

Tri-National Multisectoral Forum  
**20 YEARS OF NAFTA: ENOUGH FREE TRADE! NO TO THE TPP!**  
México D.F., January 28-31, 2014

**JOINT DECLARATION**

On the 20th Anniversary of the signing of NAFTA, labor unions, farmers, women, environmentalists, and human rights organizations from Mexico, the United States, Canada and Quebec came together in a Tri-national Forum in Mexico City. We have assessed the impact on human, environmental, labor, social, and cultural rights. We conclude that the benefits of NAFTA were exaggerated to sell the agreement to the public. The promises made were not fulfilled, on the contrary, we have seen a rise in inequality, impoverishment of the vast majority of the population, loss of employment, job insecurity, environmental degradation, deterioration of social cohesion and increased violence.

It is clear that the economic and labor policies imposed by trade agreements lead to increasingly widespread exploitation and commercialization of public goods and ecosystems, as well as to a deepening commodification of women's bodies. This happens by way of the privatization of public services, the weakening of social security systems and its disproportionately negative impact on women who assume the responsibilities of the care economy, and through the closure of thousands of factories, eliminating quality jobs excluding thousands of people, in particular young people, from the right to collective bargaining. It also happens through increased control by transnational corporations over sectors such as agriculture, food, energy, extractives and fishing. Community resistance to these attacks has led to the repression of democratic unions and social movements, the violation of indigenous rights, the criminalization of protest, and militarization.

NAFTA has altered the balance of power in favor of transnational corporations through Chapter 11 investment protection. This includes investor-to-state dispute settlement, which gives corporations the ability to challenge democratic laws in special courts with extraterritorial jurisdiction. This leaves communities helpless and environmental conservation vulnerable. Increased corporate control has failed to generate shared prosperity for the community, but has enriched transnational enterprises. Particularly in Mexico (and Central America under CAFTA), it has increased the informal economy, resulting in more poverty and forcing millions of people to seek work in the north, where they encounter discrimination.

Currently, the failed model of NAFTA is being replicated in new agreements, specifically the Trans-Pacific Strategic Partnership (also known as TPP), in order to further expand the power of transnational corporations and impose greater restrictions on government regulations. These treaties are being negotiated in secret, behind citizens' backs.

The organizations gathered at this forum condemn the NAFTA trade model and demand its renegotiation with greater transparency and equity among our communities. We also demand:

- That all trade negotiations be opened to civil society participation, which implies prior publication of the texts, and the construction of mechanisms for information sharing, social participation and deliberation, while avoiding the imposition of fast track.

- The removal of investor-state dispute settlement mechanism to strengthen governments' ability to protect economic, social, cultural, environmental and labor rights, particularly for migrants.
- That effective mechanisms to protect human, labor, and environmental rights are included in the texts of trade agreements, with sanctions equivalent to those for violation of commercial provisions.

We demand the supremacy of human rights over corporate privileges. We need to develop new models of cooperation and international exchange based on justice, solidarity and the highest ecological standards. Therefore, we reject the current trade model reflected in the attempt to impose the TPP.

We are committed to strengthening our joint movements at the sectoral and national levels, to intensify the fight in North America against this trade model, and to promote alternative models of integration.

We call on organizations and the general public to mobilize against the Three Amigos summit in Toluca on February 19, 2014, to express opposition to the TPP and other initiatives that deepen the prevailing model of free trade.

Approved on January 31, 2014 in Mexico City, DF, by the participants in this forum and delegates from the following organizations:

## **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NETWORKS**

ALAI

IndustriALL

Interamerican Platform on Human Rights, Democracy and Development (PIDHDD)

International of Public Services (IPS)

Latinamerican Network on Debt, Development and Human Rights -Latindadd- (Peru)

Tri-National Solidarity Alliance of Unions (TSA)

Network for Justice in Global Investment (Bolivia / United States)

UNI Global Union

## **CANADA**

### **Networks**

Common Frontiers Canada

Trade Justice Network (TJN)

### **National and Local Organizations**

Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

Council of Canadians

Maquila Solidarity Network -MSN-

National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE)

UNIFOR

United Steelworkers (USW Canada)

USW-Canada Humanity Fund

## **QUEBEC**

### **Networks**

Quebec Coalition on the Social and Environmental Impacts of Transnational Corporations in Latin America (QUISETAL)

