Greetings.

In light of the UN Security Council’s projected visit to Haiti, January 23 to 25, we wish to once again express our strongest rejection of the situation of subjugation experienced by the Haitian people. Together with diverse popular organizations and movements of Haiti, we demand an end to the intervention of the "international community" in the internal affairs of their country. In particular, we demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the MINUSTAH troops occupying Haiti, an end to the guardianship exercised over the country’s present and future and that reparation be made for the damages and crimes the MINUSTAH has committed.

The troops of the UN Mission for the Stabilization of Haiti - MINUSTAH – have occupied Haiti for more than 10 years now, at the request of the big powers like the US, France and Canada. The Security Council renewed its mandate in October, reaffirming its permanence until at least 2016 and totally ignoring the incidence of this presence in the course of events. Since then, the political crisis provoked in that country has continued to deepen, examples of the meddling of the "Core Group" of the "international community", in particular, multiply daily, and MINUSTAH forces have again participated directly in the repression of mass demonstrations that has caused several deaths.

The crisis currently facing the Haitian people belies all the arguments put forward to justify the continuation of the MINUSTAH. How can you speak to the Haitian people about sovereignty and democracy, respect for their Constitution, while occupying their land with foreign troops and showing no qualms about ignoring their opinions or most basic rights, as in the manipulation of the 2010/2011 presidential election and the imposition of the current president whose breaching of the constitution you now continue to support? Or by introducing the cholera epidemic, which has thus far killed 8,700 Haitians and infected 730,000 others, while at the same time refusing to accept responsibility and arguing in favor of total impunity?

The outsourcing of the military occupation, mostly to Latin American troops, further frees the powers that have historically dominated Haiti to focus on the ongoing political and economic occupation, continuing their perverse centuries-old colonial practices. Specializing in oil and mega-mineral exploitation, the expansion of luxury tourism, export agribusiness and the maquila, and aided by the World Bank and other IFIs, they evict peasants and fisherfolk from their lands, maintain below poverty-level wages and take advantage of the repressive forces trained by MINUSTAH. All at the expense as well of increasing debt, both financial as well as social, ecological and gender debt.

The permanence of the MINUSTAH troops and guardianship are a mockery of the hopes of "we, the people", increasingly betrayed by the control of big power interests over the United Nations.

We call on the Security Council, the governments of its member countries and those that participate in the MINUSTAH, the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean in particular, to listen to the Haitian people. It is the women and men of Haiti who have the right, the capacity and the need to be the architects of their own destiny.

We call as well on the "international community" to recognize its responsibility in the weakening of Haitian institutions and the violation of the human rights of its people, including the rape and sexual exploitation of women and youth by the MINUSTAH forces, the introduction of cholera, the "help" provided to the processes of exploitation and plundering of their lives and natural goods.

We call on you to stop such actions, restore what has been plundered and make reparations for the multiple debts and crimes of the occupation and colonization of Haiti. We have no doubt that policies of genuine solidarity and cooperation are possible; it is time that more countries multiply the generous examples that exist.

-Latin America and the Caribbean, January 22, 2015

enc / Statement 12/15/14; Open Letter, October 2014; Call to Mobilize, June 2014