



COORDINADORA REGIONAL DE ORGANIZACIONES DE TRABAJADORES Y TRABAJADORAS EN DOMICILIO DE AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE- COTRADO ALAC DECLARATION ON COVID-19

The members of COTRADO ALAC want to express our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the region and the world in these difficult times due to Covid-19. We want to appeal to the States and governments of Latin America and the Caribbean.

We request measures and alternatives to this crisis faced by home-based workers, self-employed, seamstresses, artisans, manufacturers of all kinds of products, street vendors, porters, cooks, workers in the social economy, popular economy, solidarity economy, who organize ourselves in cooperatives, associations, groups and community textile centers, unions, women's groups.

We understand that States have the responsibility to take necessary measures to protect their people and control the spread of this pandemic. However, it is essential that these measures are taken considering workers who struggle to make a daily living and are trying to earn a livelihood to support their family.

Some States have decreed a quarantine without considering that we are millions of workers who cannot work remotely or virtually. Staying at home means we cannot financially support our families. It means we cannot pay for basic services such as water, electricity, gas, etc. Our families depend on us. If necessary measures are not taken, existing social and economic inequalities will be further created. Our region will suffer a catastrophic decline in living standards, and negative unintended consequences.

Given this, we demand that governments consider us in their policies to mitigate the effects of this crisis: we require an income replacement to bring bread to our tables.

On the other hand, we would like to express our concern about the self-isolation measures and prohibition on freedom of movement, and how these measures have been implemented. We fear that this crisis will be used as a pretext for authorities - who have lost credibility - to regain control by using the police, the armed forces and restricting democratic freedoms.

In turn, the current crisis shows the need for States to have social security and social protection systems that promote the well-being of everyone. We demand from governments that these systems include, especially, low-income workers and individuals and families living in poverty.

We ask all the International Trade Union Confederations to take into account these workers who suffer the most from social and economic inequality. For this reason, we would like our demands to also be reflected in their platforms of struggle.

COTRADO ALAC stands in solidarity with trade union organizations around the world and we hope that after the difficult blow that this global pandemic has dealt us, that we can all work together to build a new future with hope, without fear, without slaves, nor excluded people!

We cannot finish without first thanking healthcare workers and those from the various sectors who, cannot be at home with their families and at the same time are being exposed to the virus. We thank them for working hard to ensure this pandemic does not take the lives of more people and helping ensure that people can meet their basic needs.

March 27th, 2020