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

Montevideo, 25-27 October 2017

## RESOLUTION 2(II)

*At its second session, held in Montevideo from 25 to 27 October 2017, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* resolution 682(XXXV) adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in May 2014, in which the member States approved the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission, as well as resolution 2014/32 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, by virtue of which the Council endorsed the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

*Reaffirming* the commitment of the States to the complete fulfilment of human rights in the region, including the economic, social and cultural rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), and in the conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (2013), the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons (2015), the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1988), the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) and the considerations established for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017),

*Sharing* fully the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, certain of the relevance of multilateralism and convinced that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will forge a global consensus for the pursuit of a new development paradigm that will serve to strengthen peace, eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, combat inequality and protect human rights, ensuring no one is left behind,

*Recognizing* the importance of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a follow-up mechanism for the 2030 Agenda in the region and for establishing agreements on inclusive social development as a pillar of sustainable development,

*Recognizing also* the negative effects of unilateral coercive economic measures on the economic and social development of the countries subjected to such measures,

*Bearing in mind* that resolution 1(I) adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima in November 2015, urged the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to deepen the integrated analysis of the multiple dimensions of social inequality, poverty and vulnerability, as well as of the relationship between economic, production and social policies and policies on employment protection and decent work,

*Recalling* that, at their first meeting, held in Santo Domingo in November 2016, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean welcomed the analytical progress enshrined in the document *The social inequality matrix in Latin America*,<sup>1</sup> and urged the countries to deepen research and knowledge and incorporate the elements analysed in that document into the design of public policies for social development,

*Recalling also* the firm commitment expressed by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequality in all its forms, and the importance of building agreements, compacts and consensuses to consolidate the culture of equality and overcome the culture of privilege in the region,

1. *Welcomes* the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges*<sup>2</sup> prepared by the secretariat, and urges the secretariat to disseminate it broadly and to foster its discussion and analysis in the region, in particular within civil society and in the academic sphere, promoting national dialogues on the main topics addressed and taking national specificities into consideration in every case, and requests the secretariat to explore in greater depth the link between the social and productive spheres;

2. *Recognizes* that reducing the social footprint of the current development model and achieving inclusive social development are essential for sustainable development and for the fulfilment of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and require the coordination of productive inclusion and social inclusion policies, especially in the current context of change accelerated by technological innovation at the global level;

3. *Also recognizes* that the region has structural inequalities that intersect and concatenate throughout the life cycle, affecting with particular intensity children and adolescents, older persons, young people, women, indigenous peoples, the Afrodescendent population, persons with disabilities, migrants, those living in disadvantaged areas and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of treating territory as a vector for guiding the design and implementation of social policies to promote equality and inclusive social development;

5. *Reaffirms* that sustainable development cannot be achieved without equality of rights, capacities, means, outcomes and the commitment of Governments and civil society to consolidate social development and close access gaps within and between countries;

6. *Appreciates* the advances achieved by the region over the past 15 years in reducing poverty and inequality and improving citizens' living conditions, and reiterates its commitment to eradicating poverty

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<sup>1</sup> LC/G.2690(MDS.1/2).

<sup>2</sup> LC/CDS.2/3.

and inequality in all their forms and dimensions through social policies that are inclusive and difference-aware, and have a gender, ethnicity, race, intersectoral, intercultural and human- rights perspective;

7. *Observes with particular concern* the trend towards the reduction of social development budgets in the region, the possible weakening of social protection systems that this could cause and the possibility that it could impede the expansion of universal social services and the maintenance and improvement of policies and programmes aimed at ending poverty, protecting employment and promoting equality;

8. *Emphasizes*, therefore, the need to safeguard, promote and ensure the efficiency of social investment and continue working to make the tax burden more progressive, in order to consolidate the progress achieved and avoid setbacks that would carry high costs for individuals and national economies;

9. *Reaffirms* its conviction that the sustained creation of productive employment and decent work is a prerequisite for consolidating and deepening the region's progress in reducing poverty and inequality, as is guaranteeing access to quality education and health care and to universal social protection systems founded on a rights-based approach, including care policies to ensure coresponsibility between the State and society and between women and men, with an emphasis on gender, generational and human-rights approaches;

10. *Urges* the countries to generate national consensus, compacts and agreements, in accordance with their capacities and in line with their individual situations, for strengthening a culture of equality and overcoming the culture of privilege, safeguarding social investment and the role of social policies and the institutional framework in sustainable development;

11. *Undertakes* to foster the building of a regional agenda for inclusive social development based on public policies that address the region's structural inequalities and the new challenges arising from technological change and the necessary transition to an environmentally sustainable economy, with a focus based on rights, gender equality and the life cycle and an approach of universalism that is sensitive to differences, within the general framework of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

12. *Calls upon* States, as part of that agenda, to address the situation of particular inequality, discrimination and social and economic exclusion that affects children and adolescents, older persons, young people, women, indigenous peoples, the Afrodescendent population, persons with disabilities, those living in disadvantaged areas and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, together with migrants, populations affected by disasters and climate change and those displaced from their territories by conflicts;

13. *Urges* States, in the preparation and discussion of that agenda, to actively engage civil society, academia and the private sector, in line with the multi-stakeholder approach enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in accordance with their normative and institutional frameworks;

14. *Asks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to provide technical assistance for that agenda's construction within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, continuing to analyse in-depth the axes that structure social inequality in the region, promoting the guarantee of the population's social, economic and cultural rights, with particular emphasis on policies for contributory and non-contributory social protection, health and education, food security and nutrition, care, the promotion of productive employment and decent work of high quality, and the social institutional framework and financing of social policies, and fostering South-South cooperation for exchanging experiences and lessons learned among countries;

15. *Agrees* to report to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, through the Chair of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and with the support of the secretariat, on the progress made in building that agenda and on the main advances achieved in implementing the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the region;

16. *Urges* the Commission to further its analysis of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of how it interconnects with the economic and environmental dimensions, how it applies to the region's social policies and how it is to adapt to the challenges arising from changes in the world of work;

17. *Also urges* the Commission to further its analysis of the challenges related to the sustainability of the financing needed to close gaps in access to comprehensive social protection systems and universal social services;

18. *Reiterates* the request that the Commission support the countries of the region in their efforts to strengthen their social policy evaluation systems;

19. *Also reiterates* that the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is the ideal forum for combining efforts and building synergies between the different actors working on sustainable development for the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda with an approach that is centred on the social dimension and promotes South-South cooperation;

20. *Takes note* of the declaration by civil society and asks that it be included as an annex to the report;

21. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue organizing, maintaining, updating and regularly publishing, on digital platforms or other media, databases which are organized by the Commission on the basis of official data presented by the countries, including the social investment database, the database of non-contributory social protection programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, the database on youth and social inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean and the database on social institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, thereby setting up an observatory on social development to support public policymaking and assist in monitoring trends, while aiming towards the development of other thematic pillars such as food and nutrition security, policies on care and coresponsibility, gender, ethnicity and race;

22. *Decides* that the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will comprise Uruguay as Chair and Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Panama and Mexico as Vice-Chairs;

23. *Asks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to convene the second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama in 2018, jointly with the tenth Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by the United Nations Development Programme;

24. *Conveys its thanks* to the Government and people of Uruguay for the excellent organization of the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.