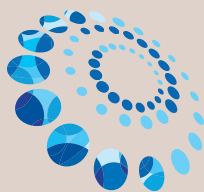




UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



**First session of the
Regional Conference on
Population and Development in
Latin America and the Caribbean**

Montevideo, 12 - 15 August 2013

**Proposed regional agenda on
population and development
for Latin America and
the Caribbean beyond 2014**



ICPD

International Conference on
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Beyond 2014





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This document was prepared by the professional staff of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, under the supervision of its Chief, Dirk Jaspers_Faijer. Coordination of the work was undertaken by Paulo Saad, Chief of the Area of Population and Development, and Ciro Martínez Gómez, consultant. The authors are grateful for support and substantive contributions received from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The document revisits, broadens and updates the discussions contained in ECLAC documents *Input for the preparation of a regional agenda for the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: towards 2014 and beyond* (LC/L.3219(CEP.2010/4)), of 2010, and *Reflections on the population and development agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014* (LC/L.3481(CEP.2/5)), of 2012. Valuable contributions were received for this version from the preparatory meeting for the first session of Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, on 20 and 21 May 2013, which was attended by representatives of the Presiding Officers of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, and by experts from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), civil society, academia and several division of ECLAC.

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SUMMARY

This document aims to identify and propose priority issues and approaches for the population and development agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014. The proposal is based on the review of the current situation and outlook regarding important economic, social and demographic dimensions in the region, and takes into account the main guidelines contained in the global and regional proposals for the adoption of a strategic agenda for sustainable development beyond 2015.

The document is divided into three chapters. Chapter I provides relevant background information and sets forth the objectives and scope of the proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014. Chapter II has two sections: the first gives an account of the economic and social context, including factors associated with global processes, principally globalization, the economic crisis and the region's international position in the global economy in the medium and long terms. It also discusses some particular features of the region, in particular, persistent inequality in multiple dimensions, including territorial and cultural heterogeneity and differences between population groups, and the role of these factors in perpetuating poverty. At the same time, attention is drawn to the positive experiences the countries have had and the key role played the State in the recent achievements in this regard, highlighting the need to reposition the State and strengthen its capabilities with greater vigour. The second section discusses the need to include the region's demographic context, including recent trends and projections of demographic components, and the impacts and challenges facing States in the medium and long terms, not only in the population and development agenda, but also in the agenda for development with equity. Chapter III sets forth the human rights approach underlying the proposal for the regional agenda on population and development, proposes a selection of priority issues on the basis of the contexts described, including, for each, the rationale, key messages and actions that could be included on the population and development agenda and, lastly, refers to a number of frameworks and mechanisms which are needed to implement a regional agenda on population and development.

I. BACKGROUND, MANDATE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED REGIONAL AGENDA ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN BEYOND 2014

A. BACKGROUND

In resolution 65/234 on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014, adopted on 5 April 2011, the United Nations General Assembly noted that considerable gaps still exist in implementation of different areas of the Programme of Action of the Conference. It also acknowledged that many Governments may not meet all the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action by 2014 and, accordingly, they should remain valid beyond 2014. The General Assembly therefore decided to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives. The resolution emphasizes the need for Governments to recommit themselves at the highest political level to fulfilling the agreements of the Cairo Programme of Action, protecting the achievements of the Conference, responding to new challenges of the changing environment, and reinforcing the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development.

The Cairo Programme of Action has had a high profile and profound impact in the 20 years since its adoption. Now, in view of ongoing global and, especially, regional transformations, some of its recommendations need to be strengthened and reprioritized, with an emphasis on particular regional and national realities which merit recognition, understanding and attention with regard to action proposed for the future. In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, great territorial heterogeneity, cultural diversity and complexity, inequality (social, gender and ethnic), weak institutions, rapid progress through the stages of the demographic transition, and the (relative) abundance of natural resources, among other things, are specific features that affect the population-sustainable development link and should therefore form part of any agenda for regional action in this area. In particular, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the effort to reduce inequality must cut across all the thematic areas involved, because persistent inequity influences the population behaviours and demographic patterns that broaden gaps in the exercise of rights.

The region's specific features embody both potential and limitations as regards the environmental sustainability process. Latin America and the Caribbean has reached a juncture which offers a good opportunity to take stock of the implementation status of the Cairo commitments and arrive at specific proposals for the future, taking into account consolidated and emerging trends as regards population and development and adopting a broad and integrated approach.¹

In order to propose a regional agenda on population and development, the progress made, lessons learned and remaining implementation gaps regarding the Cairo Programme of Action and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development must be identified as an essential frame of reference. The outcomes of the systematic follow-up conducted in these areas by ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is set forth in evaluations of the Cairo Programme of Action five, ten and fifteen years after its adoption² and, in particular, in the summary and overview assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3640(CRPD.1/3)), which will be presented at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

B. MANDATE

At its meeting held in Quito from 4 to 6 July 2012, the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted agreement 1, in which it decided that the Committee would be renamed Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. In agreement 1, the participating countries thanked the Government of Uruguay for its offer to host the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. This was reflected in resolution 670(XXXIV) "Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean" adopted by ECLAC at its thirty-fourth session, held in San Salvador, in August 2012, which endorsed the change in name and the other provisions contained in agreement 1, and welcomed agreement 2 of the Committee, "Population, territory and sustainable development, and other priority activities", whose paragraph 43 requests the secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) "...to prepare a regional report on the achievements, pending issues and emerging challenges for the future and, in

¹ See ECLAC (2013b) and United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda (2012).

² See ECLAC/CELADE (2010b) and ECLAC/UNFPA (2010).

the light of the outcome of this study to update the proposed regional agenda on population and development post-2014, for presentation and discussion at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the second half of 2013”.

Further to this request, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the newly created Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, prepared two reports: (a) “Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: review of the 2009-2013 period and lessons learned. Summary and overview” and (b) this report, entitled “Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014”. Both documents were prepared in close collaboration with the UNFPA regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean and received inputs from various divisions of ECLAC. Inputs and contributions were received from other sources, as well, including several from civil society.

C. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE³

The purpose of this document is to provide the countries and international agencies with elements that will serve to identify priority issues and key actions with a view to formulating the regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014.

To this end, the document gives an overview of the current situation and foreseeable outlook as regards economic, social and demographic aspects, with particular reference to characteristics that may be considered specific to the region and have particular implications for its integration into global sustainable development processes.

The document also explores certain global phenomena which have an impact on the interplay between population and sustainable development in the region in the framework of the strategic sustainable development proposals currently being considered at the global and regional levels.

The proposals made here are consistent with the idea that it is necessary, on the one hand, to strengthen and broaden the population and development agenda in order to tackle the new challenges looming on the horizon for the region and, on the other, to incorporate population variables more deeply into economic and social development policies and programmes and to improve governance in general.

II. ELEMENTS OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT WITH BEARINGS ON THE FUTURE POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

A. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

To advance towards fully integrating population dynamics into rights-based sustainable development with equality, countries and international development agencies need to explicitly consider the particular features of the region, including its internal well-being and human rights gaps, and asymmetries with the

³ The document revisits, broadens and updates the discussions contained in ECLAC (2012f), and ECLAC (2010e).

developed world. They must take into account, in particular, the huge, unprecedented changes which have taken place in the region and the world in recent decades and identify the new demographic, economic, social, political and institutional challenges that these pose for the medium and long terms. Some of the key contextual factors are described below.

1. Factors associated with global processes

a) Globalization

Globalization has become consolidated around the world and in the region and must therefore be part of the scenario for future population and development agendas. Economic globalization has driven increasing interconnection of economies and markets, improved communication channels, lowered transport costs and eliminated taxes and barriers. In principle, engagement with globalization should lead to a more efficient distribution of resources and bring benefits for all countries and regions by boosting employment and productivity, thereby expanding wealth and raising living standards.

However, the way the globalized model has functioned in Latin America and the Caribbean has produced unstable and highly uneven outcomes between countries and territories and it embodies certain limitations and threats (ECLAC 2012f). Economically speaking, international capital flows are highly volatile. The region has tended to increase its specialization in extractive or low value added activities and exports of raw materials (reprimarization of the economy). Together, these factors narrow the possibilities for broadening employment and, especially, for raising living standards and productivity.

From the point of view of population, the Latin American and Caribbean region's incorporation into the globalized market coincided with the stage of the demographic transition in which the working-age population was expanding strongly (the demographic dividend). This has posed States a great challenge in terms of creating jobs and guaranteeing access to quality employment. And reprimarization of the economies is not the ideal mechanism for achieving these things. On the contrary, extractive activities can sometimes increase informality, where they are conducted under precarious conditions, with limited oversight of health and social security impacts on workers and with predatory impacts on the environment.

Another sensitive issue for Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of globalization is the scale of emigration to developed countries, as well as increasing flows of migrants between Latin American countries. Nevertheless, a variety of barriers still imposed by host countries and certain restrictions encourage trafficking, abuse and breaches of migrants' human rights. Globalization has also had a significant impact on the territorial distribution of the population, and has led to a new concentration of activities, resources and services in the fastest-growing areas of the region. This can increase urban segregation and vulnerability and hasten the isolation and economic and social deterioration of rural areas and small municipalities.

b) The economic crisis

A second important factor to bear in mind with regard to the economic and social context is the global economic crisis that broke out in 2008. A hallmark of this crisis has been its uneven impact on the different blocs of countries. In particular, it left no doubt about the growing importance of the emerging economies and the resilience that some regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean, have developed to these sorts of shocks.

Although the Latin American and Caribbean economies are looking robust just now, their heavy dependence on raw materials exports detracts from the short- and medium-term economic outlook as demand from developed economies slackens. Other threats facing the region from global economic instability are capital flow volatility, exchange-rate instability, and domestic inflationary pressures. The region should be prepared to tackle potential fallout by maintaining and stepping up prudential macroeconomic measures and adopting firm policies to safeguard employment along with other gains made in the social sphere. The State clearly has an important role to play in such policies (ECLAC, 2010b and ECLAC, 2013b).

In the long-run, there is bound to be a reordering of the global economy. The emerging economies are expected to gain a larger share in the global economy than the developed economies and South-South trade will exceed North-North trade by 2020 (ECLAC, 2010b; León, 2013). Population dynamics play an important role in this reordering: ageing and low rates of population growth in Europe and the United States are reducing the relative size of these economies, while in many emerging economies the economically active population is still growing (that is, they are still in the midst of the demographic dividend), which tends to boost economic growth. At the same time, South-South migratory flows are expected to increase substantially, which calls for rethinking migration policy in the region, in order to avoid reproducing models fraught with barriers, restrictions and human rights abuses, and instead forge agreements and standards to govern population movements and extract maximum mutual benefit from them.

c) **Sustainable development and climate change**

Sustainable development and climate change are essential elements of the economic and social context to take into account for the future population and development agenda. Assessments of the implementation of global commitments on sustainable development⁴ have found both progress and gaps in this respect in the past two decades. On the one hand, “The region’s environmental legislation and institutions have been strengthened [...] and sustainable development has become established as a concept in the context of public policies and business activity”, but elements of non-environmentally sustainable patterns of production, consumption, governance and location persist in the region, and these heighten the risks for the population (ECLAC, 2012e, ECLAC, 2013b). The combination of population trends and human activities influences risk exposure. Simply put, the more people there are in a high-risk area, the greater the likelihood that climatological or geodynamic phenomena will result in injury or loss of life.⁵

The Latin American and Caribbean region has been increasingly prone to disasters caused by natural events or phenomena, and these tend to intensify with climate change. The great majority of these disasters occur in urban areas. As a result of inadequate planning, the settlement and location of the population in the region’s large cities has tended to worsen asymmetries of service access and quality. Socio-spatial segregation has become more acute in the absence of integrated approaches and of rights awareness in policies on housing and in the location of infrastructure and services. All these factors have left large parts of the population more exposed and vulnerable to disaster risk, multiplying the economic and social impacts of such events.

⁴ Understanding this model as having “...the value of equality at the core of its actions, one which is capable of carrying forward simultaneous social development, economic growth and environmental sustainability” (ECLAC, 2012e).

⁵ See [online] http://www.unisdr.org/files/31104_doc18918contenido.pdf.

2. Hallmarks of Latin America and the Caribbean

a) **Entrenched inequality**

A first hallmark of Latin America and the Caribbean is its high level of inequality. The region's inequality spans many dimensions and is manifested in many ways: income inequality, referring to the large gaps between high- and low-income groups; gender inequality, which seriously limits progress on women's economic, physical and political autonomy; territorial inequality, by which people's location within the territory leads to various forms of discrimination, lags and vulnerability; inequalities between specific population groups which suffer deprivation or discrimination on the basis of their sex, age or ethnicity; and segmentation in social protection systems.

It is important to consider inequality in the framework of the region's development agendas because it is a clear reflection of the unequal exercise of rights. So, achieving equality is, along with economic growth and environmental sustainability, both a key pillar and an intrinsic value of sustainable development proposals for the region (ECLAC, 2010b).

From the point of view of the regional agenda on population and development, uneven population growth in countries and territories interacts with development inequalities and offers both challenges and opportunities that need to be identified explicitly. In particular, inequalities affecting particular population groups over the life cycle can reproduce inequality and poverty and transmit them from one generation to the next. This underscores the need for an integrated approach to agendas on population and sustainable development with equality.

i) Income inequality

Latin America and the Caribbean is the world region with the greatest income inequality. This persistent trait, which has been amply illustrated in economic and social analyses, represents a serious limitation for achieving sustainable development in the region. The data show a slight trend towards improvement in this regard, but the current levels remain dramatic: around 2011,⁶ based on a simple average for the region, the average income of the richest 20% of the population was 17 times that of the poorest quintile, and in the countries with the highest levels of inequality, the richest quintile had an income as much as 25 times that of the poorest quintile (ECLAC, 2013a).

It warrants mention that income distribution improved in most of the countries of the region in the past decade. This is a very positive development, especially considering that the region held on to these gains despite the impact of the crisis on its 2009 growth. ECLAC contends that this achievement shows that the region was able to translate economic growth into rises in employment and in labour income, thereby benefiting the poorest sectors (ECLAC, 2010a and 2011c).

In large part, these achievements may be attributed to the efforts States have devoted to specific social programmes to transfer monetary resources to the very poor. One key aspect of this has been broadening the non-contributory component of social security systems; another is conditional cash transfer (CCT) schemes. Many countries have made inroads in reducing poverty and inequality, suggesting that it is worthwhile not only to continue, but indeed to build up and expand, public policies

⁶ Includes 18 countries with recent data available, most for 2011, except for Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador (data for 2010), the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Nicaragua (data for 2009) and Guatemala (data for 2006).

and programmes of this sort. These efforts also clearly require ongoing oversight and strategic evaluation, as well as adjustments to some weaker aspects.⁷

ii) *Gender inequality*

The link between development and women's autonomy refers to the progress of women in the public and private spheres, as an essential requirement for ensuring that they may exercise their rights fully. With today's levels of economic, technological and social development, women's autonomy is possible, and there is no reasonable explanation for gender inequality, maternal mortality, adolescent pregnancy, precarious employment, the over-burden of domestic and unpaid work performed by women or the increase the numbers of older women with precarious income or no income at all. Still less for gender violence. Inequality and the lack of autonomy that goes along with it are primarily a result of injustice, of an uneven distribution of power, income and time between men and women, as well as a lack of awareness of women's rights (ECLAC, 2011b).

