

Founding Congress of the Latin American Region

Pledge of the Humanist Parties of Latin America

The most important things about Latin America are not its enormous mountains, impenetrable jungles or vast and silent deserts. The wealth of Latin America does not lie in its minerals, its plantations, or in the depth of its seas.

The real wealth of Latin America lies in its inhabitants; in the innocence of its children, the irreverence of its young and the muffled complaints of its old people; in the thirst for life of its men and women. The real wealth of Latin America is in its people, its diverse races and cultures, the multiplicity of its languages. Latin America begins in the Tierra del Fuego, encompasses all of Central and South America, basks in the heat of the Caribbean, and goes as far as Tijuana, even breaking into the Latin American immigrant districts of North America.

And yet in this vibrant Latin America our people cannot fulfil the most basic needs of life; their families are suffocated by debt and the threat of mass redundancy. State repression grows, with intolerance and despair increasing before a bleak future.

Today, the 7th January 1999, in Santiago de Chile, at this Extraordinary Congress of Humanist International, 10 years after its founding, the Humanist Parties of Latin America pledge to work to overcome the pain and suffering of our people. We aim to:

1. Begin a process of progressive and proportional disarmament throughout the region, in order to put an end to the injuries caused to our people by wars.
2. Overcome hunger, sickness and ignorance by guaranteeing education and health to all the inhabitants of the region.
3. Suspend payment of the external debt and demand that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank repay all money unfairly paid to them.
4. Decentralise the States, allowing the power of the Latin American nation to be in the control of its regions, cities, people, races and cultures.
5. Recognise the pluricultural character of our continent and support the development of organisations of native peoples and other cultures which are discriminated against.
6. Develop a Latin American tribunal which will receive complaints, and be able to judge and sentence the authorities of any country which violates human rights.
7. Promote the ownership rights of workers, thus establishing a new relationship of parity between work and capital.
8. Open our borders, our work sources, our hospitals, schools and universities to each and every Latin American citizen.
9. Construct land, air, sea and information links so that all corners of our continent are properly interconnected.
10. Guarantee future generations the right to an uncontaminated environment.
11. Build the Humanist Party in every country in the region, so as to have the necessary tools with which to give force to these promises.

The Humanist parties of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, The Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela here present ourselves at the Latin American Council of Humanist International.

This Council is dedicated to work in conjunction with all the political and social organisations which share this humanising direction.

Fellow Humanists, we make up part of the future Latin American Nation and hope that this will be a contribution towards the Universal Human Nation.

Santiago, 7th January 1999