



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

Distr.
GENERAL

LC/G.2678
16 March 2016

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

**REPORT OF 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**

Mexico City, 6-9 October 2015

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Mexico City, from 6 to 9 October 2015.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

3. The following associate member of the Commission was also represented: Puerto Rico.

4. Also present were representatives of the following United Nations funds, programmes and bodies: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

5. The following United Nations specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

6. Specialized agencies not belonging to the United Nations, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and representatives of intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations also attended the session.

Election of officers

7. The Conference elected the following Presiding Officers:

Chair: Mexico

Vice-Chairs: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay, Puerto Rico and Uruguay

¹ See the list of participants in annex 3.

B. AGENDA

8. The Conference adopted the following agenda:
 1. Election of officers.
 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 3. Report on activities carried out in 2013-2015 and outlook for 2015-2017.
 4. Sociodemographic context in Latin America and the Caribbean for implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.
 5. Operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.
 6. General discussion on national experiences regarding the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.
 7. Considerations regarding implementation and follow-up of the priority measures contained in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development: contribution of the Operational guide and links with the Sustainable Development Goals and follow-up to the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014.
 8. Frameworks for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 9. Other matters.
 10. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

C. PROCEEDINGS²

Opening session

9. At the opening session, statements were made by Patricia Chemor, Secretary-General of the National Council for Population (CONAPO) of Mexico; Cristina Lustemberg, Vice-Minister of Public Health of Uruguay; Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); and Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico.

10. The Secretary-General of the National Council for Population (CONAPO) of Mexico welcomed the participants and said that Mexico's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the Cairo Programme of Action was reflected in its hosting the meeting, which would address population dynamics as an axis of sustainable development and the Montevideo Consensus as a tool for

² The papers and presentations may be accessed at the meeting website [online] <http://crpd.cepal.org/es>.

reducing inequality in the framework of human rights. She said that the Sustainable Development Goals were clearly linked with the priority measures contained in the Consensus, which offered a conceptual and policy framework for moving forward with efforts to eradicate poverty and inequality.

11. Those links would be strengthened at the Conference, which aimed to establish indicators regarding matters that the countries of the region urgently needed to tackle, and to explore in depth issues such as ageing, care, social protection, the needs of boy and girl children, adolescents and youth, international migration and the situation of indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples. She drew attention to the vision set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development concerning universal respect for human rights and dignity, justice and equality of opportunities to fully realize human potential and contribute to shared prosperity, and expressed the hope that the Conference would conclude with a document that would contribute to the region's progress on population and development matters on the road towards sustainability over the next 15 years.

12. The Vice-Minister of Public Health of Uruguay said that the Montevideo Consensus—which provided follow-up in nine important areas in which inequity must be addressed in the region—constituted a frame of reference for implementing public policies to eliminate poverty, exclusion and inequality. The challenge at the second session of the Conference was to examine the operational guide in order to establish specific lines of action with targets and outcome indicators that would serve for evaluation and accountability at the national and regional levels, and to link the guide with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that had recently been adopted by the United Nations.

13. The Vice-Minister added that the rights agenda must find its way into measures within each country, in order for the region as a whole to move forward. She then referred to a series of programmes that had been implemented in Uruguay, for example in the area of sexual and reproductive rights and with respect to care, and reiterated her country's clear and firm commitment to continue participating actively in the regional and international process.

14. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked the President of Mexico for attending which, she said, was an indication of his government's commitment to the topics to be addressed by the Conference. She noted that the commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations had just been held, during which the 193 Member States had renewed their commitment to peace, human rights and development and had adopted a transformational agenda for the year 2030, a step forward towards greater civilization that placed people at the centre for them to realize their potential with dignity and equality. She added that, for ECLAC, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was an opportunity to assess achievements and to identify the main challenges going forward; for that reason, it was important to analyse the Montevideo Consensus and for the countries to embrace the operational guide as a technical instrument and a calendar for compliance, in order to define lines of action and identify indicators aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

15. She then gave an overview of the topics addressed in the Montevideo Consensus and said that they offered an opportunity for investments and for attaining greater levels of equality, before the ongoing demographic transition led to increased costs for society in terms of social security, health and care. She explained that population forecasts provided a warning about the need to break the intergenerational transmission of inequality and poverty, and so advantage had to be taken of the demographic dividend to overcome the gap between the emergence of new needs and risks and a weak social protection system. Lastly, she thanked civil society and other non-governmental actors for their invaluable support in that undertaking, and she highlighted the strategic alliance between ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

16. The President of Mexico said that population policy was essential in attaining development and that understanding the structure of the population was indispensable for designing public policies that could yield concrete benefits. He said that his country was supporting the working agenda in order to promote the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, in line with the country's tradition in demographic matters. Mexico, he said, had followed a genuine State policy, which began with the creation of the National Council for Population (CONAPO) in 1974 and the adoption of a leading-edge regulatory framework. That policy, he explained, had brought about achievements including reductions in the average number of children per woman and in maternal mortality rates, but now the country had to face the challenges of the demographic transition, particularly an increase in the numbers of older persons. He added that Mexico was working to capitalize on the demographic dividend, to eradicate inequalities between different regions and to overcome the problems of migration.

17. Finally, the President called for the Conference to sow the seeds that would guide policy and enable governments to take responsible decisions. Although the coming years would not be easy due to economic deceleration, a firm determination was in place.

Proceedings

Report on activities carried out in 2013-2015 and outlook for 2015-2017 (agenda item 3)

18. The Technical Director of the Sectoral Commission on Population of Uruguay, in his capacity as outgoing Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, reported on the main achievements of the Conference's member countries. He also provided an overview of the activities undertaken by Uruguay during its time as Chair of the Regional Conference.

19. He noted that since the first session of the Regional Conference in 2013, at which the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development had been adopted, the Chair had worked to promote the implementation and follow-up of the Consensus in the region, at all times with the support of and in coordination with the other Presiding Officers of the Conference and the countries they represented.

20. Finally, he expressed his gratitude for the determined support he had received from the Conference's member countries and, particularly, from the Presiding Officers. He also thanked ECLAC and made special mention of its assistance, in its capacity as the technical secretariat, in discharging the duties assigned to it since the first session of the Regional Conference in Montevideo; of the support of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNFPA and its country offices; of the keen participation of the region's civil society and academic organizations; and of the invaluable support of the government of Mexico in organizing and hosting the second session of the Regional Conference.

21. The Chief of the Population and Development Area of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC gave a report, on behalf of the secretariat, on the activities carried out by the Commission in the period 2013-2015. Those activities were related to the topics of population and housing, child and infant mortality, maternal mortality, preventing teenage pregnancy, ageing, migration, indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples and professional training.

22. He said that CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC had worked tirelessly to promote and strengthen the inclusion of population-related topics in the development policies and programmes of Latin American and Caribbean countries. He also reported that the Division had maintained close relations with

other United Nations agencies and with various multilateral organizations and donor countries by means of specific agreements. He went on to note that the long-term collaboration between CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC and UNFPA, particularly through their annual work plans, was worthy of a special mention. In his opinion, that fruitful cooperation had made a significant contribution to deepening and expanding the scope of the Division's work programme.

23. Finally, he spoke of some of the most important activities on the secretariat's agenda for the 2015-2017 period, such as its continued efforts as the technical secretariat of the Conference, including the organization of its third session, to be held in 2017, and the meetings of its Presiding Officers; monitoring the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development; providing the region's countries with support and technical assistance; offering substantive assistance for the implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean; and organizing the annual intensive regional course on demographic analysis (CRIAD).

24. Finally, the representative of UNFPA in Mexico highlighted the importance of the second session of the Regional Conference and its relationship with the recent adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which represented the future horizon for the global development agenda going forward to 2030.

25. In that context, she said that the new UNFPA strategic plan for the 2014-2017 period was directly focused on the pending items from the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development, with particular emphasis on universal access to sexual and reproductive health care, the exercise of reproductive rights and the reduction of maternal mortality. She noted that one of the central axes of that plan was to contribute to the production of data and the generation of evidence to guide political dialogue and the design of national and local initiatives.

26. Lastly, she described the Fund's main areas of cooperation and the most important contributions it had made in the region's countries.

Sociodemographic context in Latin America and the Caribbean for implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (agenda item 4)

27. The Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC gave a presentation on the demographic transformations, inequalities and perspectives of Latin America and the Caribbean over the coming years, with a focus on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, looking even beyond 2030. He said that for development policies and programmes to be effective, a diagnostic assessment of population was essential.

28. In the first part of his presentation, he analysed global demographic change between 1960, 2015, 2030, and 2100, and he explained some figures and concepts relating to population growth; the inequalities and pending challenges in the area of mortality, such as child mortality and maternal mortality; inequality and the challenges still pending in connection with fertility, such as teenage pregnancy; the impact of international migration; and the different transitions taking place owing to the region's demographic heterogeneity.

