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E-newsletter

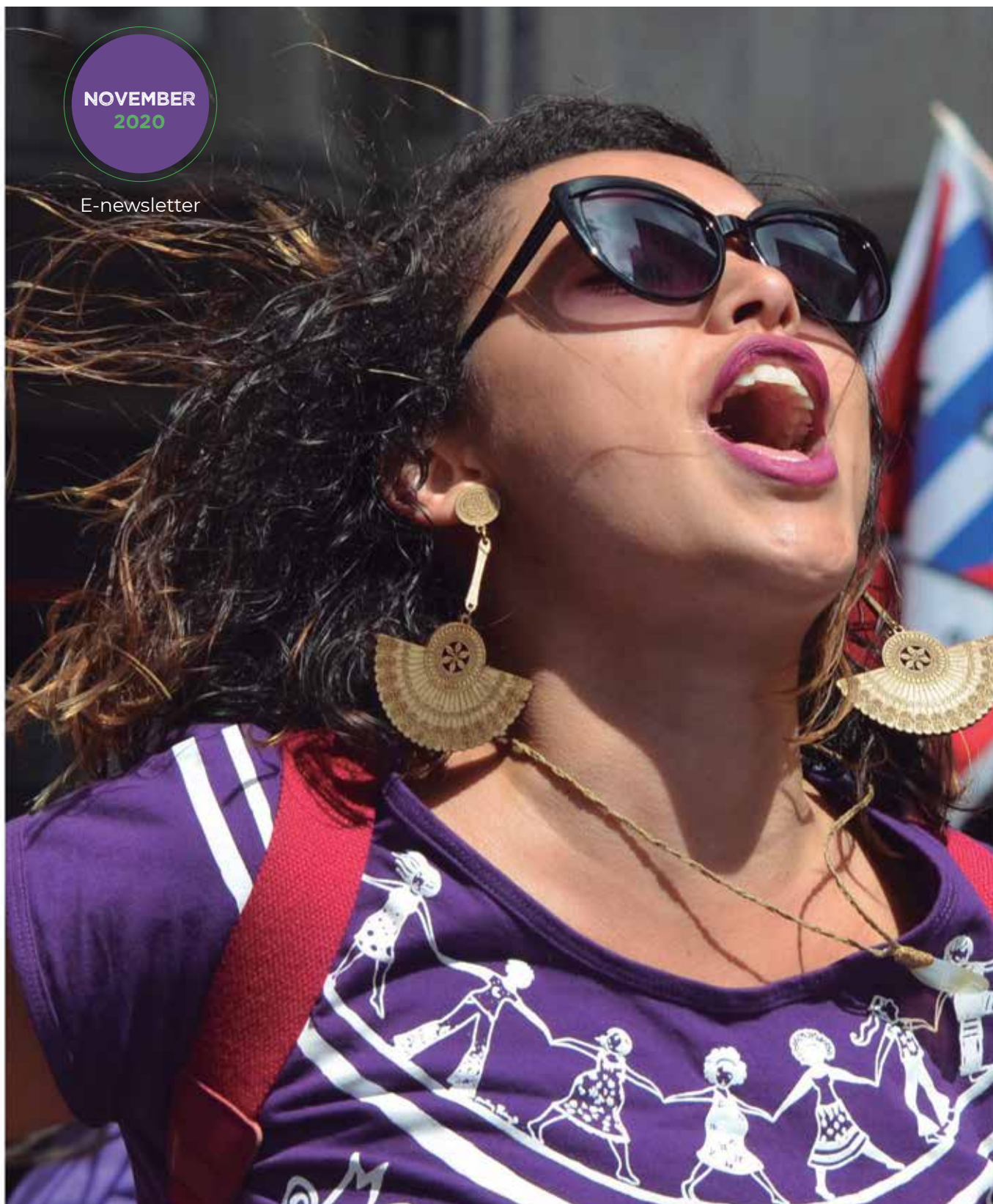


Photo by Cintia Barenho, World March of Women, Brazil.

