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**REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE  
REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 12 and 13 November 2014

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## A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

### Place and date of the meeting

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held their first meeting on 12 and 13 November 2014 in Santiago.

### Attendance<sup>1</sup>

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries in their capacity as Presiding Officers: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): France, Spain and Guatemala.

4. The following United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were represented: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

5. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present: International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

6. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations were also present: Latin American Development Bank (CAF), Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and Andean Parliament.

7. Representatives of non-governmental organizations and other special guests also attended the meeting.

### Chair and Vice-Chairs

8. The composition of the Presiding Officers elected at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development was as follows:

<u>Chair:</u>	Uruguay
<u>Vice-Chairs:</u>	Argentina
	Brazil
	Chile
	Colombia
	Costa Rica
	Cuba
	Dominican Republic
	Ecuador

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<sup>1</sup> See annex 1.

El Salvador  
 Guyana  
 Honduras  
 Jamaica  
 Mexico  
 Peru  
 Plurinational State of Bolivia

## **B. AGENDA**

9. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:
  1. Adoption of the agenda.
  2. Report by the Chair on preparations for the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico, October 2015).
  3. Report by the secretariat on activities carried out since the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
  4. Report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on the outcomes of the global process of follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014.
  5. Operating guidelines for implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.
  6. Exchange of national-level experiences on dissemination and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, including institutional arrangements for that purpose.
  7. Medium- and long-term impacts of population dynamics on sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean and their implications for follow-up to the Montevideo Consensus.
  8. Matters whose follow-up falls within the mandate of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean:
    - Indigenous peoples
    - International migration
    - Reproduction in adolescence
    - Population ageing
  9. Other matters.
  10. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

## C. PROCEEDINGS

### Opening session

10. At the opening session statements were made by Leonel Briozzo, Under-Secretary for Health of Uruguay, in his capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean; Esteban Caballero, Deputy Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA-LACRO), and Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

11. The Under-Secretary for Health of Uruguay, speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers, welcomed the participants and said that the meeting would be essential for making progress towards responding to the call to action expressed in the Montevideo Consensus. The meetings held within the framework of the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo+20) had revealed the nexus between sustainable development policies in relation to population and human rights, especially with respect to sexual and reproductive health. Lastly, he stressed that the region and the continent were at a difficult juncture and that all parties would need to work together to achieve their common goals.

12. The Deputy Director of the UNFPA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean praised ECLAC, and especially the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, for its work, both for its technical accomplishments and for organizing multilateral meetings that had afforded direct and frank discussions between member States. He underscored the relationship between the Montevideo Consensus and the process of evaluating progress since the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo. Lastly, he thanked the participants for attending and expressed the hope that the meeting would yield a sincere and open dialogue ahead of the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which would be held in Mexico in 2015 and would be a landmark event in the sphere of development and population dynamics.

13. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC hailed the Montevideo Consensus for its visionary, inclusive and progressive qualities, and stated that the broad support it had received in the region provided a sound platform for further progress on population and development issues. The Consensus had enabled Latin American and Caribbean countries to take shared positions in international forums and would serve as a road map for future regional initiatives on population and development, although extra detail was needed to turn it into an operational programme. The region was on the brink of a new demographic era, in which major changes and challenges would have a decisive impact on the struggle to end inequality.

#### Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

14. The Chair submitted the provisional agenda for consideration by the participants, who adopted it without amendment.

Report by the Chair on preparations for the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico, October 2015) (agenda item 2)

15. The Chair summarized the main activities carried out since the first session of the Conference, which was held in Montevideo in 2013. He said that the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development provided a new frame of reference for population and development in the region, and had become an important tool for driving the changes that Latin America and the Caribbean needed in those areas. He also described the activities carried out by the Chair, notably participation in the forty-seventh session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, held in New York in April 2014, and the sixth International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Stockholm.

16. He recalled the organization of the preparatory working session for the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference, at which the Chair had requested the collaboration of the Government of Ecuador (as the previous Chair), the Government of Mexico (as host of the next session of the Regional Conference) and the UNFPA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the goal of preparing comprehensive proposals for consideration by the member countries at the first meeting of the Presiding Officers. He highlighted the consensus among representatives that the outcome of the second session should be an instrument that provided the countries with clear and specific guidelines for implementing the Montevideo Consensus. Lastly, priority should be given to mobilizing the human and material resources needed to create the conditions for applying and advocating the agreed guidelines in all countries.

