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

Santiago, 7-9 November 2017

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## A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

### Place and date of the meeting

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held their special meeting from 7 to 9 November 2017 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago.
2. The special meeting of the Presiding Officers was held because the host country of the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean found itself obliged to withdraw the offer to host the session, which made it necessary to alter the original intergovernmental timetable for the follow-up of the population and development agenda.

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

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries in their capacity as Presiding Officers: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay.
4. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Italy, Panama, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Portugal and Saint Kitts and Nevis.
5. The following United Nations programmes, funds and agencies were represented: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
6. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations were also represented: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
7. Also present were representatives of non-governmental organizations and other special guests.

### Chair

8. The composition of the Presiding Officers elected at the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was as follows:

Chair: Mexico

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

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<sup>1</sup> See annex 2.

## **B. AGENDA**

9. The special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference adopted the following agenda:
  1. Adoption of the agenda
  2. Reports:
    - Report by the Chair
    - Report by the secretariat
    - Report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
  3. Final report by the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.
  4. Governments' voluntary statements on national progress regarding the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and discussion on good practices and implementation difficulties.
  5. Contributions of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), including the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to regional follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
  6. Place and date of the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
  7. Other matters
  8. Consideration and adoption of agreements

## **C. PROCEEDINGS**

### **Opening session**

10. At the opening session, statements were made by Raúl García-Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Patricia Chemor, Secretary-General of the National Council for Population (CONAPO) of Mexico, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Esteban Caballero, Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

11. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis welcomed those present and said that the purpose of the special meeting was to examine national progress on implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development as well as progress in the definition of indicators for regional follow-up. He said that the rapid demographic changes unfolding in the region would pose various

challenges for some countries and pointed out some of the lags and gaps that ECLAC had identified in the region in areas such as labour exclusion and the weakening of social protection systems. Leaving no one behind would require greater commitment to agendas such as the Montevideo Consensus that helped to increase the visibility of vulnerable groups. He therefore welcomed the fact that the indicators proposed by the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development incorporated disaggregation criteria that fostered such visibility.

12. The Secretary-General of the National Council for Population (CONAPO) of Mexico, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, expressed her satisfaction with the work carried out and the progress made in the four years since the adoption of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in 2013. Reaffirming that it was only through joint, coordinated efforts that the Consensus—the region’s most important intergovernmental agreement on population and development— could be successfully implemented, she highlighted some of the areas, such as ageing and migration, which would require more work in the coming years. Lastly, she called on countries to share their experiences and enrich their national reports that would be submitted in 2018 and urged the region to continue its global leadership in the area of population and development.

13. The Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund underscored the importance of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Montevideo Consensus, which continued to spearhead the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. He said that the complementarity between work on accountability in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus and the preparation of the report on the follow-up to the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 would create a valuable platform to showcase the region’s leadership on the global multilateral scene. The sense of mission and the concerns of UNFPA were in line with those of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC, which he had always considered to be a strategically important partner. He also emphasized that the ad hoc working group had made substantial efforts to coordinate with other specific follow-up mechanisms that went beyond the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development given that the Consensus was unique how it complemented the 2030 Agenda.

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

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

#### Reports (agenda item 2)

15. The Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean reported on the activities carried out since the second session of the Regional Conference in fulfilment of the resolutions adopted on that occasion. Some of the major milestones that followed the second session include the formation of the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the organization of the special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the light of the postponement of the third session of the Regional Conference to 2018. The Chair called for continued strengthening of information-sharing and communication between the presiding officers of the various subsidiary bodies of the Commission in order to achieve synergies between the different regional conferences.

16. The Regional Adviser on Demographic Analysis of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC then presented the report by the technical secretariat on the activities carried out in support of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean since the second session. One of the main activities was support provided to the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, both in the preparation of its final report and in the development of proposed metadata for the indicators. Following the special meeting, the secretariat would also have to carry out a number of tasks to assist the Presiding Officers in the organization of the third session of the Regional Conference in 2018. He concluded with a report on the Fourth Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción, in June 2017.

17. The Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund pointed out that both the 2030 Agenda and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development called for the proper integration of economic, social and environmental issues from a population perspective. In that regard, he raised some questions, such as who lagged behind in development processes and what were the characteristics of the populations that did not have access to economic opportunities, was excluded from social policies or bore the brunt of harmful environmental impacts. He also underlined that the current UNFPA policy framework —more focused and better defined— could contribute effectively to the fulfilment of the priority measures of the Montevideo Consensus. UNFPA was actively seeking new strategic partners to mobilize the will and resources for the benefit of national programmes and policies.