29. In the second part of his address, the Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC spoke of the future impact of demographic dynamics, addressing such topics as potential population growth, structural changes in the age pyramid, the economic capitalization of the demographic dividend, the impact of demographic dynamics in three key sectors and the emergence of greying economies.

30. Among his conclusions, he noted that mortality and fertility rates had fallen substantially and that population growth rates had dropped in all the countries, with emigration a factor behind that in several States. In addition, he said that although the rates were trending towards convergence, differences in countries' demographic progress remained pronounced and that high levels of demographic heterogeneity were also found within countries and between different areas, socioeconomic groups and ethnic groups.

Operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (agenda item 5)

31. The Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC presented the document *Operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*.³ The document was the outcome of a lengthy participatory process that began at the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago in November 2014, and in preparing it, inputs had been received from the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC and from UNFPA. The document was a technical tool intended to provide the countries of the region with specific guidelines for implementing the priority measures set out in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and that it offered relevant inputs for monitoring that implementation at the national and regional levels.

32. The Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC noted that the preliminary indicators contained in the operational guide needed to be reviewed, fine-tuned and brought into line with the indicators related to the Sustainable Development Goals and the follow-up on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. Accordingly, he said, the Presiding Officers had recommended that the second session of the Regional Conference set up an ad hoc working group for that purpose.

33. The Conference was then addressed by the representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis, who presented, on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, the conclusions of the Caribbean subregional preparatory meeting for the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, held in Barbados in August 2015. She reported that the participants had analysed the ties between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. The meeting had also explored the Caribbean subregion's opportunities and challenges in the areas of population and development and had ensured that the Caribbean's priorities would be considered at the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development. The participants had agreed on a series of priority issues for the Caribbean, such as the situation of children, adolescents and young people; gender inequality and social justice; health; climate change and the environment; economic development and poverty reduction; education and the development of skills; infrastructure and citizen and border security; and data gathering and dissemination.

34. The Regional Secretary of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), speaking on behalf of civil society, expressed her concern that two years after the adoption of the Consensus, its ambitious and innovative agenda had not yet yielded substantive progress, and that some countries had even reported setbacks. She said that the possibility of dialogue and jointly responsible work between civil society and governments had been weakened or had almost disappeared. She added that progress had to be generalized throughout the region and that the Consensus was in many ways more ambitious than the Sustainable Development Goals, and so the central focus for its

³ LC/L.4061(CRPD.2/3)/Rev.1.

implementation must be on individual agendas. She also expressed her concern that, following the classification of several countries as middle-income countries, international cooperation had almost completely abandoned the Americas and that social organizations had been weakened by a shortage of resources. She concluded by saying that the time had come for accountability and citizen participation, that resources had to be committed and that all rights for all people throughout their lives had to be guaranteed.

General discussion on national experiences regarding the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (agenda item 6)

35. Under agenda item 6, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

36. The representatives expressed their pleasure at being able to attend the second session of the Conference and thanked Mexico for its hospitality, Uruguay in its capacity as outgoing Chair and ECLAC and UNFPA for their support. They reiterated their commitment to the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and underscored its close ties with the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They noted their satisfaction with the progress made through the follow-up process and with the operational guide as a tool for putting the priority measures into practice.

37. The representatives described the most noteworthy steps taken with respect to population and development in each country, such as the implementation of new institutional structures, the adoption of laws and the creation of programmes for ensuring equity and the full exercise of rights, in areas such as gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, the fight against sexual discrimination, access to family planning services, the protection of children and adolescents, ageing and the rights of older people, the rights of migrants and the situation of indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples. One representative said that eradicating poverty was a multidimensional issue, not merely an economic one.

38. The representatives applauded the achievements made and said that there were still major challenges to overcome; one priority was therefore to improve the institutional framework with civil society participation and the establishment of a national mechanism to provide a connecting structure for efforts and to tie in the Conference with the goals set in the Cairo Programme of Action.

39. The representative of the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ) applauded the work of ECLAC and UNFPA reflected in the Montevideo Consensus and in the operational guide. He said that exchanges of ideas were necessary, but that they should lead to action on behalf of youth. Young people had to be included in all processes to close gaps and bring about social transformations, and he expressed his organization's commitment to the operational guide and to implementing the measures it contained.

40. The representative of UN-Women noted her satisfaction with the operational guide, particularly with regard to gender awareness, reproductive rights and the care economy. She also ratified her organization's commitment to the production of indicators.

Considerations regarding implementation and follow-up of the priority measures contained in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development: contribution of the Operational guide and links with the Sustainable Development Goals and follow-up to the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 (agenda item 7)

41. Under agenda item 7, eight thematic panel discussions and a round table took place.

42. Panel 1, “Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth”, was moderated by Laura Vargas Carrillo, Head of the National System for Integral Family Development of Mexico, and the other participants were: Fernando Filgueira, Undersecretary of Education of Uruguay; Volda Lawrence, Senior Minister at the Ministry of Social Protection of Guyana; and Nayeli Yoval, General Coordinator of Elige-Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos of Mexico.

43. The Undersecretary of Education of Uruguay highlighted the region’s deteriorating economic and social situation and the resulting redistributive tensions, with particular emphasis on intergenerational tensions and the options for tackling them in a context of fundamental change in the age pyramid. He also identified key problems for the age group in question arising from the higher adolescent and overall fertility among the poor population, which were addressed in the operational guide and which could require additional indicators for examining and following up on them.

44. Among those problems, he noted the overrepresentation of children among the poorest sectors of the population, the incomplete education of poor young persons and adolescents and the constraints on labour participation by poor women, all of which made breaking the cycle of poverty more complicated. He proposed a series of actions and indicators—most of which, albeit not all, were included in the operational guide—to deal with and follow up on those problems. First, he called for increased investment in the areas of reproduction, childbirth and child-rearing through actions to promote the social levelling of fertility rates, including the effective universal coverage of sexual and reproductive health care and unrestricted access to contraception for all women, including adolescents. He also called for the health and well-being of women of reproductive age to be assured, through such measures as significant non-contributory money transfers to families or women with children, guaranteed maternity and paternity leave, public care services and early childhood stimulation. Finally, he posited the need to redefine the social protection matrix to make it more functional for female autonomy, reproduction and child-raising through, for example, reimbursing women for the educational or professional opportunity cost of motherhood.

45. The Minister of Social Protection of Guyana then paid particular attention to analysing how the priority measures of the Montevideo Consensus were to be put into practice. She said that measures 7, 9, 12 and 13 were key, given their importance for the Caribbean, because they shared access to education as a common tool for their implementation and because they were directly related to fighting poverty. She also said that measures 9, 12 and 13 were of particular relevance because they recognized the cycle of life and promised future results throughout life, and she emphasized that education was the key method for attaining them. She reiterated the importance of implementing priority measure 13, because school dropout rates caused by adolescent motherhood posed social risks to both mothers and their babies.

46. She also expressed particular concern regarding single adolescent mothers, who faced stigmatization and discrimination, and she underscored the need to support them, to educate adolescents—adolescent boys in particular—so they assumed responsibility for their actions, and to strengthen the family. The implementation of some of the priority measures required greater precision in certain concepts: such was the case with measure 16, for example, where the definition of violence needed to be more specific. Lastly, it was necessary for the countries to prioritize and adapt the operational guide to

their specific situations and that official records of the progress made were essential so that changes in government did not lead to setbacks or a lack of awareness of what had already been accomplished.

47. The General Coordinator of the Elige network highlighted the breadth and detail with which the operational guide dealt with the implementation of the priority measures of the Montevideo Consensus. The importance of the guide was attributable to three factors: its technical nature, offering the governments specific guidance; the possibility it offered of bringing the agenda down from the regional level to the national level; and the opportunities it offered for making progress with the development of Latin American and Caribbean societies.

48. After providing an overview of the most salient points of the priority measures in the guide's corresponding thematic chapter, she listed a number of requirements that had to be met if it was going to be more than just a good first step. Those included institutional capacity for formulating and implementing the relevant public policies; the institutional strengthening of support mechanisms for young people; the role of agencies for young people and the usefulness of building their political capacity; strengthening youth organizations and creating mechanisms for the effective engagement of young people; and the implementation of accountability mechanisms to quantify progress and to identify and then address challenges. Finally, she reiterated the commitment of young people towards carrying out the priority measures in the operational guide and the conviction that the time had come to end inequalities and to continue to move forward in making rights a reality.

49. During the question and answer session, the representatives of Argentina and Brazil reported on the progress made in their countries. They also highlighted the importance of building solid indicators and the budgetary efforts needed for continued progress. The representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ) reiterated their commitment to continuing to work to interconnect their efforts with the countries. The OIJ representative also spoke of the usefulness of continuing to promote the ratification and implementation of the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth in the region.

50. Panel 2, "Ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges", was moderated by Eduardo Calderón Cuevas, Coordinator of Advisers at the Undersecretariat for Planning, Evaluation and Regional Development of Mexico. The panellists were: Cassio Turra, Director of the Centre for Regional Development and Planning (CEDEPLAR) of the Federal University of Minas Gerais in 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 Valentina Perrotta, Director of the Division for Capacity-building and Studies on Old Age and Ageing of the National Institute for Older Adults (INMAYORES) of Uruguay.