Report by the secretariat on activities carried out since the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

17. Magda Ruiz, Adviser to the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, reported on the activities of the Division and of the Commission during the period.

18. She mentioned the technical support that had been provided to countries in assessing and analysing population and housing censuses and in studying the lessons learned from the 2010 round of censuses, the review of the population projections by sex and age for the countries of Latin America, and the development of the system for retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM), which was the main instrument for processing and disseminating census results (inside and outside the region). She also noted the development of a comparative database that would provide the latest information on levels of adolescent motherhood in the region, and the updating of the Database on Internal Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (MIALC), the Database on Spatial Distribution and Urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean (DEPUALC) and the Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) project.

19. She referred to the different studies that had been carried out on the impact of changes in population age structure on development, and the capacity-building work carried out in countries of the region to include the issues of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations on the public agenda. She explained that CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, with the support of UNFPA, had responded to the demand for human resources training in demography and population studies by delivering the Intensive Regional Course on Demographic Analysis (CRIAD) on three occasions, and was making preparations for the 2015 edition. Lastly, she outlined some of the activities planned by the secretariat, such as organizing the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and

Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Mexico City in 2015, and providing substantive support for the implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on the outcomes of the global process of follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014 (agenda item 4)

20. The Deputy Director of the UNFPA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean referred to the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, which, as the President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly had noted, should focus on gender equality and women's empowerment, the availability of lifelong learning opportunities and the reduction of inequalities in access to sexual and reproductive health services, with a particular emphasis on rapid urbanization and the development of sustainable cities.

21. He stated that significant progress had been achieved in consolidating the Programme of Action in Latin America and the Caribbean, and that its validity was broadly recognized. He urged that efforts should be made to improve education and awareness regarding the right to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and how these relate to human rights as a whole, especially economic, social and cultural rights. He also said that the methods and instruments for the follow-up to the Montevideo Consensus should converge with those of the Programme of Action beyond 2014, and added that this should be considered a starting point for the post-2015 development agenda. In that regard, he stressed the importance of defining the sustainable development goals and of the support that the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development should lend to member States in defining their position with respect to the links between the Montevideo Consensus and the development agenda.

Operating guidelines for implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (agenda item 5)

22. Statements were made by Dirk Jaspers Fajfer, Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC; Patricia Chemor, Secretary-General of the National Council for Population (CONAPO) of Mexico; Glenda Calvas, Coordinator of Intersectoral and Territorial Follow-up of the Technical Secretariat for Poverty Eradication, National Secretariat of Planning and Development (SENPLADES) of Ecuador; and Leonel Briozzo, Under-Secretary for Health of Uruguay.

23. The Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC presented the document *Concept note on the working document for the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development. Population dynamics as an axis of sustainable development: the Montevideo Consensus as a tool for reducing inequality in the framework of human rights.*<sup>2</sup> He underscored the importance of the Montevideo Consensus as a framework and a guide for action and detailed the state of progress and the follow-up mechanisms that had been established. In his view, the Consensus offered a comprehensive, modern road map for regional action on population, although additional clarifications were needed to make it into an operational agenda. Accordingly, the Chair had requested that the secretariat draw up a proposal aimed at promoting, facilitating and following up on the implementation of the Consensus. The secretariat had therefore suggested that a tool should be developed for operationalizing the nine priorities contained in the Consensus, and that a technical and political

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<sup>2</sup> LC/L.3903(MDP.1/3).

rationale should be established for the proposed objectives, indicators and lines of action. A set of priority measures had been selected and a preliminary exercise in operationalization had been carried out.

24. The Secretary-General of the National Council for Population (CONAPO) of Mexico proposed that the instrument for operationalizing the Consensus should have two components: (i) a matrix containing the operative paragraphs of the Consensus, which would include criteria established by governments for defining lines of action, and (ii) a conceptual framework that would establish the technical basis and strategic time frame for the lines of action, which should be neither too general nor too difficult to implement. She also stressed the need to create solid and sustainable national coordination mechanisms, with the involvement of civil society, for follow-up to the Montevideo Consensus. It was important to coordinate national and regional mechanisms in order to facilitate comparability, while there was need for convergence between intergovernmental bodies in order to harmonize indicators and targets, incorporating the sustainable development goals. Lastly, she asked ECLAC to arrange a meeting with the chairs of the regional conferences in order to ensure the coherence of the document that was being prepared on follow-up to the Montevideo Consensus.