As for women's economic autonomy, the overall figures show a commendable improvement in the distribution of income and poverty, including an undeniable increase in the number of women in the labour market and in their access to goods and services. But they also show that women tend to enter unregulated markets which afford them lower wages than men, which reflects their difficulty in combining unpaid and paid work, or, put another way, the need to cover both monetary income needs and reproductive and care work in the household. Recent data show that the proportion of women is rising among the poor. Also still high are the proportion of women with no income of their own (i.e. those with most difficulty in progressing towards economic autonomy) and levels of poverty and indigence, and glaring differences remain between countries.⁸ The persistence of inequality therefore hinders access to physical and political autonomy.

Of particular concern is the fact that a high proportion of women aged over 65 —43% in the urban regional average— have no pension or retirement benefit (ECLAC, 2010c). The combination of low income and poor social security coverage in this age group, as well as omission of the gender-differentiated impacts of ageing, underscore the need for State responses in the short term to tackle the difficulties of this growing segment of the population. State efforts in this direction must be coordinated with provision for basic rights to health, care, housing and other services.

Women's physical autonomy is achieved through the exercise of power and the ability to make decisions about their own lives. This involves the connections between sexual life, physical integrity and income and assets: for women to rise out of poverty, their bodies have to be respected in all senses and this means they must not suffer physical, economic, sexual or psychological violence. To achieve autonomy, women need to be able to exercise control over material goods and intellectual resources. The

⁷ Conditional transfer programmes undoubtedly represent a landmark of Latin America social policy and a solid and comparable tool for monetary assistance to the poor. They also represent a turning point in bringing State policies closer to women, which has unquestionably helped to improve their living standards. They have two key weaknesses, however: one is that they segment social protection systems and the other is that their maternalist approach constitutes another obstacle to eliminating gender inequalities, since they entrench women's role as caregivers and mediators between the State, the family and the community, and do not aid economic participation independently of the assistance (ECLAC, 2013b).

⁸ The gender ratio among the poor rose from 109 women for every 100 men in 2002 to 118 women per 100 men in 2010. In 2008, 32% of women had no income of their own, falling slightly to 30% in 2010. In 2010, 45% of indigent women and 39% of non-indigent poor women had no possibility of becoming economically autonomous (ECLAC, 2013a).

region today still has barriers preventing women from exercising the right to live free from violence, which shows that much remains to be done. Achievements are only partial and very uneven, and violence against women remains at dramatic levels.⁹ Maternal mortality is another categorical and highly sensitive indicator of women's physical autonomy, and is examined in another section of this document.

Adolescent maternity is an unresolved issue that highlights the disadvantages young women face in accessing and using sexual and reproductive health services. The stubbornly high regional average here is associated with the fact that in most of the countries, adolescent maternity is concentrated among the very poor. This issue represents a great challenge from a development-with-equity perspective, because early maternity increases poverty among very young women, limits their educational possibilities and narrows their labour-market chances, thereby worsening inequality and passing poverty on to the next generation. Adolescent maternity requires thorough analysis, taking into account its multiple social, economic and cultural determinants, including cultural factors that promote maternity, erotization and strong motivation for early sexuality, which need to be considered alongside preventive health and education programmes.

Certainly, women in Latin America and the Caribbean have gained a foothold and made slow, gradual progress as regards autonomy in political decision-making and their involvement in politics in the region has become increasingly accepted. The proportion of women in parliaments has risen, thanks in large part to affirmative action mechanisms (quota or parity laws). The proportion of women in the executive and judicial powers and local government has risen, too, on average in the region. But these regional averages are slow to rise and in fact appear to have reached a standstill in the past few years; none of the indicators exceeds 25%, which suggests that the average masks critical situations in some countries.

iii) Territorial inequality

Latin America and the Caribbean is a vast region with great geographical and climatic heterogeneity, large differences in natural resources endowments and considerable cultural and demographic diversity. The great differences between countries—and between territories and population groups within countries—in access to the fruits of development is absolutely unjustifiable and constitutes a clear manifestation of discrimination in the exercise of rights. The current context of economic growth and improvements in distribution offers an invaluable opportunity to reduce imbalances in development and living standards.

Heterogeneity between countries and territories is manifested in all aspects of people's lives: capacity-building, access to resources or services, availability of options and opportunities and, ultimately, the exercise of rights. Among the multiple expressions of inequality, differences in poverty and income distribution indices encapsulate gaps in quality of life between territories and population groups. Differences in access and achievement within the education system also illustrate the broad dispersion of opportunities and capacities among the region's population, and this becomes the main mechanism of poverty reproduction.

⁹ In 2011 466 deaths of women at the hands of an intimate partner were recorded in 10 countries of the region (Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Peru and Uruguay), showing that 30% of gender-motivated killings of women were perpetrated by their current or former boyfriends, spouses and partners.

The use of multidimensional poverty indicators,¹⁰ which capture deprivation in terms of different basic needs, gives an insight into the sheer scale of differences in living standards among the countries of the region: in 2009, for example, the proportion of people without access to an improved drinking water source varied from 2% to 28%. The proportion without proper sewerage systems varied from 1% to 40% and children's non-attendance at school ranged from 3% to 40% (ECLAC, 2010a).

The situation and trends as regards income distribution are very uneven among the region's countries, as well: the richest decile captures around 25% of income in the least unequal countries (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Uruguay), but 35% and 40% in Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Guatemala (ECLAC, 2013a).

Differences in education are dramatic. In preschool education, coverage is almost universal in some countries, but barely 30% in others. In primary education, school lag and dropout are still prevalent problems that hinder timely conclusion. Large differences remain in primary school completion: 96% of children in urban areas, but only 85% in rural areas, complete primary schooling (ECLAC, 2010a). At the secondary level, the situation is even more uneven between countries and by geographical area, socioeconomic level and ethnic origin. In particular, indigenous peoples and the Afro-descendent population face the greatest difficulties in accessing the education system at all levels. Many of them live in remote rural areas with access to only poor educational establishments, with inadequate infrastructure, maintenance, teaching quality and materials. In addition, curricula are often not properly adapted or relevant to them (ECLAC, 2010a).

iv) Inequality among young people and poverty reproduction mechanisms

Although recent studies show that the proportion of children and adolescents living in households with incomes below the poverty line has fallen significantly, in most of the countries this drop was smaller than for other age groups. As a result, the overrepresentation of children and adolescents in poor and vulnerable categories rose considerably. This appears to reflect the region's difficulties in changing structural variables that fuel intergenerational poverty reduction and the debt still owed to these age groups in terms of public spending allocations and social security coverage, compared with other age groups (Rossel, 2013).

Differences in access, quality and achievement within the education system, in a context of increasing skills demands in the labour market, illustrate the broad dispersion of opportunities and capacities that is one of the main mechanisms by which poverty and inequality are reproduced.

Although most Latin American countries have achieved universal coverage and equal access for girls and boys in primary education, challenges remain in terms of improving quality and completion rates at this level. It is necessary to leverage the impact of the educational demographic dividend, in other words, the reduction in the proportion and number of children of primary school age. This represents a major saving in effort and public spending which could be invested in improving the quality of primary schooling and in moving towards quality and coverage targets at the subsequent levels of education (ECLAC, 2008).

¹⁰ The multidimensional poverty approach reflects the need to complement monetary measurements of poverty and living standards with indicators of material lacks and deprivations in other spheres of human well-being. See ECLAC (2010a).

In secondary and higher education, many challenges remain. Demographic transition dynamics are leading to a growing proportion of young people of secondary school age, in tertiary education and in transit towards the labour market. This trend must necessarily be taken into account for the regional population and development agenda, along with its implications in terms of the rights and the social and economic situation of adolescents and young people in relation to education and employment policies. Determined efforts are needed to improve and even out the coverage and quality of opportunities for school progression and conclusion for young people, as well as the value of education in relation to life plans, and the returns on educational achievement, especially for women, whose efforts in this area are not reflected in the access, quality and pay they find in the labour market.

Another major mechanism by which social and poverty gaps are reproduced is early pregnancy, especially unwanted pregnancy, which is a major vulnerability factor among girls and young women. It demonstrates the disadvantages younger men and women, especially from the poorest and least educated groups, face in accessing and using sexual and reproductive health resources. Early pregnancy heavily constrains opportunities and imposes care obligations at a very young age. Although the data indicate a recent drop in adolescent fertility in several countries and in the regional average, levels are still very high, especially among the poorest, who in any case already bear a heavier childrearing burden.

Early fertility in this context means that large numbers of young mothers are forced to form and care for households prematurely, which limits their continued education and pushes them into employment in low-productivity activities. Reproductive behaviour leading to high rate of early fertility tends to be passed on from one generation to the next, creating a mechanism of long-term poverty and inequality reproduction (ECLAC, 2010a). Early fertility is also a result of limited access for adolescents to quality sexual and reproductive health services, leading to unprotected sexual relations and the risk not only of early maternity but also of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Among other measures, comprehensive sex education needs to be incorporated into education systems in the region.

v) *Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations*

Today 671 indigenous peoples are recognized by Latin American States, either directly in legislation or in public policy instruments. Together, they number over 46 million. There is also a large Afro-descendent population, estimated at over 120 million. Indigenous peoples have historically been excluded and ethnic inequality is, in fact, another dimension of the acute inequality prevailing in the region (ECLAC, 2010a).

Despite the significant progress made, especially in the past 15 years, in achieving recognition for indigenous people's rights in the region and worldwide, the situation is still critical: indigenous peoples are hugely disadvantaged with lower income, higher poverty rates, lower education, worse health and poorer housing conditions, and their political and social recognition is undermined by the occupation and exploitation of their ancestral lands. Although there are large sociodemographic and territorial differences, in general these groups suffer structural discrimination, with many of the rights enshrined in their respective country's constitution and legislation, such as the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, being breached (Del Popolo, 2008a; ECLAC, 2006).

Although recent census data show a drop in indigenous child mortality, ethnic gaps are still large and the region is far from having met the target of lowering indigenous infant and child mortality to the levels in the general population (ECLAC/WHO/UNFPA, 2010). In addition, local studies have found higher maternal mortality among indigenous and Afro-descendent women, as well as higher early

maternity (Del Popolo, López and Acuña, 2009). These differences represent gaps in access to sexual and reproductive health services and illustrate the inequality prevailing in the region. Notwithstanding, cultural diversity also influences reproductive patterns among some indigenous peoples, and they may even represent survival strategies among those in danger of extinction.

Indigenous peoples' demands centre on territorial rights, as necessary for the development of their identity and their autonomy as peoples. Although legalizations of land and territories in favour of indigenous peoples and communities have increased in number and in terms of the surface area granted, little has been achieved as regards living standards. What is more, in the context of globalization, pressure had increased to gain control of territories and exploit natural resources, requiring still greater efforts to guarantee territorial rights.

b) Institutional and governance

After the wave of privatizations in the region, especially in the 1980s and 1990s, and State downsizing and disengagement from the economy, it became evident that the free interaction of market forces had certain limitations from a social perspective. Two areas in which gaps widened were social protection and education (ECLAC, 2010b).

In this scenario, it is clear that the State needs to play a stronger role in implementing measures to reduce inequality and poverty and to ensure that economic growth brings broader access to well-being. In several Latin American and Caribbean countries the State has regained its role in social policy, implementing programmes and schemes for the most vulnerable sectors, such as broadening social security coverage and conditional cash transfers (ECLAC, 2012f; ECLAC, 2010b).

The State's capacity as regards planning and governance of social policies and programmes for reducing inequality should also be boosted. Given the region's great territorial heterogeneity, it is necessary to specify needs, design responses and plan development strategies in a differentiated manner. Accordingly, capacity-building needs to be extended to subnational bodies and local levels. The region does have experience in decentralization, and in some countries responsibilities have already been transferred to intermediate and local governments, although with mixed results. Levels of management need to be properly coordinated and territories must have the resources and capacities they need to deal with transferred responsibilities.

The population perspective is essential for building the State's capacities at the different levels. The use of demographic inputs in social policy helps to identify gaps and to determine priorities, targets, strategies and follow-up mechanisms. It also helps to coordinate territorial policies with national fiscal frameworks and with long-term projections, and strengthens participation by citizens in governance and accountability. In turn, territorial planning, especially local planning, is very important because the effects of population dynamics are often magnified at the local level, and the population perspective gives policies a more comprehensive view. In fact, local governments have played an active role in boosting the use of sociodemographic knowledge and information for promoting local socioeconomic development.

The availability and processing capacity of sociodemographic information need to be substantially increased in order to capture heterogeneity and ensure decentralized and participatory design and governance of plans, policies and progress for reducing inequality and poverty. Information needs to be disaggregated by country, urban or rural area, age, sex, ethnicity and other relevant characteristics. Data need to be of higher quality and more timely, and they must be disseminated as widely as possible. In this respect, the region has made considerable progress in access to and processing of census microdata.

Public stakeholders and civil society also need to develop their capacities for consulting and using sociodemographic information, and must build a broader understanding of the determinants and implications of demographic dynamics. Demands for training are extremely heavy and the response is very piecemeal, because of constraints on financial resources. This issue should form part of a regional agenda on population and development.

B. THE DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

1. The demographic transition

Since the 1950s, all the Latin American and Caribbean countries have moved into the demographic transition, in which first mortality rates, then fertility rates, begin to fall. Fertility began a steady, rapid decline in most of the countries as of the late 1960s, and this process spread quickly, even to the region's less developed countries. As a result, in the last four decades, the region has seen major transformations in population size, growth patterns and structure.

But, although the demographic transition may be considered to have spread to all the countries today, the region's great geographical, economic, social, political and cultural heterogeneity also implies major differences in the speed and timing of demographic changes from one country to another and even within countries and between population groups. Demographic change occurred earlier in urban areas and in the higher social strata, whereas quite high levels of fertility and mortality persist in rural areas, lower social strata and vulnerable population groups, such as indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. The lag in the demographic transition in excluded groups is due to their more limited access to education, health care and family planning methods and constraints on women's autonomy to make decisions on reproductive behaviour, all of which reflects barriers to the exercise of their rights.

a) Changes in size and growth of the population

The heavy reduction in fertility and mortality levels associated with the demographic transition in Latin America and the Caribbean has had a strong impact on the size and growth of the population. From the mid-twentieth century, the region's population expanded quite rapidly as a legacy of strong demographic growth in the 1950s and 1960s, when mortality rates fell faster than fertility rates. Between 1950 and 2013 the region's population more than tripled, from 167 million to just under 610 million.

Although fertility rates will soon fall below replacement level, the effects of the change in the population's age structure mean that the region's population will continue to expand in the medium term, albeit much more slowly than in the past. The population is projected to increase by around 11% by 2025 (to 679 million), and another 11% by 2050 (to 751 million). The population will then begin to shrink as of 2057. Of course, these are average growth indicators, but the great heterogeneity between countries cannot be disregarded. Two examples at different extremes are Cuba and Guatemala: whereas Cuba's population is already shrinking slightly, Guatemala's is growing quite quickly, at 2.5% per year.

Despite significant changes in the size and growth rate of the region's population, it will remain more or less constant as a proportion of the world population throughout this century. In 1950 the population of Latin America and the Caribbean was 6.6% of the world total; in 2010, it represented around 8.6%; by 2050 it is projected to be 8.1% and by 2100, it will drop back to almost the level of 1950.

The different population growth rates in the various world regions have reconfigured the relative weights in the global population. In particular, Europe's population has declined as a proportion of the global total since the 1950s, while Africa's has risen steadily. This population reconfiguration affects the economies' relative size within the global economy. The emerging economies have acquired greater growth potential because of their demographic status, which translates into a larger volume of economically active population (the demographic dividend). In this content, several Latin American emerging economies, especially Brazil and Mexico, stand to gain a great deal. Clearly, however, transforming a favourable demographic situation into real economic growth depends on the capacity to drive growth in the rest of the factors of production and, especially, to promote investment in human capital.

b) The region's shifting age structure

One of the most significant consequences of the changing demographic dynamics in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the impact on the population's size and rate of growth, is the transformation in its age structure. The population in the region is now ageing steadily.