Final report by the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (agenda item 3)

18. The Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC presented the final report by the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. He said that the main purpose of the report was to provide a framework of indicators to be used in the preparation of the regional report on follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus. He also said that it sought to offer countries a set of supporting indicators for drafting their national reports on follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus and to serve as a reference for other agendas—in particular, the 2030 Agenda—to facilitate and promote the synergies and complementarity in the follow-up of those instruments. He then introduced the structure and contents of the report.

19. The delegations of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Saint Kitts and Nevis expressed interest in joining the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, which was welcomed by the participants.

Governments' voluntary statements on national progress regarding the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and discussion on good practices and implementation difficulties (agenda item 4)

20. At this point in the agenda the representatives of the governments reported on the progress made at the national level in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. The following countries reported on the progress made: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Uruguay.

21. The delegations considered the importance of the respective drafting procedures for national reports. Governments highlighted progress and challenges in a number of areas, including: social inclusion and combating poverty, the importance of ensuring the human rights of all individuals, disability, universal access to sexual and reproductive health care, gender inequalities, problems affecting children, adolescents and young people, teenage pregnancy and child marriage, the rights of older persons, international migration, territorial inequality, indigenous peoples and Afrodescendent populations, eradication of child labour, strengthening the institutional framework with respect to population, labour, education and demographic data and population as a subject of development.

22. Several delegations underscored the fundamental role of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the importance of adopting best practices based on the implementation of the Consensus in countries of the region. They also stressed that it was vital to involve civil society and institutional mechanisms relating to population in the preparation of reports and that governments must be accountable with regard to the implementation of the Consensus.

23. The debates underlined the importance of the issues raised, in particular those related to education and sexuality, teenage pregnancy —especially in rural areas— and public policies aimed at indigenous peoples and older persons. In addition, participants reiterated the need to deepen and broaden civil society participation in the various forums for discussion of policies relating to population and development.

#### Panels on good practices and challenges chosen on the basis of national reports

24. During the special meeting, four panel discussions were held on good practices and challenges for the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. Each panel focused on two chapters of the Consensus.

25. Panel 1, addressing the chapters “Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of boys, girls, adolescents and youth” and “Ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges”, was moderated by Roland Pardo Saravia, Deputy Director of Social Policy of the Economic and Social Policy Analysis Unit (UDAPE) of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The panellists included Marina Pérez, Director of the Centre for the Promotion of Comprehensive Health Care for Adolescents of the Dominican Republic; Karen Najarro, Focal Point for the Multisectoral Plan for the Prevention of Unplanned Pregnancy among Adolescent Girls of Honduras; Toni-Shae Freckleton, Manager of the Population and Health Unit of the Social Policy, Planning and Research Division of the Planning Institute of Jamaica; and Juan Carlos Alfonso, Director of the Centre of Studies on Population and Development (CEPDE) of the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) of Cuba. The panel commentators were Nayeli Yoval, member of the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Alliance and Verónica Montes de Oca, President of the Latin American Population Association.

26. The Director of the Centre for the Promotion of Comprehensive Health Care for Adolescents of the Dominican Republic spoke of the situation of young people in that country, which was one of the five countries in Latin America with the highest rates of teenage pregnancy. She said that the objectives of the Centre were to provide education on comprehensive health care for adolescents to enable them to make appropriate decisions, develop programmes and strategies for comprehensive health care for adolescents and young people and to transfer skills and methodological tools to health-care professionals and institutions to promote comprehensive health for adolescents and young people with a gender-based and human-rights-based approach. Among the main lessons learned was the need to ensure the sustainability and coherence of programmes, encourage greater involvement on the part of educational institutions and include adults, not only as allies, but also as beneficiaries of those programmes.

27. The Focal Point for the Multisectoral Plan for the Prevention of Unplanned Pregnancy among Adolescent Girls of Honduras said that Honduras had the second highest teenage pregnancy rate in the region, which had a number of negative consequences for girls including dropping out of school, child-rearing responsibilities, lower employability in high-quality jobs and difficulty earning a sufficient level of income. In that context, the Multisectoral Plan was a road map that addressed a number of inequalities — including those related to sexual and reproductive health— and whose lines of action, when implemented, delivered a range of health benefits and contributed to the development of human capital and the eradication of poverty. She said that the pending challenges included the need to have timely statistical information, to ensure the sustainability of actions at community level and to expand the coverage of care.