51. The Director of the Centre for Regional Development and Planning (CEDEPLAR) of the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil spoke of the importance of policies for promoting the well-being of older people and, as an example, referred to poverty reduction policies targeting that segment of the population. He also said that it was necessary to interconnect short-term measures focused directly on older persons with those targeting the population as a whole using a life-cycle approach, in order to reconcile intra- and intergenerational equity. He added that focus had to be placed on the population subgroups that most urgently needed attention and that rights had to be strengthened across the board: not only those of older people, but also those of children, young people, adults and, in particular, women.

52. In concluding, he underscored the importance of information in formulating and monitoring policies, plans and programmes for older persons. Similarly, he spoke of the urgent need to improve the

quality of data and data production throughout the region by conducting longitudinal studies, strengthening vital statistics, censuses and household surveys, and integrating administrative records with survey data.

53. The Director of the Centre of Studies on Population and Development of the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) of Cuba then spoke of the challenges that population ageing posed for the region's countries, specifically with regard to education, health, pensions, social assistance, rights and participation. In that context, he said that gender mainstreaming was essential as a mechanism for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, and he suggested that female ageing was an important topic to be taken on board in policy formulation and implementation, in the light of its specific characteristics.

54. He also underscored the need to continue identifying, conceptualizing and increasing the precision of the indicators proposed for measuring and evaluating each of the priority measures in the operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, a task that he described as a long-term undertaking. Finally, he highlighted the need to continue working on defining the goals to be attained with each of the priority measures and on fine-tuning the indicators, for which baselines had to be prepared.

55. The Director of the Division for Capacity-building and Studies on Old Age and Ageing of Uruguay's National Institute for Older Adults (INMAYORES) described the operational guide as a valuable tool that made a clear contribution to the implementation and follow-up of the priority measures in the Montevideo Consensus. The lines of action it defined represented a major contribution to the specificity of the priority measures and the construction of public agendas that, at the same time, promoted the role of the lead agencies.

56. Among the recommendations for following up on the priority measures of the Montevideo Consensus and other instruments for older people, she suggested establishing an observatory for the rights of older people in Latin America and the Caribbean, under the aegis of ECLAC, to which the countries would report annually on agreed indicators reflecting the implementation of those instruments' common axes, such as economic security, health and well-being, care, participation, violence, gender disparities and specific institutions.

57. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of Colombia, Belize and Ecuador reported on some of the achievements attained in their countries. Among other issues, they highlighted the participation of older people's organizations or those that work on behalf of senior citizens in the implementation of policies for ageing and old age; the importance of integrated social protection and the joint responsibility of the State, society and families; health diagnoses, to bring the different civil protection players together; and the need for a life-cycle approach in public policies.

58. Panel 3, "Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services", was moderated by Eduardo González Pier, Undersecretary for Integration and Development of the Health Sector of the Secretariat of Health of Mexico. The other participants were: María Antonieta Alcalde, Advocacy Director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) (Western Hemisphere Region); Mariela Castro, Director of the National Centre for Sex Education (CENESEX) of Cuba; Percy Minaya León, Vice-Minister of Public Health of Peru; and Ana Cristina González, from the Articulación Feminista Marcosur.

59. The Advocacy Director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) began her presentation by acknowledging the efforts of ECLAC, the member governments of the ad hoc working group, UNFPA and the civil society organizations in implementing the operational guide chapter covered by the panel. She underscored the importance of the States' endorsement of the guide, given that it provided elements with which they could put the priority measures of the Montevideo Consensus into practice. The guide was an example for the implementation of other instruments that had not yet been put into practice, and she underscored civil society's commitment to monitoring the implementation of the Consensus.

60. She described the operational guide's priority measure 34 as a historic milestone through which the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean had defined sexual rights, thereby placing the region at the vanguard of that issue. She underscored the great challenges facing its implementation and the importance of cooperation between civil society and States in making progress with understanding and defining sexual rights. She acknowledged the progress made on sexual rights and the experiences recorded in several of the region's countries, but also called attention to the need for specific regulatory frameworks and mechanisms for their enforcement. Lastly, she highlighted the momentous opportunity available for discussing an accountability mechanism within the framework of the Conference, as well as for identifying shortcomings and South-South cooperation mechanisms. She therefore proposed that the ad hoc working group should be instructed to review experiences and existing accountability mechanisms, which would allow progress to be made with the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus.

61. The Director of Cuba's National Centre for Sex Education (CENESEX) congratulated the region's countries and the ad hoc working group for their efforts in producing the operational guide. She applauded the recognition, as key pillars of sustainable development, of sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights and the empowerment of young people as agents of change. She regretted, however, that other sexual rights had not been included in the operational guide in spite of all they implied for people's full development and dignity, even though the region had included them in the Montevideo Consensus.

62. The Montevideo Consensus needed a mechanism for monitoring, evaluation and accountability, and she warned about the possible challenges the region's countries might have to face in its implementation: for example, staff training and the generation of data broken down by specific and diverse levels, which were not always available in national and regional statistics. In that context, she said that the key was for the States to assume the commitment of asserting the meaning of the sexual rights contained in the Consensus by incorporating them into their legal systems. Finally, among other strategic proposals, she recommended identifying criteria for the formulation of key indicators, in line with the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, to measure inequalities; sharing successful implementation, follow-up and accountability experiences; and promoting South-South cooperation mechanisms.

63. The Vice-Minister of Public Health of Peru said that the pursuit of the goals relating to universal access to sexual and reproductive health care set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo and in the Millennium Development Goals had been inadequate and unequal. He maintained that, in spite of the progress in all the countries, the averages concealed inequalities based on age, ethnicity and place of residence, and that there were subgroups with alarming indicators: not only among women—including maternity-related indicators—but also among all sexual orientations and gender identities in the exercise of their sexuality. Institutional weaknesses led to the low profile of the problems, when quality statistics and monitoring systems were not available, and when accountability mechanisms were not always institutionalized and their data were not in the public domain.

64. He warned that some of the proposed goals and indicators could require relatively complex measurement mechanisms and methodologies, such as population surveys. Although broad agreement

existed that the indicators had to be broken down and specified by age, gender, ethnic origin and place of residence, explicit reference should also be made to adolescence, sexual orientation and gender identity. He concluded by underscoring the importance of the operational guide for directing policies, actions and accountability, and of citizen oversight for identifying shortcomings and common challenges.

65. The representative of *Articulación Feminista Marcosur* said that to make progress on implementing the Montevideo Consensus and attain the goals it set, change in universal access to sexual and reproductive health services must take place at two basic levels: legality and legitimacy. Regarding the former, she maintained that the Consensus offered a comprehensive series of agreements for progress while, at the same time, reaffirming and expanding the framework for achieving it, by promoting, protecting and guaranteeing sexual and reproductive rights and by eliminating discrimination and violence of all kinds. Regarding the second level, she emphasized full respect for the autonomy of women, adolescents and young people as the central element in the legitimacy needed to attain universal access and fully ensure sexual and reproductive rights.

66. In order to make concrete progress with the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, she proposed working on what she called “the three Is of implementation”: interconnections between agendas, intersections between categories or variables and interrelations between rights and dimensions of autonomy. Lastly, universal access to sexual and reproductive health was a matter of rights and democracy that demanded conditions of legality and legitimacy.

67. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of Argentina and Panama offered comments and suggestions on priority measures 39, 41, 45 and 46, raising the question of integral policies that included men, the need to improve access to and ensure universal coverage of sexual and reproductive health services, the inequalities in the rates of maternal mortality seen among indigenous peoples, the lack of trained human resources and the importance of training promoters for providing prenatal care.

68. Panel 4, “Gender equality”, was moderated by Lorena Cruz Sánchez, President of the National Women’s Institute of Mexico, and the participants were: Hazel Brandy-Williams, Senator, National Assembly of Saint Kitts and Nevis; Alejandrina Germán, Minister for Women’s Affairs of the Dominican Republic; and Marcela Huaita, Minister for Women’s Affairs and Vulnerable Populations of Peru.

69. The Senator from Saint Kitts and Nevis spoke of the progress made on gender equality in recent years and of the pending challenges in women’s empowerment, noting that the increase in the number of women in decision-making positions and politics was an issue of particular relevance. As to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, she said it was necessary to ensure that the operational guide was clearly aligned with the existing international instruments that addressed the topic (such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Cairo Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention of Belém do Pará and the Millennium Development Goals) as well as with the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013), the Santo Domingo Consensus (2013) and the Brasilia Consensus (2010).

70. In order to bring about a paradigm shift in gender relations, work was needed both in education—where comprehensive sexual education had to be included in study plans—and in the elimination of violence against women, including pregnant, elderly, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, those with disabilities and members of vulnerable groups, such as sex workers and lesbians, bisexuals and transsexuals. She underscored the need for social protection policies to prevent violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, trafficking and adolescent pregnancy.

