Distr.
GENERAL

LC/FDS.6/7
20 September 2023

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

23-00777

REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Santiago, 25–28 April 2023

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was held in Santiago, from 25 to 28 April 2023, under the theme "Accelerating the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels". The meeting was convened by the Government of Argentina, in its capacity as Chair of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), under the auspices of the Commission, by virtue of resolution 700(XXXVI), adopted by the member States at the thirty-sixth session.

Attendance[1]

2. The following States members of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development were represented at the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

3. Attending as observers were the following non-Forum-member States members of the Commission: Germany, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States.

4. The following associate members of ECLAC also participated: British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands.

5. Representatives of the following States Members of the United Nations that are not member States of the Commission attended as observers: New Zealand and Russian Federation.

6. The United Nations Secretariat was represented at the meeting by the Deputy Secretary-General, Resident Coordinators, representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Development Coordination Office, the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General and the resident coordinator offices.

7. The following entities of the United Nations system were also represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Global Compact, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),

[1] See annex 5 for the full list of participants.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Universal Postal Union (UPU) and World Food Programme (WFP).

8. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also participated in the meeting: Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Central American Integration System (SICA), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), International Youth Organization for Ibero-America (OIJ), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI) and Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

9. Also in attendance were representatives of the public and private sectors, academia and civil society, who are included in the list of participants.

Chair

10. The sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was chaired by Argentina, the country serving as Chair of ECLAC.

B. AGENDA

11. The Forum adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Presentation of the document *Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and recommendations for acceleration*, sixth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Accelerating the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.
4. Strategies to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean.
5. Panel discussions.
   - Clean water and sanitation
   - Affordable and clean energy
   - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
   - Sustainable cities and communities
   - Partnerships for the Goals

6. Contribution of the United Nations sustainable development system in Latin America and the Caribbean.

   – Presentation of the 2022 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. Panel discussion: "Path to the SDG Summit. Transformative initiatives: creating opportunities to strengthen commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its full implementation at all levels".

8. Other matters.

9. Conclusions and recommendations.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

12. At the opening session, statements were made by José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Paula Narváez, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations; Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; and Santiago Cafiero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina, the country serving as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

13. The Executive Secretary said that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was a space for sharing experiences on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and, as part of the regional contribution to the global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, for providing clear indications of the adjustments needed to achieve the defined thresholds. Past the midpoint towards 2030, a series of interconnected crises was hampering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and exposing the region to the risk of a new "lost decade". The far-reaching cumulative consequences of low economic growth in the region undermined the capacity to create quality jobs, reduce poverty, meet social demands and address climate change. It was therefore urgent to promote a transformative recovery, as outlined by ECLAC on several occasions. ECLAC would present a document with three main ideas. The first was that, given the considerable lag in achieving most of the SDG targets, there was an urgent need to strengthen the commitment to that end and to undertake bold, inspiring and transformative action to ensure that they would be met by 2030. Second, the efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda had left a lasting institutional footprint in the region, strengthening both capacities for dialogue, building partnerships and improving public policies and mechanisms for the participation of civil society, among other successes. Third, to pick up the pace, countries must rekindle the commitments and means of implementation of the SDGs. In that spirit, ECLAC was proposing a set of transformative initiatives with the potential to generate high-impact and multiplier effects in various areas and in which governance, methods and the processes necessary for their implementation played an essential role. Lastly, he said that foresight and the ability to adopt a forward-looking approach were increasingly important for the achievement of the SDGs and that the crisis was proof of the need to focus on the long term.

14. The Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations said that the commitment expressed in the 2030 Agenda represented an opportunity to transform societies that would take into account diverse realities and include a substantive social justice and equality component. The daunting post-pandemic scenario challenged States, civil society and the

international community to promote measures to bridge the gaps that had widened. The international community should identify worsening areas and redouble collaboration and the mobilization of financial and human resources to reverse such trends. The Secretary-General was leading an international agenda to accelerate implementation of the SDGs and the 2023 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development would precede the exhaustive global review of progress towards the goals at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be held in September. The region could not remain on the sidelines of that global challenge, and instead should set priorities and establish commitments to work together to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. A culture of peace, tolerance and respect should continue to be fostered, with work on the recognition of rights and a cross-cutting and inclusive environmental agenda. Seven years from 2030, the path ahead was as important as the outcome, as it would lay the foundations for the paradigm shift needed to build the future that generations to come would inherit.

15. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations said that the document *Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and recommendations for acceleration*,[2] the sixth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean prepared by ECLAC, showed that progress towards the achievement of the SDGs had faltered and even backtracked. The cost-of-living crisis, fiscal stress and the debt burden were unsustainable, and climate-related catastrophes and biodiversity loss were aggravating the region's social challenges. Migrants, in particular women, children and young people, were the hardest hit. Only 25% of the Goals were projected to be met by 2030 in the region. Swift action was needed to get back on track. The region was at the forefront of the care systems dialogue, prioritizing gender equality, a cross-cutting issue for sustainable development. However, income inequality and the rural-urban divide persisted. There had been progress with universalizing access to energy, and the renewable portion of the primary energy sector grew to one third in 2021. The region was well placed to benefit from the green energy transition. However, access to fixed broadband placed the region well below others. Productive transformation, boosting renewable energy, bridging the digital divide, renewing cooperation models and bolstering concessional financing could help, and regional cooperation was vital. A transformational change was needed and world leaders would have to make a choice —to seize the opportunity for a better future or not. She called on all to rise to the challenge and act for a sustainable future, leaving no one behind.

16. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina said that it seemed that, in a context of overlapping crises, development appeared to be increasingly relegated to the back burner. The position of developing countries and resource mobilization to finance international cooperation were being weakened, leading to deeper divides between countries in the North and the South. Added to that was the weakening of peacekeeping and pro-development mechanisms. The region had borne the worst socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic and a transformative recovery could only be achieved through dialogue and cooperation that included every country. A development model with social justice was needed, as were policies in the areas of agriculture, industry, science and technology that could boost agricultural output, energy supply and the diversification of productive structures to secure jobs and access to strategic goods and services. He also underscored the importance of recognizing domestic and care work and of mainstreaming the gender agenda. The region was facing an enormous challenge and although technological advances had provided the tools with which to address myriad crises, it was experiencing unparalleled and sustained social, economic and environmental deterioration. Human rights must be accorded central priority in all sectors, at all levels of policy design and in dimensions of sustainable development. Lastly, the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to be held in September 2023 would be a key opportunity to design a global plan for accelerating pursuit of the SDGs and it was essential for all to have an unwavering commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

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[2] See [online] https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2023/en/documents/halfway-2030-latin-america-and-caribbean-progress-and-recommendations-acceleration.

17. In a video message, to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said that, 75 years before, in the aftermath of two world wars, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had set a guiding vision that human rights were the foundation for freedom, justice and peace. Latin America and the Caribbean had long been a champion of human rights, which were the cornerstone of sustainable development, as recognized by the Human Rights Council in its historic resolution[3] in which the urgent need to integrate human rights in plans to achieve the SDGs was underscored. In a context of global crises, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the world had passed the half-way mark towards 2030. The pandemic had disproportionately affected women, Indigenous and Afrodescendent populations, older and LGBTI+ persons and refugees and migrants, pushing millions into extreme poverty in a context of fragile social security, exacerbating the gaps in a region that had long suffered from some of the highest rates of economic inequality in the world. The full realization of economic, social and cultural rights was crucial for recovery and disaggregated data was vital for designing policies that included marginalized populations and helped to eliminate inequalities. While fiscal space must be expanded, national efforts must be paired with international solidarity. The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was an opportunity to give new vigour to the promise that human rights were for all. The voices of Latin America and the Caribbean were instrumental in reminding the world of the importance of human rights. His office would continue to support human rights in the region, the most powerful tool for emerging from the crisis and forging a new beginning.

Presentation of the document *Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and recommendations for acceleration*, sixth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 2)

18. Presenting the document *Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and recommendations for acceleration*, sixth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC provided an overview of the sections on the cascading global shocks and the development crises facing Latin America and the Caribbean, institutional progress in the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, assessing advances towards the targets of the SDGs and proposals for acceleration, as well as final reflections. He said that exactly halfway to the deadline set for the 2030 Agenda, the goals were not halfway to being met: data showed that only a quarter of the targets had been or were expected to be met by 2030. Progress towards 48% of the targets was in the right direction but too slow, and for 27%, the trend was backwards. Thus, there was a risk that 75% of the targets would not be met unless decisive action was taken to get back on track.

19. Over the period 2014–2023, growth in the region had been slower than during the lost decade of the debt crisis and that the investment trend was a structural problem. The region was lagging and productivity gaps had widened. Between 2011 and 2019, job creation had reached record lows, and while poverty and inequality had lessened, they remained high. Meanwhile, the inflationary shock of 2021 and 2022 had been met by raising interest rates. Fiscal deficits were approaching pre-pandemic levels, but public debt remained high despite having fallen in 2022. In the Caribbean, lower fiscal deficits and high levels of public debt had also been recorded. With regard to institutional progress on the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda, significant institutional capacity had been created for its implementation and follow-up (coordination mechanisms, voluntary national reviews, the Community of Practice on voluntary national reviews and the alignment of national development plans and strategies with the 2030 Agenda). There were various institutional arrangements for the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in the region. In addition, advances continued in the territorialization of the 2030 Agenda. He highlighted the work of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) and the increasing participation of civil society in processes related to the 2030 Agenda.

[3] A/HRC/RES/52/14.

20. Regarding assessment of progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, he said that countries and the United Nations had strived to improve the availability of data for monitoring. An institutional footprint had emerged that had unequivocally strengthened countries' capacities to discuss the challenges of the future and solutions, forge partnerships and improve evidence-based policies. He mentioned the progress made towards the achievement of Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17, which was described in detail in the document presented. Looking towards the future, it was clear that the sequelae of both the pandemic and cascading crises were serving to motivate the redoubling of efforts to achieve the SDGs. Despite the setbacks, countries' efforts had left their mark on public, private and civil society institutions, a very positive outcome. In order to advance, transformative initiatives were needed. ECLAC had identified such initiatives in seven areas: the bioeconomy, sustainable tourism, the digital transformation, regional economic integration, the care society and gender equality, the energy transition and related industries, and the export of modern, Internet-enabled services. A forward-thinking approach was needed, with a focus on the long term. The region suffered from a lack of institutional continuity in foresight exercises, which were disconnected from public policy decision-making processes. Prospective planning was relevant in the context of polarization, gaps in strategic decision-making and coordination through time. Lastly, he noted that the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be held in September 2023, and the Summit of the Future, to be held in 2024, presented new opportunities for the region to take and share effective decisions to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

Accelerating the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels (agenda item 3)

21. The representative of Chile said that recovery needed to be sustainable, inclusive and resilient, which called for the strengthening of multilateral agencies and international cooperation. A national strategy had been developed in Chile for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, doing so through a broad participatory process, as civil society should be a key part of the process. Given the tremendous effort required to achieve the SDGs in the wake of the pandemic, which no one country could accomplish on its own, States must work together and in partnership with all stakeholders in society.

