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in Latin America and the Caribbean

XI Ministerial Forum for Development
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XI Ministerial Forum for Development
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Mexico City, 1–3 October 2019

**PROPOSED REGIONAL AGENDA FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:
COMMENTS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**



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This report summarizes the comments received in response to the document “Proposal of the regional agenda for inclusive social development”,¹ presented for discussion at the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago on 23 April 2019, and a subsequent version of that document incorporating the comments made,² as well as contributions from civil society in the forums provided for this purpose.³

The document is organized in two sections. Section A presents the comments on the proposed agenda made in the statements delivered by ministers and senior authorities responsible for social development attending the third meeting of the Presiding Officers. The comments are organized in the order in which they were expressed. Section B presents the written comments received after the third meeting, pursuant to the request of the Presiding Officers. In each case, the comments received which contain explicit requests to incorporate elements into the regional agenda and its drafting process, or which indicate the emphasis that should be placed on the wording, are listed. A response to each subject raised is then provided, as well as an indication of how suggestions were included, either in the position paper of the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, entitled “*Critical obstacles to inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean: background for a regional agenda for inclusive social development*” or in the *Proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development*,⁴ which will be reviewed at the third session.

The summary was prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in its capacity as secretariat of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, pursuant to paragraph 5 of the agreements of the third meeting of the Presiding Officers⁵ requesting the secretariat to prepare a summary of the comments on the initial proposal of the regional agenda for inclusive social development for the countries to review.

¹ This document is an unofficial translation of an original which did not undergo formal editorial review and was provided to facilitate discussion at the meeting.

² This version was sent to the countries by email in July 2019.

³ See reference document “Proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development: comments from civil society” (LC/CDS.3/DDR/4).

⁴ See *Proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development* (LC/CDS.3/4), which reflects the subsequent changes that were made to the version of the agenda presented at the third meeting of the Presiding Officers.

⁵ See para. 5 of the agreements at the meeting [online] https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/19-00286_mds.3_agreements.pdf.

**A. COMMENTS RECEIVED AT THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS
OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Table 1

Country	Subjects identified by the countries as requiring strengthening in the regional agenda	Inclusion of subjects in the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development and in the position document for the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Panama	With regard to universalism that is sensitive to differences, include the notion that multiculturalism and interculturalism should be embedded in policymaking.	Principle D of the proposed regional agenda (Universalism that is sensitive to differences) was rewritten to include a last sentence that focuses on the recognition of diverse identities and incorporates the perspective of interculturalism. The adoption of an intercultural approach to policy design is also incorporated in action line 2.10.
	The social institutional framework must not only be strengthened but also rebuilt and reviewed. Social cabinets can be regarded as critical spaces for decision-making and capacity-building, as a means of breaking from the sectoral approach.	New wording was introduced in line of action 3.1.6 of the proposed agenda to include a reference to social cabinets. This reference was also included in section F “Social institutional frameworks: a work in progress” of the position document, <i>Critical obstacles to inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean: background for a regional agenda for inclusive social development</i> .
	Cooperation is a key component for addressing the culture of privilege and a shared challenge for the region.	The wording of lines of action 4.2 and 4.3 of the proposed regional agenda was adjusted, with emphasis on cooperation as an opportunity for the region as a whole. This emphasis was also incorporated in section F, “Social institutional frameworks: a work in progress”, of the position document.
	Highlight the issue of racism in the regional agenda for inclusive social development.	Combating racism is explicitly mentioned in line of action 2.8 under axis 2 of the proposed regional agenda. Particular attention to this issue was also incorporated in section B, “Unfair and inefficient structural inequalities and the culture of privilege” and in section H.1, “The various forms of violence”, of the position document.
- Panama - Paraguay - Dominican Republic	Increase visibility of early childhood and of care policies in the regional agenda. Access to early childhood services is insufficient; consideration must be given to the territorial dimension, the local perspective and the quality of services provided. It is imperative to align care policies with the gender perspective.	The child-sensitive perspective in social protection policies is reinforced in line of action 1.10 under axis 1 of the proposed agenda and a new line of action (2.2), which aims to prioritize actions to equalize opportunities in early childhood and childhood and to ensure that children and adolescents enjoy their rights, was included under axis 2. In addition, line of action 1.6 of axis 1 of the proposed agenda provides for the incorporation of care policies in social protection systems from a gender perspective. Reference is also made to early childhood and access to high-quality services during this stage in section C, “Disparities in the development of human capacities —education, health and nutrition— and access to basic services”, of the position document. Similarly, section E, “A still partial and unequal access to social protection”, of the position document illustrates the link between care policies and the gender perspective.