25. The Coordinator of Intersectoral and Territorial Follow-up of the Technical Secretariat for Poverty Eradication of the National Secretariat of Planning and Development (SENPLADES) of Ecuador expressed concern over the challenge presented by the operationalization of the Montevideo Consensus because of the lack of standardized statistical data in the region and the difficulty in securing the political ratification of each priority action. She identified two key areas as starting points for operationalizing the Consensus: the full integration of population and population dynamics as part of sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights; and the rights, needs, responsibilities and demands of children, adolescents and young people. Lastly, she emphasized the importance of making a regional and global commitment to population, in which human beings should be placed at the centre of public policies, especially those designed to combat discrimination, violence, poverty and lack of opportunity.

26. The Under-Secretary for Health of Uruguay said that States should strive to ensure that public policies became State policies, with a view to maintaining a strategic line in relation to the population and development issues set forth in the Montevideo Consensus, and stressed that the participation of civil society should be encouraged. He said that an appropriate accountability mechanism was needed, not forgetting that the goal was to adopt the necessary public policy changes and to improve the population's quality of life. To that end, he proposed that different follow-up models should be tested over a period of two to three years. He also pointed to the progress that had been achieved through public policies on the substantive issues set forth in the Montevideo Consensus. Lastly, he expressed the view that the Consensus was a sound agreement that would permit dialogue and the exchange of different cultural and religious views at the second session of the Regional Conference.

27. In the subsequent discussions, the country representatives recognized the need to take measures to make the Montevideo Consensus operational. The concept note was a major step towards devising a follow-up mechanism. It was recalled that the Consensus ultimately aimed to improve the quality of life of the population and not merely the accountability of the countries, and it was agreed that civil society involvement and public awareness were essential. Several representatives observed that implementing the Consensus was a complex task, particularly owing to the difficulties arising from disagreements over issues relating to sexual rights, adolescents and gender equality. There was a need for a timetable, for targets to include the sustainable development goals, and for measures to be applied universally, while countries' specific characteristics also had to be taken into account. Lastly, having reiterated the need for official bodies and international organizations to closely follow the situation on the ground, the representatives commented that an operational guide to implementing the Consensus would be an invaluable tool for



achieving real progress, and recommended that processes and initiatives should find synergies with other conferences for monitoring purposes.

28. The Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC welcomed the general agreement as to the significance of the Montevideo Consensus, but called attention to a lack of dissemination initiatives at the national level. He agreed that it was important to prepare a guide for implementation, but warned that the development of complex system of indicators would be a hindrance to its approval. He took note of the delegations' consensus with respect to taking account of the sustainable development goals and defining baselines for follow-up to the Consensus. Lastly, although establishing a timetable might be difficult, member States might agree on a programme of work.

29. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that the aim of the meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and other similar meetings, was to promote the implementation of international agreements, since it was a challenge to ensure that consensus were put into practice. She emphasized that the countries required support in implementing the Consensus, noting that they were being asked to prepare ever more increasingly complex reports, as well as following up on previous commitments. In her view, it would be a step forward to reach an agreement on follow-up and monitoring between the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to the gradual integration of the two conferences.

Exchange of national-level experiences on dissemination and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, including institutional arrangements for that purpose (agenda item 6)

30. The representative of Argentina said that her Government was committed to putting the Montevideo Consensus into practice, and explained that Argentina was monitoring and evaluating the implementation of measures linked to technical assistance and policymaking on population matters. Achievements included new legislation that guaranteed universal access to education, health and social services (including sexual and reproductive health services), irrespective of migratory status, and promoted comprehensive sex education. She referred to the adoption of social protection measures, such as the Universal Child Allowance, and laws on the prevention and punishment of people trafficking and on the full protection of women. Lastly, pro-equality initiatives had included the enactment of legislation on same-sex marriage and on gender identity.

31. The representative of Mexico listed several programmes in support of the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, notably the new National Population Programme for 2014-2018, which had been designed to respond to demographic challenges such as the changing age structure, population ageing, new mobility patterns, sociodemographic inequalities, changing household dynamics and structures, and sustainable development. She requested ECLAC to establish procedures to ensure that an agreement was reached on the guidance document for the operationalization of the Consensus before the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to include those procedures in the agreements.