71. The Minister for Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic noted that the ECLAC regional conferences —and, in particular, the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, both held in 2013— had served to strengthen the impact on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the regional agreements adopted by the different subsidiary bodies of ECLAC. In that connection, the operational guide raised the visibility of the ties between the guidelines of the regional (and international) gender agendas and the Sustainable Development Goals in the areas of gender equality and female empowerment.

72. She underscored the importance of including the private sector and civil society as key players in the actions to be taken in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. She emphasized that since governments could not independently finance the pursuit of those goals, strategic alliances had to be defined whereby the developed countries could contribute resources for development and, in addition, a public-private partnership had to be created to forge an authentic global alliance.

73. The Minister for Women's Affairs and Vulnerable Populations of Peru remarked that the operational guide was a milestone in the history of the international human rights commitments established by both regional and global political decision-making bodies. In that context, one of the first challenges was to draw up gender-aware budgets, by including a gender-equality approach in government budgets for different sectors, allocating specific resources in government budgets and ensuring that the mechanisms for women's empowerment were supplied with the resources necessary for their financial autonomy.

74. In addition, she said that although the Montevideo Consensus was intimately related to the Sustainable Development Goals —Goal 5 in particular, which addresses equality between genders and the empowerment of all women and girls— gender equality would be possible only when a gender perspective was mainstreamed in the implementation of all the other goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

75. In the discussion that followed, the representative of Cuba spoke of the interrelation between priority measures 9 and 13 of the Montevideo Consensus, which dealt with women's access to education. Going forward, she said, that interrelation must be given greater visibility. Representatives of civil society, in turn, addressed such topics as adapting gender policies to national realities and the need to formulate proposals relating to pregnant women and vulnerable mothers.

76. The next item on the agenda was panel 5, "International migration and protection of the human rights of all migrants". It was moderated by Humberto Roque Villanueva, Undersecretary for Population, Migration and Religious Affairs of the Secretariat of the Interior of Mexico; and the participants were: Pablo De la Vega, Coordinator of Public Policy and Human Rights of the Segundo Montes Mozo S.J. Human Rights Documentation Centre (CSMM) of Ecuador; Toni-Shae Freckleton, Manager of the Population and Health Unit at the Social Policy, Planning and Research Division of the Planning Institute of Jamaica; and Liduvina Magarin, Vice-Minister of Foreign Relations for Salvadorans Abroad of El Salvador.

77. The Coordinator of Public Policy and Human Rights of Ecuador's Segundo Montes Mozo S.J. Human Rights Documentation Centre (CSMM) began his presentation by expressing his solidarity with the case of the 43 disappeared Mexican students from Ayotzinapa and went on to highlight the importance of civil society having an active role in the exercise of democracy and governance. In the context of the structural inequality affecting Latin America and the Caribbean, he noted that in spite of the progress made, the situation of migrants and refugees was not encouraging and that the statistics continued to highlight their situation of vulnerability.

78. In closing, he proposed a series of elements necessary for an “inclusive agenda” in the field of international migration: a new understanding of human development that would represent a step forward in discussions about development; the need to rethink human development on the basis of the principle of equality, in the way that ECLAC did, and in a post-neoliberal light; and the formulation of three basic principles for reframing the debate on development, human rights and migration, namely, comprehensiveness, inclusion and humanism.

79. The Manager of the Population and Health Unit at the Social Policy, Planning and Research Division of Jamaica’s Planning Institute said that migration enjoyed broad recognition as a catalyst for development. In that regard, she referred to the Declaration of the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of 2013. She also underscored the importance of aligning the chapter of the operational guide under discussion with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and with the Global Forum on Migration and Development, as well as of ensuring that its indicators were harmonized with the Sustainable Development Goals.

80. The priority measures must be accompanied by the inclusion of migration in all initiatives and in public institutional structures, in a framework of inter-agency coordination. In that context, she said that the role of governments should be complemented with that of allied players and she underscored the case of diasporas, which were of great significance in the Caribbean. Finally, she spoke of the usefulness of the operational guide and said that it could be expanded further.

81. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Relations for Salvadorans Abroad of El Salvador addressed the topic of international migration from a historical perspective, recognizing its complexities as a cross-cutting and multidimensional topic. She highlighted the new approach that El Salvador had adopted in 2009, based on rights and on the government’s interest in the Salvadoran migrant population. Against that backdrop, she noted her concern for the situation of migrant families and their increased vulnerability, gender violence, the situation of children and adolescents, organized crime, family reunification and the emerging topic of women with children who migrate to flee violence.

82. Finally, she underscored the importance of acknowledging migration as a right and called for an in-depth study of its characteristics, reflecting on the relationship between national security, border security and respect for human rights, which were often undermined because of margins for discretion whereby migration was associated with criminal activities.

83. During the discussion, the representative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) acknowledged the region’s tangible progress following the adoption of the Montevideo Consensus and applauded the framework of respect for human rights in which that progress had been made. He also highlighted the importance of the operational guide as a tool for the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to establish lines of action and shared goals. In that connection, he reported on the actions carried out by IOM in the region, emphasizing the importance of migration governance as a necessary perspective for achieving more orderly and safer migration processes that benefited both the societies of origin and destination.

84. The next event was panel 6, “Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability”. It was moderated by Jorge Wolpert, Director General for Urban Development, Land and Housing of the Undersecretariat of Urban Development and Housing of Mexico, and the panellists were: Ana Hazel Escrich, Secretary General of the Central American Social Integration Secretariat (SISCA); Enid Rocha Andrade da Silva, Planning and Research Specialist, Social Policy Department of the Institute of Applied

Economic Research (IPEA) of Brazil; and Zulma Sosa, Director of Statistics and National Director of the project entitled “Baseline information for the legal regularization of land tenure”, National Rural Development and Land Institute (INDERT) of Paraguay.

85. The Secretary General of the Central American Social Integration Secretariat (SISCA) spoke about how the member countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) viewed the panel’s topic. After highlighting some of the most notable features of the operational guide, she said it could help build on the agendas of the countries and of the SICA subregion in the area of territorial development, which would require its dissemination within the countries and their cabinets. She recalled the existing agreement between ECLAC and SISCA to promote topics of common interest and, as examples of Central American processes that complemented the guide, she spoke of the cases of the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and El Salvador.

86. Lastly, she offered some recommendations for a better follow-up of the priority measures of the Montevideo Consensus, including defining a progression within the goals and follow-up on the Consensus through subregional integration mechanisms, such as the Andean Community, MERCOSUR, CARICOM, SICA and others. She concluded by stating that SISCA would include those goals in its Central American Observatory for Social Development (OCADES).

87. The Planning and Research Specialist from the Social Policy Department of Brazil’s Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) spoke of the progress made in her country in reducing interregional inequalities, an experience with which Brazil could contribute to the discussion on indicators. In that context, addressing the matter of what could be done for cities to be used in a truly public and inclusive way, she said that in her view, cities should be planned, produced and reproduced by and for everyone, as places where citizenship was constructed and differences could coexist.

88. Nevertheless, she noted that in the areas of inequality and social vulnerability, Brazil still faced major challenges, such as the existence of wide disparities between its municipalities, which could be seen in spatial, social, economic, political and administrative inequalities between subnational entities. The State therefore had a leading role to play in providing guidelines, strategies and tools to shape the development of local governments’ capacities. Lastly, she spoke of the construction of the social vulnerability index by Brazil’s IPEA, which was intended to reveal different situations relating to social vulnerability in the country, but with an approach that went beyond the identification of poverty as the mere lack of monetary resources. Instead, she explained, it was a synthetic index composed of social vulnerability indicators that served to identify areas of the territory where there were indications of overlapping exclusion and social vulnerability.

89. The Director of Statistics from Paraguay’s National Rural Development and Land Institute (INDERT) applauded the operational guide as a technical instrument for directing the implementation and follow-up of the priority measures of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. In that context, she underscored the importance of priority measure 77, for its close relationship with the Sustainable Development Goals; of measure 79, for the breadth of the dimensions involved; and of measure 84, for its cross-cutting usefulness for all the guide’s priority measures.

90. Among other general considerations, she highlighted the importance of establishing a permanent institutional framework for the topics of population and development, together with a mechanism for interinstitutional coordination within the countries. She also underscored the role of international organizations—in particular, of ECLAC—in ensuring the alignment of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development with other international instruments, particularly the Sustainable

Development Goals, other instruments adopted by ECLAC and those related to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). Finally, she emphasized the role to be played by the ad hoc working group in reviewing and specifying the operational guide's indicators and the importance of working in close coordination with the ECLAC Statistical Conference of the Americas and, particularly, with its working groups.

91. In the discussion that followed, representatives of civil society examined Brazil's efforts to construct a vulnerability index that could break free from those paradigms whereby the topic of poverty was seen solely as a lack of material resources. The speakers also noted that the chapter of the Montevideo Consensus under discussion offered the possibility of approaching the topic of inequality from a non-traditional perspective.