**CONTINENTAL ACTION 2020:**  
**THE CONTINENTAL PLATFORM FOR**  
**DEMOCRACY AND AGAINST**  
**NEOLIBERALISM ON THE MOVE**



**Amigos de  
la Tierra**  
América Latina  
y el Caribe

# EDITORIAL



Photo by Cintia Barenho, World March of Women, Brazil.

In 2020, it will be five years since some of the leading popular movements and organizations of the Americas, meeting in Havana, the capital of Cuba, assessed that the push of the right wing in the region required a different type of political articulation, one characterized as a process of joint struggle and work, with continued presence in the streets. The result was the emergence of the [Continental Platform for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism](#).

Its membership includes feminist, workers', environmental justice and peasant organizations, among others. They are: the [Latin American Coordination of Rural Organizations \(CLOC-Via Campesina\)](#), [World March of Women \(WMW\)](#), [World March of Women \(WMW\)](#), [Trade Union Confederation of the Americas \(TUCA\)](#), [Jubilee South-Americas](#), [ALBA Movements](#), [the Social Movements of Cuba chapter](#), [the Movement of Affected by Dams in Latin America \(MAR\)](#), [Friends of the Earth Latin America & Caribbean \(ATALC\)](#), [Grassroots Global Justice Alliance \(GGJ\)](#).

ATALC has been an active member of the Continental Platform since that foundational date. Therefore, and because we are convinced that forging and maintaining the unity of popular movements is critical to confront the fascist wave sweeping over the continent, we have mobilized every year ever since within the framework of the Continental Platform, to defend democracy and peoples' rights, and against neoliberalism.

The Continental Platform decided to undertake centralized actions and mobilizations in some of those years, as was the case in 2017 in Montevideo and in 2019 in Havana. Rallies and demonstrations have otherwise been decentralized, in various countries simultaneously. In addition, numerous coordination, evaluation and decision making meetings have taken place throughout these years to forge the struggle, resistances and proposals.

ATALC has been part of each and every single one of these moments. It could not be otherwise. That is the call of our history of struggles together with the popular movements in the region, for environmental, social, economic and gender justice, with our member groups supporting and building the resistances and alternatives from the ground in the territories.

This year, unusual because of the health situation due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Continental Platform called for a “Continental Action 2020, for the Construction and Defense of Democracy” (from November 16 to 19), so that its various member organizations and social movements could carry out activities at the national level, taking whatever precautions were necessary in each place to safeguard the health of the population.

For the local peasant and indigenous communities that inhabit the territories of the Americas, and for social movements, this has been a merciless year. Covid-19 and the measures adopted by the right-wing governments to confront it have brought greater vulnerability to these peoples, increased gender-based violence in households, heightened persecution and criminalization of their struggles, and intensified militarization of their territories.

The numbers of people sent to unemployment insurance and unemployment rates have skyrocketed in cities, access to health care in countries with quasi-absentee States regarding the protection of rights has been a challenge, and the right to food has not been guaranteed by a corporate controlled food system -as has happened even before, without the pandemic- neither for the general population and much less for the popular classes that have been severely affected by the global health crisis.

Peoples’ responses emerged rapidly, in a demonstration of their most valued resource, solidarity. Just as an example: family farming, peasant food production and agro-ecology, along with local markets, secured the daily sustenance of the popular soup kitchens that were installed in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods and where unemployment was rampant.

The current conjuncture was at the center of the mobilizations in the framework of the Continental Action 2020, along with all the other issues that concern the social movements and organizations of the region, both at the national and regional levels. The pandemic and its ensuing crises is today the focus of the struggle for justice, but it does not stop there.

This ATALC newsletter covers what was done by the Continental Platform as a collective on the dates of the Continental Action. However, there were activities that were part of that Action and that took place well before or after the action days set in November. It also reports on some of the actions of ATALC member groups and of several allied organizations in this framework. In closing, it lists some of the regional highlight notes by [Real World Radio](#), the [Friends of the Earth International's](#) web radio ■



## "CONTINENTAL ACTION 2020, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY"

### VIDEO BY THE CONTINENTAL PLATFORM FOR DEMOCRACY AND AGAINST NEOLIBERALISM



■ Continental Platform for Democracy and against Neoliberalism

It was precisely with the launch of an audiovisual that the Continental Platform celebrated its days of action from 16 to 19 November. The piece was disseminated jointly by the various organizations and social movements that take part of the process of struggle of the Platform.

