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

Full integration of population dynamics into rights-based sustainable development with equality: key to the agenda beyond 2014

Montevideo, 12-15 August 2013

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA
A. BACKGROUND

By virtue of resolution 670(XXXIV), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) decided in 2012 that the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development should be renamed the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and endorsed the other provisions set forth in agreement 1, adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee at its meeting held in Quito from 4 to 6 July 2012.

The ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development was created pursuant to resolution 536(XXV) of the Commission, entitled the “Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development”, and in accordance with the terms of paragraph 98 of the Plan. Its ultimate responsibility was to monitor and review regional issues relating to population and development. Over time, it took on additional responsibilities, such as the follow-up to the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and consideration of issues relating to international migration, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations. In view of these additional responsibilities, it was decided that the 2010 and 2012 ordinary meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee should be held independently of the thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the Commission.

The Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean has inherited all the functions of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and will be guided by and comply fully with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Conference will meet every two years, while its Presiding Officers will meet at least once between ordinary sessions of the Conference. The Regional Conference recognizes the importance of having civil society participate in its sessions.

As agreed at the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Uruguay and its central theme will be the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

1. Place and date

The first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Montevideo from 12 to 15 August 2013.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the session will be to review the progress made on implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean over the past 20 years, as well as to identify key measures for strengthening implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and for tackling emerging population and development issues in the region.
3. Thematic areas

The reference framework for the issues to be addressed at the session will be the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development of 1994.

The provisional agenda was prepared in accordance with ECLAC resolution 670(XXXIV).

The Conference will hold plenary discussions structured around five thematic areas:

- Reports on the period 2012-2013 and outlook for the period 2013-2015
- Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
- Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014
- Priority areas for Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014
- Full integration of population dynamics into rights-based sustainable development with equality

4. Organization of work

The first day will begin with the election of officers and the adoption of the agenda for the meeting. Next, reports will be given by the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and by representatives of the ECLAC secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Next on the agenda will be the 20-year review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and delegations will have before them the first working document prepared by the secretariat, for their consideration. The outcome of the Caribbean intergovernmental meeting on the 20-year review of the Cairo Programme of Action will then be presented together with the outcome of the meeting held on the same topic by civil society organizations. A general discussion will then be held on national experiences relating to population and development and prospects for the period beyond 2014; during this discussion, ECLAC member States and associate members will report on the progress made at the national level in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

The discussions on day 2 will centre on the proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014, which is the subject of the second working document submitted by the secretariat. Four of the eight panels will then address priority areas for the region in the framework of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

On day 3, the remaining four panels will be held. These will be followed by the inter-agency round table on the proposed agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014. Any other issues that delegations may wish to raise will then be discussed and the proceedings will conclude with the consideration and adoption of agreements by the Conference.
5. Documentation

As stated in resolution 670(XXXIV), the secretariat is responsible for preparing the substantive documents for the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Accordingly, the secretariat has prepared a series of documents that will serve as a basis for the discussions.

Working documents:

- Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014 (LC/L.3641(CRPD.1/4))

Reference documents:

- Report of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (Quito, 2012) and resolution 670(XXXIV) adopted at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission (DDR/5)
- Implementación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Población y el Desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe: examen del periodo 2009-2013 y lecciones aprendidas (LC/L.3642)
- Informe regional de América Latina y el Caribe sobre la Encuesta Mundial sobre el cumplimiento del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Población y el Desarrollo y su seguimiento después de 2014 (LC/L.3634)
- Report on the activities conducted by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC during the period 2012-2013 (LC/L.3643)
- Contributions made by ECLAC to follow-up and implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean 2012-2013 (DDR/1)
- Contributions made by ECLAC in the field of international migration from a human rights and development perspective (DDR/2)
- Contributions made by ECLAC from a rights perspective regarding indigenous peoples’ and Afro-descendants’ affairs (DDR/3)
- ECLAC support for housing and population censuses in the decade starting in 2010 (DDR/4)
- Appraisal and conclusions from the 1994-2009 review of the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean, Project document No. 318 (LC/W.318)
– Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development: actions undertaken to implement the Programme of Action of the Conference in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2064/Rev.1-P)

– Cinco años después de El Cairo. América Latina y el Caribe: Logros y desafíos en la ejecución del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Población y el Desarrollo (LC/DEM/R.297)

– América Latina y el Caribe: examen y evaluación de la ejecución del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Población y el Desarrollo (LC/DEM/G.184/E)

Documents from the Caribbean, which will serve as inputs for the discussions at the meeting, will also be at the disposal of delegations.

**B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.


5. General discussion on national experiences regarding population and development and the outlook beyond 2014.

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


8. Other matters.

9. Consideration and adoption of agreements.
C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

The ECLAC rules of procedure (LC/G.1403/Rev.7) provide for the election of a chair, two or more vice-chairs and a rapporteur. 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 13 August 2013 prior to the work of the Conference. The presiding officers will remain in office until their successors are elected.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The delegations will have before them for consideration and approval the provisional agenda (LC/L.3619(CRPD.1/1)) prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the last Presiding Officers of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and the delegation of the host country of the first session of the Regional Conference. Member countries may make such observations or suggest such amendments as they deem appropriate under the aforementioned rules of procedure.


The Chair of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development will report on the activities carried out since the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, especially those conducted in preparation for the first meeting of the Regional Conference.

The Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC will then report on the activities carried out by the secretariat during the past year, with emphasis on the technical support provided for moving forward with the fulfilment of Governments’ commitments under Agreement 2 “Population, territory and sustainable development, and other priority activities”, adopted at the meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, held in Quito from 4 to 6 July 2012.