32. The representative of Colombia said that in her country, the implementation agenda had helped channel population policies and initiatives from a number of spheres. She stated that cross-sectoral work was a priority and explained that a technical secretariat had been created to disseminate information among stakeholders. The activities carried out in Colombia with the support of UNFPA had been

identified as a good practice, which had led to the development of a follow-up tool for the population agenda that would facilitate the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus.

33. The representative of Costa Rica said that her country had launched initiatives to raise awareness of the Consensus, with broad participation by civil society organizations, and had prepared outreach and educational material for that purpose. This process had been associated with the dissemination of the Government's new programme; however, no institution had yet been assigned responsibility for promoting implementation. Particular attention had been paid to the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

34. The representative of El Salvador announced that a national consultation would be held to formulate a policy targeting older persons, with measures including universal basic care, the creation of temporary homes and residences, a retirement pension for those aged 70 years and over, and protection for older persons in emergency situations. She explained that initiatives had been introduced to promote the inclusion of indigenous peoples, to combat discrimination, to recover indigenous languages and heritage, and to provide health care with a multicultural focus. Moreover, documents on human rights and other legal frameworks had been translated into Nahuatl, television programmes were broadcast for indigenous peoples, and specific subsidies had been created for this population. Lastly, she announced that El Salvador was considering reforming its constitution to include ethnic and cultural perspectives.

35. The representative of Brazil said that his country had set up a commission that, with the support of UNFPA, had achieved significant progress in monitoring follow-up indicators on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus. He referred in particular to the law against domestic violence, to the Statute of the Child and Adolescent, and to care for the victims of violence. He explained that reporting was mandatory in cases of domestic violence, and a system of records and standardized services had been introduced. However, he recognized the need for initiatives to reduce the number of femicides. To combat homophobia, discrimination had been made punishable by law and marriage had been recognized for same-sex couples. He also noted that sex change procedures were provided by the health service. Meanwhile, progress had been made in reducing extreme poverty, and child mortality had dropped by 60%. However, the maternal mortality rate remained above 60 per 100,000, and the main causes of death were high blood pressure and abortions carried out in unsafe conditions, despite preventive actions in this regard. Lastly, he referred to the rapid ageing of the Brazilian population, which posed a number of challenges that had yet to be duly addressed, and recognized that the paper presented by the secretariat would provide valuable assistance.

36. The representative of the Dominican Republic reported that her country had formulated a set of laws in accordance with the 2010 national constitution, which advocated equality, non-discrimination and ending gender violence. She also explained that health policies were being implemented on the basis of reproductive health rights, and that the National Development Strategy of the Dominican Republic 2010-2030 focused on gender equality, the reduction of maternal mortality, care for adolescents and the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. Moreover, various programmes had been launched to prevent the exclusion of older persons. Lastly, she noted that a 1997 law on violence against women included shelters for the victims of violence and prevention centres aimed at men, although she admitted that numerous challenges remained.

37. The representative of Ecuador said that the steps taken in the framework of the National Plan on Good Living 2013-2017 had led to significant reductions in poverty, inequality and child labour rates, while improving primary education coverage and rates of enrolment in secondary and tertiary education. In maternal health, increases had been achieved in the take-up of culturally relevant care services during

delivery and in the number of antenatal check-ups. Men had been included as part of the sexual and reproductive health strategy, and adolescent fertility rates were expected to decline.

38. The representative of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) said that the Montevideo Consensus was important for rural areas. In his view, it was crucial to create opportunities for rural young people as the population group that most contributed to migration, a pattern that was closely linked to population ageing. He also mentioned the marginalization of rural women and called for action to be taken by the international agencies that specialized in addressing such situations. Lastly, he offered the Institute's support for the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus and expressed a willingness to exchange experiences and methodologies with ECLAC.

39. A representative of civil society said that it was essential to place people at the heart of policies and expressed concern for unaccompanied migrant children, older persons without social protection, and those living with HIV/AIDS and not receiving treatment. She also referred to conflicts in communities caused by mining activities and their impact on the environment, and denounced the violation of international agreements and the criminalization of social protest. Lastly, she asked that consideration be given to the experience of the meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. Another representative of civil society stressed the importance of accountability and criticized the conservative and mercantilist approaches that predominated in some meetings and conferences, as well as the suggestion that there was a dichotomy between development and rights. She also warned that private sector actors wielded greater influence in many processes since they had greater resources. Lastly, she pointed out that civil society organizations varied greatly and that there were some groups that were against the ideas underpinning the International Conference on Population and Development and the Montevideo Consensus, for example.

