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

XI Ministerial Forum for Development
in Latin America and the Caribbean
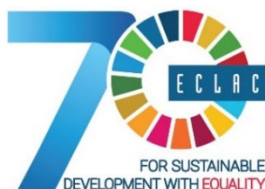
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Mexico City, 1–3 October 2019

PROPOSED REGIONAL AGENDA FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: LINKAGES WITH EXISTING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITMENTS AT THE REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL LEVELS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

UNITED NATIONS

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CONTENTS

The regional agenda for inclusive social development aims to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in areas that are under the mandate of ministries of social development and equivalent entities. This instrument is based, first, on the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that are directly or indirectly linked to the social dimension, and second, on the main population groups, themes and means of implementation addressed in the social development commitments at the regional and subregional levels made at the intergovernmental forums attended by representatives of ministries of social development or equivalent entities (see diagram 1). The regional agenda for inclusive social development also incorporates specific themes that are crucial to inclusive development in the region, but have not been included in the above-mentioned instruments. This document sheds light on these linkages.

Diagram 1
Linkages between the regional agenda for inclusive social development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and agreements on social development

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The analysis of the linkages between the regional agenda for inclusive social development and social development commitments at the regional and subregional levels is based on the documents deriving from various intergovernmental forums held between 2010 and 2018, in which ministries of social development or equivalent entities participated, and from forums relating to social protection and social and labour inclusion which are considered important to the work of these ministries, although they may not have participated in these events (see table 1). A total of 996 commitments and considerations were analysed.

Table 1
Organizations and meetings considered in the analysis[a]

Organization	Meeting
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
	Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
	Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
	Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

Organization	Meeting
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	South American Conference on Migration
International Labour Organization (ILO)[b]	American Regional Meeting
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Forum of Ministers of Social Development of Latin America
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Andean Community (CAN)	Andean Council of Social Development Ministers
Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)	Meeting of Social Development Ministers and Authorities of MERCOSUR and Associated States
Organization of American States (OAS)	Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development
International Youth Organization for Ibero-America (OIJ)	Ibero-American Conference of Youth Ministers
Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)	Ibero-American Conference of Ministers of Labour, Employment and Social Security
Central American Integration System (SICA)	Central American Council for Social Integration
Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)	South American Council on Social Development

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
[a] For more details, see [online, in Spanish] http://dds-d.cepal.org/compromisos/index.php.
[b] With regard to ILO, in addition to the agreements analysed for this document relating to the American Regional Meeting (2010 and 2014), several conventions are linked to the lines of action of the regional agenda for inclusive social development, even when they were not examined specifically in this instance.

The analysis of the linkages between the regional and subregional agreements and the regional agenda for inclusive social development is based on each axis of the agenda and each individual agreement reached in the forums mentioned. The linkages for each axis proposed for the regional agenda for inclusive social development are detailed as follows.

Axis 1-Universal and comprehensive social protection systems

The multiple agreements reached at different forums, meetings, councils and other similar events in which ministries of social development participated between 2010 and 2018, reflect the importance given to social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean. Agreements have been made in different areas that cover various dimensions of social protection:

(i)   Guaranteeing access to social protection.

(ii)   Recognition of care as a right.

(iii)   Importance of implementing universal and comprehensive social protection systems.

(iv)   Main benefits or elements that should be covered by the social protection system —access to social services and pension systems.

(v)   Population groups that should be targeted by social protection programmes.

(vi)   Institutional framework.

(vii)   Cooperation.

The first element to emerge from the social development agreements is the need to guarantee access to social protection, which is the main mechanism to safeguard a person's well-being from social, economic and environmental risks, and the right to care, which cuts across all the lines of action in this axis. The analysis reveals the need to guarantee access to and expanded coverage of social protection and care, and the role of women as the main persons responsible for care work (different forms of paid care work as well as unpaid domestic and care work) (ECLAC, 2011b; SICA, 2018). This theme is addressed in the regional agenda for inclusive social development mainly through line of action **1.6** on incorporating care into social protection systems, from a perspective of gender equality, rights, and the promotion of joint responsibility.

