



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**

**Re: Alternative Report on the situation of sexual and reproductive rights and health of women in Ecuador for the 49th Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to be held on November 12-30, 2012, Geneva, 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.

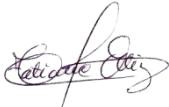
The women’s organizations and individuals that have authored and support this report on the situation of Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health of Women in Ecuador humbly ask that this Honorable Committee pay special attention to the critical areas where weaknesses remain in the State’s actions.

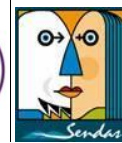
Upon presenting this Alternative Report, we hope that you, distinguished members of the Committee, will consider its content when formulating your recommendations to the State of Ecuador, in order to promote and guarantee the highest degree of health for women, and thus strengthening the human rights 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,

  
 Virginia Gomez de la Torre  
 Frente Ecuatoriana por la  
 Defensa de los derechos  
 Sexuales y Derechos  
 Reproductivos

  
 Sarahi Maldonado  
 Coordinadora Juvenil por la  
 Equidad de Género

  
 Tatiana Ortiz  
 Centro Ecuatoriano para la  
 Promoción y Acción de la  
 Mujer- CEPAM Guayaquil



Sandra Álvarez Monsalve  
Organización Ecuatoriana  
de Mujeres Lesbianas (OEML)

Gayne Villagomez  
Women's Rights Activist

Azucena Soledispa  
Women's Rights Activist

Heather Sayette  
Planned Parenthood Global

Rocio Rosero Garcés  
ACDemocracia

Maritza Segura Villalva  
Family Care International –  
Ecuador

Adriana Caicho  
Red De Experiencias  
Autónomas de Aborto Seguro

Clara Merino A.  
170389636-3

Clara Merino  
Plataforma por los Derechos  
de las Mujeres

Nidia Solís  
Cabildo de las Mujeres del  
Cantón Cuenca

Hilda Herrera  
Asociación de Mujeres  
Municipalistas del Ecuador

Mary Cabreras  
Servicios para un Desarrollo  
Alternativo del Sur-Fundacion  
Sendas

Susana Chavez  
Consortio Latinoamericano en  
Contra del Aborto Inseguro -  
CLACAI



*Carmen Barroso*

Carmen Barroso  
International Planned  
Parenthood Federation,  
Western Hemisphere Office

*Helen Gabriela Flores Rodríguez*

Helen Gabriela Flores  
Rodríguez Red  
Latinoamericana y Caribeña de  
Jóvenes por los Derechos  
Sexuales y Reproductivos

*Manuela Villafuerte H.*  
1714999990

Manuela Villafuerte  
Colectivo Político de Mujeres,  
Luna Creciente

*Larissa Arroyo Navarrete*

Larissa Arroyo Navarrete  
Consortio Latinoamericano de  
Anticoncepción de  
Emergencia