Medium- and long-term impacts of population dynamics on sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean and their implications for follow-up to the Montevideo Consensus (agenda item 7)

40. Statements were made by Paulo Saad, Chief of the Population and Development Area of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC; Ricardo Paes de Barros, Under-Secretary for Strategic Actions of the Office of the President of Brazil; Juan Carlos Alfonso, Director of the Centre of Studies on Population and Development of the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) of Cuba, and Fernando Filgueira, Senior Researcher of the Information and Research Centre of Uruguay (CIESU).

41. The Chief of the Population and Development Area of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC presented the document entitled *La nueva era demográfica en América Latina y el Caribe: la hora de la igualdad según el reloj demográfico*,<sup>3</sup> which showed how the region's demographic changes were impacting the region's economy and which proposed a research agenda that would provide inputs for medium- and long-term public policymaking with a view to ending inequality in the region. The study also revealed that the demographics of Latin America and the Caribbean in the twentieth century had been characterized by population growth, whereas the twenty-first century would be marked by population ageing caused by lower fertility rates and longer life expectancies. According to the study, this situation would present the region with opportunities and challenges in its struggle against inequality, with success contingent on the macroeconomic steps taken in respect of changing production patterns and progressive fiscal systems, as well as on the political and social measures adopted in education and social protection.

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<sup>3</sup> DDR/2.

He added that the relative predictability of population dynamics made it possible to draw up guidelines for dealing with potential adverse scenarios.

42. The Under-Secretary for Strategic Actions of the Office of the President of Brazil said that although his country was enjoying a demographic dividend, the benefits were not being maximized because the necessary investments had not been made in education. Consequently, there was a deficit in human capital that would not be easy to overcome. In respect of the gender dividend, he stated that the gap in male and female labour market participation rates had narrowed, but that income inequality needed to be tackled on a deeper level. The country had striven to improve the quality of life of older persons; however, the trend towards population ageing would make it difficult to maintain those standards, since they could only be funded by spending adjustments or increased taxes.

43. The Director of the Centre of Studies on Population and Development of the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) of Cuba remarked that the document provided extremely useful guidelines and touched on some issues that were highly relevant for Cuba, which no longer had a demographic dividend, but did have a gender dividend. He raised the possibility of promoting gender equality policies through the effective participation of women in the labour market, which would also make a real contribution to gross domestic product (GDP). Although the document's frame of reference was regional, it nevertheless provided methodological and analytical tools and inputs that could be applied nationally. He noted that the document had given a preliminary estimate of the magnitude of the gender dividend and that it had established links between the demographic changes of the past and twenty-first century trends: ageing and its consequences for consumption, savings, investment and the change in economic flows between young and older persons. He raised concerns over how political systems and economies would respond to such changes, how the changes would affect equality and the sustainability of pension systems, how maximum advantage could be derived from the dividend, and how a "demographic tax" would function. Lastly, he mentioned the cultural changes that would take place, which were not specifically addressed in the document.

44. The Senior Researcher of the Information and Research Centre of Uruguay (CIESU) said that social policy should not be seen as mitigating the impact of economic policy, but that both were integrated tools for structural change. He also remarked that public policies could not be understood without a knowledge of population dynamics, which had implications for inter- and intragenerational equity and, therefore, for economic policies targeting inequalities. He stressed the importance of information systems and stated that the region was moving from a demographic dividend to a demographic tax, which Governments would have to try to offset, prevent or delay. Possible responses included measures to attract economically active migrants, arrest the decline in fertility, prolong working lives, maximize the gender dividend and raise productivity. He also advocated increased investment in education, especially for children under the age of four years, and highlighted the need to invest in care systems and to ensure that health systems adopted a preventive approach.

45. In the subsequent discussions, the representative of Argentina said that new legislation had given immigration fresh impetus in his country. He explained that this migration boom had brought benefits, but that this had not prevented the recent emergence of negative views. He also referred to child poverty in the region's upper-middle income countries and argued that the persistence of poverty was due to inherited structural issues.

