies to promote the inclusion of Afro-descendants in the socio-economic sphere, especially in the face of pre-established themes in the event, Recommendations to the Heads of State and organs of the OAS.

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In the framework of this Forum, the participation of Teresa Mojica, the Afromexicana Foundation Petra Morga AC and the national network of the Afro Women Network in Mexico also highlighted. Mojica presented the [Positioning of Afro-Descendant Organizations of Latin America](#) in this Assembly, and explained to Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the OAS, that "The rights of Afro-descendants in the country are not recognized", emphasizing In the need for constitutional recognition of the Afromexican population to be included transversally in all public programs and policies and especially in the National Development Plan.

He synthesized in six points, the urgent tasks to advance the inclusion of the Afromeric root to the development of the country:

1. Constitutional recognition of the Afromexican population,
2. Inclusion of the afrodescendent auto-enrollment question in the 2020 Census,
3. Claiming Afro-descendant history and inclusion in textbooks in a dignified and positive manner,
4. Creation of the dependency that serves the Afromexican population,
5. Public policies and programs of health, employment, education, housing and productive projects, and
6. Encourage and empower social organizations and create citizen observatories to propose, monitor and evaluate the implementation of actions within the framework of the International Decade for Afrodescendants (2015-2024).





*Welcome to our Network!*

*In this first half of the year, we registered the formal affiliation of two organizations:*

The Center for Studies on Labor Relations and Inequalities - CEERT, Brazil. Created in 1990, the Center for Studies on Labor Relations and Inequalities is a non-governmental organization that produces knowledge, develops and implements projects aimed at promoting equality of race and gender.



Centro de Estudos das Relações  
de Trabalho e Desigualdades

The Afromexican Foundation Petra Morgia AC (FAfroPM), founded in 2014 in Huehuetán, Guerrero, Mexico, is a social organization that advocates for constitutional recognition and respect for the human rights of the afromexican population.







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