28. The Manager of the Population and Health Unit of the Social Policy, Planning and Research Division of the Planning Institute of Jamaica said that social protection could be defined as a set of provisions for preventing, addressing and mitigating the risks of poverty and vulnerability stemming from losses or breaks in income. She added that the objective of the Population and Health Unit was to improve living standards through effective social, economic and labour policies that guaranteed income throughout lifetimes. Among the national strategies given priority were the mainstreaming of poverty and vulnerability issues in all public policies, increasing opportunities for persons living in poverty by promoting sustainable livelihoods, improving social security and the pension system, creating an enabling for persons with disabilities and establishing and maintaining an effective social protection system.

29. Lastly, the Director of the Centre of Studies on Population and Development (CEPDE) of the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) of Cuba spoke of his country's experience in dealing with ageing and its strategies for the protection and care of older persons. He said that guideline 116 of the Guidelines for the Economic and Social Policy of the Party and the Revolution for 2016-2021 aimed to implement progressively the policy for dealing with a highly ageing population and stimulating fertility with a view to nearing population-replacement level in the foreseeable future, meeting the needs of the growing population aged 60 and older and promoting the participation of older persons in economic, political and social activities as well as encouraging employment for those able to work. He pointed out that elder care had a considerable economic impact on Cuba, and its significance was such that the Government was examining State and non-State options for developing it further.

30. During the statements by commentators, the representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Alliance highlighted the importance of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development for children, adolescents and young people of the region. She said that institutional capacity for the design and implementation of public policies and for the institutional strengthening of machineries for young people was needed. She also pointed out the need to give priority to strengthening youth organization and creating mechanisms for effective participation and accountability, which would make it possible to identify the challenges and quantify the progress made and results obtained. Lastly, she said that policies should not be devised from a risk-based approach, but from a rights-based approach.

31. The President of the Latin American Population Association said that the Montevideo Consensus did not refer to old age, but to ageing, a process that affected not just older persons, but the entire population. Hence, building a society that was fair to all generations was a challenge in which the entire population must take an active part. She also placed emphasis on gender inequalities and their link to discrimination against older persons, and women in particular. She said that to address those issues, investment in education and health should be increased, as that would help to strengthen social protection. Lastly, she underscored the need to recognize all sectors of the population as bearers of rights.



32. Panel 2 on “Gender equality” and “Universal Access to sexual and reproductive health services” was moderated by María Elena Zúñiga, Representative of UNFPA in Peru. The panellists were: Ima León, Director of Health Information Systems of the Ministry of Public Health of Uruguay; Carlos Andrés Cisneros, National Undersecretary for Promotion of Health and Equality of Ecuador; Pierre Jorès Mérat, Assistant Coordinator of the National Observatory of Poverty and Social Exclusion of the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation of Haiti; and María del Pilar Garrido, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica. María Antonieta Alcalde, Advocacy Director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR) and Oriana López, member of the Consortium for Parliamentary Dialogue and Equity of Mexico, participated as commentators.

33. The Director of Health Information Systems of the Ministry of Public Health of Uruguay spoke of the advances and challenges relating to public policy on sexual and reproductive health in her country. She mentioned the regulations, laws and programmes implemented, particularly with regard to contraception, and said that priority had been given to a multisectoral approach for preventing teenage pregnancy. She underscored the fact that the promulgation of a law on the voluntary termination of pregnancy in 2012 had not led to a significant increase in the number of abortions. There had been a decline in maternal mortality in absolute and relative terms. Lastly, she said that the Assisted Human Reproduction Act was adopted in 2013.

34. The National Undersecretary for Promotion of Health and Equality of Ecuador presented that country’s national plan on sexual and reproductive health for 2017-2022 and highlighted the challenges relating to maternal and newborn mortality, unwanted fertility, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence and reproductive cancers, among others. He drew attention to the dollar cost of the lack of prevention of unwanted pregnancies and said that the normative framework of the plan addressed the issue in a comprehensive manner and complemented the previous plan. He also spoke of the objectives and purposes of the plan, as well as its strategic guidelines, performance indicators, management model and lines of action. Lastly, he illustrated how the plan was adapted to different life cycles and aligned with the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

35. The Assistant Coordinator of the National Observatory of Poverty and Social Exclusion of the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation of Haiti focused on the progress, delays and outlook in gender-related issues in that country. Among the advances mentioned was the mandatory provision of sexual and reproductive health care in public and private health institutions since 2013. He also said that a draft civil code decriminalizing abortion, penned in collaboration with civil society, had been submitted to parliament. While social indicators were illustrating a trend towards greater gender parity, he recognized that there still remained sexist stereotypes in schools, a high maternal mortality rate, limited access to contraception and a need for reform to guarantee a more inclusive health system.