22. The representative of Argentina reaffirmed that last idea and insisted on the need to convey, at international forums, a joint regional vision of how to accelerate implementation of the SDGs, forged through cooperation and solidarity among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. He also stressed the importance of strengthening ties with other countries of the region, citing examples of cooperation initiatives undertaken with the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Mexico and Paraguay.

23. The representative of Brazil mentioned the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation as an example of an institution that fostered innovation and development of knowledge and technologies and put them at the disposal of the region. While the structural weaknesses of Latin America and the Caribbean had heightened the impact of the pandemic, the region had been given an opportunity to realign priorities and to appreciate the importance of health and science. Science was a vital public policy tool for realizing sustainable development.

24. In that regard, the representative of Ecuador presented a report on the results of the country's national vaccination plan against COVID-19 (Plan 9/100), which had been a success, since it had been implemented in the first 100 days of the new government, as planned, and had enabled the country to curb infections, save lives and reinvigorate the economy, which had experienced one of the highest excess mortality rates caused by the pandemic. The findings from the evaluation of that intervention could be extrapolated to future health campaigns, to improve their effectiveness.

25. The representative of Colombia said that the world was close to reaching a point of no return and that, in order to avoid that terrible scenario, it was imperative to achieve the social transformations that the region

needed, abandoning extractivism and promoting renewable energies. That would require all countries to join forces in order to open up a new path of economic development. Work was also needed to eradicate poverty and inequality, one of the region's most cruel legacies, and to establish a new social contract.

26. The representative of Costa Rica said that it was important to view development as a multidimensional process and adopt a people-centred approach. She listed some of the measures implemented address the effects of the pandemic in Costa Rica, noting that the country's aim was to develop a decentralized, digitalized and decarbonized economy, and to focus on regenerative agriculture, innovation and blue economy activities.

27. The representative of Panama referred to Plan Colmena, the country's national sustainable development strategy, which aimed to territorialize implementation of the SDGs, strengthening local governments, encouraging citizen participation, promoting joint and coordinated work by all institutions and sectors, and prioritizing the poorest and most vulnerable areas of the country, in order to lay solid foundations for accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda. Panama was in the process of drafting its third voluntary national review, to which end it was working with all stakeholders in statistical systems, civil society organizations and United Nations entities.

28. The representative of Mexico referred to territorialization of the SDGs, which was the only effective way to implement the 2030 Agenda. The post-pandemic scenario had shown that inequalities within countries had rendered it difficult to achieve health stability in an equitable manner, and several countries had requested assistance from the international community in order to ensure sustainable development for the population. In her country, a National Council for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had been established, as well as various mechanisms to align government-driven development plans and programmes with the Agenda.

29. The representative of Uruguay said that his country had always been part of the global sustainable development process and recalled some of the milestones in that area as well as the establishment of various protection institutions. Going forward, there were numerous challenges and it was important to address the severe productivity problems in the region, which prevented growth, and the need for each country to produce its own resources, without expecting everything to come from outside. It was imperative for countries to improve the quality and targeting of spending. He noted that Uruguay collected data for all SDG indicators on an annual basis.

30. The representative of Cuba urged ECLAC to maintain its decisive role as a proactive interlocutor and advocate of the region's development priorities. She said that although progress had been made in areas such as access to water and sanitation, generation of energy from renewable sources and scientific-technical innovation projects, efforts aimed at recovery were hampered by the unilateral blockade imposed by the United States, which affected all areas of the country's socioeconomic life.

31. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated that his country reaffirmed its commitment at the multilateral, regional and national levels to policies for implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, and mentioned the care and protection policies implemented by his Government before, during and after the pandemic. Regarding the economic, trade and financial blockade, energy was a key pillar for development and it was impossible to overlook the importance of the loss of oil revenues as a result of the sanctions imposed on the country.

32. The representative of Paraguay said that her country aspired to move forward with the sustainable development agenda and faced a number of challenges in terms of legal security and social policies. The Paraguay 2030 National Development Plan was aligned with the SDGs, achievement of which was vital to meeting national development goals. It was important to work with the countries of the region and pursue joint initiatives to address the different dimensions of sustainable development.

33. The representative of Guatemala shared his country's experience in three main areas: governance and institutions, digital transformation and modernization, and multi-stakeholder dialogues and strategic partnerships for development. He also stressed the importance of the "K'atun: Our Guatemala 2032" National Development Plan, which was aligned with the SDGs and had resulted in 10 national development priorities, and of the National System of Development Councils, which helped reduce territorial asymmetries.

34. The representative of the Bahamas said that international cooperation should be tailored to country-specific issues, as it was not sustainable to adopt a one-size-fits-all approach. In her country, the pandemic had come on the heels of the devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian, which had wiped out progress towards the SDGs and caused billions of dollars in damage. In the area of climate change, significant changes needed to be made so that the region would not be left behind.

35. The representative of Dominica stated that his country was on track to meet many of the SDG targets and had submitted its voluntary national review in July 2022. However, climate change and a lack of a data management architecture to monitor some of the targets were obstacles to such progress; recovery from extreme weather events and the fight against non-communicable diseases were priorities for his country, but diverted resources from action to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The cumulative effect of these challenges was an even bigger burden and obstacle, the unavoidable national debt, which restricted the country's ability to raise and dedicate the requisite resources to the Goals of the 2030 Agenda. Schools, houses for the displaced, roadways, bridges, slope stabilization structures, hospitals, economic infrastructure (such as ports and tourism facilities) all needed to be built or rebuilt to modern resilient standards. Non-fossil sources needed to be found to fuel economic activities. Older persons and the vulnerable should not be abandoned. Heavy investment was required in re-equipping health facilities and training personnel. Life continued and those inescapable costs, often determined by forces that were well beyond the country's control, continued to rise.

36. The representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis reported that her country was making progress towards the SDGs, but challenges remained that could only be overcome by establishing strategic partnerships, creating innovative financing mechanisms and improving data collection and management systems. Her country was preparing its first voluntary national review, as well as a new national development plan.

37. Lastly, the representative of the United States said that the regional forums and the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals Summit were opportunities to pivot the way SDG work was conducted; various agencies from her country had continued to partner with the region throughout the year, and decisive action had been taken in relation to Goals 6, 7, 9 and 11, which were being discussed at the Forum. The SDGs were at the heart of shared values such as expanding economic opportunities, tackling climate issues, respecting human rights and leaving no one behind.

Strategies to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean (agenda item 4)

38. The session was moderated by Diane Quarless, Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and the panellists were Ashni K. Singh, Minister of Finance of Guyana; Shantal Munro-Knight, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Barbados; and Winston Dookeran, Secretary-General of Euclid University.

39. The moderator said that the COVID-19 pandemic had widened fissures of inequality and compounded well known pre-existing issues that undermined development, creating a perfect storm. Creative economic, productive, social and investment policies would be required to sustain the incipient post-pandemic recovery and reduce the implementation deficit. Addressing development challenges had increased debt in a subregion with high debt-to-GDP ratios. The subregion faced a steep climb to 2030 without access to long-term low-cost financing to implement sustainable development and without the concerted support of the international community. ECLAC and the United Nations system could provide guidance in design and implementation of strategies and policy interventions.

40. The Minister of Finance of Guyana said that recent economic developments had placed his country in a position to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In the previous three years, public investment had increased fivefold and focused on transportation and energy infrastructure and social services. Two strategies had been developed to advance the national and subregional agenda in line with the 2030 Agenda: the "25 by 2025" agenda to reduce the food import bill of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) by 25% by 2025, and a second-generation low-carbon development strategy to generate revenues through the mobilization of standing forests. The latter reinforced Guyana's very strong climate credentials, which included the fact that it would continue to be a net carbon sink. However, the level of investment needed to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda exceeded the fiscal resources available. Guyana supported the Bridgetown Initiative for a new global approach to financing countries facing the brunt of the climate crisis and called on the international community to recommit itself to undertakings agreed with respect to mobilizing and delivering financing for the most vulnerable countries.

41. The Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Barbados said that her government focused strategies for achieving SDGs on national implementation that highlighted activities to ensure delivery at scale and at impact, and on strategic leadership at the global level, for example through leveraging of platforms to call attention to structural and systemic changes needed in the global financial architecture. Its strategic leadership was also reflected in efforts to align major policy initiatives with the SDGs. Her government's Bridgetown Initiative was built on five proposals: drawing in US$ 5 trillion of private savings for climate mitigation, widening access to concessional finance for the climate vulnerable, expanding multilateral development bank lending for climate and SDGs by US$ 1 trillion, funding loss and damage, and making the financial system more shock-absorbent. Other critical factors included the promotion of greater inclusivity and participation by all partners and stakeholders, with the support of an interministerial committee and a model for social partnerships, and the lack of data and of access to reliable data, which stymied measurement, monitoring and evaluation.

42. The Secretary-General of Euclid University, underscoring the points raised by panellists and the importance of the ECLAC report for the design of future policy perspectives, said that Caribbean resilience had been tested by global crises and in light of the imperative paradigm shift, a rethink of macroeconomics for the region was required. In that regard, environmental diplomacy, financial resilience and a new convergence framework were three key areas, the mechanics of which would enhance SDG implementation. He highlighted the need for initiatives to provide sustainable financial buffers, transform social security systems and expand the region's economic space through regional integration. The institutional footprint was key to defining forward-looking action. The Caribbean was on the edge of a major policy reset: more than a shift in public policymaking, what was needed was a redesign of the architectural drawings of public policy to achieve targets in the long term.

43. In the comments that followed, the representative of Costa Rica recalled that his country shared the challenges and vulnerabilities of the Caribbean, which was why it had supported the "Caribbean first" initiative, proposals for the implementation of the Caribbean Resilience Fund, the inclusion of hurricane clauses in financing documents and efforts related to access to financing.

44. The representative of Jamaica said that the integration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had augmented the approach to development through an enhanced framework for monitoring, follow-up mechanisms and improved means of implementation supported by international cooperation. Jamaica's commitment to a sustainable development framework with risk management built into its design had cushioned the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country's economy and continued to advance the implementation of the SDGs. The challenges faced were not constraints to partnership and countries could leverage their experience in responding to crises, long-term development planning and ongoing fiscal reforms to advocate for improved access to financing for small island developing States and middle-income countries, for technological transfer and for improving the terms of trade.

45. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago said that the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic had hampered momentum in implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Robust monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems were critical to track and assess institutional progress towards SDG and 2030 Agenda implementation and strong institutional mechanisms were key. Accurate, relevant, timely, disaggregated, accessible and easy-to-use data and statistics were needed to inform and improve decision-making and the country was working with the United Nations country team to modernize the statistics ecosystem.

