



**Regional Conference
on Social Development**
in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Regional Conference on Social Development
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Lima, 2-4 November 2015

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA



A. BACKGROUND

In May 2014, the member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) decided, by virtue of resolution 682(XXXV), to establish the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission. The Conference's objectives include to promote the development of national policies on social development; to further international, regional and bilateral cooperation among offices and institutions; to examine multidimensional poverty and make progress on poverty measurement, inequality and structural gaps in conjunction with the relevant subsidiary bodies that conduct studies in this field, in particular the Statistical Conference of the Americas; to exchange experiences in relation to social matters and support and to provide technical inputs for the summits of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and other regional forums; and to contribute from the perspective of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the discussions and proposals considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Every year since 2007, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has held, with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, whose seventh meeting took place in Mexico City on 30 and 31 October 2014.

The aim of this Forum has been to provide ministers and decision makers with an opportunity to discuss social and human development policy issues, including social governance, youth inclusion, social responses to the global crisis, social policy financing and social stratification.

In a joint declaration signed in October 2014, ECLAC and UNDP, in conjunction with the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru, together convened the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Lima from 2 to 4 November 2015.

The aim of this initiative is to foster synergies and encourage the social authorities of the region to attend both events and adopt complementary mandates at them, while maintaining their institutional identities.

1. Election of officers

The annex to resolution 682(XXXV) provides for the election of a Chair and six members. It is suggested that the composition of this group of presiding officers should be discussed at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on 2 November 2015, prior to the work of the Conference. The presiding officers will remain in office for a term of two years.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The delegations will have before them for consideration and adoption the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair and the delegation of the host country of the Regional Conference. Member countries may make such observations or suggest such amendments as they deem appropriate under the ECLAC rules of procedure.

3. Presentation of the document *Inclusive social development: the next generation of policies for overcoming poverty and reducing inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean*

ECLAC will present the document it has prepared for the Conference, entitled *Inclusive social development: the next generation of policies for overcoming poverty and reducing inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

The document will review recent progress and outstanding challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean with respect to overcoming poverty and reducing inequality, issues that are central to the region's social development. It will discuss the factors behind the successes achieved and the problems that persist. The document will also emphasize the importance of institutions for social development and provide suggestions for strengthening policies in that regard.

Working document:

- Inclusive social development: the next generation of policies for overcoming poverty and reducing inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.4056(CDS.1/3))

4. Review of the document *Inclusive social development: the next generation of policies for overcoming poverty and reducing inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean*

On the second and third days of the Conference, five consecutive panels will be held, addressing priority issues for social development, identified in the document presented under the previous agenda item. The comments made during each panel are expected to help enrich the discussions on the agreements of the Conference.

Panel 1 is entitled "Poverty, social exclusion and inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean: success factors and pending challenges". Participants will discuss recent achievements and the limitations on the region's progress, as well as the policymaking alternatives that would bring within reach the goals of combating poverty and inequality included in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The discussion will reflect the fact that inequalities are expressed not only in terms of income, but also in terms of opportunities, abilities and rights and in the quality of education, health, nutrition and jobs. An emphasis will be placed on the influence of factors such as gender, race and ethnicity, place of residence and the different phases of the life cycle on poverty and inequality in the region.

Panel 2 will address "Macroeconomic and fiscal frameworks for inclusive social development". Special attention will be paid to some of the conditions required for socially and economically sustainable development in the region, taking into account not only the current situation, but also the outlook for the medium and long term. Certain advances in the social conditions of the population should be considered a prerequisite for achieving sustainable economic development and, furthermore, the persistence of poverty and inequality incurs social and economic costs not only for those directly affected, but also for society as a whole. Macroeconomic management and national economic policies are crucial to solving social problems, as well as being the cause of many of them. Inclusive social development calls for adequate and consistent sources of funding in order to address the diverse needs of the population over time. Fiscal policy, in particular, should be one of the tools used to combat inequality.

Panel 3, entitled "Social institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean: how much progress has been made?", will examine the different approaches, problems and challenges facing social policy institutions in the light of the different political and administrative structures in the countries of the

region. Social institutions play a fundamental role in the future of social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which faces major challenges in building more inclusive and egalitarian societies. In recent decades, Latin American and Caribbean countries have shown significant progress in the design and implementation of innovative social policies, such as conditional cash transfer programmes. This progress has gone hand in hand with the strides made and challenges identified in respect of organizing and coordinating such policies, developments in management tools and the emergence of interministerial cabinets, ministries and specialized departments for social protection.

Panel 4, “Towards the next generation of social policies in Latin America and the Caribbean: fundamental principles and new strategies”, will examine recent progress and innovations in social policy in the region, focusing on initiatives that have been given priority by ministries and departments for social development, such as conditional transfer programmes. It will also address how these policies can be strengthened and expanded in scope in order to meet the new needs of the region. The discussion will cover elements such as the need to move towards comprehensive social protection systems, with greater coordination between the contributory and non-contributory components, labour market policies, and labour and productive inclusion, care policies and the universal provision of good-quality health care and education, with a view to reducing poverty and inequality in a sustainable manner.

Panel 5, entitled “Proposals for exploring and measuring multidimensional poverty”, will involve presentations and discussions on some of the steps that are being taken by countries of the region to develop and implement new ways of measuring poverty.

5. Other matters

Any other issue raised by delegations may be discussed under this agenda item.

6. Consideration and adoption of agreements

The Conference will adopt the agreements it deems appropriate in accordance with the rules of procedure of ECLAC.