Similarly, regional and subregional social development agreements show broad consensus on the importance of implementing universal and comprehensive social protection systems. In that respect, some agreements propose advancing towards universal social protection and the formulation of systems that integrate relevant dimensions, for example, care. Other agreements propose intersectoral lines of action, for example, encouraging decent work as a means of accessing social protection, fostering social protection floors and increasing the coverage and integration of social protection systems (ILO, 2010 and 2014; SEGIB, 2012). Other strategies relating to the world of work are mentioned, including strengthening labour inspection and compliance with labour laws, encouraging the formalization of employment and incorporating informal workers into social protection systems (ILO, 2014).

These issues are covered in some of the lines of action in axis 1 of the regional agenda for inclusive social development, including: **1.1**, strengthening comprehensive and universal social protection systems that mainstream the rights-based, gender, ethnic and racial, life-cycle, territorial and disability approaches; **1.4**, moving towards ever greater interlinkage between the components of social protection systems; and **1.9**, considering the specific social protection challenges of informal workers, promoting strategies for formalization of such workers and expansion of their access to social security.

There are also agreements referring to the elements or entitlements that must be included in a comprehensive and universal social protection system. In addition to including care policies and programmes, there is strong agreement that access to social services should also be incorporated, mainly education, health, food security and food, as stipulated, for example, in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, "promote the development of allowances and services relating to social security, health and education in the social protection systems targeting older persons" (ECLAC, 2013b). There are also instances involving agreement on the need to reformulate and strengthen pension systems, as part of social protection systems, in order to expand coverage and ensure access to excluded population groups, for example, people working in the informal labour market, same sex couples or women doing unpaid work.

The main lines of action of the regional agenda for inclusive social development that are linked to this dimension are: **1.3**, advancing in consolidating the guarantee of a basic level of income for all, and assessing the desirability and feasibility of gradually incorporating a universal transfer for children and a citizen's basic income as active policies of social protection systems; **1.4**, emphasizing the importance of promoting coordination with social security institutions to broaden their coverage, the adequacy of their entitlements and their sustainability; **1.5**, on the guarantee of access to education, health and housing; **1.10**, the need to strengthen children's access to services aimed at building their capacities, family entitlements

and care; **1.11**, contributing to social protection initiatives for the prevention and eradication of child labour; **1.12**, overcoming gaps in access to entitlements for populations in rural areas, encompassing food security and local development strategies; and **1.14**, contributing to the construction and strengthening of agreements on the portability of social security entitlements for migrants.

Further agreements refer to the population groups that should be targeted by social protection policies and programmes. Although social protection systems are meant to be universal, attention is drawn to groups that should be given priority as they include people who are vulnerable or suffer from discrimination or exclusion, and thus face greater risks to their well-being. Most agreements refer to people living in poverty, people at different stages of the life cycle —infants, children, adolescents, young people and older persons—, women, indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants, and less often, communities affected by natural disasters, persons with disabilities and migrants.

Various lines of action in axis 1 cover this issue. These include: **1.1**, which calls for mainstreaming the gender, ethnic and racial, life-cycle, territorial and disability approaches; **1.3**, focused mainly on people living in poverty or extreme poverty; **1.4**, which draws attention to the specific challenges of access to social protection faced by informal workers, unpaid caregivers, women, older persons, indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, persons with disabilities, the rural population and migrants; **1.6**, focused on dependent persons and caregivers, especially young people who are not attending school and are excluded from the labour market owing to caregiving duties; **1.7**, which addresses people who are vulnerable; **1.9**, referring to informal workers; **1.10** and **1.11**, focused on children; **1.12**, which targets populations in rural areas; **1.14**, on migrants, especially migrant children; and **1.15**, which concentrates on populations affected by humanitarian crises and disasters.

Gender is addressed in more depth and more frequently in several agreements, which refer to the specificities of the gaps experienced by women in different areas. One of the most illustrative examples of the gender issue in the regional agenda are the various commitments adopted within the framework of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, established in 1977 and convened at intervals of no more than three years since then, resulting in more than 12 sessions and various consensuses. At the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Montevideo, 2016), governments adopted the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, which includes all the commitments made by the governments of the region on women's rights and autonomy and gender equality, from the first session of the Regional Conference to date.

An analysis of the various regional and subregional forums that include agreements relating to gender reveals the need to recognize the importance of unpaid work, either domestic or care work, to societies. At the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, for example, governments agreed to "adopt all the social and economic policy measures required to advance towards the attribution of social value to the unpaid domestic and care work performed by women and recognition of its economic value" (ECLAC, 2011b). The main lines of action of axis 1 of the regional agenda for inclusive social development that cover gender are: **1.1**, which affirms the need to mainstream the gender approach, among others, and **1.6**, which highlights the need to incorporate care into social protection systems from a perspective of gender equality.

