

## Declaration of Rosario

June 16, 2017

### Encounter Intercontinental Mother Earth, One Health 4<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Socio-environmental Health



We are collectively academics, social activists, ecologists, indigenous peoples, artists, professionals of human, animal and plant health, food producers, scientists and researchers, creators of new economies, communicators of good news. We come from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden and Uruguay. We met from the 12th to the 16th of June in Rosario, Argentina to build spaces for dialog, art, science and poetry, in the framework of ancestral and academic knowledge, to make visible the stories of resistance needed for the defence of life.

We have come to Rosario to share the quiet urgency to unite in diversity, to multiply the efforts to walk in harmony without waste, wear and tear. Also to share concerns and various forms of resistance and construction in the face of the attacks on the health of Mother Earth and her many communities. To give ourselves hope in ways of life, inclusive and diverse, and celebrate the harvest of the fruits we have sown. We have sought to meet to rejoice, to dream, to fly, to wake up and resist. To be in solidarity, to listen and learn together about the care of plants, animals, the earth and our lives. To continue dreaming the dreams of the world seeking "the heart of Science and Life".

We agree that when we speak of One Health, we are asserting the health for all living organisms, not only for us as humans. We recognize that we are only a small part of a Universe, in which everything is interconnected, a thread in the fabric of the life on this beautiful planet, all participants of a wonderfully complex ecological balance. We recognize that human health is a reflection of the health of our planet. Recognizing that our Large Home, Mother Earth or



Pachamama, is a macro-ecosystem, which houses millions of interconnected ecosystems, each with their own characteristics.

During these intense days we have shared testimonies and scientific evidence of the devastation of the Earth and the diseases that this destruction, motivated by the industrial system of production and consumption and its unrestrained pursuit of profit, induces in communities, human beings and other forms of life. We have heard also of the impact of this destruction on the many interrelations between the health of the mind, the body, economic structures, policies and ecosystems; and we have exchanged experiences and evidence of living well together in society and nature, to refresh our senses and return to the path of complementarity, solidarity and cooperation with all beings.

We are building a platform with all this knowledge to care for seeds, biodiversity, microbial life, our economies and cultures, to stop the degradation of elements of life and to recover the health of Mother Earth and our communities.

We have seen how globally the intention is to impose a model of corporate industrial agriculture and food production that carries with it a huge environmental devastation, linked to hunger, malnutrition and destruction of lands of the peasants and indigenous peoples. The might of the big corporations continues to be imposed in vast territories of transgenic seeds, industrial monoculture plantations and massive spraying with pesticides. Corporate power is increasing, with just a handful of corporations controlling global seed markets, biotechnology, agrochemicals, agricultural machinery and fertilizers, threatening to turn farmers into mere slaves. Seed laws, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, new technologies and the marketing of processed food are some of the tools that capitalism is using to impose this agro-food system; a system that is linked to a majority of the most frequent diseases of people, animals and the planet.

Extractivism is another facet of this process of destruction and from the specific stories shared here by our companions, farmers and indigenous peoples, we have seen how large-scale and open-pit mining, the extraction of hydrocarbons, the imposition of fracking and other megaprojects are forcing entire communities out of their lands, often through violent and criminal assault on their resistance, which is they have adopted as the only way to survive. At the same time, mega-cities have transformed into a space of extractivism, in the hands of real estate speculators, the irrational occupation of urban space and the massive use of resources that the model of consumption implies.

We have also been able to see that the so-called "health system" is in fact a "disease system" where the focus is on the market and commodification and where the result is a system that promotes illness and kills, controlled, also in this case, by a handful of corporations - many of them the same ones making agro-toxic products as is the case of Bayer, which is also in the process of acquiring Monsanto. In this context, industrial drugs are, together with medical technology, one of the main tools for the control of the lives of our peoples; the system of



patents, the domination of drug discovery in a few laboratories and the abusive use of this power are all facets of the same problem.

A special mention should be made of the indiscriminate use of antibiotics, in both human health and their application in agriculture and animal husbandry, that is leading to the emergence of resistant microorganisms, that are becoming increasingly serious threats and might soon be uncontrollable in our societies.

We have also been able to recognize one of the most serious problems affecting our societies, namely garbage. This is a patent example of a society that has disengaged itself from ecological life cycles, lost control of its own metabolism to become the facilitator of its own death.

### **We declare ourselves in resistance to this model of death!**

And that's why the resistance of the people who have been poisoned with pesticides, the original peoples in their lands, the recyclers, the women, the struggles against transgenic crops, against fracking and mining are examples that encourage our collective solidarity.

We know where we are going and have shared an enormous amount of knowledge, proposals, research, ideas, principles and paradigms that make up different and complementary seeds, of the new world that is being born as we walk together.

We have been able to reaffirm the need to consolidate the production of healthy food for free peoples as a basis for our walk. Only agro-ecological agriculture, small scale farmer-based, local, diverse, and in harmony with nature, will be able to produce healthy food for our peoples as they have been doing over the last ten thousand years. These foods are the ones that nourish us, bind us together with others, that are nourished each day by the culture of our ancestors, that heal us, that make community and allow us to continue the dialog with nature and diversity.

In this context, food sovereignty is the way, the principle and the guide to retake the road to a world free from hunger and to produce healthy food in harmony with nature. Food sovereignty is expressed in the struggles of all peoples that defend their lands, their natural assets, their seeds and their ways of life. The future lies in ensuring the right of peoples to decide what to grow and how to grow is installed as a global norm and as an indispensable practice.