Country	Subjects identified by the countries as requiring strengthening in the regional agenda	Inclusion of subjects in the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development and in the position document for the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mexico - Panama - Dominican Republic 	Highlight the importance of protecting the rights of migrants, including their access to social protection.	<p>Line of action 1.14 on access to social protection for migrants was included under axis 1 of the proposed regional agenda.</p> <p>This recommendation was also taken into account under section H.4, “Migration at the crossroads of inclusive social development”, of the position document.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dominican Republic 	Make gender sensitivity explicit in the agenda —beyond having statistics disaggregated by sex— and have tools and methodologies available for verifying whether or not social programmes reproduce gender discrimination.	<p>Principle D of the proposed regional agenda was rewritten to include a last sentence making explicit reference to the gender perspective.</p> <p>Clear reference is also made to the gender approach in inclusion policies in line of action 2.6 in axis 2. Line of action 3.1.8 was added under axis 3 to strengthen the rights-based and inclusion approach, which encompasses the gender perspective, in the management processes of ministries of social development and equivalent entities, including clearly defined procedures and training initiatives for public officials. Furthermore, explicit mention is made of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 as one of the instruments having inspired the principles of the regional agenda, thereby underscoring the linkages between them.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mexico 	Highlight the problem of violence in all its forms and how it is addressed by ministries of social development.	Line of action 2.14 was included under axis 2 of the proposed regional agenda; it calls for putting forward multisectoral policy proposals to address the impact of the various forms of violence on social and labour inclusion.
	Highlight the links between financial inclusion and social protection.	<p>Line of action 2.18 of axis 2 of the regional agenda was rewritten to incorporate wording on the financial inclusion of households for their financial autonomy.</p> <p>Specific mention of these links was also made in section E, “A still partial and unequal access to social protection” of the position document.</p>
	It is important to underscore the enforceability, justiciability and legalization of acquired rights.	A phrase on the sustainability of rights of diverse population groups was added in line of action 3.1.3 of axis 3 of the proposed agenda.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Argentina - Mexico 	Raise awareness on the situation of the rural world, rural poverty and development programmes centred on sustainable communities.	<p>The following lines of action were added to the proposed regional agenda: 1.12 on the social protection needs of populations in rural areas and the links with food security and local development strategies; 2.16 on multisectoral actions for the promotion of rural development and the reduction of rural poverty; and 2.17 on support for the social and solidarity economy with differentiated strategies for urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Section A, “The persistence of poverty and vulnerability to poverty”, of the position document encompasses the issue of rural poverty.</p>

Country	Subjects identified by the countries as requiring strengthening in the regional agenda	Inclusion of subjects in the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development and in the position document for the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Argentina - Mexico	Highlight the importance of the social and solidarity economy as a means of overcoming the shortfall in decent work, building capacity in this area and the link with the local development approach.	Line of action 2.17 on support for the social and solidarity economy was added to the proposed regional agenda. This recommendation was also taken into account in section D, “Decent work deficits and uncertainties associated with technological transformations in the world of work”, of the position document.
- Argentina	Highlight the need for the active participation of civil society in policymaking.	Mention of such participation is included in the proposed regional agenda in principle G on good-quality public policies and in line of action 3.1.4 of axis 3. Social participation in policies for inclusive social development is a cross-cutting theme of the proposed regional agenda. It is mentioned in principles A (as part of the rights-based approach), B, G and H. Principle G of the proposed agenda, in particular, highlights the importance of the active participation of civil society and the general public in good-quality social development policies. Principle H underscores the need for partnerships and social compacts with active participation by all stakeholders to consolidate State policies. The participation of civil society and of other stakeholders in the development of social policy management processes was also incorporated as a core element of axis 3 of the proposed regional agenda, and in the conception of social protection as an intersectoral policy on which axis 1 proposed agenda is based. Lastly, civil society participation is explicitly mentioned in line of action 1.11, with regard to social protection initiatives for the prevention and eradication of child labour (in cooperation with other bodies); line of action 3.14, concerning the design, implementation and evaluation of social policies; and, under axis 4, in line of action 4.3 concerning civil society participation and dialogue in the creation of joint working groups on specific thematic and policy areas and line of action 4.5 concerning strengthening and coordinating networks of specialists from multiple sectors on issues related to inclusive social development.
	Raise awareness of the role of the private sector in inclusive social development.	Mention is made of the participation of the private sector, as well as civil society organizations, trade unions, academia and the general public, in the development of social policy management processes, as one of the central issues of axis 3 of the proposed regional agenda. The role of the private sector is also mentioned in line of action 1.11 on social protection initiatives for the prevention and eradication of child labour and line of action 4.5 on strengthening and coordinating networks of specialists on issues related to inclusive social development.

B. COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Subsequent to the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, electronic communications relating to the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development were received from eight countries: Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. The table below shows how these comments were included in the document “*Proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development*”, to be discussed at the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in the position document prepared for that session.

Table 2

Country	Subject areas addressed in the replies from countries	Inclusion of subjects in the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development and in the position document for the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Chile	The country indicated that it had no comments on the document.	Comments received with thanks.
Colombia	Reduce the redundancy in the division of the proposed axes of the regional agenda and clarify the analytical rationale for the inclusion of social protection and social promotion under separate. Incorporate a differential approach in the social protection actions under consideration for populations in situations of poverty and vulnerability. This comment applies to the section “Presentation and basis of the axes” of the proposed regional agenda.	The draft wording for the basis of axes 1 and 2 of the proposed regional agenda was improved, with a clearer explanation of the differences and the clarification that although social protection is an integral part of social inclusion and labour policies, it must be adapted depending on the priority given to it in the policies led by the ministries of social development and equivalent entities in the region.
	Mainstream axis 3 on the social institutional framework in axes 1 and 2 of the proposed agenda. Emphasize the need to strengthen the design and management elements of social policies.	A new line of action (1.7) was included under axis 1, stressing the need for universal and comprehensive social protection systems to define a set of instruments appropriate to the needs of vulnerable populations.
	The country notes that the adjustments made to the text respond to the comments sent by the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity of Colombia and to the observations made by the delegations of the countries, and that, consequently, it has no further observations. ^a	The drafting of the basis for axis 3 of the proposed agenda was improved to reinforce the linkages with axes 1 and 2, and to refer explicitly to the elements of social policy design and management that should be strengthened in the social institutional framework of the countries. In addition, in the presentation of the axes of the regional agenda, it was specified that axis 3 is a means of implementing axes 1 and 2.
		Comments received with thanks.

Country	Subject areas addressed in the replies from countries	Inclusion of subjects in the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development and in the position document for the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Cuba	Include cultural inequalities in the axes of social inequality. This comment applies to the critical obstacle of inequality.	The analysis of the culture of privilege and the cultural dimension of inequality was reinforced in section B, “Unfair and inefficient structural inequalities and the culture of privilege” of the position document. In addition, the need to take greater steps to mainstream interculturality in education was included in section C, “Disparities in the development of human capacities—education, health and nutrition— and access to basic services”.
	Broaden the analysis of regional differences in education. This comment applies to the critical obstacle related to the development of capacities.	The suggested analysis is covered in sections B and C of the position document.
	Include access to education in the description of the critical obstacle related to the development of capacities.	This topic was highlighted in section C of the position document.
	Include mention of participation in the second principle of the regional agenda for inclusive social development.	The suggested wording was included in principle B of the proposed regional agenda.
Guatemala	The country notes that the proposed text is technically appropriate for the achievement of its objectives, in that it refers to mechanisms for eliminating structural inequalities and including cooperation as a fundamental axis of inclusive social development. As it is deemed that the proposed text includes the necessary elements to combat social inequality in the region, Guatemala has no further suggestions.	Comments received with thanks.
Mexico	Strengthen the subregional approach, taking into account regional characteristics in the social, political and economic dimensions in Latin America and the Caribbean; differentiate the analysis of critical obstacles to the construction of inclusive social development and of lines of action on the basis of local realities that highlight the heterogeneity of the region.	The subregional and local approach of the regional agenda for inclusive social development has been included in the presentation of its axes.
	In addition, the differences between countries and subregions and between urban and rural areas are taken into account in many of the analyses throughout the position paper.	