The changes in the three major age groups broadly illustrate the sheer scale of this transformation. The weight of the population aged under 15 has dropped from 40% in 1950 to less than 28% today, and is expected to keep falling to reach just 15% in 2100 (ECLAC/CELADE, 2012a). During the same period, the population aged 15-59 —considered the economically active ages— rose from 54% of the region's total population to a high of 63% today, and is projected to fall to 50% in 2100. The population aged 60 and over, whose weight has risen only slightly since 1950 (from 6% to 11%), will increase rapidly to 35% by the end of the century. Around 2035, the proportion of older persons (60 and over) will exceed the proportion of children aged under 15.

i) The demographic dividend

These changes in the age structure of the region's population mean that the countries are currently traversing a particular period in which the weight of the working-age population is growing in relation to the population of inactive ages (children and older persons). This period, known as the demographic dividend, offers a particularly favourable situation for development in which the larger proportion of workers and lower relative expenditure on dependent persons form better conditions for economic growth, with higher available income and possibilities for rapid capital formation. In this regard, several studies suggest that age structure changes are responsible for a large part of the poverty reduction achieved in some countries (Hakkert and others, 2012). CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC has calculated that the change in age structure in the period 1990-2015 may increase regional per capita GDP by 18% on average.

Although all the region's countries are currently traversing this favourable period, they vary considerably as to the starting point and duration of the demographic dividend. In general, the countries which are furthest ahead in the demographic transition have less time left in that window than those which are further behind in the process. For example, whereas the demographic dividend will end very soon in Cuba and Chile, it will last until the middle of the twenty-first century in Guatemala and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

But the fruits of the demographic dividend do not accrue automatically. The concentration of the population in economically active ages can yield no benefits if the supply of jobs is poor or of low productivity, or if workers are not adequately trained. The success of the dividend therefore hinges on the

adoption of macroeconomic policies that promote investment in production, raise the supply of labour and promote a stable social and economic setting for sustained development.

ii) *Rapid population ageing*

After the demographic dividend, a period of rapid population ageing is projected in which the proportion of older persons will rise substantially, posing new and complex challenges for society. Although the ageing process is uneven between countries in the region, sooner or later they will all need public programmes and policies for adjustment in various areas, including pensions financing for an increasingly aged population, the adaptation of health care systems to respond to the complex and costly morbidity issues of older persons, and the supply of long-term care.

Insofar as older persons depend on transfers from economically active groups —whether in the form of private intra-family transfers or public transfers through the taxation system— population ageing tends to increase the economic burden on the active population. It is clear that a heavy fiscal burden will weigh on the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, especially if —as is desirable— levels of pension system coverage, including non-contributory pensions, which in most of the region's countries are still very low, are increased substantially. Amid population ageing, it will, in fact, be particularly difficult for the governments of the region to reconcile sustainability and universalization of pension systems (including the solidary pillar) in a manner that is in keeping with older persons' rights.

Financing for health is also likely to emerge as a major social challenge in the region, owing to increasing use by an ageing population combined with the high-complexity, high-cost care associated with this age group. Health systems will necessarily have to adapt to this new situation, especially as regards screening, prevention and treatment for chronic and degenerative illnesses in the context of the epidemiological transition. One major impact of this transition will be, in fact, increasing demand for care, since chronic and degenerative diseases are the main cause of disability and loss of autonomy among older persons.

Demand for care, which has traditionally been supplied by the family, is rising even as the family's capacity to continue providing it has been weakened by demographic shifts and changes in women's productive role. With much smaller average numbers of children per family, the transfer of this type of intergenerational support will become increasingly difficult to sustain. Also, as women, who have historically shouldered the care burden within the family, gain autonomy and empowerment and devote themselves increasingly to economic activities, they will have much less time to devote to basic care for older family members. Many studies have described the need for care as a new social risk typical of societies in transition and mature societies. This risk calls for more decisive action by governments in providing universal care services which are framed around the idea of shared provision by the State, the private sector, civil society and households, as well as between men and women.

The gender perspective cannot be left out of the demographic implications for public policy, particularly as regards social protection for older persons. First of all, because women form a majority among older persons. This is because women's historically higher life expectancy means that the proportion of older women exceeds that of older men, especially at more advanced ages. This is compounded by two factors: first, compared with men, women are more economically vulnerable, because they tend to have spent less time in employment, and to have been employed in more precarious conditions, having undertaken a larger share of reproductive and care activities. And, second, they suffer a higher incidence of non-communicable diseases and disabilities, partly reflecting the larger proportion of women than men at advanced ages. At the same time, a growing trend is already apparent in the region

of older women living alone (something common in developed societies). This, in combination with the disadvantages described and the scant support from the public sector, leaves them in a particularly vulnerable situation.

iii) Investing in youth to leverage the demographic dividend and face the challenges of ageing

As with other population groups, socioeconomic inequality among older persons is considerable, largely reflecting differences in savings capacities and participation in contributory pension schemes, whether public or private, during working life. In turn, conditions at active stages of the life cycle are strongly associated with levels of investment in education in childhood, adolescence and youth.

The older adults of 2070 are in the education system today. Investing today in quality education for young people with fewer resources would therefore be an effective policy for reducing inequality among the older persons of the future. In this regard, with the resources already saved from the smaller numbers of children during the period of the demographic dividend, the region should be able to reinvest in quality education and thereby expedite capacity-building in the young generations. In turn, today's young people are the best placed to deal positively with the major social and productive changes wrought by globalization and the introduction of new technologies in various spheres, so—insofar as they have the right opportunities and tools—they represent a trampoline towards development.

So, generating more opportunities for young people and investing in their education and health (especially sexual and reproductive health) and in creating decent, productive jobs, in particular during the demographic dividend, represents a unique chance to prepare for the future. The fruits of these investments are essential to achieve the leaps in production and savings needed to tackle the higher costs that will come with unavoidable population ageing. Although this approach will help to prevent inequality from rising among the older adults of the future, however, poverty rates among older adults today are high. This calls for policies to increase the coverage of the solidary pillar in pension systems and to develop care systems for those with fewer resources.

2. Mortality trends

a) The epidemiological transition

An epidemiological transition is taking place in the region alongside the demographic transition and, indeed, in close association with it. The epidemiological transition is a dynamic shift in the frequency, magnitude and distribution of morbidity and mortality in the population. At the early stages of the epidemiological and demographic transitions, the population is young and communicable diseases are the most prevalent type. As advances in medicine and health reduce the impact of these diseases, and as the proportion of children and young people falls and the proportion of mature adults and older persons rises in the population, morbidity and mortality shift from younger to older groups, and the prevalence of disease shifts from communicable to non-communicable types. At the same time, mortality begins to give way as a major factor to morbidity and its after-effects, including disabilities.

Latin America and the Caribbean is currently at an intermediate stage of the the epidemiological transition in which the (communicable) diseases typical of a developing region coexist with those (non-communicable) associated with development. This situation is largely a result of the territorial heterogeneity and socioeconomic inequality which leave large parts of the population without adequate health services and basic sanitation. Although the region's health systems have achieved notable progress

in service provision, they are far from providing universal access, and comparable progress has not been made in service quality. In this context, the poorest population is even exposed to the re-emergence of diseases that had been thought to be eradicated.

b) Life expectancy

Since 1950, the population of Latin America and the Caribbean has gained 23.4 years of life on average, representing an increase in average life expectancy of almost 4 years per decade. Life expectancy in the current five-year period is 74.7 years for both sexes, 7.2 years more than the average for the less developed regions, and just 1.8 years less than average life expectancy in Europe (United Nations, 2011). According to United Nations projections, life expectancy will continue to rise in the region, to reach 80 years by 2050 and 84 years by 2100.

Broadly speaking, the countries with the lowest levels of life expectancy in the past achieved large gains very quickly, which has produced a degree of convergence in the region. Nevertheless, major differences remain. For example, life expectancy in Haiti, the lowest in the region today, is 12 years less than the regional average.

c) Infant and child mortality

Despite the constraints imposed by inequity and poverty and by the economic crises which have buffeted the region in recent decades, all the countries in the region, to a greater or lesser extent, have managed to reduce the risk of death during the first year of life. At the regional level, the infant mortality rate has fallen by more than 86% since 1950, from 138 per 1,000 live births then to 19 per 1,000 today.

These achievements may be attributed to progress in mother-and-child health programmes, based mainly on high-impact, low-cost primary health care (such as mass vaccination, oral rehydration therapy and regular check-ups); improvements in living standards, such as broader coverage of basic services, especially drinking water and sanitation; higher levels of education and falling fertility rates (ECLAC/CELADE, 2010b).

Notwithstanding the significant progress made and the evident convergence in infant and child mortality rates, sharp differences remain between countries in the region. In 2010, a child in Honduras, Guatemala, the Plurinational State of Bolivia or Haiti was, respectively, four, five, nine and eleven times more likely to die before the age of 5 years than a child in Cuba (UNICEF/IGME, 2012). Major differences persist within countries, as well. In many countries, infant mortality is as much as 50% higher in rural areas than in urban areas, and in many cases this gap has actually widened in the past few decades (ECLAC/CELADE, 2010a; UNICEF/ECLAC, 2011).

Infant mortality varies significantly between the socioeconomic strata. Since 1970, mortality rates among the least educated mothers of infants up to 1 year old have been double those for infants of the most highly educated mothers, and the gap has not narrowed. In several countries, even those with low overall mortality rates, the children of uneducated mothers show mortality rates up to five times higher than the children of educated mothers (ECLAC/CELADE, 2010a). Indigenous peoples tend to lag the furthest behind in mortality reduction, and infant mortality rates in this group show huge disparities with respect to the non-indigenous population.

d) Mortality in adolescence and youth

With regard to youth mortality, external causes (accidents, suicides and homicides) are the predominant type, and have increased in the past few decades, especially among males. A study backed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and published in *The Lancet* showed that Latin America is the world region with the highest mortality among youth and adolescents from this sort of cause, with 237 homicides among young men per 100,000 inhabitants in El Salvador and 162 per 100,000 inhabitants in Colombia (Patton and others, 2012).

The rise in violence-related mortality among young people undermines the considerable achievements in reducing infant mortality, since some of the years gained in life expectancy are “lost” when children reach youth. This is particularly significant in the region, where the links between high inequality and violence have been amply documented (ECLAC/OIJ, 2008).

In many of the region’s countries today, the demographic transition means that a large proportion of the population is at a young age, when crucial decisions are taken for the transition to adult life. If those decisions are being taken amid socioeconomic limitations, limited access to education, low returns on educational achievement and inadequate household income, the prevailing situation is one of lack of incentives and goals for adolescents and young people. This increases the risk of educational dropout, forced recruitment into gangs and addiction, which in turn increases risks of youth mortality, as has been seen in several countries in the region.

e) Maternal mortality

The main health problems in most of the Latin American and Caribbean countries are rooted in inequities in social and health conditions and in access to social and health services. Health inequities between groups and individuals are systemic, socially generated (and therefore changeable) and unfair (Whitehead and Dahlgren, 2006). This is particularly true with respect to maternal morbidity and mortality in the region.

Notwithstanding the progress reported in the past decade, maternal mortality is still unacceptably high in many of the region’s countries. As a result, target 5A of the Millennium Development Goals, on reducing maternal mortality, is the target on which least progress has been made (ECLAC/CELADE, 2010b). Evaluating progress on this target is, moreover, difficult, because the indicator used—the maternal mortality ratio—is imprecise owing to uncertainty over the underlying information, since the quality and coverage of vital statistics is limited, especially in the case of maternal deaths. Several countries have made progress in developing epidemiological surveillance of mortality, but these systems are not yet nationwide in coverage.

The average ratio for Latin America and the Caribbean is 80 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births (WHO, 2012a). The absolute numbers cannot be disregarded: the projected number of maternal deaths in the region was around 8,800 in 2010, certainly high enough to cause concern and to require additional measures as a matter of urgency (RHO/PAHO, 2013). The maternal mortality figures also vary a great deal between countries: while in some the ratio is less than 30 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, in others it is over 100, and even as high as 350. These differences reflect inequalities between countries in terms of access to and use of quality reproductive health services.

The inequalities and difficulties associated with accessing and using sexual and reproductive health services and emergency care, especially in obstetrics, are just as glaring within countries. The worst

off are rural and migrant women, those with disabilities or a lower level of education, and indigenous and Afro-descendent women (ECLAC/CELADE, 2010a). Although some countries have made progress in reducing gaps, such as in prenatal care attended by health professionals, maternal mortality levels in the region have yet to show signs of steady decline. Apart from mortality, poor maternal health has other serious consequences, such as a high incidence of morbidity and disability, infertility, sexually transmitted diseases and, at other stages of the life cycle, genital prolapse and urinary incontinence.

Another essential point to consider is that natural disasters greatly worsen the risk for pregnant women and their children because of sudden loss of medical care, often exacerbated by trauma, malnutrition, disease and the risk of violence. Natural disasters often destroy or seriously damage health care establishments and can trigger premature labour.

3. Fertility trends

The rapid decline in fertility rates which began just after the mid-twentieth century is the most outstanding feature of the demographic change in the region. In 1950-1955, fertility rates in the Latin American and Caribbean region were among the highest in the world, with a total fertility rate (TFR) of almost six children per women, one child more than the global average and double the rate for that period in Europe or in the group of developed countries overall. By four decades later, in 1990-1995, the region's fertility rate was below the world average, with 2.9 children per women. In the past two decades, fertility has fallen even further in the region, to the current (2010-2015) level of 2.17 children per woman, and rapidly approaching the level of the most developed countries (1.6 children per woman) (United Nations, 2011). The region is thus bordering replacement level fertility today.

Fertility is projected to continue falling in the region: by 2020 the rates will drop below those of North America; by 2040-2045 they will come to below 1.8 children per woman and from then until the end of the projection period, the region's TFR will fall below that of Europe and the group of most developed countries. At that point, the region will have the lowest fertility rates in the world, together with Asia (United Nations, 2011).

The sharp drop in fertility has been shared by most of the countries in the region. According to population projections, in the period 2010-2015, 16 of the 37 countries for which estimates are available (5 in Latin America and 11 in the Caribbean) already have fertility rates at or below replacement level, another four countries have rates slightly above replacement level and just three countries Plurinational State of Bolivia, Haiti and Guatemala, have rates of one child or more above replacement level (ECLAC/CELADE, 2012a; United Nations, 2011). In the next three five-year periods, the rate will slip below replacement level in 12 more countries.

The change has occurred very rapidly in the countries which had the highest fertility rates to start with, so a notable convergence has come about in the region. For example, the difference in fertility between Cuba and Guatemala, the two most extreme cases in Latin America, narrowed from 3.8 children to 2.2 children in the past two decades. Projections show this strong trend towards convergence continuing and, by the middle of the century (2050-2055), below replacement fertility will be the norm across Latin America and the Caribbean, with the sole exception of French Guiana.

Despite the low average levels of fertility in the region and the notable convergence between countries, the region's hallmark socioeconomic inequality has left substantial disparities in reproductive behaviours in different geographical areas within countries, in rural as opposed to urban areas and in

different population, ethnic and social groups. These differences reflect limitations in access to sexual and reproductive health services, representing a clear transgression of these groups' reproductive rights.