46. The representative of Cuba called on the international, regional and subnational communities and the various sectors present to strengthen their partnerships with the Caribbean —a region whose challenges, in particular economic and climate-related ones, his country shared— and to build on the links established with United Nations entities, such as the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

Panel discussions (agenda item 5)

47. Pursuant to the wish expressed by the countries that the Forum should provide useful opportunities for peer learning, the sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets, five panel discussions were organized to allow the member countries of the Forum and other stakeholders to share their experiences and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Panel 1: Clean water and sanitation

48. The panel was moderated by Carolina González, Undersecretary of International Affairs and Federal Cooperation in the Ministry of Social Development of Argentina, and the panellists were Pável Isa Contreras, Minister of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic; Mario Lubetkin, Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Daniel Tugues, Deputy General Manager of Aguas Andinas; Ruth Spencer, of Yale International Alliance, Antigua and Barbuda; and Freddy Mamani, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (pre-recorded video message).

49. The moderator opened the panel by underscoring that water resources were a source of life and a human right. In Latin America and the Caribbean, there were important shortfalls in terms of water and sanitation and, with millions of people lacking access. In addition, significant differences remained across the various regions and between urban and rural areas. Good water governance should incorporate, among other things, a gender perspective, the perspective of people of African descent and Indigenous Peoples, and the voice of youth. The challenge was to achieve a sustainable and inclusive water transition, in which all sectors cooperated in taking effective action.

50. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic explained that water stress was on the rise in his country. In the agricultural sector, there was a great deal of waste and inefficiency in irrigation, which led not only to low productivity but also to soil salinization and erosion and contamination of aquifers. In terms of access to drinking water and sanitation, nominal

coverage was high but effective coverage was low, and there was a high percentage of water loss. In addition, the policy framework for integrated water resources management was weak, and institutional fragmentation was an issue. The goal was to establish an agreement that recognized the tripartite nature of water (as a human right and a natural and economic resource), to draft a general water act and to create regulations for drinking water and sanitation services and for managing irrigation. While these changes were taking place, the government was strengthening the coordination of water actions through its Water Cabinet, increasing the corresponding public spending and building capacity in the areas of utility management and data management to strengthen policies.

51. The Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of FAO emphasized that water was essential for food production, which would increase 50% by 2050 and would require 30% more freshwater. The world was facing a major problem of hunger and undernutrition, and there could be no food security without water security. The region was one of the worst affected by climate change and suffered from increasingly frequent drought and flooding. In addition, 25% of the population had no drinking water and sanitation management services. In a context of widespread global water stress, one FAO priority was to improve member States' water resource management capacities. To that end, it offered technical assistance for the adoption of inclusive water governance, the promotion of agriculture that was sustainable and climate change-resilient, and the improvement of management, data and analysis capacities, as data were key for enabling appropriate policies to be set.

52. The Deputy General Manager of Aguas Andinas provided an overview of the management model of the company, which had been providing water to most of the Santiago Metropolitan Region in Chile for nearly two and a half decades. In 12 years, the company had managed to increase the percentage of wastewater treatment from 3% to 100% (a world first), incorporated technology in the water cycle by shifting to a circular economy model in which treatment plants had been transformed into biofactories focused on resource efficiency (clean water, organic fertilizer and energy), and invested heavily in improving the system's resilience to extreme events caused by climate change, which increased the frequency of episodes of turbidity in the rivers that supplied water. The current challenge was drought, which required new investments, planning and discussions with irrigation associations to ensure the supply of water to the population and improve the water efficiency of the basin.

53. The representative of Yale International Alliance of Antigua and Barbuda said that the SDGs would not be met without full and effective inclusion and participation of civil society organizations, which gave voice to vulnerable and marginalized groups. Her country faced a water crisis caused both by climate change and by poor management of wetlands, and increasing the water supply was costly for the government, which needed civil society organizations to help provide solutions to the crisis. She hoped that some of the 700 voluntary commitments made at the United Nations 2023 Water Conference would filter down to the local community groups in the region, and that the experiences of countries that had seen successful outcomes could be shared. She called for greater inclusion and participation of local citizens, groups and grassroots organizations in decision-making, who could help to solve problems in planning and processes.

54. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia referred to the 2023 United Nations Water Conference at which progress on Goal 6 targets had been assessed, and countries had been able to reflect on related challenges and present their commitments with a view to accelerating progress. He explained that a series of dialogues held in the country's major economic regions, with representatives of civil society and Indigenous organizations, members of water and sanitation cooperatives, academics and researchers, and government representatives, among other participants, had led to the drafting of a proposal that incorporated several of the peoples' demands related to the issue. The proposal had been presented at the 2023 United Nations Water Conference. Among other matters, it urged member States to

reaffirm the essential nature of the human right to drinking water and sanitation and to establish a permanent, intergovernmental water mechanism at the United Nations for water conservation and management.

55. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Brazil said that his country had made progress in the development of national and local indicators for Goal 6, the measurement of their implementation, and the achievement of several of the related targets. Reports published by the National Water and Basic Sanitation Agency (ANA), responsible for implementing the water resource policy and publishing statistics and indicators on water management in the country, showed a positive trend towards the achievement of Goal 6.

56. The representative of Chile said that the comprehensive nature of Goal 6 entailed a risk for the achievement of the other SDGs and that countries should make transformative changes and act swiftly to adopt concrete measures. Noting the importance of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) and the integration of the commitments adopted by countries in different forums, she then said that in Chile, where work on water security necessarily meant working on watershed management, an interministerial committee for a just water transition had been established.

57. The representative of Guatemala stated that, in order to guarantee the availability of water and its sustainable management and sanitation for all, the country, in consideration of the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala, as well as the State policy on international watercourses, recognized water as a State asset to be administered and used by the competent national bodies for the benefit of its population. He also presented some of the country's key indicators on the achievement of Goal 6 and highlighted the importance of ensuring the human right to a healthy environment and creating platforms for access to statistics and data through public policy observatories. He mentioned fundamental issues such as environmental justice, financing for development regarding environmental matters and the active participation of various stakeholders (social organizations, academia, research centres and others).

58. The representative of Honduras said that although water was available in the country, governance remained a problem. The General Water Act provided for the creation of watershed committees for comprehensive water resource management, with Indigenous Peoples among their members, and included the development of a national water plan. He stressed that the government had focused on drastically improving the efficiency of local water resource management.

59. The representative of Peru said that cultural changes were needed to make public policies successful, based on efficient management and public administration. After referring to the launch of the Strategic Plan for National Development to 2050, he noted that to address changes in water management and governance and avoid water recession scenarios required not only law, but also data science and neuroscience, which would enable a disruptive change that would contribute to the traceability of highly efficient processes and thereby reduce the high level of discretionality in decision-making in highly complex scenarios and with respect to uncertain situations, such as a possible water recession. .

60. The representative of Barbados said that in her country there was an integrated water management process and policy framework that brought together legislation, programmes and projects with a view to creating a full picture of how to address climate change mitigation and adaptation issues; there was also an institutional framework with a subcommittee reporting to the cabinet on the water situation and how to address it. Access to concessional financing and grants to address the water issue was critical, given the country's small population and the difficulty in bringing projects to scale. Greater participation of communities and civil society was needed as the population had a role to play in solving problems.

61. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela recalled that water management, based on the principles of freedom, responsibility and solidarity, was fundamental for countries' development and the well-being of the population. He said that his country, which would not privatize water and which had passed the Water Act in 2007, aimed to move towards a model of sovereign and sustainable water management and was firmly committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs.

62. The representative of Costa Rica said that her country was on the right track to attaining Goal 6 indicators and referred in particular to the wastewater treatment system in various cities, where infrastructure remained a challenge, especially outside the metropolitan zone. A work plan had been defined for the next few years to improve wastewater treatment in households across the country.

63. The representative of Mexico highlighted the National Development Plan 2019–2024, which established territory and sustainable development as a cross-cutting theme. He referred to the activities of the Puerto Vallarta Potable Water, Drainage and Sewage System (SEAPAL) and to the responsible use of water and harmonization of the rates charged in different places.

64. The representative of the United States said that her country had accelerated efforts relating to achieving Goal 6 through the White House Action Plan on Global Water Security announced in 2022 and additional commitments to advance water security and sanitation announced in March 2023, which strengthened global systems to meet the needs of underserved populations as part of the Biden administration's investment in equitable and climate-resilient water and sanitation in the United States and around the world. In Latin America and the Caribbean (Guatemala and Ecuador, for example), the United States was providing assistance on water issues through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

65. The representative of Argentina stressed the importance of the meetings of the United Nations Water Conference and of the meaningful implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan. It was essential to reinforce the idea that to achieve efficient management, greater access to credit was needed. The Guaraní Aquifer and the development of a cross-border water agenda were of vital importance to the country.

66. The representative of UN-Women emphasized the importance of the Escazú Agreement for the region and of the adoption of a participatory approach. Although the ancestral knowledge of indigenous communities was being recognized, it was not translating into public or political representation. The graduation of some countries to middle-income status was barring their access to many concessional loans.

67. Lastly, the representative of Paraguay stressed the importance of disseminating the good practices used in the River Plate Basin so that other countries could take advantage of them.

Panel 2: Affordable and clean energy

68. The panel was moderated by Marisol Merquel, President of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies of Argentina, the country serving as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, and the panellists were Walter Verri, Vice-Minister for Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay; Andrés Rebolledo, Executive Secretary of the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE); Germán Carmona, Academic at the Institute of Engineering of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM); and Kaira Reece, Sustainable Development Secretary, Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (CSA).

69. The moderator described the degree of progress made in the region with respect to the various targets of SDG 7 and the pending challenges, which included multidimensional energy poverty, the need to consider not only coverage but quality of and access to energy by the different segments of the population, vulnerability to shocks and the need to increase energy efficiency. International cooperation was an enabling factor and fundamental to achieving all the SDG targets.

70. The Vice-Minister for Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay highlighted the region's progress with respect to SDG 7, whose indicators were among the most promising. He said his country ranked very on the World Energy Trilemma Index, which meant having energy that was available, permanently accessible and non-polluting. None of the SDG targets could be met without economic development, as countries needed to grow in order to provide welfare, including energy welfare. Uruguay's progress on the various Goal 7 indicators and various aspects of the energy transition were the result of a State policy, which would be maintained. The more progress made, the more difficult were decisions to pursue growth, but Goal 7 was fundamental to reducing the effects of climate change.

71. The Executive Secretary of OLADE said that regional indicators always hid deep gaps and that a distinction should be made among countries. In terms of energy sustainability, the region was on a promising path towards meeting the targets. He referred to various developments regarding the increased share of non-conventional renewable energies and the high proportion of the population with access to electricity in the region. Regarding energy poverty as a whole, he mentioned challenges in areas such as heating, cooking or the hours of daily availability of electricity in households, where there were significant gaps between countries. The area lagging furthest was energy efficiency, as there was a dearth of national legislation and binding targets were generally not included in plans. In that regard, he suggested that the countries should move towards some degree of harmonization of standards and set a common goal, which would act as a political engine for progress. Lastly, he stressed the importance of collaboration among countries.