46. The representative of UNFPA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean said that the study raised the question of how population and development issues would be coordinated with a rights-based approach. The prospect of population ageing did not mean that Governments should lose sight of

aspects such as how to take advantage of the demographic dividend. He recalled that young people must be thought of as subjects of law and should be given help, both to become more productive in their adult lives and in the area of sexual and reproductive health, taking into account the concepts of desired fertility and the right to decide. Lastly, he stated that the long-term challenge was not only presented by the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development, but also by the environmental one, since existing production and consumption patterns could not be maintained.

47. The Chair mentioned that the next health-care challenge was to provide care during the perinatal period and for children up to the age of three years. Genetic changes were being reported in developing countries that would have future implications, since they could be transmitted over three generations, causing a burden of poverty and disease. He referred to a working hypothesis, based on epigenetics, according to which some chronic illnesses that were thought to be non-communicable were in fact communicable. In his view, this hypothesis should be considered in national projects alongside poverty and the risk of disease.

48. The Senior Researcher of CIESU added that intraregional migration could be expected to remain on the increase, and noted that it fulfilled a positive economic and demographic function. As regards intergenerational transfers, he said that Governments were discussing the return of import substitution, based on stable job markets and stable families, neither of which existed anymore. He explained that in Brazil there was an age imbalance in the protection system, thus integrating the rights-based perspective also necessitated the inclusion of efficiency criteria.

49. The Chief of the Population and Development Area of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC said that instruments such as national transfer accounts could be used to estimate age profiles for consumption, production and fiscal impacts, complemented by the quantification of unpaid work, all of which would help determine repercussions for the economy and burdens on Governments.

Matters whose follow-up falls within the mandate of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 8)

50. The secretariat presented four thematic papers recently prepared further to the mandates of the Regional Conference on Population and Development. The presentations were made by Fabiana del Popolo, Population Affairs Officer of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC and Jorge Martínez, Jorge Rodríguez and Sandra Huenchuan, Research Assistants with CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC.

51. In presenting the first document, *Guaranteeing indigenous people's rights in Latin America: progress in the past decade and remaining challenges*, the Population Affairs Officer of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC said that the paper described the situation of indigenous peoples in Latin America and provided empirical evidence of the region's progress in the past decade, especially in maternal and child health, education, political participation and territorial rights. However, wide socioeconomic inequalities remained, coupled with a deficit in access to political power. An increasing number of social and environmental conflicts in indigenous territories had serious implications for the population dynamics of indigenous peoples and the lives of individuals. The study outlined the urgent challenges that should be considered in the implementation of and follow-up to the Montevideo Consensus, in keeping with the post-2015 development agenda and the outcomes of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and provided detailed policy recommendations.

52. The representative of El Salvador said that the study on indigenous peoples was a necessary document that covered the reality affecting all of Latin America. In this context, she reaffirmed the need

to institutionalize mechanisms for the inclusion of indigenous peoples as populations that should not be understood as vulnerable, but as different. She also said that it would be useful to have data that allowed specific, currently unavailable information to be drawn, for example, cases of violence against women recorded by ethnicity. She denounced the continuation of practices in which rights were violated on the grounds of cultural tradition.

53. A Research Assistant with CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC presented the document *Tendencias y patrones recientes de la migración internacional latinoamericana y caribeña hacia 2010 y desafíos de la agenda*, which studied international migration patterns and trends in Latin America and the Caribbean in the light of data from the 2010 round of censuses and other sources of information involving destination countries. He stated that regional migration continued apace, albeit with a slight reduction of flows to Spain and a gradual increase in intraregional migration. The analysis of migration patterns in the region revealed certain long-term continuities along with shifts in the magnitude and direction of flows and in the characteristics of migrants. He gave a brief overview of the regional context in which international migration took place, and explored the main patterns and magnitudes of migration movements, noting some issues that were somewhat overlooked in the region, such as the involvement of young people and return processes. Lastly, he described the features of certain groups of migrants, such as women, and concluded by mentioning some of the discussions that centred on migration and development, including those on remittances and the contemporary political agenda, with a particular emphasis on unaccompanied migrant children.

54. The representative of El Salvador said that it was important to shed light on the particular migration dynamics of Central America, particularly irregular migration, owing to the risks that it posed to migrants. In her view, child migration and its implications for family reunification should be borne in mind, along with the increase in the deported population, which was a significant issue in Central America and Mexico. It was also important for the region's countries to develop inter-institutional and cross-sectoral responses that were sustained over time. The governance of migration was part of a social picture that required responses from all Governments, and the region needed horizontal cooperation mechanisms on migration. The United Nations system should assume a greater role on migration and the issue should be included in the post-2015 development agenda.