Differences in fertility rates by women's education level clearly illustrate this imbalance in the region: in some countries (the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ecuador and Haiti) women with no education have more than three children more, on average, than women with some level of secondary schooling. In all the countries these differences are much starker when women with no education are compared with women who have tertiary education. What is worse, in most of the countries fertility rates are declining more slowly among uneducated women. This means that fertility rates are not converging, but diverging, by education level (ECLAC, 2011c).

As well as differences by level of education, there is recurrent evidence of persistent fertility gaps between urban and rural areas, between different income strata and by ethnicity and other characteristics, all of which reflect segregated access to reproductive health information and services. The most disadvantaged are the lower income strata and least educated groups. These access limitations account for phenomena such as the region's persistently high adolescent fertility rate. The overall picture needs to be analysed and monitored by each country's health services, and constitutes an urgent call to increase efforts to achieve the goal of universal coverage of sexual and reproductive health services.

4. Territorial distribution of the population, mobility, urbanization and sustainability

The most prominent features of the spatial distribution of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean are its rapid urbanization and marked tendency towards concentration in large cities. With 80% of its population living in urban areas, Latin America and the Caribbean is the most urbanized of the developing regions today. Only North America (United States and Canada) are more urbanized, with 82% of the population in urban areas.

Rapid urbanization has been fuelled mainly by the flow of population from rural to urban areas, which in some periods, such as the 1970s and 1980s, took on the dimensions of an exodus. The census results of the 2010 round show that net rural-urban transfer has continued in the region thus far in the twenty-first century, and projections suggest that the percentage of the rural population will continue to decline, but more slowly, to just over 10% of the total by 2050 (United Nations, 2011). The continuation of this phenomenon over time reflects the persistence of economic and social inequalities between rural and urban areas, as well as other factors such as loss of economic viability of small scale and family farms and, in some countries, rural insecurity.

Although a number of the region's cities and megacities lost some of their attraction for migrants in the 1980s and 1990s, large cities in general continue to attract population, both from the country and from smaller cities. This suggests that a small group of cities—those that provide better living standards and attract migrants—is absorbing the bulk of the expansion of the urban population (ECLAC/CELADE, 2012b). From a demographic perspective, there is much that can and should be done to help plan for population distribution changes, leveraging the advantages of the resulting urban growth, on the one hand, and addressing the needs and promoting the potential of rural areas and small and intermediate cities, on the other, all in the framework of social and sustainable land use (ECLAC, 2012f).

a) **Effects of location and population movements**

Internal migration has a multifaceted relationship with sustainable development. The most significant aspect of this link is the “rational” flow towards more productive regions, where labour productivity and wages are rising. This drives national production and raises people’s income. Also important is the human rights link: free movement within countries is recognized as such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and this should be guaranteed and protected. Regarding both these factors, there is consensus that coercive, discriminatory or restrictive public policies on internal migration are improper and arbitrary (Rodríguez, 2010)

In the long term, the positive effects of migration to urban areas can be diluted by saturation at the destination, given the weakness of the urban labour market and the low productivity of the informal sector, where a large portion of urban migrants often find occupation. Internal migration can also generate poverty traps and perpetuate inequality vis-à-vis rural areas, small cities and poor regions of origin, inasmuch as migratory selectivity can have adverse effects on the age structure and educational level of these areas (as the economically active and skilled population leaves). This can make conditions more precarious in areas of origin and lead to their stagnation (Rodríguez, 2010).

Urban concentration has ambiguous and complex relations with some key issues on the current sustainable development agenda, including global warming and climate change. On the one hand, urban activities are greenhouse-gas-intensive but, on the other, various studies show that cities free up land which can absorb those gases and are capable of considerably reducing emissions levels with the use of suitable technologies and standards. Cities can also produce high levels of dangerous waste, such as electronic waste, although this depends on the income, behaviour patterns, technology and even age structure of each city. Settlement in coastal cities also exposes the population to greater risk in the case of sea level rise —a foreseeable result of global warming. This is precisely a matter on which, with sufficient political will, States and the population could already be implementing preventive measures.

Social inequality also plays a role in the relationship between population location and mobility, on the one hand, and the environment, on the other. In principle, the poor have the least protection and response capacity vis-à-vis natural disasters and environmental degradation and are most exposed to these problems, because they settle in the most precarious and risky areas where land is cheaper and regulations (or the capacity to enforce them) are slacker. It is also true that the poor generate no small amount of environmental damage, for example as a result of lack of infrastructure or waste collection, or their dependence on fuelwood. It is important to realize, however, that unequal location, especially in cities,¹¹ leads to the poor settling in much more risky areas. This contributes in turn to poverty reproduction, since environmental damage tends to erode the fragile and unprotected resource base of the poorest. The way in which men, women, adolescents and young people are affected by and respond to disasters ties in directly with the gendered roles, responsibilities, opportunities and difficulties that existed before the disaster. Building national resilience and capacities to manage risk is essential for cushioning the effects of crises or disasters, reducing vulnerability and lessening human and economic losses and indirect impacts on health, education and productivity. The Latin American and Caribbean region has the highest percentage

¹¹ According to UNFPA/UNISDR/ONU HABITAT (2012), over 80% of disasters reported by national sources occur in urban areas. Although each countries has a different urban structure, national reports indicate that between 40% and 70% of disasters occur in cities of less than 100,000 inhabitants, and between 14% and 36% in smaller urban centres, and these proportions are rising. This information is taken from *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2011* (United Nations).

of the population living in high-risk areas in the world, and 6¹² of the 10 countries with the greatest percentage of the population living in at-risk areas are in this region.

Refugees and migrants are a current and future theme in relation to environmental concerns, and inequality can be expressed very dramatically in these groups. Here, again, policy action with regard to the settlement and mobility of the population is a complex and delicate matter. All too many population relocation projects have failed disastrously after neglecting to fully consider the economic, social and cultural characteristics of the population and their real opportunities in the new settings.

Dealing with situations involving internal mobility of the population, urban concentration and settlement calls for land and urban planning to promote growth in all territories, and to reduce inequality, segregation and socio-environmental vulnerability. There are legal and operative instruments that can be used to guide settlement and land use, for example by penalizing negative environmental externalities in project location. Planning must be approached with an integrated vision, taking into account needs, but also potential contributions and relations between territories and settlements of different size and varying use. Lastly, migration, settlement and environmental sustainability are processes that go beyond territorial boundaries and therefore require integrated solutions involving coordination between different levels of decision-making. They also call for the participation of different territories, including beyond territorial and national boundaries.

5. International migration

Intensive migratory processes are under way in Latin America and the Caribbean. They have to do with the region's particular links with global economic and social processes, including globalization and crisis, which may be inducing major shifts in the volumes, intensities, characteristics and directions of migrant flows.

Today, after more than four years of global economic crisis, attention is moving towards a variety of new or heightened migratory situations. These pose interesting and urgent challenges and call for a new public policy agenda. Some of the situations are possible return to countries of origin (which thus far has happened only very gradually); the vulnerability of those who have suffered the most from the crisis in terms of loss of jobs, wages and assets; the fall in remittance flows which, although smaller than had been feared, has had an impact on the economies and households which rely on them; the redistribution of migration within the region; an incipient trend towards the arrival in the region of immigrants from developed countries and, looking to the future, movements triggered by violence, natural disasters, and climate change —or all three.

In this new scenario, breaches of migrants' rights remain and even worsen. This is directly related to integration in destination countries, restrictive measures adopted by host countries and the conditions in which migrants travel —specifically when these involve people trafficking and migrant smuggling, especially sensitive topics as they relate to women— and undocumented migration. These realities combine with discrimination, abusive labour practices, and arrests and expulsion contrary to international law. When this is considered alongside the lack of protection of migrant women and children and asylum seekers, the overall picture is increasingly complex and calls for States to frame consistent, cooperation-based responses. Since intraregional migration has been on the rise, it, too, should be considered on the

¹² According to GFDRR (2010), El Salvador (95.4% of the population in high-risk areas), Jamaica (96.3%), Dominican Republic (94.7%), Guatemala (92.1%), Costa Rica (84.8%) and Colombia (84.7%).

future population agenda. The tendency has been to adopt measures to avoid these movements reproducing the vulnerability and abuses seen in South-North migratory flows. Particular care should be devoted to this point in regional and subregional agreements.

Another aspect to consider with regard to international migration is the proven significance of migrants' contributions to the economy and society in their destination country. This includes not only the obvious and direct contribution to output, but positive externalities such as alleviation of the care burden in the ageing societies of developed countries, a contribution made by women in particular. It is also interesting to observe that thus far the crisis has had a relatively small impact on returns and remittances, which indicates that migrants are using a variety of strategies to stay in their destination countries and to continue sending money home. Enhancing migrants' contribution to their origin and destination countries will require action to reduce exclusion, informality, segregation and discrimination in labour markets and health, education and social security systems. In this last regard, countries should forge agreements (and implement those that already exist in an effective manner) that include mechanisms for the accumulation and transfer of contributions to social security systems, as well as measures to recognize the contributions of women which are usually overlooked, because of their tendency to work in the informal sector in both the origin and the destination economies.

Lastly, a key issue for the future of the region, but one which has only recently been added to the research agenda, is the link between climate change and internal and international migration. This includes, to start with, displacement as a result of disasters. At the current stage of the research, with limited information, it is assumed that migration can be either a reactive or a proactive mechanism, always associated with some point along the voluntary-forced continuum. This opens up a very rich field for discussion of policies and standards, in which specific international protection instruments could be adopted.

III. PROPOSED REGIONAL AGENDA ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT BEYOND 2014

Taking into account resolution 65/234 of the United Nations General Assembly (2011), by virtue of which the General Assembly decided to extend the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives, the member States of ECLAC requested the secretariat, in July 2012, to examine the achievements, pending issues and emerging challenges for the future and, in the light of the outcome of this study, to update the proposed regional agenda on population and development post-2014. The member States further requested that this updated agenda be presented for discussion at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the second half of 2013.¹³

In response to this request, this document sets forth the themes, priority objectives and major measures which it is proposed to include in a regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014. The proposal is based on the elements arising from the analysis of the regional situation given in chapter II of this document, and the inputs contained in the working

¹³ See agreement 2 "Population, territory and sustainable development, and other priority activities", adopted at the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Quito from 4 to 6 July 2012, and endorsed in resolution 670(XXXIV) of ECLAC.

document “Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: review of the 2009-2013 period and lessons learned. Summary and overview”.

The proposed regional agenda captures the progress made, the challenges pending, the emerging issues, the good practices and the lessons learned in the field of population and development in the region. It also takes into account the framework of global phenomena and processes, such as globalization, climate change and environmental sustainability and possible synergies between the population agenda and the strategic development proposals being promoted by the United Nations.

Consistently, as well, with the Charter of the United Nations, the proposed regional agenda first gives an analysis of the evolution of population and development issues in the framework of human rights, and many of its recommendations are inspired by that perspective.

A. HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH TO THE REGIONAL POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA BEYOND 2014

Since the mid-twentieth century, human rights have emerged as the common framework within which population policies and programmes should be established. This change in perspective, which implicitly shifted the focus from a programme on population to a programme on people, was strengthened by the 179 governments which adopted the Cairo Programme of Action in the 1990s (Bárcena, 2013).

The link between sexual and reproductive health and human rights is well known, and understanding of it has continued to evolve and expand in international, regional and national instruments on human rights and political declarations. The United Nations has drawn attention to this aspect since 1968, when the International Conference on Human Rights, held in Teheran from 22 April to 13 May that year, adopted resolution XVIII on human rights aspects of family planning, whose paragraph 3 states that “[...] couples have a basic human right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and a right to adequate education and information in this respect” (United Nations, 1968).

This early declaration notwithstanding, family planning was associated for a long time with Neo-Malthusian development thinking and it was not until the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), almost 30 years later, that participating States acknowledged sexual and reproductive health as essential for individuals, couples and families, as well as for the social and economic development of communities and countries (Pillai and Wang, 1999). The Conference thus took the issue of family planning beyond the strict bounds of the family, placed women at the centre of comprehensive planning of reproduction, and recognized that human rights play a key role with respect to sexual and reproductive health. This new approach was strengthened the following year, at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing (Hunt, 2004).

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development did much to dispense with the view that population issues were about control, and delivered innovative norms and definitions that emphasized the inclusion of universally accepted principles of human rights into all spheres of population and development (UNFPA/OHCHR, 2013). In fact, chapter II of the Programme of Action set forth 15 principles to guide the implementation of the Cairo consensus; they establish rights as the framework in which laws, policies, programmes and projects on population matters should be prepared (United Nations, 1995).

As the focus of discourse on population and development shifted away from on progress and economic growth towards the paradigm of sustainable development, the question arose of what mechanisms could be used to achieve more comprehensive development, concentrating on improving people's living standards and heightening respect for their human rights, rather than on the number of people (Obaid, 2004; Leonard, 2011). The key measures to continue implementing the Cairo Programme of Action —adopted five years later— reinforced this human rights perspective and called upon States Members of the United Nations to include promotion and protection of human rights in their national policies (UNFPA/OHCHR, 2013).

Human rights are a mosaic of interrelated, interdependent, indivisible and universal rights, which means that denial or breach of one right affects all the rest. In the case of population and development matters, the rights sets forth in international agreements place obligations on States which enable them to fulfil the objectives and targets proposed in policies and programmes on population.¹⁴

In perspective, and despite significant progress in understanding the link between sexual and reproductive health and human rights, in other population issues there have been no comparable efforts to develop an the necessary rights-based, integrated, relevant public policy perspective. This stands out sharply in matters arising from the combined effects of globalization, population dynamics and the economic crisis, such as international migration and mobility and general, as well as ageing, urbanization, and the rights of women, children and young people, los indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, among others.

All these matters need to taken fully on board for the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014, and for the post-2015 development agenda. At the same time, the need for a broader understanding and treatment of all population issues at the global level is linked in the Latin American and Caribbean region to the inequality which has long disadvantaged vast swathes of the population.

Weight is lent to all these considerations by the development of the human rights approach in the past 20 years, and by new agreements and declarations in the universal system. These enshrine human rights for specific groups and therefore either carry binding obligations —such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities— or are intended to create binding obligations —such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These are supported by the observations of treaty committees, which provide progressive interpretations of international agreements in the current sociodemographic context —as with ageing and international migration— and the work of human rights special procedures, such as the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

This demand for specificity is typical of the contemporary world, although this is not to say that it did not exist before. Today, however, it is expressed more potently and has become globalized and diversified. Underlying specification, ultimately, is an argument grounded in equality. There is increasing awareness that autonomy is not something all humanity enjoys, that there are vast sectors of population

¹⁴ In fact, human rights comprise freedoms and entitlements which are directly related to population matters. In the areas of sexual and reproductive health, for example, freedoms include the right to exert control over one's own health and one's own body, but they also imply the right to a social health protection system, including health care and health determinants that facilitate equality of opportunities to enjoy the best possible health. States thus have the obligation to provide sexual and reproductive health services, including access to family planning, pre- and postnatal care, emergency obstetric services and information, among others (Hunt, 2003).

for whom full equality is still unattainable. Broadening human rights also means extending policy to public and private realms that have not traditionally been seen as spheres in which rights are exercised. Some of these spheres were considered private domains, such as sexuality and the family, and in others the respective authority was assumed to enjoy absolute legitimacy, such as in schools and hospitals (Huenchuan, 2013, Guendel, 2002). This is why it is so important that the population and development agenda move forward in coordination with ongoing agendas that convene vast interests in other related issues, such as gender, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples.

Review of the progress of the Cairo Programme of Action in the framework of these structural changes in human rights shows that it is necessary both to safeguard the Programme's achievements and to tackle new and additional challenges. It also shows that gaps remain that prevent the region from erasing its long-standing debt of inequality and social exclusion. As a result, major challenges arise for drawing up the population and development agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014, to meet this persistent demand for a human rights approach to population matters in a world that is different to that of 20 years ago.