In some cases, measures have been agreed on to recognize the economic value of care, which implies creating methodologies to quantify and measure this type of work, for example, developing satellite accounts for unpaid work. There are also several references to the need to develop social protection policies and programmes that recognize "care as a right and, therefore, as a responsibility that must be shared by

men and women of all sectors of society, and by families, private companies and the State, and adopt measures, policies and programmes on care and on promoting the joint responsibility of women and men in family, working and social life in order to free up women's time so that they can engage in employment, studies and politics and enjoy their autonomy to the full" (ECLAC, 2013a) as proposed at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Line of action **1.6** of the regional agenda for inclusive social development refers to these agreements by stating the need to incorporate care into social protection systems, promote joint responsibility, ensure accessibility of care policies, paying special attention to dependent persons and caregivers.

Axis 2-Policies to promote social and labour inclusion

Among the agreements on social development that address social inclusion in generic terms, some relate to the adoption of measures to improve social inclusion, improve the effectiveness and efficiency of social inclusion programmes, develop socioeconomic inclusion programmes, consolidate comprehensive social inclusion policies, and consider multiple variables that determine exclusion and inequality (ECLAC, 2011b, 2013a and 2017a; SEGIB, 2010; SICA, 2018; UNASUR, 2012 and 2013; UNESCO, 2011).

Meanwhile, among agreements that address social inclusion in relation to access to services or specific dimensions, there are references, first, to labour inclusion, promotion of women's economic and financial autonomy, stimulation of labour participation in decent and formal jobs, enforcement of legislation on equality in employment, creation of upward labour mobility with equity and social inclusion, and promotion of rural youth employment (ECLAC, 2011b and 2013a; ILO, 2010 and 2014; SEGIB, 2014 and 2017; SICA, 2018). Second, commitments have been made to ensure that different population groups have access to comprehensive health-care systems, including sexual and reproductive health-care services (ECLAC, 2011b and 2017b; UNESCO, 2011), for example in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, which aims to "guarantee for all boys, girls, adolescents and young people, without any form of discrimination, the chance to live a life free from poverty and violence, and to enjoy protection and exercise of their human rights, a range of opportunities and access to health, education and social protection" (ECLAC, 2013b). There are also agreements relating to the need to reformulate pension systems to increase coverage and ensure access for the population groups that are normally excluded, for example female domestic workers, informal workers and campesinos (ECLAC, 2011b; ILO, 2014).

The main lines of action of axis 2 of the regional agenda for inclusive social development related to these issues include: **2.3**, to further the development of policies and programmes that enable young people to build paths of inclusion; **2.4**, to promote actions that enhance the autonomy and dignity of older persons and full respect for their rights; **2.5**, to promote access to productive, high-quality employment and decent work for all; **2.6**, to ensure the incorporation of the gender and ethno-racial approach into social and labour inclusion policies; **2.7**, to promote policies and programmes for inclusion of women in the labour market and production; **2.9**, which addresses the need for measures to break down the multiple access barriers to education, health and decent work faced by Afrodescendants and their communities; **2.10**, to promote equality and improvement in the living conditions of indigenous peoples through actions that incorporate an approach based on equality, non-discrimination and cultural diversity; **2.11**, to ensure access to education, productive employment and decent work, without discrimination, for the LGBTI+ population; **2.12**, to ensure accessibility and opportunities for persons with disabilities, to ensure they enjoy their rights on an equal basis; **2.13**, to protect migrants and take action to promote their inclusion in education, health and decent work; **2.15**, to reduce territorial inclusion gaps; and **2.21**, to ensure that changes resulting from the current technological revolution are taken advantage of in order to achieve greater social and labour inclusion.

With respect to the agreements relating to inequality, this analysis reveals two types of commitments: those targeting inequality and inequity in general and those referring to specific dimensions of the phenomenon.

