



## **FINAL DECLARATION OF THE XVII LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS ON SOCIAL MEDICINE AND COLLECTIVE HEALTH**

Gathered from July 17 to 21, 2023 in the city of Buenos Aires.

With the participation of more than 1000 people from 15 countries of Latin America convened under the motto Sindemia, Reconfiguration in the World and Struggle for Good Living.

### **We declare:**

We refer to Sindemia because of the several events that happened simultaneously in synergy with the covid-19 pandemic, leaving in evidence the deep existing inequalities. The pandemic made vulnerable populations visible, such as the elderly, prisons, different forms of marginalization such as slums, favelas, etc., that is to say, the entire population that is not productive for this mercantilist system was the first to suffer the consequences of the disease. The mere appearance of covid-19 was due, among other factors, to a contempt for Mother Earth. Pollution, extractivism, fumigations and an endless list of forms of production and plundering exercised by capitalism lead the world to a catastrophe that is accelerating more and more.

It was not only the health crisis that humanity suffered, but also the mercantile logic that deepened the inequitable distribution of resources, inputs, vaccines, to name but a few points. The concentration of wealth was exacerbated, while the complexity of life and the suffering of the majority increased progressively.

Capitalism generates the conflict, resorts to science for its denouement, but wastes no time in commodifying that solution, through intellectual property rights, to continue in this perverse process of wealth concentration.

### **Reconfiguration in the World:**

The world is being reconfigured.

In a first stage, economic globalization erected walls to citizens and opened borders to goods. This led to the further impoverishment of regions such as Africa. The Mediterranean Sea covered its bottom with corpses of people who tried to reach the countries people who tried to reach the countries that caused the detriment. Those who managed to arrive were received in shelters covered with hatred and racism.



With the fall of real socialism in Europe, an empire that resists losing its dominant position, faces the emergence of new actors. We have arrived at a war of Russia against NATO, with its consequences mainly in the loss of lives, but also in food, energy and above all in that variable that capitalism tends to throw in its hands in crises, the arms industry.

We repudiate the persistence of the blockade against our sister countries Cuba and Venezuela. This unjust blockade not only constitutes an undue interference in sovereign affairs, but also generates unacceptable human suffering.

Another point that has already been expressed in several of our meetings is the persistent humanitarian crisis in Haiti, where the disrespect for the culture and economy of the Haitian people leads to the worst practices of slavery and racism, generated by French and American imperialism.

The dictatorship in the Republic of El Salvador, with a sinister character, who comes with the authoritarian discourse of "order" and the management of the misnamed "social networks" as a form of contact with the people. This is another of imperialism's wedges in Latin America. In the Argentine case, we cannot fail to mention the criminalization of protest, the subjugation of rights through a hypocritical expression, disguised as a change in the provincial constitution that gives rise to the usurpation and expropriation of the lands of the native peoples. The presence of birds of prey to plunder lithium cannot be hidden. We are talking about Jujuy, a laboratory for the projects of the extreme right.

### **Good Living:**

The category neoliberalism does not account for the contemporary situation of destruction of the social fabric. We need to construct new categories for its understanding. The right wing appropriates words to give them a use that empties them of content. Freedom is not a matter of the market. Solidarity has been destroyed to give way to an exacerbated individualism. In this context, hatred is a common currency. As is well known, he who thinks with hate, does not think, he hates.

Algorithms should not organize us socially. They are a new form of expression of colonialism. The void of meaning they generate produces an uncertainty in living that facilitates economic power in its exercise of exploitation. This informational capitalism controls our lives and exploits us, while we believe that we are free and autonomous.

In these conditions, good living is presented to us as a new understanding of reality that turns to the memory and to the ancestral and spiritual, mystical worldview of our peoples to build the horizon of common sense that we can share. We are interdependent, between humans and non-humans, between multiple beings that inhabit what we call the shared world.



We face the challenge of walking together in this sense. To transform our understanding of the dynamic reality that does not stop and does not allow itself to be reduced to static forms.

Colonial, racialized and patriarchal technical scientific thinking must be abandoned in our educational processes in health. Although the challenge is enormous, we are already making progress. There is no room for pessimism. Utopia, from the people for themselves, will allow us to make the road as we go.