



2010 | ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on  
Population and Development  
*Santiago, 12-14 May 2010*

**FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY**

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

DDR/1  
16 March 2010

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

---

**REPORT OF THE ECLAC AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
AND RESOLUTION 644(XXXII) OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION OF ECLAC**

\* Report elaborated by ECLAC.

2010-213



NACIONES UNIDAS



**CONTENTS**

	<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
A. PRESENTATION.....		1
B. REPORT OF THE ECLAC SESSIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT.....	1-26	2
C. 644(XXXII) POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 2008-2010 .....		7

## **A. PRESENTATION**

This document presents the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development on its meeting of 12 June 2008, held in the framework of the thirty-second session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which took place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 9 to 13 June 2008. It also sets forth the conclusions reached at that meeting, as reflected in resolution 644(XXXII), entitled “Population and development: priority activities for the period 2008-2010”.

The report and the resolution will serve as a basis for the organization of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development at its meeting of 12-14 May 2010, to be held at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago.

On this occasion, the Committee will be asked to review and follow up on matters related to population and development, including the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, the Brasilia Declaration and issues concerning international migration.

## **B. REPORT OF THE ECLAC SESSIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

1. The ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development met on 12 June 2008. The following countries served as presiding officers:

<u>Chairperson:</u>	Mexico
<u>Vice-Chairpersons:</u>	Argentina
	Ecuador
	Jamaica
	Panama
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Cuba

2. The Ad Hoc Committee adopted the following agenda without amendment:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the provisional agenda
3. Report of the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development
4. Follow-up to progress in the areas of human rights and development as part of the implementation of resolution 615(XXXI) on international migration
5. Results of the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
6. Presentation and analysis of the document “Demographic transformations and their influence on development in Latin America and the Caribbean”
7. Country activities relating to the follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
8. Other matters
9. Conclusions

3. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC drew attention to the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)–Population Division of ECLAC in the areas of international migration, ageing, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations, and said that the Centre had also made valuable contributions in terms of monitoring progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and producing studies on youth. Referring to the opportunities afforded by the demographic dividend and its economic impact on education, health and pensions, he said that countries should redouble their efforts to achieve structural change and productivity growth, create jobs and expand the coverage of social protection. Lastly, it was important to reflect upon the demographic perspective and to take it into account in development planning and public policymaking.

4. The Director of the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said that a more resolute commitment was needed from the countries in order to take advantage of the demographic dividend and ensure income redistribution. She recalled the joint activities that had been carried out in recent years with ECLAC, in particular with CELADE, the Division for Gender Affairs and the Social Development Division.

5. The outgoing Chairperson of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development outlined the main activities carried out by the Presiding Officers pursuant to resolution 615(XXXI) on international migration and resolution 616(XXXI) on priority activities in the area of population and development. He said that, in compliance with the latter resolution, representatives of the Presiding Officers had participated in the international seminar marking the fiftieth anniversary of CELADE, held in Santiago, Chile, in October 2007 and in the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean in Brasilia in December 2007.

6. He also invited the Commission to continue to promote the formation of an inter-agency group to be responsible for follow-up of issues relating to international migration and emphasized the need to train human resources in demography, population and development.

7. The Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)–Population Division of ECLAC presented the report on activities conducted in the period 2006-2008 and highlighted progress made in measuring and analysing social and demographic inequality and in following up progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. He also drew attention to activities carried out in relation to indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations, as well as work on international and internal migration, ageing, spatial distribution of the population and the 2010 round of censuses. He underlined the efforts made by the Division to broaden training in processing and analysing socio-demographic information based on population and housing censuses, vital statistics, household surveys and other sources of data, using the REDATAM software.

8. He also described the activities carried out to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of CELADE and efforts made to anticipate future population scenarios. He invited the delegations to review carefully the reference document on activities regarding indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations, on which subjects CELADE had made significant contributions in the last biennium. Lastly, he emphasized the collaboration that had been established with other international agencies, such as the United Nations Population Fund and the Ibero-American Secretariat.