72. The Academic at the Institute of Engineering of UNAM underscored the importance of public transportation, an area in which e-mobility had been shown to be financially viable in Mexico City. He said that electromobility also contributed to energy efficiency, as well as to the development of infrastructure and inclusive and sustainable industry, areas linked to the achievement of Goal 9. It was necessary to link technical and financial decisions, because electromobility was not equally cost-effective for all vehicle types; address production and operating costs and recharging infrastructure, especially in relation to renewable energies, and move towards a circular economy. To that end, regulation was essential, as it would provide certainty and enable forms of financing, fostering technological advances developed domestically and reducing dependence on imported technology; that effort should be undertaken by academia, industry and governments across the region.

73. The Sustainable Development Secretary of CSA said that trade unions and social organizations held that without a substantive change in the production and consumption model, proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions would maintain the status quo. She added that the concept of just transition was being reinterpreted, sometimes contradictorily, depending on the different interests involved. Several challenges constrained the region's ability to provide a structural response, including the privatization and commodification of energy, as well as situations that prevented many countries from taking public control of energy processes and tariffs. She said energy should be considered a right and should be universally accessible and in public hands, as a priority. The trade union and social movement called for the design and implementation of fair transition plans in countries' nationally determined contributions, with social dialogue, consideration for decent work and respect for all human rights, as part of a collective construction effort.

74. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Mexico said that development without energy was inconceivable and the energy situation in his country was heterogeneous and unequal, which had an impact on the fulfilment of all the SDGs (for example, Goal 13 on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts). He cited the case of Baja California, which was marked by substantial energy poverty and development constraints. In his country, demand from the business sector for energy supply made it important to have clean, modern, renewable energy and use it efficiently, for example in the area of public transport and freight transport, construction, technological development and value chains in production processes (as in the case of the manufacture of auto parts). Mexico's State Energy Commission and its project agenda were key in that regard. There were urgent near-term issues (such as energy supply) and long-term changes (such as collaboration between States of the region and private stakeholders). It was necessary to think globally and act locally.

75. The representative of Paraguay stated that her country's energy mix was 100% renewable and was exported to neighbouring countries; however, the country's final consumption still depended on oil, which was imported in its entirety. In the agricultural and transportation sectors, work was being done to promote clean and renewable energies. There were various initiatives to achieve electromobility and transform the energy matrix overall, and a national road map was being prepared for green hydrogen.

76. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that the region had large energy reserves (such as oil, water, lithium and sunlight), but the challenges were to harness them for productive development, for which multilateral financing was needed, and to defend and promote solidarity-based distribution programmes (such as Petrocaribe). He called for a way forward in which new and traditional energy sources would be a priority to counteract the negative effects of climate change, through projects to harness solar, biomass and wind energy.

77. The representative of Panama said that in her country, electricity coverage exceeded 90% of the population in almost all provinces, except in the Indigenous areas (comarcas), where figures were below average despite an increase in coverage. The supply of renewable energy had increased and the government had continued to formulate and implement plans for integrated water resources management; application of a national climate change policy which placed the climate dimension at the heart of national development; advancing the national gender and climate change plan to, among other things, expand the women-energy nexus and empower women in the energy transition; expanding the supply of renewable energy and clean energy in transport; and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

78. The representative of Costa Rica said that in her country the long-term aim was generation of clean energy and that more than 98% of electricity originated from five renewable sources: hydropower, geothermal, wind, biomass and solar energy. The third largest geothermal park on the continent was located in her country, and power generation from hydrocarbon plants was only complementary. Thanks to the strength of the energy mix, even during the pandemic, record levels of continuity and quality of services were achieved.

79. The representative of Colombia said that, in his country, close to 70% of renewable energy came from water resources and he suggested that economies should not be based on the extractivist model, but rather should be decarbonized and free from coal and oil. He called for a just energy transition and for the connection of non-conventional energies (such as wind and green hydrogen) to the grid to ensure the region's decarbonization.

80. The representative of Brazil spoke of the activity of hydroelectric power plants in her country, the extensive use of ethanol in automobiles and the use of solar and wind energy, whose installed production capacity had increased in recent years. Brazil had also increased the population's access to electricity and the application of programmes to boost the use of ethanol and biodiesel. She said that the share of renewable energies in her country's energy mix was among the highest in the world and would continue in that direction.

81. A civil society representative read a declaration proposing the construction of post-extractivist societies and economies. In order to protect cultural and natural diversity, there was a need for a structural socio-ecological transition, an orderly and progressive shift from dependence on oil, coal and gas, mining, deforestation and large monocultures. It was necessary to move towards renewable, decentralized, decommodified and democratic energy mixes, and towards collective, safe and quality models of mobility. There was a call for an energy transition governed by a generative process that would enable society to eradicate poverty and multidimensional inequalities. A new social contract was proposed that would put life at the centre, with a development model that would restore the balance with nature, promote renewable energies with sustainable technologies coming from fair production chains and with principles of new economies. Corporate energy transition processes viewed the region as a map showing operations for the extraction of common goods that financed the development models and energy transition of industrialized countries. A just and popular transition was essential to address the climate and environmental crisis and to meet the needs of the people, workers, women workers and communities affected by the energy transition. There must be democratic access to energy, which was a fundamental human right that no one should be deprived of, and tariffs should not exceed individuals', households' and communities' ability to pay.

Panel 3: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

82. The panel was moderated by the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the panellists were Nicolás Grau, Minister of Economic Affairs, Development and Tourism of Chile; Perpétua Almeida, Director of the Brazilian Agency for Industrial Development (ABDI); Manuel Albaladejo, Regional Representative for Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); Brígida Fernández Rubio, Director General of the Development Planning Committee of the State of Baja California, Mexico; Hernán Ceballos, Manager of iNNpulsa Colombia; Fernando Saiz, Director of Public Affairs and Regulation of Telefónica Chile; María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); Dulce Patricia Torres Sandoval, Member of the General Coordination Committee of Coordinadora Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas (CONAMI), Focal Point of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA), Mexico; and Clelia Hernández, Director-General of the Nuevo León 4.0 Initiative of Mexico.

83. The moderator underscored that it was important for decision makers to be able to participate in spaces for collective peer learning through discussions on experiences, common goals, good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine had illustrated the importance of infrastructure. Latin America and the Caribbean, where the Internet penetration gap was very wide, was the region that invested the least in innovation, but also the one with the most unicorn companies. The aim of the panel was to explore in depth the productive challenges facing the region and reflect on policies in the light of the new opportunities that were emerging.

84. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Development and Tourism of Chile said that the SDGs were of vital importance to the Government of Chile. He described the budget programme for sustainable productive development, which was led by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and brought together various ministries and the Production Development Corporation (CORFO). The programme was based on three objectives: fair decarbonization, resilience and adaptation to the climate crisis, and productive diversification. Chile was making good progress in the green hydrogen industry and the government was looking to have a horizontal dialogue with the industry.

85. The Director of ABDI said that her country's government had attached the highest level of importance to national industry. In recent years there had been a process of deindustrialization and loss of competitiveness in the most important sectors of industry and it was necessary to implement a reindustrialization policy in consensus with the various sectors of society. The country was committed to a modern industry capable of creating good jobs and redistributing income, and at the same time sought greater environmental sustainability and aimed to play a leading role in the global decarbonization process.

86. The Regional Representative for Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay of UNIDO said that industry was integral to the SDGs because there was evidence of the direct relationship between industry and economic growth. The COVID-19 pandemic had shown that industry was vital for resilience and recovery. What was most worrying in the region was the high concentration of innovation and the high level of deindustrialization. It was also important to bear in mind that industrialization models had changed radically.

87. The Director General of the Development Planning Committee of the State of Baja California, Mexico, said that the SDGs provided language that had served as a road map for building partnerships among countries and regions with shared interests. In conjunction with different development stakeholders and levels of governance, the government of Baja California pursued public policies with people and their needs at the centre. It was a historic time to implement sustainable projects, including sustainable transportation and mobility projects, as well as green carbon projects.

88. The Manager of iNNpulsa Colombia stated that the relative size of the industry in the country had declined and that the government had committed to reinvigorating it. A new industrial policy had therefore been formulated, to transition from an extractive economy to a knowledge-based, productive and sustainable economy. Through technical and technological change, the aim was to link the knowledge-producing sector with the goods- and services-producing sector. Agro-industry was a key issue and it was crucial to learn from developed countries how to coordinate the productive sector with the knowledge-producing sector. It was essential to adopt new approaches and give new direction to existing instruments.

89. The Director of Public Affairs and Regulation of Telefónica Chile referred to the "twin transition", since there would be no green transition if there was no digital transition. Digital technologies could drive solutions to reverse the problem of environmental pollution. He stressed the importance of Internet for all in the region, and said that rather than transporting physical goods, it was necessary to transmit bits. A paradigm shift was key: to have the fastest and most universal connectivity possible, to use renewable energies and to establish partnerships between different companies so as not to duplicate efforts and to build in a clean and efficient manner.

90. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women noted that the policies linked to SDG 9 did not have gender indicators, but that nothing prevented the creation of such indicators. She said there were gender gaps in industry, infrastructure and innovation. One in two women was not

economically active because she was performing care work. That was why the agreements reached at the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean on building care societies which placed care systems at the centre, were so important. Care systems were a new industry that generated quality jobs and enabled women to work outside the home. It was essential to address the inclusion of women in all industries and to overcome gender gaps in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Lastly, she called for women to be involved in the design of industrial policies and in the creation of resilient and inclusive infrastructure, taking into account their diversity, including Indigenous women, women of African descent, women with disabilities and women of different sexual orientations.

91. The Member of CONAMI and Focal Point of ECMIA made a series of recommendations to States on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly women. She said that States should ensure the implementation of general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; recognize the contributions and traditional knowledge systems of women and Indigenous Peoples; ensure the protection of their collective intellectual property rights and biocultural heritage; ensure that their consent regarding infrastructure and industry initiatives in their territories was obtained; develop protocols and measures for the digital security for Indigenous women and girls; encourage investments in equitable access to connectivity and technologies; support the creation of intercultural programmes and grants for the acquisition of knowledge to facilitate industrial innovation and entrepreneurship; foster the creation of digital community centres operated by Indigenous women and young people; ensure the inclusion of human rights, gender and intercultural approaches, among others, in policies and programmes on industry, innovation and technology; and take action and create incentives to reduce negative impacts on the planet and mineral, energy, scientific and academic extractivism.

92. The General Director of the Nuevo León 4.0 Initiative, Mexico, recalling the various processes that the world had to address in the context of post-pandemic recovery and international conflicts and tensions, said that the main regional challenges such as inflation, insecurity and organized crime, which had an impact on all activities linked to innovation, industry and infrastructure because they had a bearing on levels of investment. She also mentioned informality, infrastructure bottlenecks and the need for better skills and talent in manufacturing and services needed to address challenges such as digitalization and automation to achieve greater efficiency, reduce costs, maximize assets and find new business units. In that regard, all countries and communities must make a commitment to talent generation. The entity she led had decided to focus on education, SMEs, talent grants and connecting schools to bridge the digital divide, among other actions. To achieve that, employed persons and students needed to be equipped with better skills, in areas such as problem-solving and analytical thinking.