"Within the framework of our Continental Action we celebrate with this video the defense of peoples' democracy that is at the core of our struggles, and the popular uprisings that allowed it to be reestablished in Bolivia, the United States and Chile. Their examples inspire us", said the Continental Platform.

Watch the video in any of the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/JornadaContinental/posts/2771698306402928>

<https://twitter.com/atalc/status/1329548981555302404>

This video, according to the Continental Platform, is also a tribute to all the peoples mobilized throughout the continent. "That is why the Continental Platform for Democracy and against Neoliberalism is so important, because it is a beacon to understand that united and without borders will be the only way we will be able to defeat neoliberalism", said Barbara Figueroa, a trade union leader from the Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Chile (CUT) and the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA).

"They shall not come through! We stand our ground fighting!"

### BEYOND THE PANDEMIC: ONLINE DEBATE BY THE CONTINENTAL PLATFORM FOR DEMOCRACY AND AGAINST NEOLIBERALISM

"Popular dialogues: unity, democracy and life for our peoples" was the title of the online conversation organized by the Continental Platform for Democracy and against Neoliberalism on September 22, in preparation for the November days of action.

"It will be a moment to present our accrual, the body of work we have built up, our perspective of what is happening in the region, looking to and beyond the aggravation that has occurred with the Covid-19 pandemic. It is a more systemic view of the crises we are living", said Tica Moreno, a feminist from the World March of Women in Brazil, to Real World Radio.



Continental Platform for Democracy and against Neoliberalism

This public debate featuring representatives from several of the popular organizations that make up the Continental Platform also served as venue for launching its document [“Responses and horizons of joint construction in the face of the global crisis unleashed by neoliberalism”](https://rwr.fm/interviews/beyond-the-pandemic-online-discussion-organised-by-the-continental-day-for-democracy-and-against-neoliberalism/). In addition, the common agenda of activities and mobilizations for October and November was presented.

To learn more about this online debate please visit:

<https://rwr.fm/interviews/beyond-the-pandemic-online-discussion-organised-by-the-continental-day-for-democracy-and-against-neoliberalism/>

## OUR ACTIONS

### FRIENDS OF THE EARTH BRAZIL: PUBLIC RALLY IN PORTO ALEGRE



Heitor Jardim, Friends of the Earth Brazil

The Brazilian social movements that are part of the Continental Platform for Democracy and against Neoliberalism, along with other allied groups and networks held a public event –livestreamed by the alternative media outlet Brasil de Fato- on November 19 in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul state, at the top of the Otávio Rocha Viaduct, with film and video screenings.

The activity was also a rally in support of the left wing candidate in the municipal elections for the city of Porto Alegre, Manuela Davila from the Brazilian Communist Party (PcdoB). She represents “the anti-fascist, anti-racist, feminist, in short, the struggles of the democratic and popular field against capitalist exploitation”, according to the call to action in Porto Alegre.

Some of the prominent conveners were, to name a few: [Friends of the Earth Brazil](#), World March of Women Brazil, the [Movement of Landless Rural Workers \(MST\)](#), the [Movement of the Affected by Dams \(MAB\)](#), the [Movement for Peoples' Sovereignty in Mining \(MAM\)](#), the [Movement of Homeless Workers \(MTST\)](#), the [Movement of Small Scale Farmers \(MPA\)](#) and the [Indigenous Missionary Council \(CIMI\)](#).