9. The Director of the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund spoke again to report on activities carried out by the Fund during the 2006-2007 biennium in the areas of population and development, reproductive health and rights, gender equality, youth as bearers of rights and indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations.

10. She analysed the existing challenges, particularly the need to work on deepening the interpretation and implementation of the population and development agenda from a human-rights perspective, raise awareness of the population agenda's contribution to achieving internationally agreed development objectives, strengthen coordination between the population agenda and efforts to advance women's rights and broaden the platform of social and political actors, while strengthening the strategic alliances that had already been formed. She then presented the regional programme on population and development in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2008-2011 and its objectives in different areas.

11. A representative of CELADE gave a presentation on the follow-up of progress made in the areas of human rights and development regarding the implementation of resolution 615(XXXI) on international migration. In the last biennium the secretariat had carried out studies on the regional migratory map, the links between emigrants and their countries of origin and on migratory information in censuses. It had also carried out the project on Migration and development: the case of Latin America, financed by the Inter-American Development Bank; provided support for international meetings and participated actively in meetings on international migration.

12. Regarding inter-agency cooperation, the representative of CELADE reported that the secretariat had begun preparations for the creation of an inter-agency group, coordinated by ECLAC, that would be responsible for follow-up of issues relating to international migration. There was a particularly fruitful relationship with the Ibero-American Secretariat, with which the secretariat had organized the Ibero-American Encounter on International Migration and Development, whose debates had served as an input for the sixteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government. He gave an account of the secretariat's contributions to the preparation of technical materials and organization of the Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (Ecuador, April 2008). It was also of note that the representatives present at the seventeenth Ibero-American Summit (Santiago, Chile, 2007) had approved the Ibero-American Multilateral Agreement on Social Security; on that occasion ECLAC had presented a study on the number of possible direct and indirect beneficiaries of such an agreement.

13. Lastly, in the biennium 2008-2009 the secretariat would continue to provide technical assistance for the member countries, would publish a book based on the document presented at the 2006 meeting of the Committee and would carry out a global project on international migration to be financed by the United Nations Development Account.

14. The secretariat then reported on the outcomes of the first cycle of review and evaluation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, indicating, first, that at this time the magnitude of ageing in the region appeared reasonable but did not truly reflect the dimensions of the situation that was approaching for the coming 40 years.

15. The representative of the secretariat referred to measures that the countries of the region had taken in view of the recommendations of the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and the technical support activities carried out by the secretariat in the areas of inter-agency coordination, information, research and public policies. He then reported on the outcomes of the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: towards a society for all ages and rights-based social protection, which had been held in Brasilia (Brazil) from 4 to 6 December 2007 and whose main outcome had been the approval of the Brasilia Declaration.

16. He identified the main agreements contained in the Declaration as regards implementation and follow-up. In regard to the latter point, the countries had attributed importance to research and to the incorporation of ageing in follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals and in mechanisms to protect the human rights of older persons, which were issues that had been highlighted at the forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development. Lastly, the representative reaffirmed the secretariat's commitment to support the countries in the implementation of the regional strategy on ageing and the Brasilia Declaration.

17. The Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)–Population Division of ECLAC presented the working document “Demographic transformations and their influence on development in Latin America and the Caribbean” and addressed three aspects: demographic trends and how they were likely to develop in the future in the region; changes in the dependency ratio and opportunities arising from the demographic dividend; and the sectoral impacts of demographic changes and the situation of specific population groups.

18. The Director began with an overview of the current demographic situation in the region. The countries were classified into different stages of demographic transition according to their fertility and life

expectancy rates. The situation varied considerably across the region and notable reductions were projected in both birth and mortality rates, which would have a major impact on the age structure of populations. One notable feature of the demographic transition process under way was the rising proportion of the older adult population and the decline of the young population. Prior to the intensification of the ageing process, however, there was a period in which the proportion of people of potentially productive ages in the population would increase in relation to those of potentially inactive ages. This period was known as the “demographic dividend” or the “demographic window of opportunity” and created a particularly favourable situation for development because it increased the possibilities of saving and of investing in economic growth. Macroeconomic policies that promoted sustainable development would need to be designed and implemented to take advantage of this situation.