First, the fundamental purpose of a regional agenda on population and development beyond 2014 has to be tied in with a human rights approach based on recognition and strengthening of the subject, his or her capacities and the generation of opportunities for full development without discrimination of any kind. Second, the State must play a stronger role in the design of national development and be endowed with the capacity to provide strategic governance. The State is, without doubt, the guarantor of rights and consequently of progress in the implementation of ICPD commitments beyond 2014 in terms of legal and policy reform, policy implementation, and governance and follow-up systems (ECLAC, 2010b; UNFPA/OHCHR, 2013). And, third, the forging of a regional agenda is unquestionably bound up with inclusion and must aim for universality and solidarity, in keeping with the development proposal promoted by ECLAC.

B. PRIORITY AREAS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE REGIONAL AGENDA ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Rights, needs and requirements of children, adolescents and young people

It has been amply demonstrated that the initial phases of the life cycle, those in which the person and personality are developed, are decisive for the rest of an individual's life. The emphasis on early childhood in literature and in public social investment policy is in keeping with scientific evidence, which points to the huge returns that such investment brings, and seeks to make good the historical debt that the region has towards its children, in particular in terms of care and public pre-school education. This effort should be maintained because in most countries the advances are still incipient.

This recognition of early childhood as a phase that warrants public intervention (unlike the past when the responsibility was left exclusively to the market and families) should not detract from, or mask the need for, resources for other personal development phases, namely infancy, childhood, adolescence and youth, in which social investment is just as crucial for personal development and for fulfilment as productive and civic-minded persons. Although the principle of the path to autonomy is common to all of these phases, each of them has its own peculiar rights, needs and requirements. Catering for each of these phases, given their specificities, is therefore indispensable for training and empowering persons in an integral manner and necessarily calls for the reinforcement of youth institutions.

South-South trade and cooperation can be crucial to this issue insofar as some countries, including Chile and Uruguay, have recently established programmes that seek to provide support and social protection throughout the formative cycle, bearing in mind the specificities of the different phases of the cycle. Inequality is rife in the region “from the cradle” and therefore such programmes should pay special attention to poor persons in order to compensate for the setbacks due to the disadvantages in their home environment and the place where they are born, are brought up, grow and develop.

The demographic trend towards a stabilization or even a reduction in, the child, adolescent and young population (population in the formative stages), as well as towards a fall in the number of girls and boys per household, will continue to favour progress towards the full exercise of rights and greater access to opportunities and social protection in all formative life stages, namely, infancy, childhood, puberty, adolescence and youth. Clearly, it will be necessary to resist the temptation to rechannel resources elsewhere given the dwindling target population, all the more so because even in cases where fulfilment of coverage targets is low, the quality of training services in the region still leaves a great deal to be desired.

ECLAC has identified a set of paradoxes that affect Latin American youth and which conspire against their assuming their place fully, satisfactorily and on an equal basis in adult society and balancing their productive and reproductive roles. The paradoxes are based on objective advances in the status of young women and men in areas crucial to their preparation for adult life, namely, health, in particular, sexual and reproductive health, education and access to services and technologies, but also on the fact that these advances are not matched by progress in substantive areas indispensable for a full and productive adult life, notably, reproductive behaviour (including high adolescent fertility and the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDS), the valorization of the education received, access to decent work and participation in decision-making. Faced with these frustrations, adolescent men and women are unable to make life plans and their opportunities for upward social mobility are restricted.

These paradoxes are linked to and feed into the inequality that is typical of the region and have a strong impact on the young women and men from the most deprived and vulnerable socioeconomic groups. In fact, the overrepresentation of the youngest age groups in the poor and vulnerable categories has been on the rise, owing to factors such as stratification of the reduction in fertility, unmet demand for care and the precariousness of the background in which the young women and men have to assume the transition to adulthood, owing to persistently weak public policies that fail to provide proper protection to younger groups. The irreversible age bias thus generated may even be exacerbated.

These paradoxes are also related to the high levels of violence suffered by young women and men and in particular gender violence and even femicide, human trafficking and sexual violence, which are usually associated with adolescent pregnancy. In fact, the combination of frustration and inequality is an explosive one. This situation is compounded by long-standing factors, such as a culture that fails to reject violence, a State that is absent (at least in terms of building citizenship), a marked degree of gender inequality and emerging factors, such as the profitability of criminal, especially drug-related, activity.

Young people and principally adolescents are the group that have experienced the greatest difficulties in meeting the target for reproductive behaviour established in the Cairo Programme of Action, that is, the achievement of a satisfactory and comprehensive level of sexual and reproductive health for the whole population by the year 2015. Indeed, the levels of adolescent fertility are abnormally and stubbornly high in the region, and the number of cases of unwanted adolescent fertility is on the rise. The vicious circle of poverty, low enrolment in schooling, early reproduction and persistent inequality is well documented.

In order to achieve a structural reduction in early reproduction, action must be taken to address the social determinants, in particular the lack of opportunities and of access to information, the lack of a life plan, social exclusion, educational segmentation and the lack of opportunities for personal and community development. A society that integrates young adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, offers them opportunities for the future, enables them to take advantage of this phase of their life to learn and receive training, provides guarantees that this training will be rewarded in the future and promotes experience and maturity as central components for building their lives clearly eliminates many of the social forces associated with early reproduction. The same applies to societies that promote gender equity and equal opportunities for women from their earliest childhood, as it breaks the paradigm of motherhood as the sole option and exclusive role for women. Thus, some of the measures to be implemented in order to fulfil this objective go beyond the sphere of sexual and reproductive health.

Prompt action should be taken to provide timely, relevant and good quality sexual and reproductive health care across the board for adolescents of both sexes, and to incorporate appropriate, comprehensive sex education in the different phases of education. Indeed, both lines of action relate to specific fields of government intervention in respect of which the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development sets forth a clear and categorical mandate and its fulfilment calls for the guarantee of special rights to be implemented progressively and with special emphasis.

In view of these considerations and the situation described in the foregoing sections of the document, some fundamental elements/objectives relating to the rights, needs and requirements of adolescent and young men and women should be incorporated into the regional agenda on population and development in Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014:

- Guarantee the exercise of rights, the availability of options, access to opportunities and suitable social protection for all stages of development (infancy, childhood, adolescence and youth). Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Design and implement comprehensive social investment policies that cover the different phases of the development cycle;
 - Design and implement as a matter of urgency programmes and strategies for combating poverty among adolescents and youth of both sexes, bearing in mind best practices;
 - Respect and guarantee the rights of persons during all phases of the development cycle, bearing in mind the existence of relevant international conventions and agreements and recognizing the specificities of each phase in this regard;
 - Ensure universal access to free comprehensive good quality education at all levels in a safe and participatory environment through the adoption of a rights-based approach, including formal, informal and non-formal education and targeting vulnerable and marginalized groups, in particular girl children.

- Achieve the transition towards a satisfactory adult life for all young men and women. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Guarantee the right to a decent job for young women and men through effective policies and programmes that create employment that is decent, stable, secure, non-discriminatory and that provides a decent salary and professional development opportunities, upholds the labour rights of young women and men, including the right to fair hiring and to form unions, in accordance with international conventions, and that ensures higher returns on social, economic and humane development from the demographic dividend;
 - Invest in building skills among young women and men and in creating an enabling environment in which they can participate meaningfully in all stages of decision-making and implementation of policies and programmes for rights-based employment in conjunction with the private sector and with the same attention to girls and boys and special emphasis on excluded groups and those whose rights have been infringed;
 - Give priority to creating jobs and a skilled work force by increasing investment, along with the private sector, in programmes that foster entrepreneurship among young people and capacity-building for young women and men through training for work in formal and non-formal programmes, education, professional guidance and employment, quality paid internships with social protection, and tutorship and sharing of knowledge so that young women and men, in particular those from excluded groups, receive the information and develop the skills needed to obtain opportunities for decent work;
 - Promote healthy habits among young women and men and guarantee their access to health services and social security coverage, in order to improve the life of future generations of older persons;
 - Adopt as a matter of urgency effective measures for preventing violence (a particularly common cause of death among the youth of the region) as well as gender-based violence;
 - Include adolescents and youth of both sexes in decision-making at all political and territorial levels through their participation in elections, consultative councils, youth parliaments and other forms of suffrage and expression of the youth population.
- Achieve satisfactory and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care for adolescents and young people of both sexes. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Guarantee universal and reliable access to appropriate timely, quality sexual and reproductive health care services. Such access must be based on universal programmes with emphasis on the prevention of adolescent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS and with components of counselling for promoting safe practices as well as the development of a full and safe sexual life and with services specialized in care for adolescents that include the free provision of contraceptives with due practical advice, cultural relevance and confidentiality;
 - Offer comprehensive sex education for all girls and boys and adolescents in keeping with their biopsychosocial development and with specific components relating to affectivity, gender equality, rejection of sexual violence, self-care, self-protection and the exercise of rights.

2. Ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges

As previously indicated in this document, Latin America and the Caribbean is going through a period of demographic transformation with far-reaching implications for the age structure of its population, given the steady increase in the proportion of adults and older persons. Population ageing is an inevitable and recognized process, whose consequences depend on the measures adopted to deal with the challenges that it presents. Over the coming decades, older persons are expected to account for a significant segment of the population; this will have an impact on consumption, investment and saving patterns as well as on sectoral demands.

The countries in the region are at different phases of this process, but the majority are currently in the demographic dividend phase, characterized by a relative increase in the number of working-age persons in relation to those in potentially dependent ages in economic terms (children and older persons). Nevertheless, as has been seen, the benefits that may derive from the demographic dividend are not automatic. The success of this dividend depends on the adoption of macroeconomic policies that encourage productive investment, increase the labour supply and are conducive to a stable social and economic environment and sustained development.

As long as the demographic dividend lasts, countries also have the chance to push forward and consolidate social protection reforms by investing in education and health care, promoting decent employment and implementing the necessary adjustments in response to the new demands on social services. The social and economic achievements of such policies may help to reduce the undesirable effects of the growing dependency of older persons.

But the demographic dividend window is short-lived. If it is not harnessed in a strategic manner and from a long-term perspective, the problems that will arise from the growing demand on resources by an increasingly old population will be exacerbated due not only to the increasing numbers of older persons but also to the fact that ageing will occur in a context of lower per capita income, less developed political and financial institutions than in today's industrialized countries, plus persistently high levels of inequality.

Furthermore, according to the analysis of regional epidemiological trends, which are closely related to the phase of demographic transition that the countries are going through, Latin America and the Caribbean's epidemiological profile is characterized by an overlap of phases; as a result, all countries face the dual challenge of continuing to work to reduce mortality due to infectious and parasitic diseases, while having to contend with growing mortality from non-communicable diseases. An additional challenge in this regard is the need to detect and confront emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

As fertility diminishes and the older population grows, chronic and degenerative diseases are becoming increasingly widespread in most Latin American countries. Unlike communicable diseases, chronic illnesses are among the most serious constraints to leading an independent life in old age, since they increase the incidence of dependency and worsen the general state of health. Available data show that, on average, the population of Latin America and the Caribbean does not just have a lower life expectancy at birth than that of developed countries, but moreover suffers ill-health during a greater proportion of life.

Unhealthy life styles are one of the main factors contributing to the increase in chronic diseases and the resulting increase in disability and dependency. Generally speaking, not enough importance has been attached in Latin America to measures that could prevent the high prevalence of risk factors that lead to chronic diseases. A number of studies conclude that prevention may not have a very significant impact on total health expenditure, but all recognize the invaluable benefits of a population that is ageing in a healthy manner and the fact that a huge number of deaths could be avoided without additional costs.

Non-communicable diseases are expected to be on the rise in coming decades. Health expenditure is expected to increase substantially in the region as a percentage of GDP as a result not only of the growing proportion of older persons within the regional population, most of whom use more intensive health-care services, but also of the higher costs of health treatments for the elderly, including the increasing use of high-technology equipment. Hence, financing the health system will probably be one of the crucial problems in Latin America and the Caribbean and Governments will need to deal with this as a matter of urgency.

One of the most important implications of demographic change in Latin America and the Caribbean is the rising demand for care. While children represent most of the demand for care in the region today, in the future it will be the turn of older persons and those with disabilities and these will account for the bulk of the demographic burden of assistance, albeit with significant variation from one country to the next.

At the same time as the increase in the number of older persons, a significant escalation is foreseen in the size of the dependent population requiring care for health reasons. Studies indicate that the number of persons with moderate or severe dependency in Latin America and the Caribbean will double in the period 2000-2050. Owing to the extent and pace of these changes, demand for care has outstripped the expansion of institutional capacity to cope and States are passing on the responsibility to households and causing situations of greater vulnerability and overburden for women, who traditionally bear responsibility for these tasks.

In fact, with noteworthy exceptions, the public policy agendas of the Latin American and Caribbean States have not given much priority to the issue of care. Normative frameworks and existing social programmes both reveal a growing tendency to pass on to the family the burden of caregiving risks. This exacerbates the vulnerability of persons who need care and of those who provide assistance, as their position is uniquely and directly impacted by their family background and by the unequal distribution of wealth.

In view of these considerations and the situation described in the foregoing sections of the document, some of the fundamental elements/objectives relating to ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges should be incorporated in the regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014:

- Harness the demographic dividend in order to turn it into an opportunity and deal promptly with the long-term challenges of population ageing. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Articulate a long-term vision comprising economic, social and fiscal projections for the coming decades in order to predict the major economic and social transformations that will be generated as a result of higher dependency ratios. Demographic change is one of the factors that determine social policy outcomes, but the latter are not visible in the short term;
 - Public policies must anticipate demographic changes by redesigning the financing mechanisms of social protection systems, so that growing pressures on public and private expenditure can be withstood financially without placing too heavy a burden on future generations;
 - Adopt macroeconomic policies that encourage investment in education and health and promote the creation of decent jobs in order to harness the potential benefits of the demographic dividend;

- Provide practical information to different segments of society so that they can understand and respond proactively to long-term challenges such as population ageing and inequality. A well-informed society is vital for the adoption and sustainable implementation of the long-term policies that will be needed to confront population ageing and inequality.
- Bring health policies in line with the challenges of the varied and changing epidemiological profile resulting from the demographic and epidemiological transition. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Manage the different overlapping health profiles, which entails continuing to invest in the effort to eradicate communicable diseases and to implement actions for preventing and curing non-communicable diseases, bearing in mind age, gender, regional, ethnic and socio-economic specificities;
 - Provide universal health services and avoid inequities. Wherever societies are less equitable, health conditions are worse;
 - Raise awareness of the need to adopt broad-based preventive health strategies, geared to increasing access to healthy foods, encourage physical activity and eliminate the consumption of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs in order to promote healthy ageing.
- Move towards recognition and inclusion of care in social protection systems within a framework of solidarity, equality, autonomy and well-being for families and individuals, with special attention to the role of women. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Redefine social protection with a view to responding immediately to the consequences of demographic change and to anticipating the demands of a constantly changing population;
 - Move towards defining dependency and caregiving as a matter of collective responsibility, supported by benefits and services that maximize the autonomy and well-being of families and individuals within the framework of social protection systems;
 - Design public responses to deal with the issue of caregiving as a logical extension of the State agenda, with implications in terms of certain immediate obligations towards those who require help and those who provide it, with special attention to the role of women.

3. Gender equality

While the region has made progress towards implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the results have been mixed and there are still major challenges to the achievement of gender equality; indeed, this calls for on-going State investments and policies on the sexual division of labour, unpaid domestic work, the elimination of discrimination against women in the labour market and the social protection of women.