We also met in feminist struggles, in popular feminisms, in the resistance to violence against women and in the radical questioning of the dominant patriarchal system. This is another source of inspiration that nourishes us, stimulates us to transformation and guides us on the path to a society without violence. From these struggles we have learned that our bodies are also our territories and to defend them and care for them is a fundamental and integral component of the territories of life that we are defending and nurturing. Diversity is the basis of all forms of life and also of resistance. We denounce and we stand in solidarity against femicide everywhere. We see how essential is the construction and the struggle of women, we learn from the wisdom of indigenous and rural women, reaffirming the need to maintain and strengthen the collective care that we all have to exercise, of Mother Earth and all its living beings.



We understand that by repairing and healing the territories we can protect the collective health and ensure a healthy life for our peoples. And we find within nature itself the specific possibilities and examples of nourishment, healing and opportunities to live fully. Here, invisible micro-organisms play an indispensable role, being the oldest and most numerous living organisms on our planet, in sustaining the balance of life through promotion of diversity, tireless contribution to essential ecological processes and even in their resistance to the toxicity of our medicine.

Many of us are part research and education groups within universities and have engaged in discussions on our role, our responsibility and our challenges. From these discussions and the nourishing memories of struggles for the Cordoba University Reform 99 years ago, we are committed to reach 100 years of that reform, assuming the current challenges and asking ourselves:

- As raised in 1918, students should have a fundamental role in the life of the university. Today we think that learning based and focused on the lives of the peoples and their territories should be the axis to flag and put into practice the next reform.
- We are committed to Dignified Science, the path of science for life, towards a model of knowledge construction that takes into account the diversity of knowledge that dwells in the diversity of our peoples. We make the words of Andrés Carrasco our own: "Latin American peoples have the inalienable right to develop a transparent, autonomous science and one that serves their interests. To do this, that science must be undertaken with honesty, bearing in mind that failure to do so may violate its commitment to the truth, and thereby provide the legitimation that dominant technological development requires as an instrument of control and colonialism".
- We are committed to continue to investigate the signs and symptoms of the disease that affects Mother Earth, to deepen the study of the problems that arise locally, nationally and regionally, to generate evidence and the elaboration of an "Interactive Planetary Therapeutic Guide".
- We will promote local projects and actions for the repair and healing of the wounds of Mother Earth, such as the proposal for Smart Cities or Towns to promote the careful use of antibiotics, to take care of life itself.
- In the face of the crisis of civilization that radically challenges us now we believe that the University should take an active role by listening to the people, and engaging in social and political processes that they have put in place.
- As scientists committed to society and nature, we reaffirm our commitment to work for a science independent of the influence of transnational corporations, with and for the people, following the example of Andrés Carrasco. We denounce the attempt of agribusiness to impose new, highly risky forms of genetic engineering, now under the



name of "genomics", intended to reach the market without evaluations regarding biosecurity. We denounce the schemes from companies and groups with political and academic power to push false "solutions" to increase their profits through sales and patenting, and to avoid questioning the causes of various crises, related to food, health, environmental or climatic conditions. We denounce the strategy of systematic elimination of activists and defenders of our territories at the global level, but especially in Latin America. We denounce and reject the strategies of the governments at the service of the Corporations, that drive actions such as the Covenant Mining (in Argentina), the so-called "Seed Laws" which are, in fact, laws for the protection of corporations, the delivery of our territories to economic power establishing practices, which eliminate indigenous peoples and peasants. We reject the attempt to release genetically manipulated mosquitoes in several countries of the continent, as well as all the proposals to use, market and release genetically manipulated animals, insects and microorganisms. We strongly reject the proposals for tackling climate change that involve manipulation of the climate, through geo-engineering. We demand that the authorities cease to impose policies that protect the health of corporations, at the expense of the health of the peoples and territories.

All technologies, and particularly new technologies, should be evaluated from the perspective of society, with a multiplicity of visions and perspectives that involve academic, scientific and other workers, neighbourhood and collective urban dwellers and peasant farmers, environmentalists, gender and women's movements, indigenous peoples, collective and popular health movements and others. We welcome the initiative of the Network of Social Evaluation of Technologies in Latin America, that includes many of the perspectives of the previous socio-environmental Congresses.

The road that we are traveling may not be walked without being enriched and nourished by dialogue with art and ancestral knowledge and so it is that the literature, music, dance, theater, existential experiences which enrich and nourish us, are other ways to express the stories of resistance for life; stories of love, freedom and hope that are waiting to be told.

We live in a world dominated by corporations... a world in which, however, it is still possible to build healthy resistance, from the meetings and dialogs that are born of respect for diversity, cooperative processes, people's own processes who know how to take the time necessary to care for and to domesticate the seeds, which allow the nurture of crops vital for the sustenance of life.

These emancipatory political plantings that enabled people to embody and make real the dream of a sovereign future harvest for all, in territories thriving with health...

We can take on the challenge of rebuilding our territories, recover a praxis that recognizes the value of diversity and time as dimensions essential for the creation of a new political order, and through the meetings of the collective, through Cooperation, Humility, Solidarity, put a brake on



[www.madretierraunasolasalud.org](http://www.madretierraunasolasalud.org)  
[madretierraunasolasalud@gmail.com](mailto:madretierraunasolasalud@gmail.com)

extractivism, that was imposed upon us, to give priority to the Health of Mother Earth over that of the corporations.

During this week we have nourished experiences, affections and commitments, projects and proposals, dreams of health and healthy food, and reaffirm our commitment to Heal the Planet, to retrieve the flow of life and continue to walk with the word, the action, the memory and the know-how of our peoples and scientists, with the commitment to life and Buen Vivir, building together a society just, supportive, healthy and hopeful.