36. The Deputy Minister of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica spoke of that country’s National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity 2007-2017. In addition to outlining the scope of the policy and the progress made in terms of institutional structure, she highlighted major achievements such as the law establishing the National Network for Child Care and Development, the reform of the labour code to improve the conditions of female domestic workers, the conduct of time-use surveys, the expansion of programmes for education on sexuality and emotional health, the creation of a platform to provide care for victims of gender-based violence and the reform of the Electoral Code, which provides for parity and alternation by sex in party lists. Lastly, she outlined the challenges faced with regard to the equality policy for 2018-2030, which was currently being drafted.

37. During the statements by commentators, the Advocacy Director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR) spoke of the links between universal access to sexual and reproductive health and development, underlining the leadership of countries such as Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay. She also mentioned the need for comprehensive prevention policies and for expanding the range of long-acting contraceptives and emergency contraception as well as access to those methods. In addition, she highlighted the gaps and inequalities that persisted in the region and the importance of the Montevideo Consensus in the regional context; hence the need for a comprehensive but differentiated approach. Regarding unwanted pregnancies, she urged countries—in particular, those where abortion was completely criminalized—to revise their legislation and, in general, to establish mechanisms for accountability towards civil society.

38. The representative of the Consortium for Parliamentary Dialogue and Equity of Mexico spoke of gender-based violence, and femicide in particular, and how to prevent them. She said that there was a vital need for sexual and reproductive health education and for mainstreaming gender equality in the media. Lastly, she said that distortion of information could lead to misconceptions about gender equity and equality, which could influence decision makers and, in turn, affect women's right to autonomy.

39. Panel 3 on “International migration and protection of the human rights of all migrants” and “Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability” was moderated by Rawle Lucas, Executive Director of the Department of Global Economic Cooperation, Trade and Investment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana. The panellists were Liduvina Magarín, Vice-Minister for Salvadorans Living Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador; Dalia Gabriela García, National Coordinator of the “Somos Mexicanos” strategy of the National Institute for Migration in Mexico; Pedro Hernández, Deputy Director for International Migration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile; and Jorge Ángel, representative of the National Planning Department (DNP) of Colombia. Luis Jaime Sobrino, Director of the Centre for Population, Urban and Environmental Studies (CEDUA) of The College of Mexico and Gabriela Liguori, Coordinator of the Argentine Commission for Refugees and Migrants (CAREF), were the commentators.

40. The Vice-Minister for Salvadorans Living Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, speaking of the experience of her country in the provision of care to migrant women and children, said that work had been done to strengthen three areas: the regulatory framework, the policy framework and the support given to Salvadorans living abroad. Other significant initiatives included the implementation of a comprehensive programme for the insertion of returning Salvadorans, the establishment of a centre for returning children and adolescents, the adoption of the special law against human trafficking, the establishment of the office for assistance to migrants, coordination of inter-agency efforts via the Centre for Comprehensive Assistance to Migrants and the elaboration of prevention strategies with regard to the migration of children and adolescents.

41. In her statement, the National Coordinator of the “Somos Mexicanos” strategy of the National Institute for Migration in Mexico described the changes in that country's migration policy and its approach to return migration. She then illustrated that approach with the “Somos Mexicanos” strategy, through which new local arrangements were negotiated to ensure dignified, safe and orderly repatriation and reduce the situations that were conducive to infringement of the rights of migrants. Considerable effort had been put into creating inter-agency linkages to facilitate the local arrangements for repatriation. This allowed for personalized and case-by-case treatment, made possible by directing migrants to the right channels, providing support and guidance and establishing the necessary linkages for the support networks. Lastly, she said that Mexico was one of the destination countries where such policies were most needed.

42. The Deputy Director for International Migration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile presented an overview of international, regional and national migration. International migration was consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and the proposals made by Chile in regional, biregional and international forums. Describing the national migration policy in Chile, he underscored the overhaul of Chilean legislation on migration and various initiatives carried out at government level. He stated that migration offered opportunities for migrants and their countries of origin, but at the same time, posed significant challenges with regard to the protection of the human rights of migrants. He also said that the migrant, as a subject of law, was at the forefront of national and international decisions with regard to migration policy.