92. Next on the agenda was the first special session, on sustainable cities, organized by Mexico. The session was moderated by Laura Ballesteros, Chief of the New Mobility Model of the Government of the Federal District, and Jorge Wolpert, the moderator of panel 6, also participated. The panellists were: Enrique Peláez, President of the Latin American Population Association (ALAP); Erik Vittrup, Representative in Mexico of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); Carlos Garrocho, Professor and Researcher at the Colegio Mexiquense; Luis Miguel Galindo, Head of the Economics of Climate Change Unit of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC; and Pablo Salazar, Regional Advisor on Population and Development with the UNFPA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

93. The President of ALAP addressed the topic of urban transitions in Latin America, with a particular focus on the process towards urban sustainability. In the context of the features of that transition process in the region's countries, he highlighted the dynamic inadequacy of cities to absorb migrants with access to rights. In the current complex situation, large cities remained attractive and small cities were consistently losing inhabitants. He also spoke of the difficulties that existed in favourable environments, due to the inadequacies of cities and the increased risk of disasters.

94. Finally, he addressed the changes in population dynamics in the region's countries and the need to invest in young people, who were found mostly in the cities. He noted that sustainable development meant satisfying current needs without compromising the resources and possibilities of future generations, and he underscored the importance of planning and territorial governance.

95. The representative of UN-Habitat, in turn, spoke of the topic of urban sustainability, the complexity of which was due largely to the number of stakeholders involved and the challenge of ensuring greater sustainability in urban development. According to forecasts, the urban population would double by 2050, which would have significant implications, since most growth was expected to take place in irregular settlements marked by poverty. Inequality was therefore the main challenge facing the present and future of the cities of the region and of the world.

96. In the future, the world would be made up primarily of urban economies and that competition for identifying, attracting and retaining human talent would take place between cities instead of countries. Cities that were unable to do so would be unable to compete and, consequently, would not be prosperous. That gave rise to the need to devise a simpler paradigm for collectively discussing a vision of the future that would allow cities to prosper. To that end, UN-Habitat had designed a technical instrument it called the City Prosperity Index, which served to measure a city's sustainability and prosperity in six dimensions: greater urban governance, greater urban productivity, better urban environment, more robust and efficient urban infrastructure, greater urban equity and inclusion, and better quality of urban life.

97. The Professor and Researcher from the Colegio Mexiquense began his presentation with a reference to the document “Sustainable cities: a conceptual and operational proposal”, noting that since 2008, for the first time in the history of humankind, more than half the population was living in cities, while forecasts indicated that by 2030, the cities of the developing world would account for 80% of the world’s urban population. In that context, he highlighted the need for a new paradigm in which cities would be places for opportunities, engines of the economy, and catalysts for prosperity, social development, employment and industrial and technological innovation and progress. He went on to say that the opportunity costs of remaining in backward rural settlements—which were, on occasion, particularly oppressive for women—were too high, and so migration to cities was not stopping.

98. In addition, he said that the arrangements and processes of urban spaces—such as land usage, mobility, accessibility, public services and spaces, and the location of employment—played a key role in sustainable urban development because they could favour the sustainability of urban societies. Accordingly, he placed emphasis on the idea of spatially integrated public policies and of the territory as an integrating node for sectoral policies.

99. The Head of the Economics of Climate Change Unit of ECLAC spoke about climate change, urban inequality and sustainable consumption patterns, and he presented some evidence indicating that the inequality seen in cities and countries was leading to consumption patterns that were not economically, socially or environmentally sustainable. He also referred to the different strategies that existed for stabilizing the world’s weather conditions by 2050.

100. Regarding the relationship between growth and energy consumption in Latin America, there was a clear positive correlation between per capita income, per capita energy consumption and per capita carbon dioxide emissions, which meant that richer economies consumed more energy and emitted more carbon dioxide. It was therefore clear that the pattern of growth had to be changed, and that one basic element in that was the provision of quality public services (such as transportation, education and health) that would revert the trend, observed in the region in recent years, of a segmentation between high-income and low-income groups in the public services and of a migration from public goods to private goods.

101. Finally, the UNFPA Regional Advisor on Population and Development spoke about the sustainability and inclusiveness agenda of cities and territories. Among the premises for sustainable urban development he noted, first of all, the need for a paradigm of territorial diagnosis and governance that could identify a city’s territorial interrelations—in terms of its dimensions and offerings—with the areas on which it fed through flows of goods, services, people, capital and information. He listed the traditional dimensions of sustainable urban development, namely: economic, social, environmental, political, institutional, mobility and populational.

102. In that context, he said, urban planning and territorial organization must take account of the different dimensions of development, considering territorial governance, favouring comprehensive approaches and breaking down sectoral silos and those of intergovernmental competences. He concluded by stating that the process towards the sustainability of territories, regions and cities therefore required an intergovernmental approach, encouraged by international development agendas, in order to achieve results in reducing inequality and inequity in the region.

103. Panel 7, “Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights”, was moderated by Nuvia Magdalena Mayorga Delgado, Director General of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Mexico. Taking part as panellists were: Jorge Servín, Director of the Paraguayan Institute for

Indigenous Peoples; Dulce Patricia Torres, Representative of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA); and Teresa Zapeta, Coordinator of the Indigenous Women's Fund.

104. The Director of the Paraguayan Institute for Indigenous Peoples said that the Montevideo Consensus reflected the States' wish for continued progress on the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples, based on the principles of equality and cultural diversity. He highlighted the essential role of priority measure 85, which emphasized the basic rights of indigenous peoples, such as prior consultation, while giving meaning to the chapter's other measures. Thus, he said, indigenous peoples required acts of justice, and not of efficiency, and they needed to be seen as rights-holders.

105. Regarding priority measure 88, he warned that the territorial rights of indigenous peoples were perhaps the most urgent and necessary challenge in those countries with peoples in isolation. Thus, the challenge of effectively and urgently enforcing indigenous rights demanded the establishment of consensus-building panels to ensure prior consultation with strategic partners and, as far as possible, with a global campaign on peoples in voluntary isolation. Finally, he called for continued reflection in order to raise the profile of indigenous peoples from a perspective of collective rights, in particular the timely and reliable visibility of sociodemographic data, which implied the full engagement of indigenous peoples and the use, analysis and dissemination of the data and results obtained.

106. The representative of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA) said that it was not appropriate to talk about indigenous women in an individual sense, separate from indigenous peoples, since they themselves acknowledged that they were part of a collective. Nevertheless, she did admit the existence of individual perspectives that were more intensely felt by women than by their male counterparts, simply on account of their status as women. She warned about violence against indigenous women and indigenous peoples, which had been established structurally and systematically, grounded in European colonization. In that context, she said that over the past 20 years, new players had joined those already perpetrating that violence, such as extractive companies and multilateral corporations.

107. She spoke of the potential risks posed by criminal organizations entering indigenous territories, seeking to induce young women into the world of drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and forced prostitution. She also referred to institutional violence against indigenous peoples perpetrated by States. Finally, the right to territory was a comprehensive concept, one that implied not only the right to land but also the right to influence and control what happened on that land, to the use and disposition of its resources and the possibility of enforcing the rules, customs and traditions of their peoples.

108. The Coordinator of the Indigenous Women's Fund emphasized that the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development was a very important strategic tool for the region, not only because of its careful interconnections with the international instruments related to each chapter, but also because it helped implement the commitments at the State level. In the specific case of indigenous peoples and women, the Consensus offered an interesting synergy with such basic instruments as the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169) of ILO, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Quito Consensus, the Santo Domingo Consensus, the Beijing Platform for Action and others.

109. She posited the need for a conceptualization of violence from the viewpoint of indigenous women, covering such concepts as structural violence, spiritual violence, violence against Mother Earth and healing processes, together with the formulation of diagnostic assessments and programmes defined

by women and indigenous peoples and involving indigenous children and young people and work with communities' ancestral and traditional authorities.

110. The representatives of Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Peru and Paraguay spoke during the discussion that followed. The topics they addressed included the importance of indigenous women in the fight for their rights, the difficulties in securing access to sexual and reproductive rights, the need for policies with an intercultural approach, the importance of translating vital statistics records into indigenous languages, the development of instruments for prior consultation that involve women in the process, and the participation of indigenous peoples in policy design. In turn, the representatives of civil society spoke of such issues as entrepreneurship and job training, discrimination against sexual minorities and the vulnerabilities they face, and the migration of indigenous peoples to urban areas and their recognition by the State outside their places of origin.

111. Panel 8, "Afro-descendants: rights and combating racial discrimination", was moderated by Daniel Ponce Vázquez, Chief of the Office of the President of the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination (CONAPRED) of Mexico, and the participants were: Jhon Antón, Researcher from the Institute of Higher National Studies of the Postgraduate State University of Ecuador; Dorotea Wilson, General Coordinator of the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women; and Moisés Medrano Bohórquez, Population Director at the Ministry of Culture of Colombia.