Panel 4: Sustainable cities and communities

93. The panel was moderated by Santiago Maggiotti, Minister of Territorial Development and Habitat of Argentina and President of the Forum of Ministers and Highest Authorities of Housing and Urbanism of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), and the panellists were Wendy Molina Varela, Vice- Minister of Planning in the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements of Costa Rica; Elkin Velásquez, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); Armando Enrique Navarrete, Chief Economist of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI); María Soledad Cisternas Reyes, Special Envoy of the Secretary- General on Disability and Accessibility; Augusto Du Bois Goitia, Second Vice-Chair of the Inter-American Housing Union (UNIAPRAVI); Augusto Barrera Guarderas, Director of the Centre for

Knowledge Transfer and Social Innovation (CETCIS) of the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador; and Arturo Noel Noyola Muñoz of the Red Nacional de Juventudes Afromexicanas of Mexico.

94. Following the presentation of a video with a statement by Alberto Fernández, President of Argentina, on the occasion of the MINURVI ministerial meeting on funding for climate change mitigation in urban settlements, held in April 2023, in which the President recalled that the continent was the most unequal in the world, that access to housing was a human right that should be addressed as such, not as a commodity to which some had access and others did not, and that homelessness should not be normalized, the moderator highlighted the commitment of MINURVI to contributing to implementation of the SDGs. He said that Goal 11 in particular called for intergovernmental coordination in the region in the area of sustainable development in urban settlements. Latin America and the Caribbean were more affected by climate change despite emitting less greenhouse gases (GHG), which represented a double inequality. Cities produced one third of the region's GHGs and 80% of the region's population lived in urban areas. The challenges ahead included reducing the number of people living in slums, reducing energy consumption in the building sector, preventing deaths caused by climate change-induced disasters, and fostering positive economic, social and environmental linkages between urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

95. The Vice-Minister of Planning in the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements of Costa Rica said that her country was committed to meeting the SDGs and had established a governance model for them. Various national policies and measures, such as financing and subsidies, including the family housing subsidy, savings and loan systems and mortgage loans, had reduced the housing deficit over time. Projects were under way in the country to remove informal settlements, establish deeds for land, provide emergency housing and recycle abandoned buildings to turn them into housing. Despite progress, there was a lack of land management plans, soil management and governance instruments, climate change adaptation, gender, citizen participation or human rights in housing. The administration had proposed a national urban development plan to settle the historical debt with the city and the territory. There was a bill to merge the National Institute of Housing and Urban Development, the home mortgage bank and the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements to create a new ministry for territorial planning, habitat and housing, which would have a comprehensive vision. Construction and regularization regulations had been updated, and work was being done on the draft plan to incorporate the variables of climate change, gender and citizen participation. Lastly, the Vice-Minister thanked ECLAC for its technical assistance.

96. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UN-Habitat said it was important to make up for lost time in implementation of SDG 11. Work with local governments needed to be strengthened, and localizing the SDGs in municipalities and territories was a useful tool. It was also necessary to measure what was happening in municipalities and cities not only through SDG 11 indicators. Most countries had national urban policies in place to combine resources, energy and efforts, and to develop multilevel governance mechanisms. It was important to focus efforts on improving informal settlements and to realize the vision of integrated action. The comprehensive improvement of neighbourhoods required involvement of women, youth and the private sector. Improving the quality of life of citizens was part of integration. Financing was a key issue and a proposal had been made to establish a fund for green and resilient social housing, as well as other funds for innovative financing. Lastly, he underscored the importance of localizing the SDGs.

97. The Chief Economist of CABEI outlined the Bank's activities in Central America and other regions, financing initiatives and 2020–2024 strategy, which included strategic pillars such as sustainable competitiveness, regional integration, and human development and social inclusion with a gender and environmental perspective. In Central America there was a very intense migration pattern, with rural to urban migration at a time when countries were not ready to absorb those flows. The housing deficit was

both quantitative and qualitative and a quarter of the population lived in slums or informal settlements without access to basic services or safe public spaces. The Bank's resources were earmarked for pre-investment in country-level feasibility analysis, building infrastructure and equipment, capacity-building and institutional strengthening. Progress was promising, but there was still much to be done in terms of strategy and resource mobilization, as the resources were insufficient.

98. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility said that the right to the city was a right for all inhabitants to inhabit, use, occupy, produce, transform, govern and enjoy just, inclusive, safe sustainable and democratic cities, villages and human settlements, defined as essential common goods for a decent life, to ensure human dignity. The concept of an accessible city did not only refer to people with disabilities but to everyone, as the concept of universal accessibility applied. Accessibility was, in fact, a set of conditions to be met by physical spaces, transportation, information, communications and technology, and procedures, among others, to enable people to use cities as safely, efficiently and comfortably as possible. A city that claimed to be smart was not unless it had accessibility in technology. Universal accessibility was a legal concept and could therefore be demanded of the State. Failure to implement accessibility was a form of mistreatment of many people and meant that States were not complying with their universally ratified legal obligations, including the 2030 Agenda. At least 12 SDGs required accessibility to be met. Accessibility barriers had to be removed and legal frameworks improved in order to enhance governance and democracy and to have fair, sustainable and safe cities. Accessibility had to be cross-cutting so as not to undermine human rights or weaken democracy, of which inclusion and participation were a hallmark, and to ensure the implementation of the SDGs.

99. The Second Vice-Chair of UNIAPRAVI noted that the right to the city was a human right. Civil society should be represented in public policies. Environmental impacts and energy efficiency had to be considered when planning housing types and urbanization. The circular economy was a way to mitigate climate change and its consequences. He noted some problems related to construction activity, such as depletion of biodiversity, limitation of the biosphere's biocapacity to assimilate waste and a decrease in raw materials for construction. Joint actions were needed, with various stakeholders such as development agencies and private banks, according to the specific circumstances of each country.

100. The Director of CETCIS of the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador said it was necessary to analyse the effectiveness of public policies. Polarized urbanization was killing cities, in a context of persistent and worsening structural problems. The spatial configuration of cities depended on social structures, and if middle classes disappeared, that spatial dimension would be fragmented. COVID-19 had exacerbated management problems at different levels. The need to resolve day-to-day problems made it difficult to establish a forward-looking agenda amid the erosion of the legitimacy of policies and institutions.

101. The representative of Red Nacional de Juventudes Afromexicanas of Mexico said that Goal 11 was extremely complex. The public lacked awareness and focused on other issues closer to home; sustainability was a remote concept for city dwellers. Scale, multidimensionality and mutisectionality were mentioned, but the issues that mattered to people were overlooked. Such complexities were exacerbated in megacities, and the achievement of the SDG targets was even more distant. He said that only three indicators existed for the SDG under consideration, that national successes were not replicated at the global level, and that at the social level there was a lack of knowledge of the SDGs and a distancing from them. It was not enough to apply existing criteria to solve urban problems: what was needed were humanized cities, where the right to the city was the norm, with the active participation of all sections of the population. The SDGs set forth the vision to address planetary problems and, in many cases, appeared to reflect the dynamics of the Global North, which were not consistent with those of cities in Latin America, Southeast Asia and, in general, the Global South. Given the significant delays in achieving the SDGs at the halfway point towards

2030, one could ask whether they should not be adapted to the Latin American reality, with the participation of civil society, instead of pursuing the trend of adapting Latin American realities to the theoretical perspective of the Goals.

Panel 5: Partnerships for the Goals

102. The panel was moderated by Marisol Merquel, President of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies of Argentina, the country serving as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, and the panellists were Ana Montaño Medina, Director General for the 2030 Agenda in Mexico; Christian Salazar, Director of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Luciana Servo, President of the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) of Brazil; Paula Poblete, Undersecretary for Social Evaluation of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile; Sebastián Miller, Lead Economist of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Chile; Pilar Garrido, Director for Development Co-operation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Pamela Martín García, Vecinas Feministas and International Planned Parenthood Federation - Americas and the Caribbean Region (IPPF ACRO), Argentina; and Anabella Zavagno, Deputy Director General of ParlAmericas.

103. The moderator opened the panel by underscoring that the region should support initiatives that would contribute to the development of a financial and capital markets system that was not only in line with the 2030 Agenda, but that would also facilitate countries' efforts to bring their investments in line with the SDGs. Public revenues in the region had traditionally been insufficient to meet public spending needs, leaving a legacy of chronic deficits and rising debt levels. Progress on the SDGs would require a large-scale mobilization of domestic and external resources and a resource-allocation approach based on financing for environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development. Achieving that would require strengthening of partnerships, as called for in Goal 17. She then introduced the panellists, highlighting the variety of stakeholders represented.

104. The Director General for the 2030 Agenda in Mexico said that for a sustainable development agenda to be effective, there needed to be multi-stakeholder and multi-level partnerships among governments, the private sector, academia and civil society, in all areas and territories. In Mexico, coordination of those stakeholders was the responsibility of the National Council for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the government had forged partnerships with other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to address the most pressing global challenges, such as the fight against inflation, climate change and youth unemployment. The results of those cooperation programmes had provided tangible and concrete evidence of the need for such partnerships to ensure that sustainable development benefited all people and sectors. Lastly, she underlined the importance of the Forum in promoting such partnerships among Latin American and Caribbean governments.

105. The President of IPEA of Brazil, explained that the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and IPEA were the two public institutions in charge of coordinating discussion of indicators for monitoring the SDGs. Both would be represented in the National Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals that the government would reinstate in 2023. The work of the IPEA also focused on several areas where partnerships were most needed to achieve the SDGs, linked to inclusive and sustainable production (shared R&D infrastructure and technology transfer), various macroeconomic challenges (tax reform to protect spending in priority areas and securing investments for development), the global and regional development agenda (cooperation to fight tax evasion, financing for development and measuring

development cooperation), improving administrative efficiency (building State management capacities and digitalization of public services), and financing the Goals by sharing best practices.

106. The Undersecretary for Social Evaluation of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile described the National Council for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose members represented five ministries and other stakeholders from various sectors. The Council had drafted a report on the pandemic's impact on fulfilment of the SDGs and an implementation strategy for the Agenda. Given that the 2030 Agenda was a State commitment and had a participatory, collaborative and human rights approach, the implementation strategy had been designed through dialogue with more than 2,000 people and an online public consultation which had gathered more than 1,300 comments to the original proposal. The Council was currently preparing Chile's third voluntary national review, compiling information on relevant indicators in consultation with civil society organizations, businesses, educational institutions and public sector agencies.

107. The Lead Economist of IDB in Chile said that while a few years earlier the SDG targets had seemed attainable, the picture had become more complex. Latin America and the Caribbean must grow as a whole, as the countries of the region had common challenges and needs. IDB was a key partner for the region and its main source of financing for development. It invested in climate mitigation and adaptation projects, sustainable infrastructure and strengthening of value chains. Driving sustainable development could help to solve some global problems, and IDB was strongly committed to supporting countries in the region to achieve those objectives. However, given the vast gap between institutions' financing capacities and what the region needed to achieve the SDGs, so it was vital for countries to work together and build partnerships to find innovative ways to mobilize resources and promote sustainable development.