43. The representative of the National Planning Department of Colombia said that territorial planning was a cornerstone of sustainable development and harmony in that country. He described the national context relating to territorial inequalities, spatial mobility and vulnerability and said that the modern land management plans implemented by the Government of Colombia could be seen as instruments for the promotion of safe territories that ensure territorial equality and spatial mobility. Some of the remaining challenges were the displacement of people due to armed conflicts, the need to update sociodemographic data by means of a new census and ensuring equal opportunities for all.

44. During the statements by commentators, the Director of the Centre for Population, Urban and Environmental Studies (CEDUA) of The College of Mexico highlighted the links between the issues raised and the Sustainable Development Goals. He also said that mobility must be recognized as a human right, and not merely as an opportunity to fight against inequality and exclusion. He therefore urged institutions to guarantee universal access to the means and methods of ensuring mobility. He further recalled the risk that climate change posed to populations and stated that prevention was an effective way of anticipating the potential problems it could cause.

45. The Coordinator of the Argentine Commission for Refugees and Migrants (CAREF) said that countries' good practices had come out of their own bad practices which had been based on restrictionist logic centred around the expulsion and deportation of immigrants. She spoke of the difficulty of addressing the issue through public policy, especially in the Northern Triangle countries of Central America and for persons of diverse gender identities. She underscored the importance of proposals from civil society, which she linked with the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Lastly, she said that access to comprehensive justice, due process, equality of conditions between immigrants and nationals and the regularization of migration were key pillars that must be guaranteed by governments.

46. Panel 4 on "Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights" and "Afrodescendants: rights and combating racial discrimination" was moderated by Fabiana Del Popolo, Population Affairs Officer of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC. The panellists were: Juvenal Araújo, Special Secretary for the Promotion of Racial Equality Policies in the Ministry of Human Rights of Brazil; Alma Lucrecia Corzantes, Ethnic and Gender Equity Director of the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President of Guatemala; Ana María Choquehuanca, Minister for Women's Affairs and Vulnerable Populations of Peru; and Néstor Cegarra, General Manager of Demographic Statistics of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The commentators were Otilia Lux, representative of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and Vicenta Camusso, Coordinator of the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women.

47. The Special Secretary for the Promotion of Racial Equality Policies in the Ministry of Human Rights of Brazil spoke of the actions of the National Secretariat for Policies to Promote Racial Equality (SEPPIR), whose main objectives included promoting racial equality and combating racism, encouraging the development of public policies in favour of traditional peoples and communities, encouraging the development of public policies for affirmative action and managing the National System for the Promotion of Racial Equality. He also highlighted some progress in the promotion of racial equality in Brazil, such as the establishment of the above-mentioned Secretariat, the National Council for the Promotion of Racial Equality and the National Policy for the Promotion of Racial Equality, the aim of which was to reduce racial inequalities through the defence of rights, affirmative action and the linking together of gender and race.

48. The Ethnic and Gender Equity Director of the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President of Guatemala spoke of indigenous peoples in the framework of national development. With regard to the remaining challenges in the area of inequality, she said that 6 out of every 10 children dying before the age of 5 were indigenous, only 45.7% of women of working age —compared to 87.6% of men— were in the economically active population, 12.7% of the indigenous population had access to formal employment, compared to 34% of the non-indigenous population, and poverty affected indigenous populations and non-indigenous populations differently. She then described the National Development Plan “K’atun, Nuestra Guatemala 2032”, which had been drafted with the participation of all sectors of society, including representatives of the Maya, Garifuna and Xinka peoples, and aimed to address the structural impediments to development.

49. The Minister for Women’s Affairs and Vulnerable Populations of Peru said that her country was extremely diverse, ranking among the 10 most ecologically diverse countries in the world not only because of its many species and ecosystems, but also because of its anthropological diversity that had shaped its multicultural identity. To build a democratic and participatory society, cultural diversity must be valued and interculturality must be affirmed as a central focus of the State’s work. She highlighted the need to improve the information used to characterize the indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples of Peru, who were notoriously disadvantaged compared to the rest of the population in terms of poverty and other social indicators. It was vital to have data on gender gaps, which added to those related to territorial and cultural issues. Lastly, she said that the State was committed to guaranteeing the full realization of the rights of indigenous and Afro-Peruvian peoples.

50. The General Manager of Demographic Statistics of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that the Government recognized and protected the existence of indigenous peoples and communities as first peoples, guaranteeing their rights under the Constitution, international treaties, pacts and covenants and other universally accepted instruments and the laws of the Bolivarian Republic. He pointed to progress made in the implementation of programmes for indigenous communities, including the plans for community training, bilingual intercultural education and the preservation of the traditional, ancestral and artisanal knowledge of indigenous peoples in their habitat to consolidate their identity and cultural sovereignty. With respect to the Afrodescendent population, the Presidential Commission for the Prevention and Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination and other Distinctions in the Venezuelan Education System, the National Institute against Racial Discrimination and the National Development Council for Afro-descendent Communities of Venezuela had been established.