Public policies are still far from assimilating the strides made by women and, although many programmes increase their visibility and recognize them, on the whole, these are not rights-based and the approach that prevails especially with regard to poor women is an instrumental one.

Women still suffer problems and inequalities in terms of their physical autonomy. Maternal mortality remains relatively high, in some sectors of the population, demand for contraceptives is unmet and pregnancy levels remain persistently high among adolescents, unlike other age groups, where fertility is on the decline. Poor young women are the most seriously affected; and violence against women remains widespread throughout the region.

According to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belem do Pará, 1994), violence against women constitutes a violation of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and impairs or nullifies the observance, enjoyment and exercise of such rights and freedoms.

Between 30% and 40% of women in Latin America have suffered some form of gender violence, whether psychological, physical or sexual (ECLAC, 2007). Sexual violence against women is a critical indicator of marginalization, inequality, exclusion and gender discrimination against women and affects their autonomy, self-determination, individual and collective health and the exercise of their citizenship. A comparative analysis of 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries has shown that levels of sexual violence, whether by a known or an unknown perpetrator, ranged from 10.3% in Paraguay (2008) to 27.2% in Haiti (2005/2006) (Bott and others, 2012). Hence, preventing and confronting sexual violence are crucial for the achievement of development goals and gender equality. To date, the Governments of the region have made strides in enacting legislation, preventing violence and providing services and access to justice. However, institutional responses are not broad enough to produce the major changes in the structural factors that determine such violence, in sectoral priorities, research, punishment and redress, or in information systems. Nor are they sufficient to overcome the sociocultural and symbolic norms that perpetuate such violence.

Moreover, in times of disaster or humanitarian emergencies, women, especially younger women and adolescents, are particularly vulnerable to the different forms that gender violence can take. Sexual violence, harassment, exploitation and abuse, smuggling and trafficking in persons, even femicide, are some of the manifestations of gender violence in crisis situations. Gender violence in the aftermath of natural disasters does not receive sufficient attention by the key actors in disaster management. The underreporting, lack of prioritization, difficulties in recording incidents as well as discrepancies between the different methodologies for collection and analysis are enormous challenges for researching the scale of gender violence before, during and following a disaster.

In terms of the advances in the economic autonomy of women in the context of economic and social development in the region, it has been observed that while economic growth has been steady and poverty is on the decline, at the same time, women account for a growing proportion of the poor and extremely poor populations. The work force participation rates of women in rural areas increased from 32.4% in 1990 to 46.4% in 2005, in spite of which, they have not achieved economic empowerment. According to data published by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean for the year 2009, 38% of women in rural areas do not have incomes of their own compared with 14% of men; 29% of women in the city are in this position compared with 12% of men. This situation suggests that the measures adopted to achieve macroeconomic stability have not managed to reduce gender inequalities. Moreover, poverty reduction is largely the result of women's entry into a deregulated labour market which pays them lower wages than men.

In addition, women bear a disproportionate amount of the burden of unpaid domestic work, which, in practice, represents an invisible subsidy to the economic system and perpetuates their position as subordinates and subjects of exploitation. In fact, one effect of the demographic transition now

occurring in the countries of the region is the steadily ageing population; this thrusts upon women the burden of caring for older persons, in addition to their traditional role of caring for children.

Society can no longer ignore the need for urgent reform to the social, political, cultural and economic bases that underpin the sexual division of labour. The key to this reform is the new equation between the State, society as a whole, the market and the family, in which unpaid domestic work and care duties are understood and treated as public matters for shared responsibility between all these spheres.

It should also be borne in mind that the whole idea of parity is to achieve equality in the exercise of power and decision-making, in the way participation and social and political representation mechanisms operate and in the way interrelationships are conducted within the family, the society, the economy, and political and cultural spheres. However, even though women have been more prominent in the region in recent years, whether in presidential or parliamentary positions (notably in the past ten years), they remain underrepresented in decision-making spheres.

In view of the above considerations and bearing in mind the situation described in the foregoing sections of the document, some fundamental elements/objectives relating to gender equality should be incorporated in the regional agenda of population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014.

- Strengthen State structures and the strategic role fulfilled by the machineries for the advancement of women. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Promote and ensure gender mainstreaming in all policies and coordination between State authorities and social stakeholders in order to guarantee gender equality;
 - Promote regional, subregional and multilateral cooperation, taking advantage of the processes of integration for socioeconomic development under way in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly actions that promote gender equality;
 - Give machineries for the advancement of women the autonomy and the human and financial resources necessary so that they can have a cross-cutting impact on State structure and build strategies to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality.
- Foster the design and implementation of sound public policies for achieving the physical, economic and political autonomy of women. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Strengthen the production of necessary disaggregated statistical information to shed light on the problems of gender inequality in the area of physical and economic autonomy and decision-making;
 - Develop active policies relating to the labour market and productive employment in order to boost women's participation rate in the labour force, the formal job market and the number of positions of power and decision-making held by women, and in order to reduce unemployment, especially for Afro-descendent women, indigenous women and young women affected by discrimination based on race, sex or sexual orientation, so as to ensure decent work for all and guarantee equal pay for equal work;

- Promote and enforce legislation on equality in the labour market to eliminate discrimination and asymmetries in gender, race, ethnic origin and sexual orientation in terms of access to and stable employment in the job market, decision-making and distribution of wages; establish mechanisms for submission of complaints; and determine sanctions for practices such as sexual and other forms of harassment in the workplace;
 - Increase and reinforce spaces for women’s participation on an equal basis in policymaking and implementation in all spheres of public decision-making;
 - Promote parity in electoral systems as a precondition for democracy and a target for eradicating the structural exclusion of women in society, which affects mainly those in highly vulnerable situations.
- Redouble efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, which constrain or prevent full gender equality. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Adopt preventive, punitive, protective and care measures that help to stamp out all forms of violence against women in public and private places with special attention to women in situations of great vulnerability, such as Afro-descendent, indigenous and migrant women and women living in border areas;
 - Expand and guarantee effective access to justice and to free legal assistance for women in situations of violence and provide training and awareness-building in gender issues to staff and officials whose role it is to dispense justice;
 - Adopt all necessary and effective measures for preventing, punishing and eradicating all forms of trafficking and smuggling of women, young women and girls for purposes of sexual exploitation or for any other purpose;
 - Integrate responses to violence for reasons of gender in all programmes and sexual and reproductive health services, as part of a broader, multisectoral, coordinated response, including maternal and child health, family planning and services relating to HIV/AIDS;
 - Set up national gender violence surveillance systems to collect, compile and analyse data on gender violence in order to influence national and local policies and programmes;
 - Guarantee that all victims and survivors of gender violence have immediate access to comprehensive services, psychosocial support, mental health support, treatment of injuries, post-rape care and access to safe abortion in all cases of violence;
 - Promote and adopt measures for budgetary appropriations for all programmes for preventing and addressing violence against women;
 - Adopt special measures targeting women victims of or those affected by emergency situations, including incorporating measures to deal with gender violence in the aftermath of disasters in legislation, policies, plans and programmes in order to prevent, mitigate and respond to gender violence in humanitarian contexts.

- Develop and strengthen policies and universal care services based on the notion that the delivery of services should be shared between the State, the private sector, civil society and households and between men and women.
 - Adopt all necessary social and economic policy measures in order to move forward in social valuation and recognition of the economic value of the unpaid housework and caregiving carried out by women in the home;
 - Promote changes in the legal framework and in programmes for the recognition of the productive value of unpaid work in national accounts for cross-cutting policy formulation and implementation;
 - Foster the development and improvement of universal care policies and services based on recognition of the right to care for all persons and on the notion of service delivery shared between the State, the private sector, civil society and households, as well as between men and women; and strengthen dialogue and coordination between all parties involved.

4. Gaps in universal access to sexual and reproductive health care

The international community is increasingly cognizant of the importance of sexual and reproductive rights in terms of fulfilling international development objectives. The inclusion of universal access to reproductive health as one of the Millennium Development Goals attests to this growing recognition. Sexual and reproductive rights are recognized not just as valuable objectives per se, but also as essential for the enjoyment of other fundamental rights and for achieving international targets for development and poverty eradication. In this regard, special attention has been paid to the reproductive rights of women and adolescent girls.

While periodic evaluations of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development point to advances in Latin America and the Caribbean towards recognition of reproductive rights as an integral part of human rights, they have also shown that progress towards the target of universal access to sexual and reproductive health care has been very uneven and that most countries in the region will not be in a position to fulfil the agreements adopted for 2014.

Similarly, although contraceptive use is more widespread, if existing trends are pursued, most of the countries in the region will have difficulty in meeting the target set in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development for halving the unmet demand for family-planning methods by 2014.

Based on current trends, the targets set for maternal mortality for 2015 will not be met unless key actions are taken to guarantee universal access to skilled attendance at childbirth, emergency obstetric care, including care for any complications arising from abortions, family planning, including emergency contraceptives, as well as to address gender inequities, respond to unsafe abortions and to violence against women and to overcome deficiencies in official records of maternal morbidity and mortality. This important challenge calls for a more in-depth analysis in order to draw lessons in a differentiated manner by groups of countries or individual countries and therefore to put forward differentiated recommendations for the future agenda.

Reproductive health problems are still among the leading causes of ill-health and death in women of child-bearing age. While maternal mortality has diminished in the past 20 years in Latin America and the Caribbean, the statistics are still high in many countries of the region and may be aggravated by adverse situations, such as the 2009 influenza A(H1N1) pandemic. In addition, a significant number of cases of pregnancy-related suicides have been reported in several countries of the region.

Sexual and reproductive health observatories have been set up in several countries in the region, notably, Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay, to cater for the need to generate more accurate evidence for a more effective impact of public policies, ensure that policies are relevant and involve citizen participation in the enforceability of rights (GTR 2012).

Within the framework of the health systems reform process, an effective response must be given to the needs of excluded and poor populations. Clearly, women experience more serious health complications owing to their inability to obtain maternal care or pay the high costs involved, particularly in the case of emergency obstetric care. In addition, efforts to improve the quality of maternal health-care services must be stepped up and an intercultural approach must be ensured along with the full exercise of rights to reproductive health service benefits.

As regards the response to HIV/AIDS, the “stability” of the epidemic in the region is due to very slow progress in reducing the number of new infections and of deaths due to AIDS, and the challenge to deal with this issue is a huge one. Moreover, this stability is fragile with limited advances given the economic and social development observed in the region. Latin America still records approximately 227 new infections per day, while HIV prevalence among adults in the Caribbean is the second highest in the world (1%; UNAIDS, 2012). Despite the advances in the coverage of antiretroviral treatment and in reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, there are still challenges in the area of prevention—which remains the weakest component in national responses—, in ensuring that young people are better informed about AIDS and that comprehensive sex education is provided and in eliminating the stigma and discrimination, which continue to be widespread, especially with respect to groups such as sexual minorities and women living with HIV.

Education and quality health care are fundamental for achieving the ultimate goal of improving sexual and reproductive health. Although all countries in the region now have some form of legal support for incorporating sexual and reproductive health issues in formal and non-formal education, there are still huge barriers to putting this into practice. On the one hand, if the quality is not up to the mark, it can result in ineffectiveness or underutilization of the available services. In fact, recognizing that the full exercise of reproductive rights is only possible when affordable, quality sexual and reproductive health services are readily available, the International Conference on Population and Development posed the challenge of ensuring not just that reproductive health services were universally available but also that those services were of a good quality.

However, there are still huge health gaps in the region. In particular, persistent gender inequalities and related health risks are key factors in the issue of reproductive health. Owing to these inequalities which are characteristic of the region, average statistics usually mask the high levels of maternal mortality, sexually transmitted infections, HIV infection and the unmet demand for family planning among the population living in poverty and in rural areas, among indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, and among other vulnerable groups, such as adolescents and persons with disabilities.

Access to sexual and reproductive health is a special challenge in the case of migrants, mobile populations and displaced persons, as well as persons affected by disasters or humanitarian emergencies. Participation and intersectoral cooperation are therefore indispensable. The complex situation of vulnerability of migrants in border areas and displaced persons calls for creative programme responses, with mechanisms for delivering services and proper protection for persons in these situations. Persistent gender inequalities and related health risks are key factors in the issue of reproductive health.

Much emphasis is placed now on the issue of sexual rights and they are expected to become even more relevant in the future. Although a number of international agreements do not address the issue of sexual rights consistently or comprehensively, some do. For example, paragraph 96 of the Beijing Platform for Action states that the human rights of women “include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality...” Some countries have already incorporated this issue in their constitutions. Chapter six (Freedom rights) of the 2008 Constitution of Ecuador recognizes and guarantees for persons the “right to freely take informed, voluntary, and responsible decisions on one’s sexuality and one’s sexual life and orientation.” (article 66, subparagraph 9).

The term “sexual and reproductive rights” is frequently used as if it referred to a universe of rights; as a result, sexual rights are often considered as a subset of reproductive rights. However, while sexual rights may sometimes be related to reproductive rights, it does not necessarily follow that sexuality is linked to reproduction (IIHR, 2008).

Generally speaking, sexual rights are those that allow for the autonomous and responsible control over all issues relating to sexuality, in particular that of having a sexual life free from violence, coercion, abuse, exploitation or harassment, expressing freely and autonomously one’s sexual orientation, protecting oneself from pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections and diseases, having access to quality sexual health services; having information on all issues relating to sexuality.¹⁵

In view of the above considerations and the situation described in the foregoing sections of the document, some fundamental elements/objectives in the area of sexual and reproductive health should be incorporated into the regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014.

- Advance towards guaranteeing the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights and improving the response to good quality sexual and reproductive health services. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Facilitate access to information and appropriate, gender-specific health services throughout the life cycle: (a) to enable all to take informed decisions concerning sexuality and reproduction and to have a safe and satisfactory sex life, free of violence and coercion; (b) to enable women to prevent unwanted pregnancies, to have security during their pregnancy and delivery, to have access to quality post-abortion care, including post-abortion contraceptives; and (c) to provide couples with the best conditions so that they can have healthy children;

¹⁵ See : PROFAMILIA, www.profamilia.org.co/avise/derechos2.php).

- Promote a broad and varied range of services in order to ensure sexual and reproductive health, to provide comprehensive contraceptive methods together with a series of sexual and reproductive health services that ensure quality and technically skilled care, precise and complete information, a good interaction with providers, continuous care, and in addition a host of related services;
 - Build associations with the private sector and civil society to achieve greater effectiveness in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services through: (a) greater participation of individuals and the community; (b) greater integration of services; (c) promoting sexual and reproductive health using a life-cycle approach; and (d) intersectoral and, intergovernmental coordination, among others;
 - Support and facilitate access, especially for adolescents and young people, to the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including VIH/AIDS;
 - Promote access to the media required for individuals to exercise safely their right to freely take informed, voluntary and responsible decisions relating to their sexuality, their life and their sexual orientation.
- Advance towards universal access to sexual and reproductive health services. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Promote public policies that guarantee universal access to services guaranteeing essential benefits for dealing with the specific health requirements of women, men and adolescents. In particular, for the women of the poorest sectors and those who suffer serious social exclusion, and also for young and adolescent women and men. Policies must include monitoring, evaluation and accountability systems;
 - Guarantee universal access by women, in all their diversity, to comprehensive, quality sexual and reproductive health services, with budgeting and public bidding;
 - Implement measures to ensure access to reproductive health services in emergency situations to prevent high levels of mortality and morbidity relating to reproductive health, particularly among women in disaster situations and displaced or refugee women;
 - Strengthen health systems to ensure timely, appropriate, good quality primary care and referral services, especially for sexual and reproductive health, in order to develop systems that are sensitive to conditions of vulnerability and culturally appropriate to the needs of indigenous communities in relation to sexual and reproductive health and maternal and neonatal health.¹⁶

¹⁶ In this and other items of the agenda, emphasis should be placed on the need for countries to continue improving statistical information for analysing the different phenomena with greater precision. An example of this is the information on adolescent pregnancy, which is one of the least visible realities in the region due to the lack of proper administrative records, which, along with the gaps in current indicators, raises the methodological challenge of redefining age groups, with the addition of the 10-14 age group, so as to analyse the growing phenomenon and the effects of precocious sexual activity.