55. The representative of Mexico explained that her country had implemented specific policies on returned migrants, which were especially focused on children. The representative of Brazil stated that there was a need to examine short-term population movements, since this was an important topic on which information was limited. The representative of Ecuador argued that both the country of origin and destination were responsible for migration, and insisted that Governments should centre public policy efforts on human beings and seek progress towards the free movement of people. She also observed that the motivations for migrating were primarily economic.

56. Another Research Assistant with CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC explained that the third document, *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* examined the theoretical, methodological and empirical aspects of the very high levels of reproduction in adolescence and its relationship with social inequality in Latin America, and briefly reviewed some of the policy initiatives undertaken in recent years to deal with this problem and its related challenges. He discussed intermediate fertility variables, particularly sexual activity, the use of contraceptives and abortion, and concluded that the region's relatively high rate of adolescent fertility could be attributed to lower rates of contraceptive use after the onset of sexual activity. He mentioned that adolescent motherhood had become less desirable, with the implication that it was an infringement of rights, and reflected on the advisability

of designing policies in line with the Montevideo Consensus, which would ensure comprehensive sex education and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, as well as programmes intended to broaden the opportunities and options available to adolescents.

57. The representative of Argentina said that the high rate of adolescent pregnancy in the region was worrying, and expressed puzzlement as to the cross-cutting nature of the problem. He also stated that it was important to better understand aspects related to the concept of “desired pregnancy” from the point of view of adolescents. The representative of Cuba asked whether the pattern of adolescent motherhood was unique to the region and whether it deserved to be examined accordingly. The representative of Brazil reflected on whether teenage pregnancy was a mechanism used by young people to gain authority and esteem in the eyes of their family and peers, and said that the subject should be studied carefully and required the implementation of best practices.

58. The representative of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC said that the region’s policies to mitigate the consequences of adolescent pregnancy had been successful, but not its preventive policies. He recalled that adolescents needed specific programmes and said that despite a perceived collective endorsement of adolescent pregnancy, the survey findings contradicted this, since most adolescent mothers responded that they would have preferred not to have children at such an early age.

59. Lastly, another Research Assistant with CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC reported on the Second International Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons, held in Mexico City from 3 to 6 June 2014. She said that the Forum had been organized as a technical working meeting by ECLAC and the government of Mexico City through the Secretariat of Social Development. She also noted that the outcomes of the First International Forum had directly contributed to the preparation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean and to discussions on a draft inter-American convention on the human rights of older persons. She emphasized the key principles of dignity, autonomy and equality, as mentioned in the conclusions of the Second International Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons, and said that these should serve as guiding principles for laws, policies and programmes aimed at older persons, which should include a rights-based approach. She also stated that the substance and the outcomes of the Forum would be used in training projects and in designing care strategies for older persons.

60. The representative of El Salvador said that her country was a resolute supporter of the San José Charter and stressed the need for further progress by the Organization of American States in the negotiation and presentation of a draft inter-American convention on the human rights of older persons, as well as in discussions to prepare a specific international instrument in the framework of the United Nations system.

#### Other matters (agenda item 9)

61. This agenda item covered the preparations for the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Mexico City in October 2015.

#### Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item 10)

62. The text of the agreements was submitted for adoption by the Presiding Officers.

## D. AGREEMENTS

63. At their first meeting, held on 12 and 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*,<sup>4</sup> *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*,<sup>5</sup> *Tendencias y patrones recientes de la migración internacional latinoamericana y caribeña hacia 2010 y desafíos para una agenda regional*,<sup>6</sup> *La reproducción en la adolescencia y sus desigualdades en América Latina: introducción al análisis demográfico, con énfasis en el uso de microdatos*

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<sup>4</sup> DDR/2.

<sup>5</sup> LC/L.3902 and LC/L.3893, respectively.

<sup>6</sup> *Population and Development Series*, No. 109 (LC/L.3914).



*censales de la ronda de 2010*<sup>7</sup> and the *report on the Second International Forum on the Rights of Older Persons*;<sup>8</sup>

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”;
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*<sup>9</sup> 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;

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<sup>7</sup> LC/W.605.

<sup>8</sup> DDR/1.

<sup>9</sup> LC/L.3903(MDP.1/3).

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;
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.

## Annex

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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