51. During the statements by commentators, the representative of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean underscored that there were structural issues such as patriarchy, racism and corruption that must first be addressed in order to establish international, regional and national agreements. To that end, she stressed that it was essential to engage in the prior, free, informed and transparent consultation of indigenous peoples to ensure full and effective participation. Furthermore,

considering well-being from a rights-based approach, she said that extractive industries should not act without taking into consideration the well-being of indigenous peoples. Lastly, she expressed concern with regard to the high mortality of indigenous children under the age of 5, one of the causes of which was the contamination of the water supply.

52. The Coordinator of the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women cautioned that two years into the International Decade for People of African Descent, there had yet to be genuine dialogue between the instances responsible for and activities relating to the Decade and the Montevideo Consensus. She pointed out that compared to other peoples, Afrodescendent peoples of all countries were more affected by poverty, poor territorial conditions and lack of access to quality education and health services. Despite advances in some areas, there was much progress to be made; this could be achieved, for example, by including people of African descent in censuses and recognizing the diversity of Afrodescendent migrants in the region, who were living in abject poverty. Lastly, she called for the recognition and guarantee of the place that Afrodescendants should have as citizens in the countries of the region.

53. The round table on the institutional framework in relation to the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean was moderated by Ana Peña, Director of Social Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru. The panellists were: Laura Calvelo, Coordinator of the National Population Directorate of Argentina; Juan Carlos Alfonso, Director of the Centre of Studies on Population and Development (CEPDE) of the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) of Cuba; Julio Robles Ticas, Vice-Minister of Health of El Salvador; Abraham Rojas, General Director for Population Programmes and International Affairs of the National Council for Population (CONAPO) of Mexico; and Ximena Clark, Director of the National Statistical Institute (INE) of Chile.

54. The Coordinator of the National Population Directorate of Argentina spoke of the institutional progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus in her country, highlighting the inter-agency synergies being encouraged by the National Population Directorate. She said that the Directorate had been working in coordination with the National Registry since 2012 and had recently relaunched the Federal Population Council, enabling interaction with a number of national and provincial bodies. The convening of an inter-agency committee for review and follow-up of the national report, the strengthening of the feedback with civil society and the systematized production of monitoring indicators were some of the pending tasks in the implementation of the Consensus.

55. The Director of the Centre of Studies on Population and Development of the National Office of Statistics and Information of Cuba reported on the institutional framework and implementation of the Montevideo Consensus in Cuba and explained how, by virtue of its institutional structure, the country's social and economic model gave priority to the issues of population and development. He underlined the importance of the Consensus —as well as its cross-cutting nature and capacity to integrate several subjects— and said that it was consistent with the enhancement of Cuban policies. The report was being submitted for consideration by Cuban authorities and would be ready for submission to the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2018. Lastly, he emphasized the importance of the national statistical system in the monitoring of indicators of the Montevideo Consensus.

56. The Vice-Minister of Health of El Salvador described the drafting process of the national report on progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, which had been highly participatory in nature. He said that report was the product of the country's first attempt to put into effect the ideas contained in the Consensus and took into account the existing relationship between public policies and the implementation practices related to the intended measures for operationalization. He also said that the

preparation of the report had provided an overview of the legal instruments, public policies, programmes and actions the country had put in place since 2009 with a view to increasing social investment in sectors that had long been excluded or discriminated against.

57. The General Director for Population Programmes and International Affairs of the National Council for Population (CONAPO) of Mexico spoke of the institutions involved in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus in Mexico and gave an outline of the relevant laws, regulations and programmes implemented. He also described the structure of CONAPO and the characteristics and principles that governed the country's population policy. He then explained the national mechanism established for implementation of the Consensus, its makeup and the activities carried out to date, which included meetings with the Specialized Technical Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals, civil society and other organizations. Lastly, he referred to the challenges related to narrowing structural gaps, mainly with regard to rural-urban, indigenous and Afro-Mexican populations.

