Quito, September 1, 2012

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland


Distinguished Committee members:

Through the following Alternative Report, the Frente Ecuatoriano por la Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Derechos Reproductivos, Coordinadora Juvenil por la Equidad de Género, Organización Ecuatoriana de Mujeres Lesbianas-OEML, Centro Ecuatoriano para la Promoción y Acción de la Mujer-CEPAM Guayaquil, ACDemocracia, Azucena Soledispa, Gayne Villagómez, with support from Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Family Care International are providing the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee with additional information to the Informative letter we presented for the pre-session on December 5 – 9, 2011. In addition, here is a list of other organizations that support and agree to the contents and intention of this Report: The International Consortium for Emergency Contraception, Consorcio Latinoamericano contra el Aborto Inseguro, Internacional Planned Parenthood Federation, the Western Hemisphere Office, la Plataforma Nacional por los Derechos de las Mujeres, Red de Experiencias Autónomas de Aborto Seguro, Colectivo Político de Mujeres Luna Creciente, Servicios para un Desarrollo Alternativo del Sur- Sendas, Asociación de Mujeres Municipalistas del Ecuador, Cabildo de las Mujeres del Cantón Cuenca, and the Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos.

This report contains information on five key aspects of women’s right to health, particularly sexual and reproductive health, which require improved compliance on the part of the Ecuadorian State: 1. maternal mortality; 2. discrimination against women in their access to reproductive health services; 3. obstacles to women accessing emergency contraception, 4. a lack of appropriate
information and services for teens and youth, resulting in high rates of teen pregnancy, and, 5. discrimination in health services for lesbian and bisexual women.

The health system should guarantee services and goods in conditions that allow for the highest possible degree of enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health, which involves an obligation on the part of the State, in this case the Ecuadorian State, to guarantee the accessibility, availability and quality of a variety of sexual and reproductive health services, and to remove any obstacles or restrictions faced by women. Several obstacles persist regardless of the national legislation and international agreements signed by Ecuador and enormous challenges still exist to overcome the inequality and inequity that exists today between men and women in the enjoyment of the right to health in Ecuador.

The women’s organizations and individuals that have authored and support this report on the situation of Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health of Women in Ecuador humbly ask that this Honorable Committee pay special attention to the critical areas where weaknesses remain in the State’s actions.

Upon presenting this Alternative Report, we hope that you, distinguished members of the Committee, will consider its content when formulating your recommendations to the State of Ecuador, in order to promote and guarantee the highest degree of health for women, and thus strengthening the human rights of women in the country. We are submitting 25 hard copies of this report to the Committee as well as electronically.

Sincerely all of the following organizations,

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