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**REPORT OF THE ECLAC SUBSIDIARY BODIES TO THE FORUM OF THE
COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
MAY 2017 TO APRIL 2018**



INTRODUCTION

The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, established pursuant to resolution 700(XXXVI) adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), is the regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and its means of implementation, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4(a) of resolution 700(XXXVI), the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC¹ hereby present the report on relevant contributions made by those bodies to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level.

At 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, the reports were delivered in person by the Chairs of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Committee on South-South Cooperation.

Just a few months after the Forum and at the close of the present report, three meetings of regional conferences and four meetings of presiding officers of subsidiary bodies had been held. The present report has therefore been prepared in compliance with the mandate provided in resolution 700(XXXVI).

A. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF ECLAC

1. The Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)

The sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES was held in Lima on 12 October 2017. At that meeting the Council reflected on planning as a means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and on capitalizing on the 2030 Agenda to reassess planning. It was emphasized that faster and more relevant progress must be made with regard to strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (SDG 17).

¹ Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the resolutions adopted, the Regional Council:

- “Acknowledges the importance of public policy consistency for improving the processes and instruments of planning for development and making this a recognized means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”, and “requests the Institute to continue to pursue applied research, technical cooperation, advisory work and training related to the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in planning for development” (paragraph 2 of resolution CRP/XVI/01).
- Requests the Institute to “continue its efforts to strengthen planning in Latin America and the Caribbean”, by “consolidating the Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean [...], especially in relation to strategies for implementation and regional follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and “capacity-building in development planning and, in particular, in linking national development plans with the 2030 Agenda, as well as continued technical assistance and the systematization of good practices [...]” (paragraph 4 of resolution CRP/XVI/01).
- Also requests “the generation of a regional strategy for linking the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development with national planning processes” (paragraph 4 of resolution CRP/XVI/01).

See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Report of the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), Lima, 12 October 2017* (LC/CRP.16/6) [online] https://crp-ilpes.cepal.org/16/sites/crpilpes16/files/18-00118_crp.16_report.pdf.

2. Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Montevideo from 25 to 27 October 2017. It was stressed that social inclusion was a core aspect of development and consistent with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, especially as it relates to reducing poverty.

ECLAC presented the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges*² and it was emphasized that regional and global agendas had to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—for which there was a need to implement structural transformations in the social, economic and environmental spheres—as that would lead to more sustainable and efficient use of resources. There was also a need to achieve vertical and horizontal integration and take advantage of available information to monitor and define strategies around the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, regional cooperation was critical to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

With regard to commitments pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in resolution 2(II), the Conference:

- “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” (paragraph 2).

² LC/CDS.2/3.

- “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” (paragraph 11).
- “Calls upon 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” (paragraph 13).
- “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” (paragraph 14).
- “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” (paragraph 19).

See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Report of the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Montevideo, 25-27 October 2017*(LC/CDS.2/4/Rev.1) [online] https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43231/S1800140_en.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y.

3. Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 14 to 16 November 2017. At that meeting, the Conference discussed its activities with regard to the follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The discussions focused on activities carried out at the global level by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean was established at the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee in June 2016 and comprises the countries representing Latin America and the Caribbean in the aforementioned global groups.

During the Conference, the secretariat presented the document *Proposal on a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean*,³ which the member countries welcomed and would continue to review at the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference in 2018. There were also discussions on the guidelines for the establishment of a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. The meeting underscored the regional consensus that the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was the appropriate intergovernmental body to create the regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and also highlighted the need for the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean to continue its work and to report on progress to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

The countries' commitment towards complying with the 2030 Agenda is reflected in resolution 10(IX), which:

- “Calls upon the States members of the Conference to take concrete steps at the national level to establish coordination mechanisms and technical procedures concerning the integrated management of statistical and geospatial information, within the framework of the operation of national geospatial data infrastructures, to make it possible to meet the territorial disaggregation requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as those of future population and housing censuses and other statistical operations” (paragraph 4).
- Conveys “thanks for the work carried out by the member countries of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and urges them to continue to represent the region in the process of defining and applying the global monitoring framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data” (paragraph 7).
- “Acknowledges the work done by the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean in assessing national statistical capacities for producing the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and asks that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development be notified of the relevant updates through the secretariat of the Commission” (paragraph 9).
- “Highlights the importance of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as the appropriate intergovernmental body to create the regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean and to channel cooperation activities for strengthening the statistical capacities of the region's countries for the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in the region” (paragraph 10).
- “Notes with interest the document *Proposal on a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean* presented by the secretariat, and requests that the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda, with the support of the secretariat, review the document in depth and propose, at the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference, a framework of indicators for regional monitoring of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking

³ LC/CEA.9/4.

into account the situations, emphases and shared challenges of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, in keeping with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 71/313” (paragraph 11).

- “Urges the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda to continue coordinating its activities with 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 that was established by the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean at its second session” (paragraph 12).
- “Encourages collaboration between the regional and subregional statistical agencies and the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda and its technical secretariat in the collective preparation of the regional indicator framework for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, through the mechanisms defined by this Conference” (paragraph 13).
- “Takes note of the offer by Mexico to make its platform for online dissemination of Sustainable Development Goal indicators available to interested countries, in open code to facilitate its adaptation to national characteristics” (paragraph 14).