58. The Director of the National Statistical Institute (INE) of Chile spoke of the work and organization of the national coordinating committee for the Montevideo Consensus, for which the Ministry of Health was the focal point. She said that more than 250 civil society organizations participated through the civil society councils, which were advisory and non-binding. Chile did not currently have a formal institutional framework on population and development and the National Statistical Institute played a vital role in strengthening sources of information as part of the implementation of the Consensus and Sustainable Development Goal indicators. She also recalled that the Institute had been participating actively in the process since the establishment of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee.

Contributions of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), including the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to regional follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 5)

59. The representatives of the technical secretariats of some of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development reported on their respective contributions to regional follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, identifying synergies and complementarities with the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The speakers were: María Nieves Rico, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC; Rodrigo Martínez, Senior Social Affairs Officer of the Social Development Division of ECLAC; Daniel Taccari, Statistician in the Statistics Division of ECLAC; and Luis F. Yáñez, Officer in Charge of the Office of the Secretary of ECLAC.

60. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC analysed the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from the perspective of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. She outlined the four structural challenges to the achievement of gender equality in the region: (i) socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty in the framework of exclusionary growth; (ii) discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege; (iii) the sexual division of labour and the unfair social organization of care; and (iv) the concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere. In that regard, she noted that the Regional Gender Agenda was the guide for achieving sustainable development from a perspective of gender-equality and women's rights and empowerment and that the Montevideo Strategy was the tool for the comprehensive implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda.

61. The Senior Social Affairs Officer of the Social Development Division of ECLAC spoke of the gaps, pillars and challenges in linkages between the social and production spheres in the presentation of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. As noted in resolution 2(II), adopted at the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in October 2017, the region exhibited structural inequalities that intersected and accumulated throughout the life cycle and affected children, adolescents, older persons, young people, indigenous peoples, Afrodescendent populations and migrants. He also underlined the importance of overcoming the social impact of the current development model in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and called on participants to build consensus and conclude national agreements to strengthen the culture of equality and break from the culture of privilege. Lastly, he expressed the commitment of the Conference to advancing the definition of a regional agenda for inclusive social development.

62. The Statistician in the Statistics Division of ECLAC spoke of the contribution of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to the regional follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Together with the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, established by that Conference, the objective was to coordinate the preparation of a regional framework of indicators and build the relevant capacity for the follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Statistical Coordination Group carried out its activities in line with the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the activities and decisions of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity- Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Some of its actions had included the preparation of an inventory of national capacities for producing the indicators proposed in the Sustainable Development Goals and of the draft proposals for a regional framework of indicators for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be carried out by ECLAC in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Conference.

63. The Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission reported on the outcome of the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development held in Mexico City, from 26 to 28 April 2017. He said that the Forum was a platform linking international and national action to enhance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promote regional priorities. In that regard, the Forum was not only the regional mechanism for follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, but also a space for debate on regional priorities and challenges and peer learning. As such, it provided fundamental input for the high-level political forum on sustainable development and was led by States. It also enabled the integration of the 2030 Agenda in the work plans of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, guaranteeing comprehensive support to Member States in the implementation of the Agenda. He added that the second meeting of the Forum was scheduled for April 2018.

Place and date of the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 6)

64. The Presiding Officers agreed that the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean would be held in Peru in the third quarter of 2018.

Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item 8)

65. The text of the agreements, as set forth in annex 1, was then submitted for adoption by the governments, and was adopted by all representatives in attendance.

### **Closing session**

66. The Secretary-General of the National Council for Population (CONAPO) of Mexico and Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean closed the meeting and thanked the participating delegations for their work over the three days, expressing particular praise for the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. She underscored that the main objective of the Regional Conference on Population and Development was to work for the people and called on civil society to continue supporting and guiding the public policy efforts of the region's governments to make the Montevideo Consensus a reality. She wished the Government of Peru success in the organization of the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in that country in 2018.

67. The Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNFPA welcomed the perseverance of the de la Presiding Officers in its work relating to the Montevideo Consensus, thanks to which there was finally a clear path forward, as it was those instruments with a historical trajectory that could transform wills, policies and actions. It was not only an occasion to engage in dialogue and formulate technical definitions, but also represented a very important community of practice, whose narrative was under siege and had to be strengthened. Although the tone used by international organizations, governments and civil society in that narrative differed, it was essential to continue working in a coordinated manner and to compile the initiatives and good practices that were being implemented in different countries. In conclusion, he commended the Chair of the Presiding Officers and congratulated Peru on its selection as host for the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development.