108. The Director for Development Co-operation of OECD stated that in a region such as Latin America and the Caribbean, which had limited fiscal and monetary space, the desire for green and inclusive growth had to be reconciled with the need to protect the most vulnerable and provide a resilient response to external shocks. OECD was working on a number of issues to support countries and meet their needs and requirements, to help to drive a transition to sustainable development that was just, low in emissions and with gender equality and opportunities for all. The work included analysis of countries' financial situation to assess which instruments could be most useful in each case, fostering dialogue on country graduation and multidimensional measurements other than per capita GDP, measurement of triangular and South-South cooperation, mobilization of sustainable financial flows, and the impact of investments in developing countries, and enhancing partnerships.

109. The Director of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division at OHCHR said that the SDGs were human rights in action and achieving them called for united action by multiple stakeholders at all levels. Therefore, it was important to protect spaces for citizen participation and the rights of association and peaceful demonstration, among other areas. In that regard, he praised the region for its leadership shown with the adoption of the Escazú Agreement and for the work of its human rights institutions and bodies. It was also vital to strengthen national and international partnerships, to expand fiscal space and mobilize the investments needed to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. An economy needed to be built that was based on human rights, with standards to guide how to invest public resources and use them for the benefit of the most vulnerable. He drew attention to the first Latin American and Caribbean summit for inclusive, sustainable and equitable global taxation, which was forthcoming, as well as the Bridgetown Initiative, promoted by Barbados.

110. The representative of Vecinas Feministas and IPPF ACRO, Argentina, representing the civil society participation mechanism, stressed the need for developed and developing countries to share resources and cooperate. Latin American and Caribbean governments must step out of their comfort zone and stop blaming the pandemic for all the current problems, as the situation in the region was already dire before the outbreak of the pandemic. She said that multinational companies were still not contributing enough, and their level of influence over governments and the United Nations was increasing. The macroeconomic dimension of unpaid domestic and care work should also be recognized. She proposed the development justice model, which aimed to address all inequalities, putting people at the centre over private profit, with redistributive, economic, gender, social and environmental justice, as well as accountability, something that would be difficult to achieve with high levels of opacity and corruption and weak democracies.

111. The Deputy Director General of ParlAmericas said that the aim of her institution was to promote parliamentary diplomacy in the inter-American system, by fostering cooperative dialogue and facilitating the sharing of good legislative practices among parliamentarians across the continent. Legislators were in a unique position to act as a liaison between citizens, civil society organizations and State institutions, making parliaments a key element in building social consensus. In addition, the 2030 Agenda explicitly recognized the role of national parliaments in ensuring effective implementation of the commitments it contained, so ParlAmericas had made the institutional decision to make the Agenda a cross-cutting element of the work carried out by parliamentarians, and to support the efforts of regional stakeholders to implement it through meetings, workshops, publications and specific tools for legislative work.

112. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Peru said that his country had a Forum for National Agreement, which brought together the President of the Republic, representatives of different levels of government and various civil society stakeholders to build consensus and propose State policies. The 2050 Strategic Plan for National Development was 80% aligned with the SDGs and for its implementation it was proposed that a research ecosystem be created together with cooperating agencies and the academic sector to build capacities, in addition to implementation of dashboards. It was important for there to be coordination between planning entities, cooperating agencies, experts and entities that conducted foresight at the global level, contributing to overcoming the rigidity of the administrative systems of public policy in the countries of the region. That would accelerate the pursuit of the SDGs, which required mobilizing the will of all stakeholders.

113. The representative of Paraguay said that the SDGs could only be achieved with the participation of all and noted the importance of localization and territorialization of the SDGs. Partnerships were vital for achieving the SDGs, especially in reaching out to communities.

114. The representative of Panama spoke of the importance of sustainable coordination among national institutions responsible for designing social and economic public policies, as well as public-private partnerships for development as an incentive for private investment, social development and job creation.

115. The representative of Honduras said that his country was seeking to rebuild the State in line with the 2030 Agenda. Collective work was important, with special emphasis on the most disadvantaged. He then called for the design of a new global financial system that would pave the way for a paradigm shift in order to achieve the SDGs.

116. The representative of Guatemala said that international debt reform was essential and urgently required, and stressed the importance of regional, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as of building an economy with a human rights-based approach.

117. The representative of Cuba said that, in view of the difficulties her country faced in accessing development financing, it was interesting to learn about the experiences of other countries in implementing Goal 17. Among other things, the country was focusing its efforts on consolidating strategic partnerships among sectors.

118. The representative of Colombia remarked that States, on their own, did not have the resources needed to deliver the 2030 Agenda, and that Goal 17 could not be achieved without fostering public-private partnerships.

119. The representative of Brazil said that it was essential to strengthen the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Efforts needed to be stepped up to combat inequalities, to strengthen financing mechanisms, to increase training and technical cooperation in developing countries, and to transfer technology to those countries.

120. The representative of Argentina said that strategic partnerships were no small matter and that it was vital to establish mechanisms to ensure the involvement of civil society.

121. The representative of Uruguay said that substantial resources were needed to implement the 2030 Agenda and that his country advocated in international organizations for access to loans for upper-middle-income countries. With the support of the United Nations, a small pilot project for energy transformation was being conducted. The representative of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) noted that the SDGs rarely referred to Indigenous Peoples and stressed the importance of involving Indigenous Peoples in decision-making and processes related to the SDGs at all levels.

122. The representative of the Central American Integration System (SICA) highlighted the importance of establishing partnerships within and outside SICA, as reflected in the 2022–2026 Work Plan, and of working with other regional and subregional integration mechanisms.

Contribution of the United Nations sustainable development system in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 6)

123. The session was moderated by Roberto Valent, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Development Coordination Office (DCO) of the United Nations.

Presentation of the 2022 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean.

124. The report was presented by José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and Michelle Muschett, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in their capacity as Vice-Chairs of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean.

125. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC spoke of the policy framework governing the creation of regional collaborative platforms, as part of the reform of the United Nations development system, and referred to the five recommendations of the Secretary-General in that regard. He listed the key functions of those platforms, as established in the management and accountability framework of the United Nations development system. He also referred to the implementation of that reform in Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to the various recommendations. He outlined the main development challenges for the region in 2023, in the context of slowing economic growth in most countries. He explained that the

Regional Collaboration Platform was organized into issue-based coalitions and thematic working groups on cross-cutting issues, and that the system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022 was structured in the same way. He then presented the system-wide results for each of the issue-based coalitions —climate change and resilience, crime and violence, equitable growth, financing for development, governance and institutions, and human mobility— and the two cross-cutting areas, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and youth.

126. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP concluded the presentation of the results of the different issue-based coalitions. She also outlined initiatives implemented on cross-cutting themes and additional priority areas, education, health and food systems. She then highlighted outcomes achieved in response to requests from resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, and engagements with various stakeholders to better support countries in implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She described the priorities of the Regional Collaboration Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2023, halfway to the deadline for the 2030 Agenda. Lastly, with regard to working mechanisms, she drew attention to the establishment of two new issue-based coalitions and a thematic working group for populations that had been left behind, including Indigenous Populations and persons with disabilities, and, in the context of the operational and programmatic working groups, a working group on evaluation.

Panel discussion: "Path to the SDG Summit. Transformative initiatives: creating opportunities to strengthen commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its full implementation at all levels" (agenda item 7).

127. The panel was moderated by María del Carmen Squeff, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations, the country serving as Chair of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development, and the panellists included José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Pedro Luis Pedroso, Ambassador, Special Representative of Cuba to the United Nations and Coordinator for Cuba's Presidency of the Group of 77 and China (G-77 and China), Paula Narváez, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, in her capacity as Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, and Luis Felipe López-Calva, Global Director of the Poverty and Equity Global Practice at the World Bank.

128. The moderator said that the panel would address the need to strengthen the commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the initiatives that would make it possible to face the enormous challenges that lay ahead. The discussion was highly relevant in the lead-up to the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September, which would seek to provide political guidance to States to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. The world was facing multiple crises, with more severe consequences for developing countries that compromised the achievement of the SDGs. A determined and cooperative effort would be needed to overcome them. The commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to the means of implementation adopted in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda should be redoubled to achieve adequate and predictable financing that could enable sustainable development. Several people from the region would be in leadership positions at the United Nations in 2023, a unique opportunity to make a significant contribution.

129. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the shocks the world had suffered cast a shadow over the prospects for sustainable development in the region. Referring to the general possibility of achieving the SDG targets by 2030 based on the current trajectory, he said that the results of efforts to strengthen institutions had been very positive. Efforts should be stepped up, with a forward-looking approach. ECLAC had identified seven potential transformative initiatives which, if carried out at the appropriate scale, could result in synergies and foster the achievement of various SDGs: the energy transition and its impacts, an area in which electromobility, green hydrogen and lithium were key; the bioeconomy, which could contribute to innovative industrialization, associated with the production of a variety of goods and services;

the digital economy, which had the potential to transform all sectors; the export of modern, Internet-enabled services, which could foster growth, productivity, job creation, the bridging of gender gaps and regional integration; the care society and gender equality, which could help reduce poverty through various policies; sustainable tourism, which was of great importance to some countries and could improve the quality of life in destination countries; and regional integration, which was no longer seen as an alternative but complementary to global integration. To promote those initiatives, new instruments were needed, and foresight capacity would be essential for enabling the related opportunities to be seized.

130. The Ambassador and Special Representative of Cuba to the United Nations and Coordinator for Cuba's Presidency of the G-77 and China said that it was a difficult time, in particular for developing countries, which were suffering the consequences of the pandemic, reduced official development assistance (ODA) flows, geopolitical tension and conflicts in various parts of the world, market volatility, inflation, unsustainable debt burdens, and climate change, to which must be added, in some cases, the imposition of coercive, unilateral measures by developed countries. It was time to usher in a new phase of international cooperation for development and meaningful reform of the international financial architecture. The desired outcomes of such reform should include increased participation of developing countries in governance; improved sovereign debt architecture; re-channelling of unused special drawing rights (SDR) towards the South and a new allocation of SDR; recapitalization of multilateral development banks; promotion of inclusive and effective international fiscal cooperation; and rationalization of the role of credit rating agencies. Sustainable development metrics that went beyond GDP were also needed in order to redefine countries' access to financing and technical cooperation, reform the international trading system and address illicit financial flows. Those challenges called for the countries of the South to show a united front to prevent a business-as-usual approach from quashing dreams of social justice.

