**DECLARATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AT THE WORLD BANK AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND ANNUAL MEETINGS IN LIGHT OF THE IMPACTS OF AUSTERITY POLICIES IN ECUADOR, ARGENTINA AND HAITI**

**Washington D.C., October of 2019**

The undersigned reject the IMF austerity policies implemented in Ecuador, Argentina and Haiti with agreements that include the restriction of public investment, reduction of labor rights, tax amnesties to corporate sector and public services deterioration.

The return of the IMF to Latin America has been marked by the implementation of familiar austerity policies, leading to devastating economic and social impacts that populations have to pay.

It is regrettable that governments resort to the use of force and human rights violations to implement austerity policies. In practice, this proves that austerity policies are not feasible and lead to similar negative impacts in the countries where they are implemented. The social protest criminalization, through repression against indigenous people, students, women and children, resulting in the loss of human lives in Ecuador, strongly demonstrates that these polices are not the way for a solution.

The cases of Ecuador, Argentina and Haiti, illustrate the concerns that civil society organizations have raised repeatedly:

* Regressive tax reforms infringe the rights of populations, benefiting large corporations and enabling capital flight, within a global framework of unjust taxation.
* Reforms favoring labor flexibilization are measures that result on casualization of work, poor labor conditions and workers’ rights deterioration.
* Subsidy cuts directly affect the most vulnerable sectors of the population while it is not addressed the tax incentives regime for the corporate sector.
* Major economic problems are not resolved with large debts that countries will not be able to repay.
* The current financial architecture creates an unfair debt restructuring process.
* The IMF’s implementation of its criteria for exchange rate and monetary policy by Central Banks benefits holders of significant pools of private capital.
* Austerity policies trigger a serious deterioration in the living conditions of populations and a consequent increase in poverty, inequalities and social exclusion, and are therefore not consistent with the SDGs.

The implementation of IMF programs at national levels, without a fundamental transformation of the international financial architecture, will continue to result into negative economic and social impacts.

This is not the way to either prevent or resolve a crisis. The IMF has to change its austerity policies. Countries need to have access to financing with sovereignty in economic policies, where the State guarantees human and civil rights, in line with the Constitutions and international treaties, and with the participation of diverse sectors of society, including social movements of indigenous people, women and workers.

*Latindadd*

*Eurodad*

*Red de Justicia Fiscal de América Latina y El Caribe*

*CDES Ecuador*

*Fundación SES Argentina*