Country	Subject areas addressed in the replies from countries	Inclusion of subjects in the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development and in the position document for the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico	<p>Place greater emphasis on the issue of violence, considering the consequences it has on the development and well-being of the population in general —taking into account its effects on the governance of affected countries, regions or communities— and considering that, in States with weaker institutional frameworks, people living in poverty are more vulnerable to its effects and more likely to be affected by violence as they lack the means to prevent or avoid it on their own.</p> <p>Give attention to national and regional indicators on homicide among young people under 29 years of age. This is one of the leading causes of death in Mexico.</p>	<p>Violence is included as one of the emerging challenges faced by social protection systems in line of action 1.13 and greater emphasis on the connection between violence and governance is included in line of action 2.14 under axes 1 and 2, respectively, of the proposed regional agenda.</p> <p>In addition, these points are referred to explicitly in section H.1, “The various forms of violence”, of the position document.</p>
	<p>More in-depth focus on the different migratory patterns that have arisen in the continent in recent years is crucial. The changes in migratory flows have exerted greater pressure on public service delivery systems and social and humanitarian assistance programmes, which in turn increase budgetary burdens and require fiscal solutions to support them.</p> <p>There is also a need to create new public instruments to address these issues, which have an increasingly permanent impact, modifying sociodemographic, geopolitical and supranational dynamics. Emphasis on the economic and social development approach is therefore necessary to address the root causes of migration.</p>	<p>Lines of action 1.14 and 2.13 of the proposed agenda were redrafted to include the proposed elements.</p> <p>These recommendations were also taken into account under section H.4, “Migration at the crossroads of inclusive social development”, of the position document.</p>
	<p>Greater reflection on the issue of rural poverty is suggested, with an analysis of its causes, effects, characteristics and aggravating factors.</p> <p>Rural poverty is considered to be inextricably and cyclically linked to population dispersion and</p>	<p>The following lines of action were added to the proposed regional agenda: 1.12 on the social protection needs of populations in rural areas and the links with food security and local development strategies; 2.16 on multisectoral actions for the promotion of rural development and the reduction of rural poverty; and 2.17 on support for the social and solidarity economy with differentiated strategies for urban and rural areas.</p>

Country	Subject areas addressed in the replies from countries	Inclusion of subjects in the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development and in the position document for the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico	<p>inaccessibility. This hinders planning in these territories, given the lack of infrastructure and the few possibilities for economic development and productive inclusion, leading to the underutilization of human, environmental and social resources. It is therefore vital to promote economies of scale and the development of the social economy.</p>	<p>Furthermore, some of these aspects have been included in section A, “The persistence of poverty and vulnerability to poverty”, of the position document.</p>
	<p>Given the inability of the present dominant economic model to generate quality employment, other alternatives for creating employment of good social quality and which provide social security must be explored. This makes it possible to reflect on experiences in the area of socio-productive organization, such as cooperatives, social enterprises, mutual services and other models of self-employment. These models, in addition to their labour benefits, promote local development, a fairer distribution of income and the retention of income within the developing territory.</p>	<p>Line of action 2.17 was added to the proposed agenda to include support for the social and solidarity economy as a means of addressing the shortfall in decent work.</p> <p>Mention of topic was included in section D, “Decent work deficits and uncertainties associated with technological transformations in the world of work”, of the position document.</p>
	<p>Given the existence of States and situations in which the rights of citizens have not been recognized or guaranteed, legal frameworks, including constitutional ones, must be reviewed to ensure recognition of these rights and to include a mechanism for enforcement and justiciability that allows citizens to demand their rights promptly and expeditiously through administrative and, where appropriate, judicial means.</p>	<p>A phrase on the sustainability of rights of diverse population groups was added in line of action 3.1.3 of axis 3 of the proposed agenda.</p>
	<p>Fiscal mechanisms and the systemic conception. There is a need for an efficient and adequate fiscal system that provides the necessary resources to implement public policies. Likewise, there is a need for a systemic vision of the society in which citizenship, government,</p>	<p>The importance of the active participation of civil society and the general public in good-quality social development policies is highlighted in Principle G of the proposed agenda. Mention is made of the participation of the private sector, as well as civil society organizations, trade unions, academia and the general public, in the development of social policy management processes, as one of the central issues of axis 3 of the proposed regional agenda. The systemic vision of inclusive social</p>