5. International migration and protection of the rights of all migrants

International migration provides significant benefits for sending and destination countries alike. The contributions of emigrants through return migration, linkages with communities in the home country and remittances are obvious examples of elements that warrant consideration in public policymaking. Migration plays a decisive role in the labour markets of destination countries as many migrants perform skilled labour functions with a positive impact on labour demand and supply. At the same time, migration enriches the culture of nations in a globalized era.

Return migration is a highly sensitive issue in the region and its importance is unquestionable even though a distinction must be made between forced return migration due to coercive rights factors and spontaneous return movements, which have always occurred. Crises in destination countries trigger other return processes and underscore the vulnerability of many migrants. Return migration may be defined as a further pattern in the range of regional migrant movements.

When barriers are set up to prevent permanent and temporary migration, these fuel irregular migratory movements and heighten the vulnerability of migrants; they also run counter to the trend towards an increase in mobility, observed prior to the crisis. Nevertheless, the crisis may have put a damper on emigration for some time, while triggering a more steady flow of return migrants, north-south migration and intraregional migration, elements that must be borne in mind in connection with new trends in regional migration.

Experiments with the use of remittances to support entrepreneurship illustrate the immense impact that migration can have on development. Neither migration nor remittances can replace State obligations and the role of social policy in achieving inclusion and social equality; this is particularly clear in times of crisis when uncertainty is rife.

Migration by highly skilled persons plays a strategic role for companies in destination countries but can imply loss of investment in human capital for the countries of origin, especially in areas that are sensitive due to demand or relative scarcity. Highly skilled individuals who decide to emigrate have the inalienable right to do so in a globalized world where retaining such persons has proved to be elusive in some segments with training in occupations that are in high demand in developed countries.

The integration of migrants in the labour market has been highly segregated and women often end up gravitating towards the care and domestic service sector. These are activities where higher levels of informality are usually observed, even among national workers.

Differences in demographic patterns (including women's participation in the workforce) between countries in the region generate shortfalls in the available labour force in some countries and a greater availability in others. Thus, it is important to consider how these differentials can be harnessed as a potential for worker exchanges.

The countries in the region participate actively in different intraregional and extraregional intergovernmental forums that are specialized in migration issues as well as in issues of an economic and political nature. In each of these forums, they outlined a common position for upholding the human rights of migrants and rejecting the unilateral and restrictive measures taken by some developed countries which are destinations for Latin American and Caribbean migrants. Intergovernmental forums on migration are also called upon to play an important role in international dialogue and cooperation (indeed they have been precursors in this respect) and their plans of action and efforts must converge in a sustained manner

on matters of migration, rights and development which, in fact are shared by the countries of the subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is interesting to note that the twelfth South American Conference on Migration, held in Santiago in 2012, identified four thematic areas concerning the social, economic and cultural rights of migrants and their family members: (a) the follow-up of its South American human development plan on migration with emphasis on the human rights of migrants; (b) regional integration; (c) strengthening migration management; and (d) projecting the South American region on the international stage.

Regional and subregional integration processes (the Andean Community, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Central American Integration System (SICA)) also have an important role to play in cooperation on migration. Some schemes have promoted free circulation and protection, preparing agreements, standards and specific instruments for those purposes. Recent dialogues established within the Ibero-American Community and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), for example, are opportunities to forge common approaches for dealing with discrimination, xenophobia and, on the whole, vulnerability of migrants; this affords them strong support from countries. CELAC in particular is called up to play a leading role in the years ahead, given that it continues to develop “a strategy on migrations that is based on the perspective of migrant persons as subjects of rights and articulates a common position of our region with respect to the dialogue process in other regional and global forums”.¹⁷

The vulnerability of many migrants, which is evident in crossings, integration and return, both for factors of discrimination based on nationality, age, ethnic background, gender and generation, prompts efforts to protect children, women, young people, workers, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, who are often forced to use irregular migration channels.

Special attention is needed for refugees and the victims of trafficking. In the case of forced displacements, the region must prepare humanitarian institutions to mitigate the consequences of climate change, disasters due to natural events and social violence.

In the long term, the current global economic crisis may have negative consequences on the labour situation and access by migrants to social services; this will result in a lack of protection and will only serve to aggravate the loss of assets with serious repercussions already being felt by many individuals.

Access by migrant women to sexual and reproductive health services is subject to many restrictions and is particularly serious in border areas. These restrictions exacerbate factors of discrimination and vulnerability.

In view of the above considerations and bearing in mind the situation described in the foregoing sections of the document, some fundamental elements/objectives relating to international migration and to protection of the rights of all migrant persons should be incorporated into the regional agenda of population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014.

¹⁷ See <http://www.gob.cl/media/2013/01/Declaraci%C3%B3n-de-Santiago.pdf>.

- Include the whole issue of international migration in the national development agendas and strategies beyond 2015, considering their promotion and facilitation by virtue of the contributions of migrants to well-being and equality in their home, return and destination countries. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Foster the incorporation of migration issues in the global development agenda beyond 2015 among the sustainable development targets;
 - Incorporate international migration in development plans and strategies in the national, regional and local spheres, and, in particular, work jointly to improve formal migration channels, taking advantage of political and economic initiatives for regional and subregional integration;
 - Value and recognize systematically in regulations and policies the economic, demographic and cultural contributions of migrants to destination countries.
- Prepare regional strategies to take advantage of the benefits of migration between countries, bearing in mind specificities such as remittances, skilled migration in high-demand sectors, care and domestic service, contributions to social security and their transfer, in view of the different demographic trends, gender issues and the relevance of intraregional migration. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Reduce remittance charges in order to increase their positive effects on development and on the design of policies and support programmes for migrants who wish to make investments and launch enterprises, recognizing that they can play an active role in decision-making;
 - Adopt linkage policies to deal with losses of investment in human capital resulting from skilled emigration, favouring, for example, the creation of virtual communities, remote collaboration on research and development projects, and innovation processes in strategic fields. Hence, the initiatives must have a regional basis that allows for the exchange of experiences and participation by countries;
 - Reach agreements for the transfer and accumulation of migrant workers' contributions to social security, with emphasis on mechanisms for recognizing and compensating for the greater vulnerability of women to the informal linkage, lower income and other forms of discrimination in the labour markets of the sending and destination countries;
 - Design policies, agreements, institutions and working conditions in the sending country, among others, in order to harness the skills, experience and reintegration of returnees;
 - Foster general agreements with developed countries on principles relating to recruitment of staff with training in strategic areas for some countries in the region, in order to avert the erosion of resources suffered by some;
 - Prepare regional studies to identify countries with possible labour shortages during boom periods, as a way of providing future intraregional migratory exchanges.

- Advance in securing dialogue and international cooperation on migration, human rights and development in areas existing within the region and in those that have linkages with other regions in the world, in particular North America and the European Union. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Reinforce, deepen and forge a common position among countries in the region in defence of human rights and rejecting unilateral and restrictive measures, through active participation in the various intergovernmental forums and political dialogue initiatives, especially following deliberations of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and in the context, for example, of CELAC and the consensus reached following the CELAC-European Union Summit, held in Santiago in 2013;
 - Work on the full implementation of regional agreements designed to eradicate irregular migration. In this regard, progress and mechanisms that have been observed within the Andean Community and in MERCOSUR could converge and be merged with other schemes, thus deepening their impact and fostering intraregional migration.
- Advance decisively towards protecting the rights of all migrants with special attention to migrant children, young people, women, male and female workers, displaced persons in an irregular situation and forcibly displaced persons seeking refuge. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Draw up regulations and policies that establish the entitlement of migrants to rights, bearing in mind cross-cutting objectives in the fight against discrimination and xenophobia;
 - Monitor closely the fulfilment of international human rights instruments in the countries that have pledged to incorporate them into their legislation and policies;
 - Pursue research into climate change and the displacement of persons, with special attention to their vulnerability and the need to adopt a framework for protection, with preventive measures;
 - Promote a specific institutional framework in social services, in accordance with migrants' entitlement to rights, irrespective of nationality, and with an intercultural approach that incorporates the experience, opinion and active work of civil society organizations and migrant organizations.

6. Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and environmental vulnerability

Among the features of Latin America and the Caribbean are its vast territorial differences, which are manifested in dimensions varying from demographic advances, income distribution and living conditions, heterogeneity in production patterns to unacceptable ethnic and gender discrimination. In the least developed territories, rural areas, small townships and poor districts, the population has little chance of accessing good quality health care, good quality education, productive employment and basic services. Territorial differences, based on socioeconomic background, in access to information and sexual and reproductive health services result in a higher incidence of situations such as unwanted adolescent fertility, maternal mortality and sexually transmitted diseases, in particular AIDS, in the less developed territories and among the poorest strata.

These differences are totally unacceptable and contrary to reproductive rights and the right of all persons to share in the benefits of development and to be free from discrimination based on sex, age, ethnic background, culture and geographical location. Eliminating inequality is one of the strategic proposals put forward by ECLAC and other agencies in the region for the period beyond 2015 and is viewed as one of the key pillars for obtaining sustainable development. Thus, doing away with the barriers posed by territorial heterogeneity has become a priority objective for the region.

Notwithstanding the trend towards convergence, current globalized development models tend to concentrate services and opportunities even more in the high-growth centres of countries. As a result of its static comparative advantages, the region has become specialized in extractive industries (“reprimarization”) or activities based on low-cost labour and low value added. The risks inherent in these trends include exacerbation of the exclusion of the population in rural areas and small municipalities, an increase in informal, low-productivity and low-income activities and the adoption of productive processes with risks for workers’ health and social protection and with environmental risk due to pollution and improper waste disposal.

The most significant feature of the spatial distribution of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean is the region’s rapid urbanization, together with a clear trend towards the formation of metropolises and megalopolises. This trend has turned the region into the most urbanized in the developing world. The rural-urban exodus has been and remains the main cause of urbanization due to persistently high social inequalities between urban and rural areas. Metropolises and megalopolises remain magnets for population flows, while most small and medium-sized cities (60% of centres) tend to stagnate and to be sending areas for emigrants to the rest of the urban system.

Internal migration remains an option for improving the living conditions of poor people and for reducing inequality. Its positive effects may, however, be diminished by the saturation of destinations and by the involvement of migrants in the informal, low-productivity labour sector. Another negative effect of domestic migration is that it may help to perpetuate poverty and inequality in rural areas, small towns and poor regions that lose their most highly skilled human resources in the migration process, with adverse effects on their age structure and their capacity to generate sustainable development processes.

The direct and indirect effects on ecosystems of population displacements and settlement depend on the size of the population, the type of occupation, production and consumption patterns, technology and the ecosystems’ capacity for absorption and regeneration. Uneven distribution in the territory, especially the socio-spatial concentration and segregation in major cities, is the result of social inequality and bears risks such as more intensive emissions of greenhouse gases, production intensity and the improper disposal of hazardous waste such as electronic equipment and the settlement in hazard-prone areas of poor people, who are the least able to protect themselves and respond in the face of disasters. Climate change poses an additional threat. These situations tend to contribute to the reproduction of poverty, as threats to the environment usually erode the fragile and unprotected base of the resources available to the poor.

Individuals, families and communities can reduce their vulnerability more easily by properly managing disaster risks and adapting to climate change with emphasis on the different aspects of the demographic dynamic on land-use planning, subject to collaboration by the populations themselves in the design and implementation of the disaster-risk-reduction programmes. Apart from the value of updated disaggregated population data for guiding corrective, rapid-response action, the contributions of greatest scope can derive from the use of demographic data to construct prospective scenarios that serve to prevent and mitigate risk factors.¹⁸

¹⁸ http://www.unisdr.org/files/31104_doc18918contenido.pdf.

Political action relating to population settlement and mobility is a complex and delicate matter, since free displacement within countries has been recognized as a right since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Coercive public policies are therefore counter-productive and arbitrary (Rodríguez, 2010). Thus, land-use and urban planning should be undertaken to promote balanced growth of territorial space and reduce inequality, segregation and socio-environmental vulnerability within the framework of mobility and settlement rights. Normative and operational instruments exist that can be used to orient settlement and land use and apply penalties for negative environmental externalities.

Planning must be based on a comprehensive approach, in which account is taken of the needs as well as of the potential contributions and relationships of the different territories (transcending administrative borders) and settlements of various sizes and vocations, establishing coordination mechanisms between different decision-making levels. For this purpose, the region has experience in decentralization and implementation of instruments for regional and local management and the formulation of development and land-use plans, with, at times, a population-based approach. There is evidence to suggest that development and land-use planning can benefit considerably from a population- and life-cycle-based approach that allows for a comprehensive and consistent consideration of policies geared to different segments of the population and different productive sectors.

In view of the above considerations and bearing in mind the situation described in the foregoing sections of the document, some fundamental elements/objectives relating to territorial inequality and environmental sustainability should be incorporated into the regional agenda of population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014.

- Implement regional strategies for advancing decisively towards elimination of inequitable situations relating to the location of population in the territory. Among other measures, steps should be taken to:
 - Ensure that the development strategies for the region, including proposals for productive change with equity and sustainability, emphasis on the development of growth centres of economies do not rely on the basis of a greater deterioration in the living conditions of rural areas and centres with smaller populations;
 - Boost the role of the State in upholding rights and promoting sustainable economic and social development policies at the national and territorial levels;
 - Advance towards universal nationwide coverage of social services, including education, a key factor for overcoming discrimination and providing equal opportunities. In particular, making the necessary efforts to ensure that the coverage of quality services encompass the rural areas and more less densely populated centres;
 - Promote the generation of full, high quality employment opportunities, in keeping with demographic trends (age structure, demographic dividend) and local capacities. In particular, to promote women's participation and employment;
 - Promote processes of corporate responsibility in national and multinational private companies which exploit resources in rural areas and poor regions so that resources are not extracted at the expense of impoverishment, a breakdown in health and environmental degradation at the extraction sites.

- Improve State capacity at their different levels, in terms of formulating land-use management policies, plans and instruments in order to advance in a balanced way in sustainable development processes in the different territorial spheres, which would imply, among other measures:
 - Formulate and support the implementation of sustainable development strategies in the different territorial spheres, particularly the rural areas and small and intermediate population settlements to take into account and promote the use of local capacities in terms of skilled labour and the generation of clear and sustainable opportunities for stable productive employment;
 - Develop and implement normative and operational instruments that may be used to orient settlements and mobility within a rights framework and for sustainable use of space;
 - Take advantage of the region's experience with decentralization and local planning with a population-based approach;
 - Develop instruments and techniques for the clear incorporation of the population dynamic in formulating sustainable regional and local development strategies for reducing territorial socioeconomic inequities.
- Enhance the advantages of urbanization and other trends in spatial distribution that are difficult to modify using public policies, moderating their potentially adverse social and environmental impacts, which, among other measures, would call for the following:
 - Promote urban planning incorporating therein the features, distribution, settlement and mobility of the population, its age structure and patterns of consumption and the measures that respond to population trends, such as sustainable location schemes, boosting population density as a means of ensuring the provision of services, public transport systems and other infrastructure as a guarantee of mobility and access, and other instruments designed to reduce urban socio-spatial segregation;
 - Promote an integrated vision of urban and regional development designed to boost the advantages of urban growth while intermediate cities develop, and steps are taken to meet the needs and promote the potentiality of rural areas and small towns, all within the framework of the social and sustainable use of space.

7. Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants: pluriculturalism and rights

Growing concern for matters relating to indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants is related to the common denominator characterizing these groups, which is the structural discrimination of which they are the object, and which is expressed in inequality with higher levels of exclusion and poverty. Although information is fragmented, there are for example situations of sharp inequality in terms of declining levels of reproduction and mortality among indigenous and Afro-descendent women, children, women and young women, including early maternity, maternal mortality, mortality due to external causes among young Afro-descendants or due to suicide among indigenous youth, to name just a few.¹⁹

¹⁹ The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development includes specific measures for indigenous peoples, but these need to be updated in the light of the new international human rights standards. The Programme of Action does not explicitly refer to Afro-descendent populations and this situation should also be corrected in line with rights.

It is important to note that indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants have become active political stakeholders, and have successfully launched their historical claims on national and international agendas. Minimum rights standards are now recognized. In the region, there are autonomous indigenous governments, regions departments, municipalities, territories and communities.

Standards established in the case of indigenous peoples are embodied in Convention 169, Indigenous and Tribal People's Convention of the International Labour Organization and in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which on the basis of the principle of self-determination set forth the following dimensions: (a) the right to non-discrimination; (b) the right to cultural integrity; right to ownership, use, control and access to lands, territories and resources; (d) the right to development and social well-being; and (e) the right to political participation on the basis of free, prior and informed consent. These standards generate new obligations for States and are also mandatory for the United Nations system in terms of respect for and the full application of the provisions of the Declaration and ensuring the follow-up of its effectiveness (articles 41 and 42).

The clause concerning freedom from discrimination, in particular, has been included in practically all universal human rights instruments. Various international summits and agreements, including the International Conference on Population and Development, and their five-year review processes, focus increasingly on issues relating to indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.

Whereas legal and policy advances have been observed in Latin America and are geared to confronting the unfavourable situation of these groups, the balance is still critical and gaps persist in the implementation of their rights. Although advances have been observed in health policies and programmes for indigenous peoples in terms of improved access and services better adapted to the cultural realities of peoples, above all in the area of reproductive health, few advances have been seen concerning the integral conception of the right to health, which includes the use of traditional medicine and protection of the ecosystems on which it is based. Overall, the participation of indigenous peoples in processes has been limited and remains one of the core challenges to building a public policy that considers them as collective rights-holders.

It should be noted that indigenous peoples cover a vast, heterogeneous demographic and territorial spectrum, ranging from those in voluntary isolation to those living in huge urban settlements, as well as different sociopolitical status, not only between countries but also within a single country (ECLAC, 2006). Special reference should be made to the fact that even today, some indigenous peoples in the region are dwindling steadily, owing to contact with exogenous diseases, loss of their territories and resources, destruction of their vital spaces, displacements, resettlements and the breakdown of their communities and their social systems.

Generally speaking, the indigenous population of Latin America has a younger age structure than the non-indigenous population irrespective of the stage of demographic transition which the country is going through. This situation may also be observed in the Afro-descendent population, albeit in a less marked manner. As a rule, these young age structures are the result of persistently high fertility levels. In the case of indigenous peoples, there is no doubt that structural determinants, in particular, socioeconomic position and the fact that culturally and linguistically they may be inaccessible, can in interaction with the mode of life of each people, affect the chances of indigenous peoples having effective access to health services and sexual and reproductive health services; this has an impact on the behaviour of the proxy variables of fertility (such as the use of contraceptives, breastfeeding, marriage) and as a result fertility levels remain high. These levels are also due to a higher ideal number of children among indigenous peoples, which is related to the role and significance of fertility in the processes of biological and cultural reproduction. These elements have not been sufficiently taken into account in national policies and interventions.

Therefore, the behaviour of demographic dynamics peculiar to indigenous peoples continue to be a valid central element that should be taken into account in policies, establishing differentiated priorities in the allocation of resources, especially in the education and health sectors. The region has a long-standing debt towards indigenous peoples in terms of the need to take into account their perspectives and requirements when preparing, executing, monitoring and assessing population, development and environmental programmes. In this regard and bearing in mind fertility levels, the need to eliminate inequities and gaps between the ideal reproductive patterns and actual fertility of specific groups is not a new issue; what is new is the fact that States face a huge challenge to design policies that harmonize the sexual and reproductive rights of individuals and couples with the collective rights of indigenous peoples, in particular the right to cultural integrity, bearing in mind the realities of each people in terms of their various socio-territorial rights and the issue of biological survival.

Since territorial rights are at the heart of indigenous demands, it should be borne in mind that a territory is not just a geographical and physical space but fundamentally a social and cultural space which ties in with their family relationships, or the basis of the community. Therefore, longstanding claims and conflicts concerning the restoration of lands to indigenous peoples now take on another connotation, are reinterpreted in terms of the territorial dimension as claims and exercises for self-reliance, jurisdiction and control.

In this regard, new paradigms have emerged from the indigenous cosmovision, such as “good living” (*Buen Vivir*), which constitutes a model of well-being/development that integrates harmony between human beings and nature, and is based on the practice of self-determination, which is based on the territory. Good living (*sumak kawsay*) is a right enshrined in the Constitution of Ecuador; meanwhile, the Plurinational State of Bolivia has enacted the Mother Earth and Good Living Act. There are also processes for reconstructing integral life plans for indigenous peoples in Colombia.

Despite the indissoluble ties between indigenous peoples and their territory, they are becoming increasingly urbanized as a result of emigration from the communities because of various factors such as demographic pressure on their lands, the interests of national and international enterprises, environmental degradation and poverty. This situation implies far-reaching sociocultural transformations which affect the lives not only of these peoples but of urban populations as a whole. Some studies, for example, report on the “ethnicization” of cities. They also show that ties with communities in the place of origin, which are maintained, for example, through remittances and/or constant mobility between the city and the country, not only play an important part in the process of integrating indigenous migrants in the city, but could also operate in some cases by limiting and reproducing marginalization when social circuits are very closed. International migration by indigenous peoples is another relevant issue in the region and one that calls for closer attention by countries. In some cases, it is more a matter of the ancestral mobility of peoples who were split up by boundaries established by the nation-States; hence, a transborder approach is necessary along with binational or trinational policies.

The growing preoccupation with issues relating to indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants underscores the recurrent theme of lack of information, which, notwithstanding the advances achieved more recently, continues to be an important constraint for the correct diagnosis of their economic, social, political and demographic situation, for the effective monitoring of advances and for the definition of more effective and relevant policies.

Apart from the State institutions and international agencies, the indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants themselves also generate demand for timely, good quality information, not just as a technical tool but also as a political resource in support of fulfilment of their rights. Thus, the information produced must also respond to the requirements of the indigenous peoples, bearing in mind their individual and collective rights.

Currently, various international conferences and agreements include a breakdown of data for indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. Action 6.26 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development seeks, in conjunction with the indigenous peoples, to promote the compilation of data on their demographic characteristics, both current and historical, as a means of improving the understanding of the population status of indigenous people; and states that efforts should be made to integrate the relevant statistics into the national data-collection system.

The United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples also contains two specific articles (articles 15 and 16) relating to access to information and communications technologies, one of the issues of growing importance on the agenda for indigenous peoples. Similarly, the reports of the human rights committees usually include recommendations to States on these matters.

In view of the above considerations and bearing in mind the situation described in the foregoing sections of the document, some fundamental elements/objectives relating to indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants should be incorporated in the regional agenda of population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014.

- Succeed in obtaining the full participation of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in national policies, with progress in promoting respect for and enforcement of the individual and collective rights of these peoples, bearing in mind international standards. Among other measures, this will require the following:
 - Formulate regulations and policies to promote implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, guaranteeing the full participation of these peoples in the actions that affect them;
 - Promote institution-building for dealing with indigenous and Afro-descendent issues and in sectoral spheres in keeping with existing legal standards;
 - Strengthen follow-up mechanisms for fulfilling international agreements and implementing policies and programmes geared to closing the gaps in implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants;
 - Design and implement actions to eliminate inequality and reveal the contribution made by indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants to well-being and development in the region.
- Consider the demographic profiles peculiar to indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in policies and programmes. Among other measures, this will call for the following:
 - Establish different priorities in resource allocation, especially in the education and health sectors, bearing in mind the demographic trends peculiar to indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in the design of public policies and programmes;
 - Incorporate the perspectives, needs and demands of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in the preparation, execution, supervision and evaluation of population and development programmes;

- Include in policies and programmes the evaluation of demographic impacts that affect indigenous peoples in territories where extractive industries are sited;
 - Design and implement urgent actions to address the situation of indigenous peoples in danger of extinction, with full observance of their rights.
- Eliminate gaps in the implementation of the right to health, including sexual and reproductive rights, in the light of the socio-territorial specificities of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, and the structural factors that generate inequality. Among other measures, this will call for the following:
 - Move forward with the promotion, protection and guarantee of the following health-related rights: Highest level of physical and mental health, through access without discrimination to appropriate, good quality comprehensive indigenous health care, which includes using, strengthening and controlling their traditional medicine and protection of their territories as vital spaces; participation in the design, implementation, management, administration and evaluation of health policies and programmes, with emphasis on autonomy in handling their resources;
 - Expand national legislations and regulations for each of the dimensions referred to in the preceding paragraph, build institutions to govern the health of indigenous and Afro-descendants and design policies and programmes through which the relevant regulations may be implemented;
 - Design and apply policies that tie in the sexual and reproductive rights of individuals and couples with the collective rights of the indigenous peoples, in particular rights of cultural integrity, bearing in mind the different socio-territorial realities and biological survival realities of each people;
 - Guarantee cultural and linguistic accessibility in sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes and considering that reproductive trajectories are closely linked to the way each people's social organization (reproductive ideals, family and kinship systems, rules governing marriage and residence, rules on conception and contraception, among other cultural elements);
 - Strengthen information systems substantially to be able to evaluate the objective health conditions of individuals and indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. Obtaining information concerning the extent of resources allocated specifically to these groups.
 - Advance in respect for and guarantee of the territorial rights of indigenous peoples, paying attention to the mobility of forcible displacements, and at the same time, considering that rights standards transcend the urban-rural divide. Among other measures, this will call for the following:
 - Implement structural State reforms conducive to the construction of pluricultural countries, with reference to the human rights framework, and dealing with tensions that generate the current development model with indigenous paradigms;
 - Guarantee the territorial rights of indigenous peoples, including use of and control over natural resources. The respective rules and policies must be drawn up with full and effective participation by the indigenous peoples and with their free, prior and informed consent;

- Examine the effects of climate change in indigenous territories and designing and applying policies for dealing with its impacts;
 - Maximize the positive impact of indigenous migration, taking advantage creatively of these displacements to strengthen first nation cultures; halting all the forces that result in forced displacements from ancestral territories; stemming the outflow of relatively skilled human resources at the height of their productive years seriously undermines communities that remain in the country; and guaranteeing the rights of indigenous peoples in cities;
 - Given the special features of transborder migration, especially the territorial mobility of peoples, promoting acceptance of dual nationality in the legislations of neighbouring countries. Establish special measures to facilitate transborder contact, recognizing the right under common law to move within an ethno-cultural territory that existed prior to the establishment of the legal boundaries of the Latin American States;
 - Increase knowledge of living conditions of indigenous peoples who live in their territories as well as those that live in cities; obtain further information on the mobility and migration flows of indigenous peoples in terms of the extent, causes, itineraries, meanings and consequences.
- Generate reliable and timely knowledge and information on indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants through participatory processes, whose advances would depend, among other measures, on the following:
 - Include identification of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in all data sources, with the full participation of these groups in all phases of production and analysis, ensuring that information is of good quality and supplied on a timely basis;
 - Take advantage of the experience with the 2010 censuses to include ethnic data in registers and surveys, and develop strategies for improving the collection and quality of information, reviewing conceptual, methodological and operational aspects of each data source;
 - Develop complementary and/or specific instruments that allow for the construction of culturally relevant indicators—including indicators of discrimination, in accordance with the requirements of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants;
 - Enforce the right to information and communication by strengthening indigenous and Afro-descendent organizations in order to access, use and analyse information and assess its impact on policies, access to the public communication media and to information and communications technologies;
 - Establish sound institutions for the generation of statistics on indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants that comply with international human rights standards.

C. FRAMEWORKS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUTURE REGIONAL AGENDA ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The implementation and sustainability of a regional population and development agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014 call for concerted efforts by States, civil society and international agencies.

First, decisive advances must be made to incorporate the issues of population and development in the processes of elaboration, application and evaluation of public policies and programmes at all territorial levels. Second, recognizing that it is a complex goal, an institutional framework must be defined to support and coordinate the issue of population and development; this framework must include mechanisms to ensure participation by non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector.

Within the region, population, it should be recognized, is now understood to be a crucial issue and is incorporated or referred to in a host of national programmes and policies, including strategic plans and even in the national constitution of some countries. However, the implementation of such programmes and policies leaves much to be desired. This is due to the lack of a strong institutional framework to support and coordinate the issue, the result being that it is treated in a disjointed manner and finding resources is difficult since it has to compete with the demands of other national priority issues in a context of serious budgetary constraints.

Population and development issues call for an integrated approach to national development programmes and policies and must also be incorporated into international agendas. This integrated approach reflects the need to incorporate population factors explicitly in development planning and stresses their potential impact in terms of reducing poverty and inequality, thereby opening up scope for dealing with the issue at the level of national development institutions, more so in the current context of reasserting the role of the State and of planning in the region.

Sufficient financial resources are required in order to execute and ensure the sustainability of the regional agenda. The establishment of support and coordination institutions and, above all, the political support that can be obtained based on greater awareness of the importance of population issues in development policies, should allow greater scope for building such resources in the countries. It is clear that a firm commitment is also needed by international agencies in this area. Lastly, since there has been a marked imbalance in the flow of resources to the different population issues, a more balanced treatment will be needed, bearing in mind that the actions in the different areas of population are interconnected and mutually supportive.

Skilled human resources and quality information are required to prepare diagnostic assessments and to design specific policies, plans and programmes in the different population areas. There is a shortage of staff with proper training in the use of sociodemographic data and information sources such as censuses to analyse the demographic dynamic and its economic and social implications and in integrating these elements in development planning. As part of the regional agenda, it is necessary to design and implement a human resource training strategy to cover the different issues, territorial levels, types of courses and to use the available technology and the existing capacity in the academic establishments in the region. Training for stakeholders is an issue that cannot be discontinued insofar as it is the main feedback mechanism for awareness of the importance of population for development.

As regards information, better quality, up-to-date sociodemographic information is available and the chances of access by State and civil society stakeholders have increased considerably; at the same time, technologies and methodologies have been incorporated for processing and using this information for policymaking purposes. This has expanded significantly the chances of using population data and analysis. However, huge gaps persist which make it necessary to incorporate into the regional agenda strategies for continuing to provide technical support to countries in data collection and analysis to help them identify opportunities and challenges arising from demographic changes.

The Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC will play an important role in implementing the regional population and development agenda, leading to a regional consensus on a regional plan of action on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014. This plan of action could include goals, actions and targets that emerge from the priority issues identified in the regional agenda and should be complemented with monitoring and evaluation systems. Regional activities for fostering the dissemination of best practices and international cooperation may also be included.

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