**Platform for Environmental and Human Health – Junín Region**

**Public Declaration**

**Pandemic deepens pre-existing inequalities that are part of the most fragile chain of social protection.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed us before an unprecedented global humanitarian challenge which affects all the communities of our countries and the world. The pandemic is causing people's daily lives, and educational, health, labor, economic and financial systems to undergo drastic changes, affecting many aspects of health and life.

Communities and populations that interact with extractive activities are at greater risk of being adversely affected by COVID-19; either, due to the movement of outsiders in their territories, residing in areas of environmental contamination from mining or oil, depending on waters not suitable for human consumption, or being exposed to greater vulnerability due to poverty or social markers such as race, ethnicity, geographic distance or age, among others.

They are populations that are still forgotten in this context of COVID-19, in which the threat of fracture and social collapse is evident, further revealing social inequalities.

In this context, the Platform for Environmental and Human Health - Junín Region, made up of social organizations and people emerged from poorly recognized and often invisible families, especially in these moments of crisis that have exacerbated their vulnerability to diseases typical of this system, declares before the general population and local and regional authorities, the following:

That, we are in need of moving from strict confinement to focused confinement; for which, it is critical to improve the testing capacity, contact tracing, and response capacity of the health system. These are, after universal confinement, the most urgent challenges for our Junín region.

That, we encourage the population to adopt and maintain new ways of life, including physical distancing to protect the health and safety of families; the promotion of hygiene and sanitation habits according to the instructions of the health authorities, and dialogue between family members (fathers, mothers, children, young and old) to clarify and seek consensual family and community solutions.

That, given the weak State intervention with fragmented and partial responses on the health issues of these populations, it is necessary that the sub-national and national authorities make the best political and economic decisions to implement the National and Regional Program for Integrated Health, which focuses on promotion and prevention, and which places environmental and human health as a priority.

And, we strongly encourage the following actions:

* Expand and improve the regional plans for comprehensive health in the Region, giving greater importance to public health and increasing budget lines to avoid the death of many people, most of them poor.
* Provide the conditions for the active participation of communities and social organizations in collaboration with local government structures, with a view to providing voluntary health services for social and emotional accompaniment.
* Make visible and provide an effective response to the demands and gaps in comprehensive health care for families who are in vulnerable situations due to having been subjected to spaces of environmental contamination by heavy metals and other toxic substances, especially in areas of extractive activities.
* Identify and give priority attention to people who have already been suffering from chronic diseases such as: tuberculosis, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, regardless of whether they are in the Household Targeting System as extremely poor or poor, due to the nature of patients with chronic illness and social vulnerability.
* Guarantee the social protection of families against COVID-19 and exposure to heavy metals or sources of environmental contamination, deploying the greatest efforts in the massive opening of community outpatient services, ceasing to focus only on clinical treatment and ventilators.

Finally, we insist on the importance and urgency of the implementation and / or strengthening of the primary health care model, with the participation of community social actors, articulated to specialized health centers and telehealth, to decentralize care to localities. We must free ourselves from the prevailing hospital-centric mode. This global disease will be stopped with a regional response, from the territories and the contribution of each person.