Various commitments focus on inequality in general terms. They include agreements to close inequality gaps in different areas, eradicate economic and social inequalities, and include "absent dimensions and determinants of exclusion and inequality" in the analyses carried out (UNDP, 2016); implement social policies for equality (Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2014 and 2015a; UNESCO, 2013); foster "integrated economic and social public policies that promote social inclusion, decent work, and productive employment, as well as an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises", with the aim of combating inequality (ILO, 2014); design and implement intersectoral measures to address inequality, produce statistical data to shed light on inequalities and develop State and public institutions to identify and analyse inequalities (UNDP, 2018). All lines of action in axis 2 of the regional agenda for inclusive social development focus on closing gaps in different areas, targeting inequality directly.

Moreover, there are agreements that concentrate on different dimensions of inequality or affected populations. The main issues are equality at work, equality in political participation and gender equality. With respect to equality in the world of work, there are agreements relating to employment and decent work as the main mechanism for eliminating inequalities (ECLAC, 2011b, 2013a and 2017a; ILO, 2010 and 2014; SEGIB, 2017; SICA, 2018), "guaranteeing equal pay for equal work" among men and women, as highlighted at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, fostering laws for equality in the world of work and ensuring that domestic workers enjoy the same rights as other workers (ECLAC, 2011b).

Some of the lines of action of axis 2 of the regional agenda for social development that cover labour inclusion are: **2.6**, which calls for the incorporation of the gender and ethno-racial approach into social and labour inclusion policies; **2.7**, focused on promoting policies and programmes for inclusion of women in the labour market and production; **2.9**, which seeks, among other things, to break down the multiple access barriers to decent work faced by Afrodescendants and their communities; **2.11**, to ensure access to education, productive employment and decent work for the LGBTI+ population; **2.14**, which concentrates on advancing in analysis of the impact of the various forms of violence on social and labour inclusion; and **2.17**, referring to support for the social and solidarity economy as a means of addressing the deficit in decent work.

The following table summarizes the commitments and lines of action of the regional agenda for inclusive social development that address the needs of the population groups facing the highest levels of inequality, discrimination, and social and economic exclusion.

Table 2
Linkages between the regional agenda for inclusive social development and social development agreements for specific population groups

Population group	Commitments	Lines of action
Children	Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2011b, 2013a, 2013b and 2015a; SICA, 2018; ILO, 2014; UNDP, 2018; UNASUR, 2011 and 2012	2.2
Older persons	Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2013b, 2015a, 2017a and 2017b	2.2, 2.20

Population group	Commitments	Lines of action
Young people	ECLAC, 2015a; ILO, 2014; UNESCO, 2011; SEGIB, 2010, 2014 and 2017	2.3
Women	Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2011a, 2011b, 2013a, 2013b, 2014, 2015a, 2017c and 2018b; ILO 2014	2.6, 2.7
Persons with disabilities	ECLAC, 2011b, 2013a and 2015a; UNASUR, 2012; SEGIB, 2018	2.18
Indigenous peoples	Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2011a, 2011b, 2013a, 2015a and 2016c; MERCOSUR, 2014; UNDP, 2018; SEGIB, 2017	2.6, 2.8, 2.10
Afrodescendent population	Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2011a, 2011b, 2013a, 2015a and 2016c; UNDP, 2018; SICA, 2018; SEGIB, 2017; UNASUR, 2012	2.6, 2.8, 2.9
Migrant population	ECLAC, 2011b, 2013a and 2015a; SEGIB, 2012 and 2017; SICA, 2018; IOM, 2018; ILO, 2014	2.13
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex population	SEGIB, 2017	2.11
Rural population	ECLAC, 2011b and 2013a; UNASUR, 2011 and 2012	2.15, 2.16, 2.17, 2.20
Persons living in poverty	Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2013a and 2015a; SICA, 2018; SEGIB, 2017; UNASUR, 2012	2.2, 2.5, 2.16, 2.18

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Multiple commitments at the regional and subregional levels are related to *children* in various areas of social development, both from the perspective of improving or guaranteeing well-being or the exercise of specific rights (i.e. ECLAC, 2011b, 2013a, 2013b and 2015a), and from that of reducing or eliminating problematic situations (Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2011b, 2013a and 2015a; SICA, 2018; UNDP, 2018; UNASUR, 2011 and 2012). In addition to line of action **1.11**, which focuses on the prevention and eradication of child labour, the needs of this population are included in axis 2 of the regional agenda for inclusive social development through line of action **2.2**, to equalize opportunities in early childhood and childhood, to ensure that children and adolescents enjoy their rights.

