

Declaration of Oaxaca in favor of life, agroecology, food self-sufficiency, cooperation, and a just, sustainable and healthy food system.

In times of savage capitalism, with its string of climate change, erratic harvests, war conflicts that block markets, offensives by agribusiness transnationals and the governments and multilateral organizations that are their accomplices; in times marked by scarcity and high prices of basic grains; in times like these, food security and food self-sufficiency become priority issues, issues of national security. And only agroecology, a way of relating to nature in which small farmers are the main drivers, guarantees food self-sufficiency that is environmentally sustainable, economically viable, socially just and healthy.

Food self-sufficiency and agroecology must be approached from a global perspective because sustainable solutions to the problem of hunger, environmental damage, injustice and war, undoubtedly come from each country, but require agreements, convergence and multinational actions involving countries, multilateral organizations, networks, civil associations, research centers, academics and, above all, small and medium-scale farmers committed to agroecology. Not to mention the consumers who are the privileged recipients of agricultural production and who have the greatest interest in the quality and accessibility of food.

For these reasons, the International Conference on Food Self-Sufficiency and Agroecology in a Multipolar World, held from November 28 to December 2 in the city of Oaxaca de Juárez, was extraordinarily timely and pertinent. The event was attended by representatives or members of social and community-based organizations, universities, academic and scientific institutions, multilateral organizations, federal institutions of the

Government of Mexico, the Government of Oaxaca, and some state ministries of agriculture and rural development, as well as renowned agroecology figures from countries in Africa, Europe, Asia and America, and an audience of more than 1,400 people from 30 Mexican states and 30 countries.

It is important and very significant that this conference was held in Latin America, in our America, a subcontinent that is looking for ways to exit the neoliberal tunnel on the left and in a country like Mexico where the government and society are committed to a politically democratic, socially just and environmentally sustainable transformation.

A great historic transformation, the Fourth for Mexicans, that puts the poor first, which in agriculture means promoting self-sufficiency and food sovereignty based on agroecology, relying mainly on small farmers, through cross-cutting policies that comprehensively address the agrifood system with a view to building dignified rural lives for new generations of farmers, endowed with sufficient land and income and not subjected to exploitation of their labor; local, regional and national food self-sufficiency; sustainable use of ecosystems; consumer health; cultural relevance and accessibility of food; and justice in the distribution of wealth generated in solidarity-based production-consumption circuits.

The Mexican experience, like others in Latin America and the world, shows that the agroecological transition towards food self-sufficiency is not possible without the combined efforts of multiple economic, social, political and professional actors. But without governments committed to change, playing their regulatory role and assuming the leadership of the State, these transformations will not be viable. Therefore, in this conference we celebrate the battles of the Latin American peoples to bring

to power progressive governments committed to rural people, food sovereignty and agroecology.

Agroecology is a technological proposal, a widespread peasant practice and public policy, but above all it is a large and enthusiastic global movement, made up of producers, networks, civil associations, convergences, governments, academics and experts. The women of the land play an important role in the Movement, as it is through them that the agroecological approach extends to food preparation and household management. Indigenous people are also a key part of the Movement, since their ancestral agricultural practices, such as the Mesoamerican milpa, served as an inspiration for modern agroecology.

But agroecology is also a paradigm, a way of life, a worldview that can be traced in the history of all cultures. And as a paradigm, agroecology is inseparable from the right of peoples to defend their common goods, giving priority to the general interest; it is inseparable from the defense of biocultural heritage; it is inseparable from agrarian justice, water justice and the recognition of women's land rights. Agroecology is therefore incompatible with the extreme concentration of land and water in the hands of a handful of agribusinessmen who are only motivated by profit and whose agro-industrial monocultures make the fair and sustainable use of resources impossible.

In addition to this monopoly over land, water and germplasm, there are asymmetrical trade agreements, agro-commercial monopolies, agro-industries and the arrogance of agrifood transnationals as well as the governments and international organizations that support them. All of

them are supporters of a global order in which food is not a public good to satisfy human rights, but a commodity at the service of profit.

An obscene order that in the productive sphere poisons agricultural workers, depletes soils, pollutes water and reduces biodiversity. In the economic sphere, it results in the hoarding of harvests, unnecessary displacements with high energy costs, excessive processing of food, all of which affects its nutritional quality and accessibility, thus harming the consumer. This is an irrational, unjust and unsustainable agrifood model that is not only responsible for poverty and hunger, but also for disease and death.

Paradoxically, the progressive weakening of the hegemonic powers and the growing trend towards multipolarity have translated into ever greater imperial aggressiveness on the part of countries such as the United States, which are developing a violent offensive to impose their models. In the face of this, resistance is essential. We need to contain, stop and reverse this offensive. However, resistance is not enough, it is necessary to combine resistance with transformation. For many years we have been reactive, today we also need to be proactive, constructive, and promoters of democratic, just and sustainable transformations; all the more so because our positions are no longer in the minority but have spread and in many areas are hegemonic. We must resist, yes, but we must also transform. The key is to resist and transform.

On a personal note, we, the participants in the conference, state:

1. We strongly support the Mexican government's policies aimed at agroecological transition and support the decree restricting glyphosate and transgenic corn for human consumption. We also

call on the deputies to approve the important General Law for Adequate and Sustainable Food (original name in Spanish: Ley General de la Alimentación Adecuada y Sostenible). Considering that food self-sufficiency is impossible without the contribution of medium and even large producers, we call to promote the agroecological transition also in the current industrial agriculture.

2. We consider that all governments in Latin America and the world should seriously commit to promoting self-sufficiency and food sovereignty based on agroecology, relying mainly on small-scale producers through cross-cutting policies that comprehensively address the agrifood system, as described above.
3. We express our firm rejection of genetically modified organisms and highly hazardous pesticides.
4. We express our repudiation of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), which favors the privatization of seeds in favor of transnational corporations.
5. We reject those free trade agreements that seek to restrict sovereign decisions by perpetuating asymmetrical relations among nations.
6. We call for redistributive agrarian reforms that put an end to extreme latifundism and restore land and water to their original owners.
7. We support the meeting of the Public Policy Network for Food Systems and Better Nutrition and Health (original name in Spanish: Red de Políticas Públicas para Sistemas Alimentarios y una mejor Nutrición y Salud), to be held in Mexico City on December 14 and 15, 2023.
8. We demand a ceasefire in Gaza and call for an end to the genocide of the Palestinian people.

9. We call for an end to the blockade of Cuba and unilateral economic sanctions against Venezuela and other countries.
10. We support the democratic process in Guatemala that resulted in the victory of César Fernando Arévalo de León in the last presidential elections and we call for worldwide solidarity to stop the coup attempt of the oligarchy in Guatemala.
11. Finally, we call for the Second International Conference on Food Self-Sufficiency and Agroecology in a Multipolar World to be held within two years, suggesting that Colombia be the host country.

Agroecology and food self-sufficiency or hunger!

Agroecology for life!

Agroecology for peace!

Agroecology for justice!

Agroecologists of the world, united for the agroecological revolution and food self-sufficiency!