131. The Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, in her capacity as Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, said that the SDGs most at risk of not being met were those on reducing poverty and inequality, sustainable cities and communities, climate action, strong institutions, peace and justice. She mentioned some of the regional circumstances affecting the achievement of the SDGs, in particular inequality and poverty levels, which in 2022 had remained above pre-pandemic levels. Institutions were weak and governance was deficient, issues that must be overcome to address many of the current problems. The effects of cascading crises, compounded by the conflict in Ukraine, were reflected in t macroeconomic policy constraints and growing social demands. The preconditions for progress towards more sustainable economies and societies and more inclusive growth included building a solid industrial foundation that could foster a knowledge-based diversification of the production mix. Strong investment flows, appropriate international financial architecture, productive employment and comprehensive social protection systems were needed, as was the establishment of care systems. Lastly, she said investment in education was essential for achieving many of the targets and avoiding "scarring" that could affect educational continuity on account of the pandemic.

132. The Global Director of the Poverty and Equity Global Practice at the World Bank said that Goal 1 (end poverty) was related to the core mandate of the Bank. Poverty had risen after the COVID-19 pandemic and had subsequently fallen, albeit not to pre-pandemic levels. The goal of reducing poverty to 3% in 2030 would be out of reach if current practices continued. The question therefore was what should be done to shift the trajectory. The World Bank was conducting an internal review to redefine its mission and the indicators to measure progress in fulfilling that mission. Economic growth remained important, but not just any growth. The Poverty and Equity Global Practice emphasized the need to invest in the productive capacity of people living in poverty. The destruction of human capital in health and education caused by the pandemic had repercussions on productivity and inequality. Countries were being asked to effect an unprecedented technological transformation in the areas of energy, manufacturing and green jobs and

financing modalities were needed to support the process. Institutional and legal changes, adjustments and instruments would be required for the private sector to be willing to cover the financing gap for the transition. The means to achieve the transition should be the outcome of national discussions and sovereign agreements. Multilateral organizations could provide support through technical assistance, information and funding.

133. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Jamaica said that her country's Voluntary National Review Report 2022 identified the structural and systemic issues that hindered national development, including low human capital development, climate change vulnerability, fossil fuel dependency, high public debt, low export diversification and the need to develop social capital to translate national development at the local level. The outcomes of the report would inform Jamaica's annual progress report as part of its midterm review process, taking into account the themes of the voluntary national review and the assessment of the coordination mechanisms along with the transformative action needed to drive progress over the next seven years. Focus must be placed on mobilizing the required resources and partnerships to design, strengthen and execute transformative initiatives and policies with significant multiplier effects.

134. The representative of Argentina emphasized that no one was self-sufficient and said that there was a need to forge pathways to fund civil society groups, which had played a key role in communities during the COVID-19 pandemic along with local and municipal governments. The 2030 Agenda represented an important opportunity for young people.

135. The representative of Barbados said that climate change was the overarching architecture in which the discussion on accelerating the implementation of the SDGs must be framed. The United Nations system must provide more resources at the regional level to continue to deliver relevant country-driven programmes, to help countries in terms of direct implementation. There must be metrics on how the United Nations helped States to meet goals. Funding had deteriorated in quantity and quality, a situation that must be reversed, and for that to happen, it was imperative to change how subsidies were financed. The essence of moral responsibility must not be lost; developed countries were not showing the same level of moral responsibility as small developing States. Greater participation of people from the communities in partnerships was necessary to achieve real results.

136. The representative of Colombia said that, because all types of development were not equal, not just any kind of development would do. There was a need to fight for a new development model centred around the care economy, which would require co-responsibility between the State, society, families and communities.

137. The representative of Honduras said that a gradual and fair productive transformation that respected the commons and Indigenous Peoples was under way in his country, and noted that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda would imply advances towards rebuilding the State and the development model.

138. The representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said that producing medicines and health technologies in the region could improve access to health, reduce inequalities and drive equitable economic development based on knowledge, technology and innovation. It was important to continue liaising with partners, focus on people and prioritize the health of the population during the economic recovery.

139. The FAO representative said that in the context of a reversal of development growth, a large number of agrifood systems were unstable and prone to collapse. The transformation towards sustainable, equitable and resilient agrifood systems should be given priority attention while accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In the region, FAO had reinforced permanent dialogue with governments and other cooperation

agencies to help governments to face food security and agrifood system challenges. At the first-ever United Nations Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, to be held in Rome in July 2023, the idea that accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda would be impossible without a sustainable and equitable transformation of agrifood systems would be reaffirmed. The input from the preparatory meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, would serve as the regional input for the meeting in Rome. In turn, the outcome of Stocktaking Moment would serve as an input to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and would consolidate the position of the agenda for food system transformation as one of the key transitions to get back on track to meet the SDGs.

140. The representative of UN-Habitat emphasized three topics: the territorialization of the SDGs and the need to promote voluntary local reviews, improvements to residential areas and progress in forging subregional partnerships to address issues such as urban poverty, and the importance of networks for joining forces.

141. The representative of UN-Women said that it was impossible to speak of growth without speaking of women and giving central importance to the care economy. At the high-level political forum on sustainable development, it would be critical to assert that creating comprehensive care systems would boost the achievement of the SDGs. Lastly, she underscored that the issue of comprehensive care systems was not merely a technical one, but rather a matter of political will.

Other matters (agenda item 8)

142. A representative of the Civil Society Children, Adolescents and Youth Group in the Sustainable Development Agenda and the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development read the declaration included in annex 3.

143. The representatives of the Mechanism for civil society participation in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development read the declaration included in annex 4.

Conclusions and recommendations (agenda item 9)

144. In accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC, the Forum adopted intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, which are attached hereto as annex 1 and a Summary of the Chair of the sixth meeting of the Forum was prepared.

Closing session

145. At the closing session, the Chair of the Forum remarked that there was a huge challenge ahead. The panels had addressed the issues of clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, industry, innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities and partnerships for the Goals. Topics such as the energy transition, the digital transition, promotion of modern service exports, the care society, food security, sustainable tourism and regional integration had been discussed. The exchange of ideas had covered cross-cutting issues such as the human rights perspective, the gender approach, the importance of data disaggregation and territorialization of the 2030 Agenda, mobilization of economic, financial and technological resources, and the efforts of the various stakeholders who, with different common but differentiated responsibilities, were committed to achieving the SDG targets. Forging partnerships was a vital tool that would enable fulfilment of the paramount aims of the 2030 Agenda, putting the dignity of all at the heart of the actions taken. The Sustainable Development Goals Summit to be held in September 2023 would allow participants to take stock of what had been achieved and what remained to be done, in order to identify

the crucial and high-priority steps to be taken, thus renewing efforts and commitments. The Summit was an opportunity to build a shared democratic future, with peace, justice and equity and without discrimination.

146. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that more than 650 people had participated in the Forum, including some 170 government representatives, more than 300 representatives of civil society, including academia and the private sector, and some 150 representatives of the United Nations system and resident coordinators. The document *Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and recommendations for acceleration* had been presented, and the various discussion and analysis panels had highlighted the need to step up efforts to meet the SDGs. Some of the topics addressed included water being a vector of sustainable development and key to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the need for energy shortages to be considered from a multidimensional perspective, taking into account regional and territorial inequalities and specificities; the region not having undergone inclusive and sustainable industrialization; and the region being the most urban in the developing world, with problems and solutions that were largely urban in nature. Most of the countries in the region did not qualify for official development assistance, significantly restricting their ability to mobilize external resources to meet Goal 17.

147. He stressed that the international community had to come together to mobilize investments for the SDGs and create a new international financial architecture that supported just, inclusive and equitable transitions for all countries. Governments had reaffirmed and strengthened their commitment to the 2030 Agenda, multilateralism, gender equality, the protection and promotion of human rights, and the need for new financing arrangements to support developing countries that were particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of climate change. Efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda had left a promising institutional footprint in the region, with public, private and civil society institutions. In closing, the Executive Secretary applauded the invaluable commitment of civil society and the academic sector, which were drivers of innovation and creativity for the SDGs, and said that ECLAC, on its seventy-fifth anniversary, was redoubling its commitment to continue working for a more productive, inclusive and sustainable future.

Annex 1

INTERGOVERNMENTALLY AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We, the ministers and high-level representatives gathered in Santiago, Chile, at the sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and Caribbean on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), from 25 to 28 April 2023, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 70/1, adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and 74/4, which marks the beginning of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring that no one is left behind, including its Goals and targets, which are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development —economic, social and environmental—, and stress that it is people-centred, universal and transformative and that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, reaching the furthest behind first and empowering those in vulnerable situations to achieve sustainable development;

2. *Also reaffirm* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which builds on the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and the 2008 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, provides a global framework for financing sustainable development, as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda that supports and complements it, and helps to contextualize its means of implementation with concrete policies and actions to achieve its targets; recognize the synergies with relevant instruments, in particular of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito, Ecuador, the SAMOA Pathway, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries and the outcome document of the Second United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, and with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3. *Further reaffirm* all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in Principle 7 thereof;

4. *Welcome* the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and recognize the importance of the respect, promotion and protection of the effective enjoyment by all of the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

5. *Look forward* to the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that will be convened under the theme "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels", which will review in depth Sustainable Development Goals 6 on water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships, reviewed annually, while recognizing the integrated, indivisible, interlinked and universally applicable nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all SDGs;

6. *Also look forward* to the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit) in September 2023, which will provide the opportunity to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals , respond to the impact of the multiple and interlocking global crises, and provide political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions to achieve the goals by 2030;

7. *Recalls* further the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held on 26 September 2019, and looks forward to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, which will be held back- to-back with the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2023 under the auspices of the General Assembly;

8. *Note with concern* that the SDG targets with a 2020 deadline have not been fully achieved, and in this regard call upon the international community to reinforce actions to address those specific challenges, including to protect biodiversity, develop disaster risk reduction strategies, increase the availability of timely, quality and disaggregated data, engage youth, and enhance financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries;

9. *Note* the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships, to foster strategic long-term investment in the SDGs, including through innovative financing involving the public and private sectors, and recognize the emergence and importance of dedicated Sustainable Development Goal bonds;

10. *Note* that the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Escazú Agreement, was held from 19 to 21 April 2023 in Buenos Aires, reinforcing the commitment of the States parties to the Agreement to contribute to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development, and note also the First Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders on Environmental Matters of Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by the States parties, from 22 to 23 November 2022 in Quito;

11. *Reaffirm* our commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity in the global response to the ongoing coronavirus disease pandemic and its consequences, and emphasize that multilateralism is not an option but a necessity as we recover and build back better for a more equal, more resilient and more sustainable world through reinvigorated global action and by building on the progress achieved in the last 77 years since the creation of the United Nations;

12. *Take note of* the decision to hold the "Summit of the Future: multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow" on 22 and 23 September 2024, in New York, preceded by a preparatory ministerial meeting to be held on 18 September 2023;

13. *Recognize* that, inequalities, or even a rise in inequalities, remain pervasive in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, even in those with high levels of economic growth, which have been further exacerbated within and among countries by the COVID-19 pandemic, perpetuating all multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization and exclusion in the region, especially for persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations; and that tackling inequality requires, inter alia, further investment in social services, including social protection services, and economic opportunities in a partnership between governments, national and local authorities, the private sector, the international financial system, civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders working together, in accordance with national plans and policies, in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