Various agreements also target *young people*. At the eighteenth Ibero-American Conference of Youth Ministers, participants recognized "young people as rights-holders and strategic actors for development in Ibero-America" (SEGIB, 2017), which is applicable to other areas, such as the need to promote and protect rights to health and education, encourage formal work from the very first job experience and community participation among young people (ECLAC, 2015a; UNESCO, 2011; SEGIB, 2010 and 2014) and the need for "immediate, renewed and specific action to address the youth unemployment crisis" (ILO, 2014). The main line of action to address the labour inclusion of young people is **2.3**, which calls for further development of policies and programmes that enable young people to build paths of inclusion, with a special emphasis on capacity development, access to decent work, the balance between education, work and family life, and participation.

Another group targeted by agreements and commitments are *older persons*, owing to recognition of the need to guarantee the full exercise of the rights of all older persons, including access to care and

social protection, the elimination of violence against them and the guarantee of a good quality of life in old age (Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2013b, 2015a, 2017a and 2017b). Two lines of action of the regional agenda for inclusive social development directly target these dimensions: **2.4**, to promote actions that enhance the autonomy and dignity of older persons and full respect for their rights, and **2.20**, to close the digital divide in terms of access, knowledge and skills, so that everyone can participate fully in the information society, with a focus on older persons.

The themes relating to *women* are included in a number of agreements, many of which emphasize the need to guarantee the full exercise of human rights for all women and refer to the importance of considering the intersections between gender, race, ethnicity and life cycle. The agreements identified address the themes of access to social protection, health, education, work, wage equality, violence and access to justice, political participation, information and communications technologies access and use, and institutional frameworks, among others (Andean Community, 2011; ILO, 2014; ECLAC, 2011a, 2011b, 2013a, 2013b, 2014, 2015a, 2017c and 2018b). The main lines of action covering this dimension are: **2.6**, to ensure the incorporation of the gender and ethno-racial approach into social and labour inclusion policies; and **2.7**, focused on promoting policies and programmes for inclusion of women in the labour market and production.

The situation of *persons with disabilities* is also incorporated into different commitments. A significant share of these agreements target larger populations, such as women or older persons, or the vulnerable population in general (ECLAC, 2011b, 2013a, 2015a; UNASUR, 2012). Few refer exclusively to persons with disabilities (SEGIB, 2018). In the regional agenda for inclusive social development, **2.12** targets this population specifically, with a call to deepen efforts to ensure accessibility and opportunities for persons with disabilities, to ensure they enjoy their rights on an equal basis.

The agreements targeting the *indigenous population* address themes similar to those affecting other population groups, for example, the need to ensure access to decent work and eliminate barriers to access to the formal labour market; recognize the economic contribution of women who are members of traditional communities and the indigenous population; ensure political participation and representation; guarantee the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and the right to indigenous medicines; ensure access to egalitarian, democratic and non-discriminatory technologies and means of communication; establish preventative, punitive, and protection and care measures to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination and improve access to basic services (Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2011a, 2011b, 2013a, 2015a and 2016c; MERCOSUR, 2014; UNDP, 2018; SEGIB, 2017). There are also agreements relating to the collective rights of indigenous peoples, for example the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, which recognizes the need to protect and respect the collective rights of indigenous peoples (ECLAC, 2013b).

The main lines of action of the regional agenda for inclusive social development relating to this population are: **2.6**, to ensure the incorporation of the gender and ethno-racial approach into social and labour inclusion policies; **2.8**, to undertake actions to promote racial equality and combat racism, along with raising awareness of ethno-racial inequality; and **2.10**, to deepen efforts to recognize the collective rights of indigenous peoples and to promote equality and improvement in their living conditions through actions that incorporate an approach based on equality, non-discrimination and cultural diversity.

The analysis of agreements relating to the *Afrodescendent population* reveals similar results to those referring to the indigenous population. In fact, as most of the commitments targeting Afrodescendants also include the indigenous population, the issues addressed are very similar, such as access to productive employment and care policies that favour labour market participation, guaranteeing participation in the

various branches of government (executive, legislative and judicial) and supporting public and political participation, promoting and guaranteeing access and use of information and communications technologies and mass media, guaranteeing universal access to health and basic services, and reducing poverty and inequalities (Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2011a, 2011b, 2013a, 2013b, 2015a and 2016c; UNDP, 2018; SICA, 2018; SEGIB, 2017; UNASUR, 2012). The regional agenda for inclusive social development incorporates these agreements through lines of action **2.6**, to ensure the incorporation of the gender and ethno-racial approach into social and labour inclusion policies; **2.8**, to undertake actions to promote racial equality and combat racism, along with raising awareness of ethno-racial inequality; and **2.9**, to guarantee the rights of people of African descent and their communities.