112. The Researcher from the Institute of Higher National Studies of Ecuador's Postgraduate State University applauded the initiative whereby the United Nations had declared the International Decade for People of African Descent, starting on 1 January 2015, saying that it marked an essential step forward in realizing the commitments and obligations of States and civil society in resolving the structural problems that continued to perpetuate exclusion and discrimination among Afro-descendent peoples. In addition to statistical recognition, the political recognition of Afro-descendants within nation States was being sought, with the specific aim of equipping them with a greater empowerment of their identities as peoples and greater visibility in public policies, in budgets and in poverty reduction strategies.

113. The social sciences had the task of analysing the problems of civic denial faced by almost 180 million Afro-descendent people on account of factors that stemmed from the colonial racial matrix. Those difficulties had led to relatively scant attention being paid to those populations in the field of demographics, which had contributed to their fragility and had further hampered the breaking of the vicious circle of social vulnerability, owing to the lack of empirical evidence for their objective recognition.

114. The General Coordinator of the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women said that the operational guide was a working guide not only for the States, but also for the members of different groups within the women's movement and regional forums. The guide would enable them to require States to fine-tune, adapt and implement specific lines of action, to establish the necessary goals and indicators and to create appropriate follow-up mechanisms.

115. The most complex issue was the States' formal and real recognition of the existence of racism and racial discrimination as a starting point for their eradication, given that not all countries acknowledged them as aggravating factors behind inequality and inequity. Finally, it was essential to keep making progress towards the recognition of ethnic, demographic, social, territorial and political diversity and, above all, its direct implications for ensuring the human rights and equal access to integral development of Afro-descendants.

116. The Population Director at the Ministry of Culture of Colombia said that the measures proposed in the operational guide in connection with Afro-descendants, their rights and combating racism and racial discrimination were focused on two strategic areas for transforming social relations and promoting coexistence in the region, particularly with respect to the cultural transmission of dignifying stereotypes of Afro-descendants.

117. He defined some essential points for achieving the full citizenship of Afro-descendent people: the elimination of discrimination and racism; greater recognition of the participation of Afro-descendants in the development of the region's countries; the furthering —as a State policy— of the progress made over the past two decades with which the discussion of Afro-descendent matters had reached the Regional Conference on Population and Development; and the recognition of Latin America and the Caribbean's African heritage as an opportunity to learn about the Afro-descendent legacy and ancestral wisdom and its relevance for territorial transformations and for overcoming both local and global problems. Lastly, the International Decade for People of African Descent offered an unequalled opportunity for strengthening good-quality public services based on ethics and with the conviction that the dignity of Afro-descendants lies in their historical and cultural heritage.

118. In the subsequent discussion, the representative of Brazil reported on the progress made by his country with specific public policies for Afro-descendants in areas such as health and education and in support of young people, through affirmative policies. The representatives of Puerto Rico and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela addressed the challenge of raising the profile of Afro-descendent communities and its relationship with the topic of self-identification. Representatives of civil society addressed such topics as discrimination and State policies for combating it, access to sexual and reproductive rights, the right of women to make their own decisions in connection with abortion, and the recognition of Afro-descendent peoples.

119. Next came the special session on ageing, organized by Mexico. It was moderated by Dr. Luis Miguel Gutiérrez Robledo, a doctor of internal medicine and gerontology, a level 2 researcher with the National Research System, a member of the National Academy of Medicine of Mexico and a founding director of the National Geriatrics Institute. The panellists were: Fernando Morales Martínez, General Director of the National Geriatrics and Gerontology Hospital of Costa Rica; Amalia Ayala Montoya, Manager of the Family and Community Health Area of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); Verónica Montes de Oca, Coordinator of the Interdisciplinary University Seminar on Ageing and Old Age of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM); Rosa Icela Rodríguez Velázquez, Secretary of Rural Development and Community Equity of the Government of Mexico City; and Sergio Salvador Valdés y Rojas, Director of Geriatric Care at the National Institute for Older Persons (INAPAM) of Mexico.

120. The General Director of Costa Rica's National Geriatrics and Gerontology Hospital spoke about the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons from the perspective of protecting the human rights and health of older persons, together with the challenges facing the region's countries in that regard. He said that those regional instruments, in addition to promoting universal coverage of the right to health of older people, required the countries to adopt measures and public policies, plans and programmes to promote active ageing, the participation of older people in society and the recognition of their value, while at the same time guaranteeing older people differentiated and preferential treatment in all spheres of life.

121. After explaining the different aspects of the right to health of older people, he emphasized that they had the inalienable right to express their free and informed consent on health matters and that the denial of that right represented a violation of their human rights. Finally, he called for action to bring about the implementation of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and for the inclusion of geriatrics in the region's health systems with a comprehensive outlook, community emphasis, social and humanitarian awareness, an inclusive approach and a human rights perspective.

122. The Manager of the PAHO Family and Community Health Area described her organization's view of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and spoke of the need to include quantitative and qualitative indicators to monitor its implementation. She listed a series of actions needed to enforce the Convention, such as its dissemination among the region's countries, broad consultations with different stakeholders, the inclusion of its topics on the agendas of the inter-American system and of the United Nations, close collaboration with civil society organizations, human rights agencies and special rapporteurs, and the development of national initiatives.

123. In order to conduct follow-up on the Convention's implementation, she proposed a series of indicators covering such issues as the design of policies, plans and laws on behalf of older people or the modification of those that already existed, the dissemination of human rights instruments, the universal coverage of programmes to ensure access to well-being and a high quality of life, the signature or ratification of the Convention and the inclusion of a unifying conceptual and legal framework in local and national strategies.

124. The Coordinator of the Interdisciplinary University Seminar on Ageing and Old Age of UNAM spoke about the 10/66 INDEP study on dependence and care in Latin America and the Caribbean. First, she explained the different stages of the research agenda: stage one involved pilot studies and validation; stage two involved baseline surveys, which had examined the prevalence of dementia and other chronic illnesses, the impact of disabilities, dependence and its economic cost, and access to medical services; stage three had focused on incidence, covering the incidence of dementia, chronic degenerative disease and mortality, together with the risk factors, course and results of dementia; stage four centred on the impact on care needs; and a still pending stage, called the "third wave" (between 2016 and 2018), would involve follow-up over a period of 10 years.

125. In that context, she highlighted the crucial role of social support networks and listed a series of care-related proposals, including the development a solidarity-based care model, an expanded vision of life protection and care, care for carers, analyses of different forms of care and carers' work, policies for preventing dependency starting with the youngest generations, studies on the life cycle and dependency to identify the paths and transitions towards dependency with a preventive approach, studies including stakeholders' perspectives, and studies conducted in rural areas.

126. The Secretary of Rural Development and Community Equity of the Mexico City Government spoke about the care needs of the recipients of Mexico City's social pension. She explained that under a programme established by law, all residents of the city aged over 68 received a non-contributory universal pension, and that the programme had a total of 500,000 registered beneficiaries.

127. She also spoke of a survey of the care needs of the pension recipients, which was conducted in conjunction with CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC. In that context, she said that the topic was an urgent public issue owing to the sociodemographic scenario in which care tasks were being performed, which was characterized by the transformation of women's roles, the still significant presence of children, the increasing ageing of the population, higher survival rates with illnesses or disabilities, and changes in

family models. She noted that given that panorama, however, the awareness of care needs as a risk in social protection systems in her country and in the region as a whole was practically non-existent. Among other proposals, she suggested recognizing caregivers, improving their physical and mental well-being and guaranteeing their rights, developing social services to strengthen autonomy and creating a citizen's wage for caregivers.

128. The Director of Geriatric Care at the National Institute for Older Persons (INAPAM) then spoke about defining baselines for a road map to address dependency and the care of older persons, on the basis of the Institute's experience with inspection and oversight at public and private care institutions for the elderly. In the context of an ageing population, he highlighted the new emerging challenges facing policies for older people, including increased life expectancy, the rise in non-communicable chronic diseases, the need for support networks for the exercise of rights and, against that backdrop, the role of gerontological care centres.

129. In the field of training, the staff caring for older people at different gerontological centres needed continuous education programmes to ensure a decent standard of care and prevent mistreatment. He concluded by noting that INAPAM was a source of guidance and assistance for people who work with older persons.

Closing session

Frameworks for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 8)

130. The closing session included a round table entitled "Frameworks for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which was moderated by Patricia Chemor, Secretary-General of the National Council for Population (CONAPO) of Mexico. The participants were: César Garcés Fierros, Director of the Strategic Projects Unit of the Office of the President of Mexico; Esteban Caballero, Officer in Charge of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA-LACRO); Humberto Roque Villanueva, Undersecretary for Population, Migration and Religious Affairs of the Secretariat of the Interior of Mexico; and Dirk Jaspers, Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC.