19. Demographic changes were posing major policy challenges in certain sectors in the countries of the region. Regarding education, the long-term decline in fertility would significantly reduce the ratio between the school-age and the working-age populations, which would free up financial resources that could be invested in improvements in the quality of the sector. In relation to health care, the changes in the dependency ratio would have a more beneficial impact in countries in the initial stages of transition, while the ageing of the population in some countries was expected to place tremendous strain on pay-as-you-go pension systems in the future.

20. In closing, the speaker pointed out that population issues should be examined within the broader context of human rights and poverty reduction and highlighted the situation of three particularly vulnerable groups: the elderly, women and indigenous peoples. It was essential to move forward in developing mechanisms to ensure their full participation in development and its benefits.

21. In the ensuing discussion, delegations congratulated the secretariat for the quality and relevance of the study and commented on the demographic situation in their countries in relation to the issues raised in the presentation. One delegation stated that although the increasing proportion of women engaging in work outside the home was a positive development, it had lowered fertility rates, and specific policies were needed to address the issue.

22. During the discussion of the follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, delegations stressed the importance of preparing for the 2010 census round and raised specific issues related to international migration and policies for the elderly in their respective countries.

23. With regard to international migration, one delegation suggested that CELADE should perform a technical analysis of the public policies implemented to counteract the negative effects of migration in countries of origin. New methods were needed to measure the economic capacity of households more precisely and to capture “invisible” migration in population data.

24. Some countries reported that as far as policies targeting the elderly were concerned, education, skills and job training programmes had been implemented for older persons with a view to improving their income. The programmes put in place included initiatives to improve intergenerational relations. In order to ensure well-being in old age, State intervention was necessary during the whole life cycle, including programmes on early childhood education, youth employment and equitable access to health care.

25. Some delegations stressed the importance of promoting the drafting of a convention on the human rights of older persons within the framework of the United Nations.

26. The conclusions of the meeting of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development are reflected in resolution 644(XXXII) on population and development: priority activities for the period 2008-2010.

**C. 644(XXXII) POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: PRIORITY ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE PERIOD 2008-2010**

*The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*

*Recalling* the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development adopted in Mexico City in May 1993, the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development of 1994, the document entitled “Latin America and the Caribbean: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”,<sup>1</sup> the report of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly entitled “Overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”; the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly entitled “Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”, the United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000, the reports of the First Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing,<sup>2</sup> and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>3</sup>

*Taking into account* resolutions 615(XXXI) and 616(XXXI) as adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-first session, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in March 2006,

*Considering* the agreements reached at the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Bogotá, Colombia, in November 2007, as well as the conclusions reached at the Workshop on Preparatory Activities, Analysis and Exchange of Experiences for the Successful Implementation of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, held in Panama City in September 2007,

*Welcoming with satisfaction* the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (September 2006) held with a view to strengthening dialogue and cooperation among countries, the outcome of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development and its consideration of the issue of international migration and development, the explicit guidelines on international migration set forth in the Plan of Action signed by the Heads of State and Government participating in the Second Summit of the Americas and the measures adopted within the framework of the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, which reflected the desire of the Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries to ensure that the rights of migrant workers and their families are upheld and protected,

*Taking into account* the Brasilia Declaration as adopted at the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing: towards a society for all ages and rights-based social protection, held in Brasilia in December 2007,

---

<sup>1</sup> LC/DEM/G.184 (1999).

<sup>2</sup> LC/L.2079 and LC/L.2891(CRE.2/5).

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 60/1.