A considerable share of the agreements concerning the *migrant population* address the need to guarantee the exercise of their rights, and to ensure safe, orderly and humane migration conditions through integrated management of migration (ECLAC, 2013a and 2015a; ILO, 2014; SEGIB, 2017; SICA, 2018; IOM, 2018). There are also agreements that address the need to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against the migrant population (ECLAC, 2011b, 2013a and 2015a; SEGIB, 2012). Social and labour inclusion of this population is addressed by the regional agenda for inclusive social development through line of action **2.13**, to promote actions to recognize and value the positive contributions that migrants make to societies in destination and origin countries, for example to promote their inclusion in education, health and decent work.

There are also commitments relating to the *lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, and intersex population*, which is mostly subsumed under larger population groups or considered along with other vulnerable population groups. In this case, the agreements establish, among other things, the commitment to guarantee access to productive employment without discrimination based on sex or sexual orientation, create support mechanisms for public and political participation, provide political education and training for leadership, eliminate violence and discrimination against members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender and intersex population, guarantee universal access to health, considering their specific needs, and facilitate access to and safe use of information and communications technologies (ECLAC, 2011b, 2013a and 2015a; SEGIB, 2017). Line of action **2.11** of the regional agenda for inclusive social development focuses exclusively on this population to combat homophobia and transphobia and take measures to ensure access to education, productive employment and decent work, without discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Various agreements also focus on the *rural population*. Many of these relate to the labour dimension, emphasizing the importance of ensuring decent work, whether for women or for young people in rural areas, as well as the importance of promoting access to production assets, production credit, mechanisms for marketing production and recognition of their contribution (ECLAC, 2011b and 2013a; UNASUR, 2011 and 2012). In addition, measures have been agreed to end all forms of violence and discrimination, promote greater connection between urban and rural areas, improve access to decision-making spaces, provide women living in rural areas with political education and training for leadership, and ensure access to and use of information and communication technology (ECLAC, 2011b and 2013a). The main lines of action of the regional agenda for inclusive social development that relate to social and labour inclusion of the rural population are: **2.15**, which calls for the reduction of territorial inclusion gaps by implementing policies to increase access to basic services and infrastructure and equal opportunities in access to productive employment and decent work, taking into account the specificities of the population living in rural areas; **2.16,** which calls for linked multisectoral actions that address the social, economic, political and environmental challenges relating to the promotion of rural development and the reduction of rural poverty; **2.17**, which seeks to support the social and solidarity economy as a means of addressing the

deficit in decent work, with differentiated strategies for urban and rural areas; and **2.20**, focusing on closing the digital divide in terms of access, knowledge and skills, so that everyone can participate fully in the information society, with a focus on those living in rural areas, among other population groups.

Finally, with regard to *people living in poverty*, there are various agreements that refer to the commitment to end or reduce poverty, guarantee enjoyment of their rights, ensure access to social protection systems, higher education, comprehensive health and quality housing, end all forms of violence and discrimination, and end hunger and malnutrition, whilst also mentioning the importance of and necessity of promoting decent work and of preventing and reducing the impacts of climate change on populations living in poverty (Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2013a and 2015a; SICA, 2018; SEGIB, 2017; UNASUR, 2012).

While several lines of action within axis 1 of the regional agenda for inclusive social development focus on the population living in poverty, certain axis 2 lines of action also address some of the above-mentioned issue. Specifically, these lines of action include **2.2**, which seeks to prioritize actions to equalize opportunities in early childhood and childhood, to ensure enjoyment of rights, as a strategic commitment to end poverty and reduce inequality in a sustainable manner; **2.16**, on undertaking linked multisectoral actions that address the social, economic, political and environmental challenges relating to the promotion of rural development and the reduction of rural poverty; **2.18**, which calls for actions to deepen financial inclusion of households, in order to promote their financial autonomy, enabling access to formal financial services for those who are excluded from such services; **2.19**, on promoting access to housing policies and programmes, while working to improve the living conditions of populations living in informal settlements and inadequate housing; and **2.20**, which seeks to close the digital divide in terms of access, knowledge and skills, so that everyone can participate fully in the information society, with a focus on low-income households, among other population groups.