Quebec Network on Continental Integration (RQIC)

### **National and Local Organizations**

ATTAC-Quebec

Central of Democratic Unions (CSD)

Central of Quebec Unions (CSQ)

Committee for Human Rights in Latin America (CDHAL)

Confederation of National Unions (CSN)

Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain (CCMM-CSN)

Friends of the Earth Quebec / Quebec Network of Environmental Groups (RQGE)

Quebec Federation of Workers (FTQ)

Quebec Interprofessional Health Federation (FIQ)

Quebec Women's Federation (FFQ) / World March of Women

Steelworkers-Quebec (USW-Qc)

## **UNITED STATES**

### **Networks**

Citizens Trade Campaign (CTC)

Grassroots Global Justice Alliance (GGJ)

### **National and Local Organizations**

Academics from the University of California in Los Angeles

Academics from the University of Santa Barbara in Los Angeles

AFL-CIO

Colombia Support Network

Equal Exchange

Food & Water Watch

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)

Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), Global Economy Project

National Farmers Union (NFU)

Public Citizen

United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE)

Witness for Peace

Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition

## **MEXICO**

### **Networks**

Alianza Mexicana por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos (AMAP)

Alianza Nacional de Cooperativas (ALCONA)

Campaña trabajo Digno Derecho de las Mujeres

Coalición de organizaciones mexicanas por el derecho al agua (COMDA)

Mexican Action Network on Free Trade (RMALC)

Red de acción sobre Plaguicidas y Alternativas en México A.C. (RAPAM)

Red de Género y Economía (REDGE)

Red de Productores Sociales de Vivienda

Red Maíz

### **National and Local Organizations**

Academics from the ENAH  
Academics from the UACM  
Academics from the UAM-I  
Academics from the UAM-X  
AII Mexicana  
ARIC Campeche  
Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productores del Campo (ANEC)  
Asociación Sindical de Pilotos Aviadores (ASPA / UNT)  
Bastión del Granero  
Boca de Polen, A.C.  
Brújula Metropolitana  
CACEHC Trabajadoras del Hogar  
CAMPO  
Carnaval del Maíz  
Centro de investigación laboral y asesoría sindical (CILAS)  
Centro Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez (Centro PRODH)  
Cleofas Cedillo, SPR de R.L.  
Comisión Cuenca ríos Ameca-meca y Compañía, A.C.  
Comisión de Bosques, Selvas y Producción Orgánica  
Consejo de Ejidos y Comunidades Opositores a la Presa la Parota (CECOP)  
Consejo de Pueblos del Estado de Morelos  
Coordinadora nacional Plan de Ayala (CNPA- Ecat.)  
DECA Equipo Pueblo, A.C. – Espacio DESC  
Ebano  
El Café de Todos, SCRL  
FIAN México – Espacio DESC  
Frente Amplio Opositor a la Minera San Xavier (FAO)-REMA  
Frente Auténtico del Trabajo (FAT / UNT)  
Frente Democrático Campesino Chihuahua  
Fronteras Comunes México  
Grupo Tacuba  
Productores Rurales del Bajío  
RASA-Guerrero  
RASA, S.C.  
Red Jalisciense de Derechos Humanos  
RedccamARIC  
San José del Progreso, Oaxaca-REMA  
Semillas de Vida  
Seminario Permanente de Estudios Chichanos y de Fronteras (SPECHF)  
SIDECA  
Sindicato de trabajadores de la UNAM (STUNAM / UNT)  
Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas (SME)  
Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de General Tire de México  
Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores Mineros, metalúrgicos, Siderúrgicos y Similares de la República Mexicana / UNT  
SITIEMS  
SNTHIA  
Sociedad Cooperativa El Zapote  
Sociedad Cooperativa Las Vegas

Sociedad Organizada en Lucha (SOL)  
SPR H. Ameyolt  
STIMAHCS  
STRACC  
Totikes ANEC  
Unión nacional de Organizaciones regionales campesinas autónomas (UNORCA)  
Unión nacional de Trabajadores y Profesionistas petroleros (UNTyPP / UNT)  
Unión popular revolucionaria Emiliano Zapata (UPREZ)  
Unión Popular Valle Gómez, A.C.  
Vice-Presidency Equity and Gender of UNT

**And many more to come...**

**Please send your endorsement to [a20.tlcan@gmail.com](mailto:a20.tlcan@gmail.com)**