



First Meeting of the
Presiding Officers of the
Regional Conference on
Population and Development in
Latin America and the Caribbean

19 November 2014

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First meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on
Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 12-13 November 2014

AGREEMENTS

At their first meeting, held on 12-13 November in Santiago, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to:

1. *Reaffirm* the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a strategic road map for action on population and development matters in the region and underscore its whole and indivisible nature, in the framework of which each country can opt for different routes towards achievement of the objectives set;
2. *Welcome* the report by the Chair on preparations for the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;
3. *Commend* the secretariat upon the report on the activities carried out since the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and upon the relevance and pertinence of those activities;
4. *Welcome* the report of the United Nations Population Fund on the outcomes of the global process of follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and congratulate the Fund upon its role in the successful culmination of this process with the special session of the General Assembly held on 22 September 2014;
5. *Thank* the States members for their reports on national-level experiences on dissemination and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus, which demonstrate the progress made and the remaining challenges;
6. *Thank also* the representatives of international and intergovernmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and academic institutions for their actions in this area, and recall the relevance of paragraphs 119 and 120 of the Montevideo Consensus in this context;
7. *Thank further* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC for the presentation of the documents *La nueva era demográfica en América Latina y el Caribe: la hora de la igualdad según el reloj poblacional*,¹ *Los pueblos indígenas en América Latina: avances en el último decenio y retos pendientes para la garantía de sus derechos* and *Guaranteeing indigenous people's rights in Latin America: progress in the past decade and remaining challenges. Summary*,² *Tendencias y patrones recientes de la migración internacional latinoamericana y caribeña hacia 2010 y desafíos para una agenda regional*,³ *La reproducción en la adolescencia y sus desigualdades en América Latina: introducción al análisis demográfico, con énfasis en el uso de microdatos censales de la ronda de 2010*⁴ and the report on the Second International Forum on the Rights of Older Persons;⁵
8. *Agree* that the theme of the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in October 2015 in Mexico City, will be "Population dynamics as an axis of sustainable development: the Montevideo Consensus as a tool for reducing inequality in the framework of human rights";

¹ DDR/2.

² LC/L.3902 and LC/L.3893, respectively.

³ *Population and Development Series*, No. 109 (LC/L.3914).

⁴ LC/W.605.

⁵ DDR/1.

9. *Thank* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC for the presentation of the document *Concept note on the working document for the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Population dynamics as an axis of sustainable development: the Montevideo Consensus as a tool for reducing inequality in the framework of human rights*⁶ and acknowledge the support provided by the United Nations Population Fund for its preparation;
10. *Agree* that the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, to be held in 2015, should examine the operating guidelines for the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to their adoption, seeking also to contribute to the implementation and follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 in the region, and that the concept note mentioned in paragraph 9 above will serve as a starting point for this process;
11. *Work* to include in the operating guidelines actions that can be implemented in the nine substantive areas of the Montevideo Consensus, targets that can be met progressively within the deadlines that may be set, and monitoring indicators and mechanisms to support follow-up to the Montevideo Consensus;
12. *Establish* an ad hoc working group to prepare a proposal for the operating guidelines, which will be coordinated by Uruguay and comprise, initially, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador and Mexico; the working group will present its first report on 30 April 2015 and will have the support of the United Nations Population Fund and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in its capacity as technical secretariat;
13. *Request* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, as technical secretariat of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, to prepare—in consultation with the coordinator and member countries of the working group, with the support and participation of the United Nations Population Fund, and with the participation of civil society—a draft proposal based on the concept note prepared by the secretariat, as one of the inputs for the activities of the working group mentioned in paragraph 12 above, with a view to the preparation of the operating guidelines;
14. *Emphasize* the importance of monitoring and accountability as essential components for overseeing fulfilment of the priority measures set forth in the Montevideo Consensus, on the understanding that these components are not an end in themselves but serve to implement the Consensus, and should therefore be simple, flexible, effective and in keeping with national and regional realities;
15. *Recall* the importance of paragraph 99 of the Montevideo Consensus which appeals to countries to establish or strengthen a national coordinating mechanism, with the participation of civil society organizations, to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and to act as a permanent liaison with the Regional Conference;

⁶ LC/L.3903(MDP.1/3).

16. *Reiterate* the call to broaden efforts to disseminate the Montevideo Consensus and the need to implement it with a view to achieving sustainable development in the region, with an emphasis on equality and in the framework of human rights;
17. *Hold* the second meeting of the Presiding Officers in mid-2015 in order to establish the procedures by which they may agree upon the operating guidelines before the second session of the Regional Conference, among other matters;
18. *Agree* that the second session of the Regional Conference, to be held in October 2015, should address matters relating to the substantive thematic areas of the Montevideo Consensus and review the operating guidelines for the implementation of the Consensus, with a view to their adoption, and that special events organized by Government of Mexico concerning sustainable cities and migrant children should be held on that occasion;
19. *Encourage* information-sharing and communication between the presiding officers of the various subsidiary bodies in order to achieve synergies between the different regional conferences and, in particular, to encourage the positioning and implementation of the Santo Domingo Consensus and the Montevideo Consensus;
20. *Thank and commend* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean upon the organization of the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Conference and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC upon the preparation of the corresponding documentation;
21. *Thank also* the United Nations Population Fund for its participation, collaboration and support in the present meeting;
22. *Welcome* the participation of civil society and its contributions to the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.