Axis 3-A strengthened social institutional framework

With regard to axis 3-A strengthened social institutional framework, in the regional and subregional agreements there are areas of consensus concerning the four dimensions of institutional frameworks: legal-normative, organizational, technical-operational and financing.

With regard to the legal-normative dimension, agreements have been identified on the need to formulate, promote, foster, implement and ensure compliance with laws, policies, rules, regulations and programmes. Most of the content of the laws and regulations referred to in the agreements relates to gender equality and, less frequently, affirmations are made of the need to create legislative measures to ensure enjoyment of the rights of indigenous peoples and to protect adolescents, young people and children from the serious violations of rights that come from child labour and human trafficking and smuggling (ECLAC, 2011a and 2013b; ILO, 2014). In addition, there is consensus on the importance of ratifying and adopting international agreements and treaties, as well as on the need to align national regulatory frameworks with such instruments (ECLAC, 2013a). These issues are addressed by the regional agenda for inclusive social development through the following lines of action: **3.1.1**, on the adaptation of national legal frameworks to the mandates of the key instruments of international law related to guaranteeing human rights; **3.1.2**, which calls for strengthening of the regulatory framework of ministries, secretariats and collegial bodies responsible for social development policies, as well as subnational and autonomous entities that participate in social policy management in the countries; and **3.1.3,** which calls for formulation of regulatory and policy-design frameworks that guarantee the recognition, well-being and rights of the diverse groups of the population.

Also, in the legal-normative dimension, agreements have been identified concerning providing government mechanisms for policies on women at the highest level of government in each country, as well as consensus regarding the creation of mechanisms or institutional units responsible for implementation and monitoring of policies or commitments adopted in international forums (ECLAC, 2013a, 2016a and 2018a). This topic is addressed by the following lines of action: **3.1.1**, which calls for adaptation of national legal frameworks to the mandates of the key instruments of international law related to guaranteeing human rights and **3.1.3**, on the formulation of regulatory and policy-design frameworks that guarantee the recognition, well-being and rights of the diverse groups of the population.

In the agreements related to the organizational dimension, as regards decision-making models, some commitments can be found on the creation of mechanisms or the establishment of hierarchies to ensure participation in decision-making or process monitoring (ECLAC, 2011b). This is included in line of action **3.1.4** of the regional agenda for inclusive social development, which calls for the creation and strengthening of mechanisms for active participation by the target population and civil society organizations in the design, implementation and evaluation of social policies and programmes of the ministries of social development and equivalent entities.

In this same dimension, there are agreements that address the issue of coordination among actors, which is required for the implementation of public policies that reflect the adopted regulatory frameworks, relating to the importance of inter-institutional and intersectoral policies and the need to formulate such policies, either in response to occurrences that are considered multidimensional or to the need to mainstream perspectives, such as in the case of gender affairs (ECLAC, 2016b; SICA, 2018). The lines of action of the regional agenda for inclusive social development that refer to this issue are: **3.1.6**, which calls for strengthening of horizontal coordination mechanisms at the central government level, for the management of intersectoral policies, with a focus on social protection systems; and **3.1.7**, on strengthening mechanisms for vertical coordination between the different levels of government.

With regard to the technical-operational dimension of institutional frameworks, agreements have been identified on the creation or strengthening of information systems for diagnosing, monitoring and evaluating policies and compliance with regional, subregional and national agreements (ECLAC, 2011b, 2012, 2013b, and 2015b; UNDP, 2018), as well as on mechanisms for transparency and accountability and the need to establish mechanisms or systems for monitoring and evaluating the agreements or commitments adopted (SICA, 2010; CEPAL, 2018a; OAS, 2010). In addition, various agreements and commitments recognize the importance of improving the availability and quality of statistical information, focusing on production of the disaggregated data needed to analyse the stipulated populations (ECLAC, 2015a, 2016a and 2017b; SEGIB, 2014). These issues are present in the regional agenda for inclusive social development, primarily through the following lines of action: **3.1.5**, which calls for strengthening of mechanisms for dissemination, transparency and accountability of existing entitlements and their allocation; **3.1.9**, on consolidating information, monitoring and evaluation systems for social entitlements, including disaggregated records of the target or potential target population; and **3.1.10**, which calls for inclusion and consolidation of the statistical identification and visibility of different population groups, with the aim for this information to be properly stored and easily accessible through appropriate technologies.