See article and watch video of the November 19 action, by Friends of the Earth Brazil, here:

<http://www.amigosdaterrabrasil.org.br/2020/12/11/jornada-continental-pela-democracia-e-contra-o-neoliberalismo-reune-movimentos-sociais-nas-ruas-de-porto-alegre/>

You can also enjoy the photo library here:

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/hjardim/0499xm>

Watch the livestream by Brasil de Fato here:

[https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=667764420793732&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=667764420793732&ref=watch_permalink)

## **CESTA | FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EL SALVADOR**

### **FORUM ON "THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL MOVEMENT AND ITS DEMANDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DEMOCRACY"**



■ Silvia Quiroa, from CESTA – Friends of the Earth El Salvador. Photo by Mayra Castro

Social movement, peasant, environmental and feminist organizations participated on November 17 in San Salvador, the country's capital city, in the forum on "The role of the social movement and its demands for the construction of democracy", in the framework of the "Continental Action 2020 for the Construction and Defense of Democracy".

The purpose of the forum was to discuss the challenges faced by the peoples in Latin America regarding democracy and peoples' sovereignty, not only because of the experience of the current health crisis, but also as a consequence of the capitalist system and its model of development that have neglected peoples' lives and the environment.

The event was organized by by [CESTA – Friends of the Earth El Salvador](#), the Salvadorian chapters of the World March of Women, the Jubilee South network and La Via Campesina, jointly with the Movement of Victims and Affected by Climate Change and Corporations (MOVIAC), also from El Salvador.

"A true democracy is built with organized peoples, through the construction of movements, with decision making by the peoples, based on their emancipatory projects", said Silvia Quiroa from CESTA.

For more information about the forum please watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjl-uwcZKj4&feature=youtu.be>



**REDES - FRIENDS OF THE EARTH URUGUAY**  
**MEDIA ACTION FOR DEMOCRACY AND AGAINST NEOLIBERALISM**



■ REDES – Friends of the Earth Uruguay

A variety of organizations and social movements that are part of the *Intersocial* in Uruguay, the platform that brings together the resistance to the right-wing government of Luis Lacalle Pou, carried out a joint media action, with the production of short videos in which they framed their national demands in the context of the Continental Action 2020.

Audiovisual communications were used as an alternative to rallies and demonstrations in current times of Covid-19. The videos were produced jointly by REDES-Friends of the Earth Uruguay and the united trade union movement of Uruguay PIT-CNT, and were first broadcasted by this workers' union.

One of the central issues for the Uruguayan popular movements is the struggle against the recently passed omnibus Law of Urgent Consideration (LUC) of the Lacalle administration, a package including more than 400 clauses that impose significant setbacks for the working class and the most dispossessed.

**Watch the videos here:**

**Karin Nansen, from REDES – Friends of the Earth Uruguay.**

<https://twitter.com/PITCNT1/status/1329100843824635910>

**Fernando Gambera, from the united trade union movement of Uruguay PIT-CNT.**

<https://twitter.com/PITCNT1/status/1329489188014743552>

**Mauro Conti, from the University Students Federation of Uruguay (FEUU).**

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=196778938790521>

**Gustavo Gonzalez, from the Uruguayan Federation of Mutual Aid Housing Cooperatives (FUCVAM).**

<https://www.facebook.com/pitcntoficial/videos/756532444898763>

# OUR ALLIES

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## REGIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON A LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS



■ Victor Barro, Friends of the Earth International

On October 14, several organizations and social movements held this online conversation about the 2nd revised draft of the Binding Treaty that is being negotiated at the United Nations to regulate transnational corporations and bring them to account for their human rights violations.

Some of the prominent convening organizations include: TUCA, MAB, ATALC, the Continental Platform for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism, the Global Campaign to Reclaim Peoples Sovereignty, Dismantle Corporate Power and Stop Impunity, the Movement of the Affected by Dams in Latin America (MAR) and the Transnational Institute (TNI) from the Netherlands

**For more information on the Binding Treaty that is being negotiated within the UN Human Rights Council please visit:** <https://www.foei.org/un-treaty-tncs-human-rights>

**See also:** <https://www.stopcorporateimpunity.org/2nd-revised-draft-of-the-un-binding-treaty-global-campaign-statement/>

## MOBILIZATIONS AND NATIONAL STRIKE IN COLOMBIA



Colombian National Strike Committee

The Colombian National Strike Committee that brings together a variety of organizations and social movements in that country, supported the Day of Protest and Give-Away of the potato farmers on November 13 in view of the government's refusal to hold dialogues and negotiations, and held a National Strike on the 19th of that month, with mobilizations throughout the country.