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	international organizations, the private sector and civil society all have a specific role to play in achieving inclusive development.	development, in line with the 2030 Agenda, is also highlighted in the introduction of the position document. The concerns regarding the efficiency of tax systems are included in section G “An insufficient level of social investment” of the position document.
Panama	Panama aligns itself with the content of the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development.	Comments received with thanks.
Peru	Notes the contribution of the analysis of structural inequalities as part of the critical obstacles of inclusive social development, in terms of the axes that structure social inequality.	Comments received with thanks.
	Disparities in the development of capacities and access to basic services are another key element of the critical obstacles. This analysis should place greater emphasis on indigenous populations, which often resides in remote and inaccessible areas and face greater disadvantages in access to basic services and infrastructure.	These issues have been included under sections B “Unfair and inefficient structural inequalities and the culture of privilege” and C “Disparities in the development of human capacities — education, health and nutrition— and access to basic services” of the position document.
	An environmental approach should be included in the analysis of disasters, examining climate change and its effects on the territories and on the population, with particular focus on the situation of indigenous peoples.	This suggestion has been taken into account in section H.2 “Disasters and climate change” of the position document.
	The regional agenda should consider the adoption of regional or national policies and programmes that have shorter time frames, in line with established priorities.	This comment is noted and will be submitted for consideration by the other member countries of the Regional Conference at the third session [author please confirm]. Line of action 4.3 of the proposed regional agenda was redrafted to include reference to the promotion of experience-sharing and the fostering of common agendas, at the regional and subregional levels and among countries from different subregions, on thematic and policy areas identified by governments.
	Line of action 1.3 should specify that the guarantee of a basic income for all people should prioritize people living in poverty or extreme poverty.	The suggested wording was included in action line 1.3 of the proposed regional agenda.
	Include, under the axis relating to social and labour inclusion policies, a line of action on health service coverage for all, with emphasis on persons in situations of poverty, extreme poverty or persons in situations of vulnerability.	This suggestion was included as part of new line of action 1.5 under the social protection axis (axis 1) of the regional agenda, given that one of the functions of these policies is to promote access to education, health and housing, as well as other sectoral policies.

Country	Subject areas addressed in the replies from countries	Inclusion of subjects in the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development and in the position document for the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Peru	<p>Include, under the axis relating to social and labour inclusion policies, a line of action on promoting the right to education for all, with emphasis on children, adolescents and persons in situations of vulnerability.</p> <p>Include a line of action on the promotion of productive and quality employment for all employable persons of working age, with emphasis on persons in situations of poverty, extreme poverty or in situations of vulnerability.</p>	<p>This suggestion was included as part of new line of action 1 under the social protection axis (axis 1) of the regional agenda, given that one of the functions of these policies is to promote access to education, health and housing, as well as other sectoral policies.</p> <p>Line of action 2.5 on promoting access to productive, good-quality employment and decent work for all has been included under axis 2 of the proposed agenda.</p>
Trinidad and Tobago	<p>The Ministry reviewed the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development and is of the view that it outlines in a comprehensive manner, key challenges linked to the regional implementation of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The regional agenda also provides very practical and valuable solutions to the issues faced and sound recommendations for improvement. Accordingly, the Ministry appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the regional agenda and commits to working on the implementation of the relevant recommendations, as far as is possible, within the context of the availability of adequate human and financial resources.</p>	Comments received with thanks.
	<p>Concerning the first axis of the regional agenda, while the initiatives included are commendable, efforts should be made to ensure that the social protection systems of countries do not encourage dependency. A well-designed and functional social protection system should support human development, assist people in accessing opportunities to exit poverty and interrupt its intergenerational transmission.</p>	<p>Principle B of the proposed regional agenda (“Empowerment and autonomy”) is fully aligned with this observation. In addition, the description of axis 1 includes an explicit mention of the linkages that must exist between social protection systems and social and labour inclusion policies, which are addressed in axis 2 of the proposed agenda.</p> <p>The wording of line of action 1.2 is enhanced by a reference to the links between social protection policies and social and labour inclusion policies for sustained reductions in poverty and inequality. This suggestion is also included as part of a new line 1.5 associated with axis 1 on social protection, given that one of the functions of these policies is to promote access to education, health and housing and other sectoral policies, which are key to supporting human development and providing opportunities to overcome poverty and end its intergenerational transmission.</p>