Lastly, with regard to the financing dimension, the agreements reached in the forums considered address two major issues: the adequacy of resources, for example, through budget allocation, and sources of financing, mentioning various mechanisms for this purpose (Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2011b, 2013a and 2014; UNDP, 2016; UNASUR, 2011). The regional agenda for inclusive social development addresses the financing of social policy in the following lines of action: **3.2.1**, on prioritizing, consolidating and safeguarding the financing of social policy, protecting and guaranteeing resources; **3.2.2**, which seeks to

promote the sustainability of social protection entitlements, maintaining levels of investment at their present value; and **3.2.3,** which calls for a reaffirmation at the national and regional levels of the notion that social policy financing should be considered an investment and for promotion of analysis of the impact of social policy financing on poverty and inequality, to advance in the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Axis 4-Regional cooperation and integration

Regional and subregional agreements on social development that address regional cooperation and integration in various social issues are grouped into two broad areas: (i) types/forms of cooperation, and (ii) cooperation actions.

With regard to types/forms of cooperation, the agreements refer to South-South cooperation, regional cooperation, horizontal cooperation, partnership-building, regional coordination, subregional coordination, national coordination; intersectoral coordination, and linkages between stakeholders (private sector, civil society and others) (Andean Community, 2011; ECLAC, 2011b, 2013a, 2013b and 2015a; ILO, 2010; OAS, 2010; SICA, 2010; SEGIB, 2017). In addition to lines of action **3.1.6** (strengthen horizontal coordination mechanisms at the central government level, for the management of intersectoral policies, with particular reference to social protection systems) and **3.1.7** (strengthen mechanisms for vertical coordination between the different levels of government), as referred to in the previous axis, lines of action **4.1** on forging linkages between the commitments and exchanges of the various regional and subregional forums to support implementation of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda, and **4.2,** which proposes strengthening the spaces and capacities for international and South-South cooperation among ministries of social development and equivalent entities of the regional agenda for inclusive social development, complement these agreements by referring to spaces and capacities for international cooperation.

In most cases, agreements relating to cooperation actions or objectives establish as an aim the sharing of experiences and knowledge, mainly among countries, along with the provision of technical assistance or training and the preparation or establishment of common goals (IOM, 2018; SICA, 2018; UNASUR, 2011). These dimensions are captured in lines of action **4.3**, which calls for the creation of working groups on specific thematic and policy areas identified by governments; **4.4**, on the exchange of experiences relating to institutional frameworks and management of social development policies; and **4.5**, on furthering comparative research and regional discussions on issues related to inclusive social development.

There are also cooperation agreements that aim to establish a regional system for monitoring and evaluation of social programmes (SICA, 2010), as well as to set up partnerships to increase financing for agreed initiatives or projects and make it more efficient (SICA, 2018; ECLAC, 2013a). These aspects relate to line of action **4.6** on exchanging information and statistical data through national and regional observatories and forums on social development.

Concluding remarks

The regional agenda for inclusive social development is a tool aimed at supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, from a regional perspective, both in terms of the critical obstacles to inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and taking into consideration the commitments in this area enshrined in the main agreements already existing at the regional and subregional levels. It is thus intended as a tool that, in addition to facilitating cooperation among the

countries of the region, seeks to fulfil the targets and objectives of the extended social pillar of the 2030 Agenda, particularly in the areas concerning the mandates of ministries of social development and equivalent entities. Accordingly, it does not replicate previous agreements, but rather enhances and strengthens them, seeking to generate synergistic actions to facilitate the achievement of sustainable development and inclusive social development.

It warrants mention that the outcomes of the analysis carried out using the approach of the regional agenda for inclusive social development show much in common between the 2030 Agenda and the regional and subregional commitments on social development reached in intergovernmental forums attended by the ministries of social development and equivalent entities. As a result, the commitment of the countries expressed in the regional agenda for inclusive social development should expedite the implementation of agreements in a synergistic manner in this area and reinforce the those reached previously, with a view to achieving the SDGs, ensuring well-being and guaranteeing the rights of the entire population of the region.

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