Lastly, the Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will report on activities planned and carried out by the Fund in the region within the framework of the Cairo Programme of Action and on the key measures for the continued implementation of the Programme of Action and the 20-year review process.

4. Report on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

In view of the significant implementation gaps in various areas of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and given that many Governments will not be able to meet the proposed targets and goals by 2014, the United Nations General Assembly, by virtue of resolution 65/234 of 5 April 2011, decided to extend beyond 2014 the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, and to ensure that it is followed up in order to implement fully its targets and goals. The resolution emphasizes the need for Governments to recommit themselves at the highest political level to the goals of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, to protect the achievements of the Conference, respond to new challenges arising from the changing environment and reinforce the integration of the population and development agenda in global development processes.
In this framework and in keeping with the agreements adopted at the last meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, the secretariat will submit for the consideration of the delegations the first working document prepared for the Regional Conference, entitled “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 document will contain an analysis based on the follow-up of selected indicators relating to explicit quantitative targets established in the Programme of Action and on the analysis of the relevant actions implemented at the country level. This analysis will include the perspective of non-governmental stakeholders. One of its main outcomes will be a systematized account of lessons learned for monitoring the future agenda on population and development in the region.

Working document:


5. General discussion on national experiences regarding population and development and the outlook beyond 2014

ECLAC member States will report on their national experiences with implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, with particular reference to issues that will remain pending in 2014. Statements may also be made by representatives of international and intergovernmental agencies, civil society organizations and academic institutions.

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

Bearing in mind resolution 65/234 of 5 April 2011 of the United Nations General Assembly, and in accordance with the agreements adopted at the last meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, the secretariat will submit for consideration by the delegations the second working document prepared for the Regional Conference, entitled “Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014”.

The document identifies and proposes a selection of priority issues and approaches for inclusion in the agenda on population and development for the region beyond 2014, with reference to the lessons learned in the course of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the region and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, the regional and global trends in economic and social development and the specific socioeconomic, cultural and institutional features of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Working document:

- Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014 (LC/L.3641(CRPD.1/4))
7. Priority areas in the framework of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014

Eight consecutive panels will address population and development issues identified as priorities for the period beyond 2014 in the proposed agenda presented under item 6 above. The comments of these panels are expected to enrich the discussion on the proposed agenda.

The first panel will consider the rights, needs and demands of children, adolescents and youth. An integrated perspective of the formative process will be provided. The specificities of the different phases will be examined and the relevant policies and programmes for seizing the opportunities and fulfilling the rights of all persons at each phase in an egalitarian manner will be discussed.

The second panel will address the opportunities and the social and economic consequences of demographic dynamics. The options for converting the demographic dividend into a concrete opportunity for expediting economic and social development will be analysed along with ways of bringing health policies in line with the challenges of the varied and changing epidemiological profile resulting from the demographic and epidemiological transition. Actions needed for advancing towards recognition and inclusion of care in social protection systems will also be examined.

The third panel will focus on various aspects of gender equality, notably violence against women, with particular attention to sexual violence and the impact on human rights, including those relating to sexual and reproductive health; co-responsibility in caregiving tasks, and the development of universal social protection policies that will contribute to a non-discriminatory sexual division of labour and a more equitable balance between productive and reproductive activities between men and women; the machineries for the advancement of women and strategies for advancing with policies for gender equality; and sound public policies for achieving the physical, economic and political autonomy of women.

The fourth panel will broach various issues relating to reproductive and sexual rights. The panellists will take stock of progress towards universal access to appropriate, timely and quality sexual and reproductive health services, with emphasis on closing the gaps that still persist in access to these services. Successful strategies for reducing maternal mortality within a framework of integral attention to maternal health will be reviewed and the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights will be discussed, bearing in mind the key role played by sex education.

The fifth panel will look at the most important aspects of international migration in Latin America and the Caribbean, with special emphasis on the rights of migrants and the impact of migration flows on development and equality. The contributions made by migrants to both home and destination countries will be addressed along with the specificities of their participation by group, the prevailing situation regarding international dialogue and cooperation and strategies for the protection of all migrants.

The sixth panel will study territorial inequality, spatial mobility and environmental vulnerability. The main trends in spatial redistribution of the population (including urbanization), internal migration and settlements in the region will be examined. The scope for influencing these trends through public policies will be analysed along with their possible implications for the future. Policy options for addressing pending challenges relating to population and territory will be identified as well as territorial inequalities in access to opportunities, environmental and social vulnerability associated with geographical location, urban and rural development and the exercise of rights irrespective of the location of individuals.
The seventh panel will reflect on the issue “Indigenous peoples: pluriculturalism and rights”. The discussion will focus on the demographic dynamic particular to indigenous peoples along with policy implications; the advances and gaps in implementation of the right to health care, including the sexual and reproductive rights of these peoples; and the challenges to progress in enforcing respect for their territorial rights. Account will be taken of the social and territorial specificities of each people, as well as of the structural factors that generate inequality.

Lastly, the eighth panel will be devoted to the issue “Afro-descendants: rights and combating racial discrimination”. The panel will examine the socioeconomic inequities prevailing in the region which place Afro-descendent persons at a disadvantage, with problems linked to their ethnic and racial status compounded by gender, generational and territorial inequalities. The analysis will focus in particular on the situation of Afro-descendants in terms of the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and gaps in the realization of Afro-descendent men’s and women’s human rights. The panel will discuss existing policies, programmes and actions for combating racial discrimination in the region.

8. Other matters

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

9. Consideration and adoption of agreements

Delegations will have before them the draft agreements of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for consideration and adoption in accordance with the rules of procedure of ECLAC.