*Emphasizing* that 2007 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was celebrated with various commemorative activities,

1. *Expresses appreciation to and commends* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre for having organized the technical aspects of the meeting of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and for having prepared the documentation for that meeting, in particular the document *Demographic transformations and their influence on development in Latin America and the Caribbean*,<sup>4</sup> the United Nations Population Fund for its contribution to these activities and both organizations for the support provided to the countries of the region in implementing the Programme of Action adopted in Cairo at the International Conference on Population and Development, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

2. *Welcomes* the holding of a seminar marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre in October 2007, and expresses appreciation to the countries and the international community, in particular France and the Population Fund, for the support they provided to ensure the success of this activity;

3. *Underlines* the importance of the Brasilia Declaration adopted at the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing, expresses appreciation to the secretariat for its technical contribution to the organization of that meeting, as well as for having prepared the corresponding substantive documentation, and thanks Brazil and the Population Fund for their support for the Conference;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of improving data sources, particularly population censuses, vital statistics and specialized surveys, for the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the United Nations Second World Assembly on Ageing and the Millennium Summit, as well as the importance of developing reliable, timely and high-quality national statistical information systems for decision-making and for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and development programmes;

5. *Reaffirms* the agreements set forth in resolution 615(XXXI) adopted at the thirty-first session of the Commission, in which it calls upon the Governments that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the legal instruments of the United Nations designed to promote and protect migrants' human rights as a means of achieving full social integration, and invites the Governments that have signed these instruments to ensure their full implementation;

6. *Recommends* that the secretariat move forward with the creation of an inter-agency group, to be coordinated by the Commission, that will be responsible for follow-up of issues relating to international migration and development in the region;

7. *Requests* that the secretariat, in coordination with the organizations of the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, continue providing technical support to the countries for the application of the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and reinforce follow-up to the agreements set forth in the Brasilia Declaration, with special reference to public policy, information, research and human rights issues, and encourages the secretariat to make every effort to incorporate the regional perspective into the strategic framework for

---

<sup>4</sup> LC/G.2378(SES.32/14).

the application of the Madrid Plan of Action to be submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session in February 2009;

8. *Requests* the secretariat to provide technical advice for the convening of meetings to follow up on the Brasilia Declaration, particularly with respect to the issue of international mechanisms to protect the rights of older persons;

9. *Encourages* the secretariat to continue coordinating efforts with other international and multilateral agencies to conduct activities that will benefit member countries and, in particular, notes with satisfaction the links established with the Ibero-American Secretariat;

10. *Urges* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre, the Women and Development Unit of the Commission and the United Nations Population Fund to furnish support for the follow-up of the countries' plans of action for attaining the Millennium Development Goals, as agreed at the 2005 World Summit;

11. *Requests* that the secretariat, in coordination with the Presiding Officers of the Ad Hoc Committee and with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, continue to give priority to the following issues as viewed from a gender perspective: the status, determinants and implications of demographic trends; population dynamics, equity and poverty; ageing; indigenous and Afrodescendent populations in Latin America; international and internal migration; human resources development in the fields of demographics and of population and development; the 2010 round of population and housing censuses; and vital statistics;

12. *Invites* the secretariat to organize in 2009, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, a seminar to analyse the progress made in implementing the Programme of Action adopted in Cairo at the International Conference on Population and Development 15 years after its adoption and how it relates to the Millennium Development Goals, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health;

13. *Proposes* that the secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, study the possibility of implementing a strategy for providing training in the field of population and development and that it conduct a regional training course on demographic analysis for development beginning in 2009 which will focus on censuses in preparation for the 2010 round;

14. *Requests also* that the Ad Hoc Committee report on the activities carried out in the areas mentioned in the three preceding paragraphs at its next meeting;

15. *Recommends* that the Ad Hoc Committee analyse the subject of population, development and health, including sexual and reproductive health, at its next regular meeting in 2010, and asks the secretariat of the Ad Hoc Committee to prepare the corresponding substantive documents in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund;

16. *Further requests* the secretariat to consider the possibility of extending the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee to at least two days at future sessions of the Commission;

17. *Calls upon* the countries of the region to continue making every effort to apply the key measures outlined in the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo, and in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the accompanying Regional Strategy for its implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly

within the framework of policies for reducing social and ethnic inequalities, overcoming gender inequity and eradicating poverty, and urges the international community to increase technical and financial cooperation for the achievement of these objectives.