131. The Director of the Strategic Projects Unit of the Office of the President of Mexico described his country's progress with implementing and monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He began by speaking of the specialized technical committee that had been created to follow up on the Millennium Development Goals and the series of instruments that had been designed for that purpose, including the creation by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of an online information system containing metadata and 80 indicators that was updated each year. On that basis, the report for the 2010-2013 period and, more recently, the information for 2015 had been produced.

132. He explained that the system involved federal bodies and that the state offices of CONAPO were responsible for follow up. In the light of the good results obtained, they were transferring experiences with the technology, platform and indicators to other countries in Central America (South-South cooperation) through Mexit and at the suggestion of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). With regard to lessons learned, he emphasized that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals required the engagement of all stakeholders, including the government and civil

society. Further progress was needed with the participation of federal bodies and municipalities, as well as that of the private and academic sectors. Another important requirement was a powerful system of indicators, to enable progress to be made with analyses. As to the institutional framework, he said implementation must be entrusted to an autonomous agency, such as INEGI, thus maintaining the committee's technical nature. He highlighted the importance of South-South cooperation and emphasized the need to ensure that the information was effectively used for key public policy decisions.

133. The Officer in Charge of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA-LACRO) shared some thoughts about how UNFPA saw the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its role in it. He proposed the construction of a regional population and development platform which would bring different forms of support together and provide a framework for investments in that area. He also proposed the idea of creating clusters of countries with similar problems, such as the countries of the Caribbean, which share particular vulnerabilities, or the Northern Triangle of Central America, as a cluster facing problems of vulnerability, disasters or violence.

134. In connection with the diagnostic assessments, he said that demographic analyses were essential, particularly those addressing the age pyramid, given that some countries in the region had young populations and others had to prepare for the ageing of their populations. He said that UNFPA would be focusing its efforts on resources for adolescents and young persons, particularly as regards access to sexual and reproductive health, while not neglecting other matters, such as secondary education, the elimination of child labour, the establishment of 18 as the minimum age for marriage, and topics relating to gender and masculinity. Lastly, he highlighted the importance of the data revolution and of South-South cooperation.

135. The Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC began the final address of the round table by saying that Latin America and the Caribbean had an unprecedented opportunity over the coming decades and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a global compact that would ensure that no one was left behind in the enjoyment of prosperity and in bringing about equality and respect for human rights. He emphasized that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was demographically viable, because the region as a whole was transiting through a favourable period—which would last until 2027—in which the demographic dependency ratio had opened up a window of opportunities for preparing for the future.

136. The Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, along with the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and other subsidiary bodies, would be called on to play a key role as platforms for achieving intergovernmental agreements that would contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that context, he said that the resolution that the governmental delegations had been discussing offered a road map for the smoother implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. He added that the operational guide, in turn, provided a technical reference point in that undertaking, given that the gaps in the implementation of the political commitments were due largely to the lack of suitable instruments for guiding its implementation.

137. Before thanking the Government of Mexico for organizing the session, he said that effective international cooperation was needed to ensure the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in that context, he could not fail to acknowledge the strategic alliance that ECLAC had forged with UNFPA. That

partnership showed how collaboration between different components of the United Nations system could multiply the impact of the system's actions.

138. In the ensuing discussion, representatives of several civil society organizations addressed such topics as countries' sovereignty in implementing the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, the protection of human rights, the State's defence and protection of human life, and the rights of women and of all people.

139. In closing, as no other matters were raised for consideration, the Undersecretary for Population, Migration and Religious Affairs of the Secretariat of the Interior of Mexico highlighted the work of the Chair, as well as the quality and awareness-raising potential of the presentations given during the session, and underscored the high level of participation and the outcomes achieved.

Adoption of agreements by the Conference

Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item 10)

140. The States members of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean unanimously adopted the resolutions attached hereto as annex 1. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago read out an explanation of position, which is attached hereto as annex 2.

Annex 1

RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION 1(II)**

The Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, at its second session, held in Mexico City from 6 to 9 October 2015,

Recalling resolution 670(XXXIV), adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fourth session, held in 2012, by virtue of which the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was renamed the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking into consideration resolution 2014/1 adopted by the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-seventh session, which takes note of the outcome documents of the recent regional conferences on population and development and that each outcome provides region-specific guidance on population and development beyond 2014 for each region that adopted the particular outcome document,

Recognizing the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,¹ as the road map of the United Nations, marking a paradigm shift and a new era for international cooperation with the aim of realizing the human rights of all and ensuring that no one is left behind,

Recalling that the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development at its first session held in Montevideo from 12 to 15 August 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, in the context of the sovereign right of each country to apply recommendations contained in the Consensus in accordance with its national laws and development priorities and in a manner consistent with human rights, including the right to development,

Reaffirming also that unilateral coercive economic measures hold back the development of countries and their populations, and the efficient implementation of the Consensus,

Emphasizing the need for countries to promote awareness and implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development at the national level, as well as the importance of developing methods to facilitate implementation at the country level and monitoring at the regional level,

Considering the commitments undertaken in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development on monitoring and accountability and the understanding that these components are not an end in themselves but serve to implement the Consensus, and should therefore be simple, flexible, effective, government-led and in keeping with national and regional realities,

¹ A/70/L.1, New York, 2015.

Bearing in mind that the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development decided, at their first meeting, held in Santiago in November 2014, to prepare an operational guide to support countries in the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and that an ad hoc working group was set up to this end, with the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean as technical secretariat,

Bearing in mind also that, at their second meeting, held in Santiago in June 2015, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development resolved that the *Operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development* would constitute their contribution to the Regional Conference on Population and Development, at its second session, and recommended that the Conference endorse the operational guide as a technical tool for steering the implementation and follow-up of the priority measures of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, taking into account the suggested lines of action,

Acknowledging the significant contributions of civil society to the Conference and in the preparation of the *Operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments undertaken in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and underscores their contribution to following up on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Encourages* countries to step up efforts to promote awareness of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and to apply effective, concrete measures to implement the Consensus, in keeping with national priorities and ensuring consultation and cooperation with civil society;

3. *Highlights* the importance for States of establishing or strengthening national coordinating mechanisms, with the participation of civil society organizations, to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and to act as a permanent liaison with the Regional Conference, and urges governments to report on this matter at the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, to be held in 2016;

4. *Urges* the countries of the region to mobilize domestic and international financial resources to implement the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, as well as other internationally agreed initiatives, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Calls upon* developed countries, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant stakeholders to contribute financial resources, transfer technology and knowledge, and cooperate in building capacity with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, taking into account the particular characteristics of the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries;

6. *Urges* countries to strengthen their technical skills and capacities for implementing, monitoring and reporting on the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, with particular emphasis on designing and implementing training strategies in the area of population and development that cover the various issues, territorial levels and course formats;

7. *Reiterates* the call to use national official data to create, prepare and analyse the indicators that will be employed to monitor implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development;

8. *Urges* countries to take the steps needed to improve data sources and build national statistical capacity, including through technical assistance;

9. *Welcomes* the *Operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*, as a voluntary technical tool for assisting countries in the implementation of the priority measures of the Consensus and the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014;

10. *Calls upon* countries to define, in accordance with national needs, priorities and existing initiatives, the lines of action, targets and respective time frames, as well as the indicators that they will use to monitor implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development at the national level, using the operational guide as a basis;

11. *Urges* each country to prepare a progress report on implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, using a format to be circulated in due course, which shall be presented at the third session of the Regional Conference in 2017, and commissions the secretariat, in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund, to prepare that format for consideration and adoption by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference at their third meeting in 2016;

12. *Agrees* that the follow-up and review of national progress on implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development will be the main objective of the third session of the Regional Conference, to be held in 2017, at which discussions will be held on the basis of reports submitted by the countries, and that a regional assessment will be conducted at the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, to be held in 2019, and that the aim of this process will be to identify common gaps and challenges and propose regional strategies to strengthen the implementation of the Consensus;

13. *Decides* to establish a geographically representative open-ended ad hoc working group, composed of government-appointed experts, which will be coordinated by Mexico and will comprise, initially, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico and Uruguay, to prepare, in consultation with all members of the Conference, a proposal for reviewing and defining the set of indicators in the operational guide to be used for regional follow-up on the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, which should be precise, comparable, concrete and aligned with the indicators to be used for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014;

14. *Also decides* that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, will serve as technical secretariat of the ad hoc working group, which will include the participation of representatives of civil society and other stakeholders in its tasks, and that the ad hoc working group may take into consideration the opinions of such participants when preparing its recommendations;

15. *Establishes* that the ad hoc working group shall present a progress report at the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, to be held in 2016, and a final report at the third session of the Regional Conference, to be held in 2017;

16. *Requests* the secretariat, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, to continue making the provisions necessary to facilitate the work of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, its Presiding Officers and the ad hoc working group created at the present session;

17. *Also requests* the United Nations Population Fund and the other competent funds, programmes and specialized agencies to continue contributing, as appropriate, to the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development;

18. *Thanks* the Government of Mexico for hosting the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and for providing the support required for the session's activities;

19. *Also thanks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for organizing the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC for preparing the corresponding documentation;

20. *Further thanks* the United Nations Population Fund for its collaboration prior to and during the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

21. *Thanks* civil society organizations for their participation in the process of preparing the operational guide, for their attendance at the second session of the Regional Conference and for their commitment to the follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus, recognizing the importance of their input to the effective implementation of the Consensus;

22. *Welcomes* the kind offer of the Government of El Salvador to host the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2017.