68. The Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC expressed satisfaction that the meeting had helped to shed light on the methodologies that countries were using to prepare their national reports, as well as to enrich those reports and examine some of the results obtained, which would facilitate the preparation of the regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus by the Secretariat. He emphasized that one of the most significant contributions of the Consensus was the confluence of intergenerational, gender and ethnic perspectives, which enriched the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean. He stated that, despite the differences in national progress reported by governments, there was a common challenge to reduce all forms of inequality. Lastly, he paid tribute to one of the leading demographers in Latin America and the Caribbean, Juan Chackiel, who had passed that year.



## Annex 1

**AGREEMENTS**

*The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* resolution 1(II), adopted at the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City, from 6 to 9 October 2015, in which member States welcomed the kind offer of El Salvador to host the third session of the Conference,

*Bearing in mind* that the special meeting of the Presiding Officers was held because the host country found itself obliged to withdraw the offer to host the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, accordingly the original intergovernmental timetable for the follow-up of the population and development agenda had to be adjusted,

1. *Renew* the countries' commitment to implementing and monitoring the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and its operational guide,<sup>1</sup> and recognize the contribution of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to the global follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014;

2. *Recognize* the contribution of national and regional monitoring of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and its operational guide<sup>2</sup> to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in accordance with resolution 700(XXXVI), adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-sixth session;

3. *Welcome* the offer of Peru to host the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in the third quarter of 2018, to monitor the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development;

4. *Acknowledge* the efforts of the member countries of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular Mexico in its capacity as Chair, and extend the mandate of Mexico until the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development;

5. *Recognize* the positive progress made by the countries of the region in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and its operational guide,<sup>3</sup> as well as the progress made in the preparation of voluntary national reports to be presented at the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2018;

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<sup>1</sup> *Operational guide for implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (LC/L.4061(CRPD.2/3)/Rev.1).*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Operational guide for implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (LC/L.4061(CRPD.2/3)/Rev.1).*

6. *Agree* that the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development will consider the draft first regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, which will be a regional contribution to the global review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 to be undertaken in 2019 at the fifty-second session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development;

7. *Urge* the countries to make every effort to send inclusive, diverse and pluralistic official delegations to the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, including insofar as possible, representatives from ministries and national offices engaged with the population and development agenda, as well as representatives of civil society organizations and academia involved in the process of implementing the Montevideo Consensus;

8. *Express appreciation* for the work carried out by the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and endorse the document entitled “Final report of the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development”<sup>4</sup> presented at the special meeting of the Presiding Officers;

9. *Extend* the mandate of the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development until the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, so that it can complete pending tasks related to the definition of metadata for the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, including creating, when necessary, working subgroups to undertake more extensive work and, where appropriate, in conjunction with the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

10. *Invite* the countries to assess the feasibility of measuring the proposed indicators on the basis of available statistical information, in accordance with the tier classification for the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/313;<sup>5</sup>

11. *Recommend* that the countries use, where possible and in line with their national priorities and realities, the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development proposed by the ad hoc working group, contained in the document entitled “Final report of the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development”,<sup>6</sup> when preparing the voluntary national reports that will be presented at the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in 2018, and that they encourage the generation of the data sources needed for the follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus;

12. *Agree* that the countries that decide to submit their national progress reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development do so before 31 March 2018, so that the reports can be taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft first regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development;

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<sup>4</sup> LC/MDP-E/3.

<sup>5</sup> “Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (A/RES/71/313), 6 July 2017.

<sup>6</sup> LC/MDP-E/3.

13. *Request* the secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, to prepare the draft first regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, based on the national progress reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development submitted by the countries and taking into account the report of the special meeting of the Presiding Officers and the list of indicators contained in the document entitled “Final report of the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development”,<sup>7</sup> endorsed at the special meeting of the Presiding Officers;

14. *Also request* the secretariat to develop, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund and in coordination with the Presiding Officers of the Conference, a virtual platform to contribute to the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development on the basis of, among other things, systematic national reports and calculations of the agreed indicators reported by the countries, to be presented at the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2018;

15. *Commend* the participation of civil society organizations and academia in and their contributions to the special meeting of the Presiding Officers, as well as their commitment to the dissemination, implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and its operational guide;<sup>8</sup>

16. *Thank* the United Nations Population Fund for its cooperation on national and regional activities to implement and monitor the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and its operational guide<sup>9</sup> and to share experiences and good practices, and express hope that this cooperation will be stepped up in preparation for the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

17. *Also thank* the secretariat for the support provided to the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in organizing the special meeting and preparing the documentation.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> *Operational guide for implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development* (LC/L.4061(CRPD.2/3)/Rev.1).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

Annex 2

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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