"It is our responsibility to insist and continue protesting and mobilizing society to defend democracy, peace and rights", said the National Strike Committee in a statement issued on November 9.

The statement added, among other things: "In the midst of this situation, murders of social and community leaders, ex-guerilla combatants reintegrated into civilian life, peasants and Indigenous People, youth and women continue unabated. The death threats against leaders of the Colombian Federation of Education Workers (FECODE) and the United Workers Union of Colombia (Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Colombia - CUT) are a clear indication of the fascist bias in the behavior of those who want to restrict and prevent social mobilization and protests, resorting to repression and intimidation, fear and terror".

In a livestream during the strike, broadcasted in the Canal Capital TV news program, CUT Colombia representatives made the link between this national mobilization and the Continental Action 2020 of the Continental Platform for Democracy and against Neoliberalism in the course of their speeches.



## MOBILIZATION IN ARGENTINA CALLING FOR A TAX ON THE WEALTHIEST



The Argentinian Workers Central Autonomous Union (Central de Trabajadores/as de la Argentina Autónoma - CTAA) called for a demonstration on November 17 in Buenos Aires, the capital city, in front of the national Parliament, to demand a tax on the biggest fortunes in the hands of the wealthiest.

The CTAA's slogan was "Distribution of wealth to overcome the crisis".

More information here:

<https://www.facebook.com/JornadaContinental/>

■ Central de Trabajadores/as de la Argentina Autónoma (CTAA)

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## PROTEST IN SAN PEDRO SULA, HONDURAS



■ Confederación Unitaria de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de Honduras (CUTH)

The United Confederation of Honduran Workers (Confederación Unitaria de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de Honduras - CUTH) called for a sit-in on November 26 in front of the Central Park in San Pedro Sula, under the slogan "For Democracy and against Neoliberalism". The goal was to denounce and expose the government for "looting public and private social welfare institutions, outsourcing and casualization of labor, violations of labor and human rights during the Covid-19 pandemic and hurricanes Eta and Iota, and its disregard for the health care and education systems, among other issues.



## WEBINAR | DIALOGUE ON “ARTICULATED RESPONSES TO THE PANDEMIC”



■ Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) and Friends of the Earth Latin America & Caribbean (ATALC)

On December 3rd, TUCA and ATALC co-organized a webinar on “Articulated responses to the pandemic” as a contribution to the construction of narratives to dispute the dominant views regarding the new World of Work and the needed responses to the pandemic, and to underscore the need to defend democracy.

The online dialogue also allowed for an assessment of the context in the Americas, the challenges facing the region at the end of a year marked by the health care emergency and the authoritarian responses of some governments, and the progress made by the peoples in the struggle to forge democracy.

For additional information please see: <https://atalc.org/2020/11/28/webinario-dialogo-respuestas-articuladas-a-la-pandemia/>

See also Real World Radio’s coverage of the activity here: <https://rmr.fm/noticias/jornada-continental-destaco-respuestas-articuladas-a-la-pandemia-en-latinoamerica/>



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM REAL WORLD RADIO

Death threats against CLOC-Vía Campesina leader Nury Martínez

<https://rwr.fm/interviews/death-threats-against-cloc-via-campesina-leader-nury-martinez/>

Social organisations against UN food systems summit in 2021

<https://rwr.fm/interviews/social-organisations-against-un-food-systems-summit-in-2021/>

Shell taken to court in the Netherlands: groundbreaking case against climate change

<https://rwr.fm/news/shell-taken-to-court-in-the-netherlands-groundbreaking-case-against-climate-change/>

It's settled: fumigation is a death sentence

<https://rwr.fm/testimonies/its-settled-fumigation-is-a-death-sentence/>





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