RESOLUTION 2(II)

The Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, at its second session held in Mexico City from 6 to 9 October 2015,

Bearing in mind resolution 670(XXXIV), adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fourth session, by virtue of which the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean undertook all the responsibilities of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, including its role as the intergovernmental body with responsibility for the regional follow-up of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,

Recalling that, in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in 2002, the Member States were requested to conduct a systematic review of its implementation, as an essential requirement for improving the quality of life of older persons,

Bearing in mind that the Commission for Social Development, in its resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

Considering that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2015/5, endorsed the timeline for carrying out the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General,¹ which determined, inter alia, that the regional review would take place in 2017 and the global review in 2018,

Recalling that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has convened three meetings of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean, and that the third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing, held in 2012, adopted the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind the reports of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and the fact that the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/139, of 13 February 2013, requested the Working Group to present to the General Assembly, at the earliest possible date, a proposal containing, inter alia, the main elements that should be included in an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons,

Highlighting the importance of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, adopted on 15 June 2015 at the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States,

1. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, to continue to support the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, by:

¹ E/CN.5/2015/4.

- (a) Lending technical assistance to the countries of the region that so request to conduct their national review and appraisal in 2016,
- (b) Organizing the fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2017, and preparing the corresponding documentation,
- (c) Presenting the conclusions of the fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean at the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2017,
- (d) Preparing a regional report on the basis of the foregoing activities as a contribution to the global review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2018;

2. *Invites* all the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to add their own efforts to national and regional activities conducted for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

3. *Calls upon* the countries to sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, and invites all the stakeholders to ensure its full implementation;

4. *Also calls upon* the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing to begin work, at its seventh session, on a proposal containing, inter alia, the main elements that should be included in an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons;

5. *Welcomes* the generous offer of Paraguay to host the fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2017.

EXPLANATION OF POSITION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



STATEMENT

delivered by

**Ms. Melissa Boissiere,
First Secretary,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations,
New York**

at the

**Conclusion of the Second Session of the Regional
Conference on Population and Development in Latin
America and the Caribbean**

.....

**Mexico City
October 9, 2015**

Madam Chair,

As we have come to the conclusion of this second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, Trinidad and Tobago wishes to reiterate its deepest appreciation for the exceptional hospitality and admirable chairmanship of the Government of Mexico over the period. We also appreciate the invaluable role of ECLAC in its organization, as well as the support of UNFPA to Member States.

At this time, however, we wish to explain our position following adoption of resolution number 1 on implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, which we request be reflected in the official records of this meeting.

Trinidad and Tobago first expresses its appreciation for the efforts undertaken to produce the first draft of resolution number 1. We wish, however, to register our concern that the Government was not afforded the opportunity to adequately consider the Operational Guidelines for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus prior to the action taken on same at this Regional Conference. Nonetheless, Trinidad and Tobago did not wish to stand in the way of consensus although we would have preferred language on this issue which was more consistent with a voluntary undertaking.

We acknowledge the work carried out to produce the guidelines and have taken careful note of the consensus that the guidelines constitute a voluntary tool, entirely in the discretion of States to use to implement the Montevideo Consensus, subject to their national laws, policies and priorities. Trinidad and Tobago therefore does not view the guidelines as conferring any legal obligations on States.

Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to participating in future intergovernmental processes which focus on addressing the common realities in all of our countries as we work together to ensure that no one in our societies is left behind. We also welcome consultations with civil society in these undertakings given their essential engagement and support to achieving these goals.

Madam Chair, in conclusion, Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its support for the work of the Chair over the next two years and remains committed to working with all States of our region, as well as with all relevant stakeholders to accomplish our common objectives.

I thank you.

Annex 3

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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- Jewel Collier-Swan, Youth Ambassador, Department of Youth, email: collier.jewel@gmail.com

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- Claudia Ruiz Massieu, Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Socorro Flores Liera, Subsecretaria para Asuntos Multilaterales y Derechos Humanos, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores
- Miguel Ruiz Cabañas, Subsecretario para Asuntos Multilaterales y Derechos Humanos, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores
- Luis Enrique Miranda Nava, Subsecretario de Gobierno, Secretaría de Gobernación
- Felipe Solís Acero, Subsecretario de Enlace Legislativo y Acuerdos, Secretaría de Gobernación
- Humberto Roque Villanueva, Subsecretario de Población, Migración y Asuntos Religiosos, Secretaría de Gobernación
- Roberto Rafael Campa Cifriám, Subsecretario de Derechos Humanos, Secretaría de Gobernación
- Arturo Escobar y Vega, Subsecretario de Prevención y Participación, Secretaría de Gobernación
- Andrés Imre Chao Ebergenyi, Subsecretario de Normatividad de Medios, Secretaría de Gobernación

- Renato Sales Heredia, Comisionado Nacional de Seguridad, Secretaría de Gobernación
- Patricia Chemor Ruiz, Secretaria General, Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO), email: pchemor@conapo.gob.mx
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C. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

- Ana Gúezmes, Representante en México, email: ana.guezmes@unwomen.org
- Moni Pizani, Representante en el Ecuador, email: moni.pizani@unwomen.org
- Adriana Apud, Responsable de Comunicación, México, email: Adriana.apud@unwomen.org
- Carlos Echarri, email: cecha@colmex.mx
- Sumithra Krishnamurthy, Pasante, Campaña y Comunicaciones, México, email: s.krishnamurthy@unwomen.org

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Isabel Crowley, Representante en México, email: icrowley@unicef.org
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Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Esteban Caballero, Oficial a Cargo de la Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Panamá, email: caballero@unfpa.org
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- Marielle Linstrom, Representante de Haití, email: sander@unfpa.org
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- Marielle Linstrom, Representante de Guatemala, email: sander@unfpa.org
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- Carlos Pease, CEO, Agencia Digital Coaster, email: carlos@digitalcoaster.mx

**Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos (ONU-Hábitat)/
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

- Erik Vittrup, Representante en México, email: vittrup@onuhabitat.org

Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA)/World Food Programme (WFP)

- Hugo Farías, Regional Adviser, Panamá, email: hugo.farias@wfp.org

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Dorothee Georg, Oficial de Proyectos, México, email: dorothee.georg@unep.org
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Programa Conjunto de las Naciones Unidas sobre el VIH/SIDA (ONUSIDA)/Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

- César Núñez, Director Regional, Panamá, email: padillan@unaids.org

**D. Organismos especializados
Specialized agencies**

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Thomas Wissing, Director para México y Cuba, email: wissing@ilo.org

**Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)/
United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

- Alejandra Gámez, Especialista Cultural, México, email: a.gamez@unesco.org

**Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)-Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)/
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)-World Health Organization (WHO)**

- Amalia Ayala, Oficial a Cargo de la Representación en México, ayalaa@paho.org

**E. Invitado de honor
Guest of honour**

- Enrique Peña Nieto, Presidente de México

**F. Invitados especiales
Special guests**

- Adán Augusto López Hernández, Presidente, Comisión de Población, Cámara de Senadores, México
- Adriana Aguilar Flores, Asesora para la Operación del Modelo de Equidad de Género, Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INMUJERES), México, email: aaguilar@inmujeres.gob.mx
- Adriana Carmona Ordinario, Analista de la Dirección de Asuntos Sociales y Económicos, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México

- Adriana Contreras Vera, Directora de Financiamiento Rural, Secretaría de Desarrollo Rural y Equidad para las Comunidades del Gobierno de la Ciudad de México, email: adryanna_cont@hotmail.com
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- Alberto Daniel Zacarías Villalobos, Encargado de la Secretaría Técnica, Consejo de Población del Estado de México
- Alberto H. Watanabe Cervantes, Asesor de la Subsecretaría para América Latina y el Caribe, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, México
- Alberto Silva Ramos, Presidente, Comisión de Población, Cámara de Diputados, México
- Alejandra Bracho Ahumada, Jefe de Departamento, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores
- Alejandro Celis, Director General Adjunto, Comisión Nacional de Seguridad, México, email: Alejandro.celis@cns.gob.mx
- Alejandro González Cravioto, Director de Asuntos Internacionales, Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CDI), México, email: ainternacionales@cdi.gob.mx
- Alejandro Hernández, Director Administrativo y Encargado de Atención a Migrantes, Consejo Estatal de Población, México
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CAF-Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina/CAF-Development Bank of Latin America

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Centro de Estudios Monetarios Latinoamericanos/Center for Latin America Monetary Studies (CEMLA)

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Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA)/Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

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Organización Iberoamericana de Juventud (OIJ)/Ibero-American Youth Organization

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Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)/International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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