See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Report of the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Aguascalientes, Mexico, 14-16 November 2017* (LC/CEA.9/7) [online] https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43367/S1800188_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

4. Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held two meetings (the fifty-fifth meeting, in Santiago, on 25-26 May 2017; and the fifty-sixth meeting, in Havana, on 5-6 October 2017).

At the fifty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, participating countries reported on the application of the Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, with a focus on women’s economic autonomy. With regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Presiding Officers agreed to:

- “Commend the efforts made by the countries of the region to apply the Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 through its implementation pillars and congratulate those that, at this meeting, have voluntarily reported on their progress in the implementation and adaptation of the Strategy to their national situation” (agreement 4).
- “Reaffirm the commitment to mainstream the gender perspective and women’s autonomy and rights, in line with the Regional Gender Agenda and the Montevideo Strategy, into all the Sustainable Development Goals, their targets, indicators and means of implementation, in order to take advantage of this window of opportunity for institutional strengthening of machineries for the advancement of women” (agreement 7).

The fifty-sixth meeting focused on sustainable development and the contribution of the Regional Conference on Women to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is reflected in three of the agreements adopted on that occasion, in which the Presiding Officers:

- “Reaffirm the commitment to formulate State plans and policies for gender equality linked to national sustainable development strategies, in accordance with the agreements included in the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, in order to ensure the mainstreaming of the gender perspective and women’s autonomies and rights in public policies” (agreement 5).
- Also reaffirm “the commitment to strengthen the capacities of the machineries for the advancement of women to enter into dialogue and ensure coordination with different government bodies, in particular with ministries of the economy, with a view to mainstreaming the gender perspective in economic policies and budgets, and with ministries of foreign affairs in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (agreement 9).
- “Request the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in the framework of the meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to compile a progress report on mainstreaming the gender perspective in the Sustainable Development Goals and the achievement of Goal 5 —achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls— as part of the regional follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to include the Goals’ indicators in the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean” (agreement 11).

See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Report of the fifty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, 25-26 May 2017* (LC/MDM.55/4) [online] http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/42120/S1700853_en.pdf, and ECLAC, *Report of the fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Havana, 5-6 October 2017* (LC/MDM.56/3) [online] https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43300/S1800143_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

5. Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

The eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee was held in Port of Spain on 19 May 2017. During the meeting, a report on the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was presented. The presentation was followed by a debate in which the participating countries discussed the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals and the situation in small island developing States (SIDS) and the prevention of tax evasion, stressing the need to engage the offshore financial sector in the implementation of the Goals in the Caribbean subregion.

See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Report of the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee* (LC/CAR/2017/5) [online] http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/41995/LCCAR2017_5_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

6. Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago from 7 to 9 November 2017. It was noted at the meeting that the 2030 Agenda and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and its operational guide⁴ called for the proper integration of economic, social and environmental issues from a population perspective.

The agreements adopted at the meeting recognize the contribution of national and regional monitoring of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and its operational guide⁵ to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in accordance with resolution 700(XXXVI), adopted by ECLAC at its thirty-sixth session.

The Presiding Officers also adopted the following agreements, relating specifically to indicators:

- To “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” (agreement 9).
- To “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”⁶ (agreement 10).

See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *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* (LC/MDP-E/4) [online] https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43290/S1800133_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

B. INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

1. Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Asunción, from 27 to 30 June 2017.

⁴ *Operational guide for implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development* (LC/L.4061(CRPD.2/3)/Rev.1).

⁵ Ibid.

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

At that Conference, ECLAC presented the document *Challenges to the autonomy and interdependent rights of older persons*.⁷ The round table entitled “Contribution of institutions for older persons to the protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was also held. During the discussion, it was noted that the 2030 Agenda contained minimum standards that States Members of the United Nations must observe to ensure that no one was left behind, particularly vulnerable people, including older persons. However, the 2030 Agenda seemed to place less emphasis on older people than on other vulnerable groups.

The Conference called on ECLAC to show leadership in ensuring that older people were included in the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Goals. It was unjustifiable that only three Sustainable Development Goals referred to older persons, specifically target 2.2 to end all forms of malnutrition and address the nutritional needs of older persons, under Goal 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and targets 11.2, to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to needs of older persons, and 11.7, to provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular older persons, both under Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable). Nevertheless, there was an opportunity to include older people in the follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals by implementing target 17.18, to enhance capacity-building support to developing countries to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by age, among other characteristics relevant to national contexts. The theme of the 2030 Agenda, “leave no one behind”, also meant identifying groups and people who were vulnerable and discriminated against, including older persons.

In the Asunción Declaration, which reflects three issues related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in keeping with the needs of the elderly population, representatives:

- “Urge the Governments to build the issue of ageing into their development policies, plans and programmes in a cross-cutting manner, and to implement specific policies for older persons that recognize gender inequalities and promote their autonomy and independence, as well as intergenerational solidarity, bearing in mind that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a historical opportunity for the international community to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and considering the worrying incidence of poverty among older persons in the region, especially those in the most vulnerable situations” (paragraph 5).
- “Encourage the Governments of the region to consider the situation and interests of older persons, including also the ethnicity, race, gender, disability and generational perspectives, in the design and implementation of national plans and programmes to promote achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030” (paragraph 12).
- “Call upon all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach to improving the well-being of older persons” (paragraph 14).

See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Report of the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asunción, 27-30 June 2017* (LC/CRE.4/4) [online] https://conferenciaenvejecimiento.cepal.org/4/sites/envejecimiento4/files/17-00920_cre-4_report.pdf.

⁷ LC/CRE.4/3.