Country	Subject areas addressed in the replies from countries	Inclusion of subjects in the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development and in the position document for the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Trinidad and Tobago	<p>There is a dearth of updated and reliable data on vulnerable populations within many developing countries to inform policy development and programme design. The regional agenda should specifically encourage data driven development with emphasis on data collection, standardization, storage, connectivity, access and availability. The regional agenda should speak to the use of information and communications technology to facilitate data sharing and inform decision-making.</p>	<p>Lastly, the proposed new line of action 1.7 directly alludes to the fact that the socioeconomically vulnerable population requires access to mechanisms for social and labour inclusion to prevent their return to poverty, reinforcing the perspective that these policies do not create a situation of dependency, but rather a guarantee of rights.</p> <p>Line of action 1.8 of the proposed agenda refers to the incorporation of integrated social information systems to assist in identifying the requirements of the various populations in the design of social protection policies. Similarly, line of action 2.8 on promoting racial equality and combating racism places special emphasis on the generation of data on ethnic and racial self-identification in national statistical systems and in the administrative records of social programmes. Line of action 3.1.9, which aims to consolidate information, monitoring and evaluation systems for social benefits, including records of the target population, disaggregated by the structuring axes of the social inequality matrix, has been reworded on the basis of these suggestions; as has line of action 3.1.10 (to consolidate the statistical identification and visibility of different population groups in social policies and programmes).</p>
	<p>The regional agenda should speak to the involvement of the private sector along with non-governmental organisations, civil society and individuals in the development of appropriate courses of action in the national interest. In an effort to strengthen our democratic institutions, mechanisms should be established by which citizens can participate in national decision-making thereby making public policy more responsive to the needs of the population. Developing sound public policies is an important part of good governance and this means the creation of structures in specific areas to allow for participation by all of society.</p>	<p>Social participation in policies for inclusive social development is a cross-cutting theme of the proposed regional agenda. It is mentioned in principles A (as part of the rights-based approach), B, G and H. Principle G of the proposed agenda, in particular, has been reworded to highlight the importance of the active participation of civil society and the general public in good-quality social development policies. Principle H underscores the need for partnerships and social compacts with active participation by all stakeholders to consolidate State policies.</p> <p>Mention is made of the participation of the private sector, as well as civil society organizations, trade unions, academia and the general public, in the development of social policy management processes, as one of the central issues of axis 3 of the proposed regional agenda.</p> <p>Furthermore, coordination with bodies from other sectors is mentioned in line of action 1.11 with regard to social protection initiatives for the prevention and eradication of child labour. Participation is referred to in line of action 3.14 concerning the design, implementation and evaluation of social policies, and under axis 4, line of action 4.3 concerning civil society participation and dialogue in the creation of joint working groups on specific thematic and policy areas as well as in line of action 4.5 concerning strengthening and coordinating networks of specialists from multiple sectors on issues related to inclusive social development.</p>

Country	Subject areas addressed in the replies from countries	Inclusion of subjects in the proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development and in the position document for the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Trinidad and Tobago	Perhaps the regional agenda can also stress the need for enhanced customer service to improve the client’s overall experience within the social protection system. The quest for sustainable development requires a modern, efficient public service that delivers quality services. Public officers therefore must not only be highly skilled and productive employees, but they must also adopt a more caring and courteous attitude in dealing with the public. Providing safe and comfortable accommodation for public officers to conduct state business is an important pre-requisite for improved service delivery. The regional agenda should also highlight the importance of resourcing implementation in addition to social policy financing as a key component.	In response to this suggestion, line of action 3.1.8 was added under axis 3 to strengthen the rights-based and inclusion approach in the management processes of ministries of social development and equivalent entities, including clearly defined procedures and training initiatives for public officials.

^a This comment is from a second electronic communication received from the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity of Colombia in July 2019, subsequent to the transmission of the updated proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development, which incorporates countries’ comments on the version that was presented during the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.