SPANISH LANGUAGE LEARNING EXCHANGE, March 28, 2019
BRIEF PRELIMINARY SUMMARY

Co-conveners
IMPACT, Cambio Democrático Foundation, Crear Vale la Pena Foundation
In Partnership with Peace Direct (UK)

Objectives
To bring into generative conversation people working 1) in the field of Art and Social Transformation; 2) in the field of Conflict Transformation; and 3) at the intersection of both fields.

Questions
- Topic 1: When we say conflict in the region, what are we talking about? What do we think is left inside the concept and what is not and why? What are our conflicts, old and new?
- What public policies linked to Art, Culture and Social Transformation and Conflict Transformation have been adopted in the region? What results have they given? What do we still need to develop?
- Topic 3: What are the practices of the region provide inspiration and open opportunities for others? What do we want to share about our programs, projects, resources, achievements, impacts, knowledge, existing links, networks, research, inspiring documents, alliances?

Participants
- 132 participants from Latin America and Spain, joining the conversation from locations in the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brasil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, England, France, Holland, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Spain, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.
- Based in social organizations, the government, schools, universities, international organizations, foundations, artists collectives.
- Working as mediators, dancers, teachers, muralists, social workers, public servants, therapeutic companions, cultural managers, human rights experts, experts in conflict transformation, writers.

Facilitators
- Eighteen highly skilled and effective facilitators from Argentina and Bolivia

Learning
- Content of exchange: in process of analysis and translation (as of April 26, 2019)
Meaning of ‘conflicts’ in the region:

- Although there are classic conflictive situations in the region – war, immigration, (Colombia, Venezuelan immigrants to the rest of the region, veterans of Malvinas war, etc.) – during the exchange the participants identified as the most extended sources of conflict in the region with: loss of land from the original communities, socio-environmental conflicts for extreme extractive practices, poverty that characterizes Latin American societies, loss of regional identity in the face of globalization; gender issues.

- Sources of new type of conflicts emerged during the conversation: all those related to environmental causes. As one participant put it: “those conflicts between human beings and Nature and conflicts between human beings and artificial intelligence. They are new because there is no “them”. We conceptualize almost all conflicts from the narrative of anthropocentrism: conflicts are conflicts between human beings and their groups. And therefore, when we talk about the transformation of conflicts, we refer to the transformation of people, institutions, communities, societies and perhaps the great collective of all: humanity. Earth, Nature, Life – they are the stage, and only the stage for “our” conflicts.”

Sample of participants’ reflections on the significance of the exchange

- Thank you for inviting us to this space for reflection and learning.
- Thank you for opening this space of exchange, which allows me to meet again with beloved and admired people and meet new people interested in these issues.
- I am excited to enter this rich debate about the conflicts we encounter in our daily journey.
- Thank you very much for convening these spaces, which connect us, despite the distances and challenge us with their different way of building knowledge.
- I’ve been reading the comments until now and it’s amazing how beautiful these spaces are generated, again thanks!
- An immense joy to read every comment of the forum. The synergy generated by the exchange gives me great joy and realizes the need to enable these spaces. So I feel very grateful.
- What an enriching exchange ... wonderful questions, how much to think and re-think ...
- Congratulations for this vibrant exchange. The diversity of activities and strategy shows that it is a new culture for a new world/
- I want to thank what is expressed here, because through this forum I enrich a whole horizon and that feeling left by the words of Galeano when he talks about the sea of little fires ... being able to network with many little fires is wonderful. Thanks to those who organize and invite this forum, a great exchange tool.

Follow-up
• Conveners of the April 28 learning exchange organized a face-to-face seminar to continue conversations begun on-line