14. *Express* profound concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a devastating impact on health, including mental health and well-being, loss of life, external debt economic growth and employment, resulting in the decimation of jobs and entrepreneurships, and the extended deterioration of public services, which, in the context of increased poverty in all its forms and dimensions and widening digital divides, as well as the adverse impacts of climate change, desertification, ecosystem and biodiversity loss —including land degradation and deterioration of oceans—, pollution, and vulnerability to climate change and human-made and natural disasters, result in a critical incidence on the fulfilment of sustainable development and humanitarian needs and the enjoyment of human rights across all spheres of society and risk slowing down the progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including on food security and nutrition, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and inclusive and equitable quality education made over the past decades;

15. *Reaffirm* in this regard the commitment to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, including improvement of water quality by reducing pollution; eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials; guaranteeing universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, including increasing the share of renewable energy; developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all; ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services; enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries; and reiterate the call to strengthen means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities;

16. *Reaffirm*, in that regard, our renewed commitment to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions and hunger everywhere, to further promote sustainable development, including inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment and promoting social and financial inclusion, to combat inequalities within and among countries as well as to respect, protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, and to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout their life course, and peaceful and inclusive societies in which no one is left behind while preserving the planet for future generations;

17. *Also reaffirm* the commitment to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development; reiterate our determination to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, stress the need to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning, ensure the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, food supply-chains, maintain functioning food systems, avoid food shortage, reduce food loss and waste and safeguard food safety, and encourage actions to enable access to safe, sufficient, affordable and nutritious food for all and to support the role of family farming, pastoralism and smallholder farming in contributing to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition in line with the rules of the multilateral trading system; reaffirm the commitment to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; reiterate the commitment for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work, promote equal pay for work of equal value, analyse paid and unpaid care work and their relationship to the changing world of work, reduce gaps of participation and entry in the labour market, and strive for universal access to social protection; recall the pledge to reduce inequality within and among countries; reiterate the commitment to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, and that people in our region have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature; stress the strong commitment to effective climate action; recommit to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies,

as well as to substantially reduce corruption in all its forms; and reiterate the call to strengthen means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development;

18. *Further reaffirm* that infant and young child mortality can be reduced through the improved nutritional status of women of reproductive age, especially during pregnancy, and allow exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, for the promotion of health and cognitive development, and continued breastfeeding until 2 years of age and beyond, combined with appropriate complementary feeding, and stress the importance to the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers;

19. *Reiterate* the urgency to promote decent work for all, as well as social protection policies aimed at avoiding unemployment, reducing labour informality and the failure of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and enhancing income support mechanisms to better assist the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in times of crisis in order to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions, while striving for fair and equal growth for all sectors of the economy;

20. *Acknowledge* the importance for achieving sustainable development of delivering quality education to all girls and boys, which will require reaching children living in extreme poverty and rural areas, children with disabilities, migrant and refugee children and those in conflict and post-conflict situations, indigenous people and children in vulnerable situations and providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all, and recognize the importance of scaling up investments and international cooperation to allow all children to complete free, equitable, inclusive and quality early childhood, primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes, recognizing that the provision of equitable, inclusive, quality, accessible and affordable early childhood education and care services are also crucial in enabling women to enter and remain in the labour market;

21. *Recognize* that, in general, women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and that women spend less time in paid work, and that this unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work contributes to greater time burdens on women and substantially limits their participation in the social, political and economic spheres, and acknowledge the need to implement concrete measures to recognize, reduce and equitably redistribute the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work done by women, including through the promotion of the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men and by prioritizing, inter alia, social protection policies and resilient infrastructure development, as well as rewarding and representing paid care workers, including through improved wages and working conditions;

22. *Encourage* member States to participate at the highest possible level in the three high-level meetings convened by the President of the General Assembly, which will be held during the seventy-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on Universal Health Coverage, Fight Against Tuberculosis and Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response;

23. *Stress* that recovery from the pandemic should enhance and support the development policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, foster investment in science, technology, innovation, research and development, as well as renewed regional solidarity and cooperation, including for the strengthening of public health systems, and on epidemiological control, while strengthening democracy and fulfilling all human rights for all; and recognize the importance of developing recovery plans that promote sustainable development and drive transformative change towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies, including by empowering and engaging all women, adolescents and girls, with the effective engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

24. *Urge* member States and other relevant stakeholders to accelerate the catalytic role that digital technologies, Internet access, connectivity and digital inclusion play in reducing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on life-long learning and quality education, health, communication, commerce and economic recovery, as well as to ensure a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while striving to address digital divides within and among countries and regions;

25. *Reaffirm* that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, and emphasize that progress towards the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society should be considered not only as a function of economic development and the spreading of information and communications technologies but also as a function of progress with respect to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

26. *Emphasize* with deep concern the particular adverse effects of the pandemic in all countries of the region dependent on commodities, remittances or tourism, as well as the impact of limited fiscal space and high debt levels on countries' abilities to withstand the consequences of the COVID-19 shock and to invest in a sustainable recovery and reconstruction of their economies and welfare;

27. *Call for* a global coordinated multilateral response to address the current impacts on sustainable development of the COVID-19 pandemic and the policies necessary to address the current economic downturn, reinforce economic recovery and minimize the negative effects on livelihoods, while striving to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; welcome global, regional national and local initiatives seeking international solidarity in the face of the economic and social downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into account the specific circumstances of each country, aimed at laying the foundations for a strong sustainable and inclusive global recovery; and encourage member States and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and international financial institutions, to mobilize a large-scale comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences amounting to at least 10% of global gross domestic product;

28. *Call upon* Member States of the United Nations and international financial institutions to provide more liquidity in the financial system, especially in all developing countries, including by the implementation of instruments such as a Liquidity and Sustainability Facility and the broader use of special drawing rights, and emphasize the need to increase access to concessional finance for the countries of the region, especially in the context of the global pandemic and multiple and interlinked crises, including by the creation of new financial mechanisms or funds to support countries facing fiscal pressures and by considering offering low-interest loans to open up the fiscal space and, in this regard, welcome regional and global proposals and continue to call for the operationalization of the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE);

29. *Underscore* the need to grant special dispensation to the vulnerable countries of the region, with regard to the actions of credit rating agencies and the measures necessary to achieve debt sustainability and reduce the indebtedness of developing countries and, in this regard, welcome innovative financing mechanisms such as the steps by the Group of 20 to provide a time-bound suspension of debt service payments for the poorest countries, the institution of the Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap initiative for the Caribbean, the creation of a Caribbean Resilience Fund, and the inclusion of hurricane and pandemic clauses as part of new borrowing arrangements;

30. *Recognize* the need to enhance the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through Sustainable Development Goal 17, as well as the seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, to pursue policy coherence and an enabling environment for

sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, and to reinvigorate the global partnership for sustainable development to secure our objectives for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership;

31. *Stress* the importance of addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by all developing countries, including countries in special situations, such as least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle- income countries and countries in situation of conflict and post-conflict;

32. *Reiterate* that national averages based on criteria such as gross national income (GNI) per capita are not aligned with the multidimensional scope of sustainable development enshrined in the 2030 Agenda and do not reflect all the particularities, development needs and challenges of developing countries; recall that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda calls upon the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, to develop transparent measures of progress in sustainable development that go beyond per capita income, taking advantage of the existing initiatives, as appropriate; and recognize poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as well as the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic production and structural gaps at all levels;

33. *Also reiterate* the call to address further the specific development needs of middle-income countries through, inter alia, innovative financing for development as stated in the Monterrey Consensus, an accurate response to their requirements, taking into account variables that go beyond per capita income criteria, and eliminate increasing difficulties and conditionalities faced to access financial and non-financial resources, as appropriate, and recall that 62% of the world's poor population is concentrated in these countries, where cooperation can have a multiplier effect on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals;

34. *Stress* the importance of addressing the particular and diverse needs and challenges, which include international cooperation for development and access to official development assistance (ODA) and concessional finance, faced by countries that are close to surpassing or have recently crossed the upper-middle-income threshold but still have structural gaps and vulnerabilities, considering the multidimensional scope of sustainable development and the limits of criteria such as gross national income (GNI) for measuring development;

35. *Recall* the convening of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) on 27 September 2019 and the adoption on 10 October 2019 of its political declaration, in which Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation with and support to small island developing States in the context of sustainable development, in line with their national development strategies and priorities, and look forward to the implementation of the calls made in that political declaration;

36. *Reiterate* the call for immediate and substantial actions to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, as well the unprecedented health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and underline the urgency of finding additional solutions to major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum achieved in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, and the Samoa Pathway and in this regard, welcome the decision to convene a fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which will be aimed at assessing the ability of small island developing States to meet the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals;

37. *Welcome* the offer by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to host the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2024;

38. *Recall* the United Nations Secretary-General's recommendations and guiding principles on the development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing states, including on its finalisation and potential uses, and welcome the progress of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability for SIDS and look forward to Panel's final report;

39. *Welcome* the progress on the development of a monitoring framework for the Samoa Pathway, spearheaded by the United Nations Secretariat, and look forward to its finalization and adoption, and encourage small island developing States to utilize the framework for reporting ahead of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and call for meaningful partnerships with small island developing States to assist in this regard;

40. *Recall* the comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in New York on 5 and 6 December 2019 and its High-Level Political Declaration; also recall the convening of the regional review meeting for the Latin America region in Santiago on 11 and 12 June 2019 at ECLAC headquarters, and welcome the decision to hold the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2024 with the mandate to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and to formulate and adopt a renewed framework for international support to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and to strengthen partnerships between the landlocked developing countries and transit countries and their development partners; and look forward to the convening of the regional review;

41. *Emphasize* the need to strengthen international development cooperation, noting with concern that there are still structural problems aggravated by the reduced access to ODA and concessional finance for countries in the region, including middle-income countries, and call upon the developed countries to fulfil their ODA targets, and further recognize the urgency of concrete and immediate action to create the necessary enabling environment at all levels for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including national and local efforts, as well as international and regional cooperation that support policies and programmes to increase investment in sustainable development;

42. *Reaffirm* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also acknowledges that the implementation of sustainable development will depend on the active engagement of both the public and private sectors and, recognizing that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, encourage alignment of private sector incentives with national public goals towards long-term investment according to national realities and capacities, including innovative financing instruments and approaches, and further encourage the consideration of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to bridge the region's structural inequality gaps and eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

43. *Also reaffirm*, in order to fully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the importance for our region of accessing and mobilizing additional, sufficient, adequate and well-directed financial and non-financial resources and capacity-building for the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and further recommend increasing international and regional cooperation, inter alia, to support domestic science and technology research and innovation;

44. *Further reaffirm* the outcome document of the Second United Nations High-level Conference on South- South Cooperation (BAPA+40) and commit to its implementation; reiterate the important contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; reaffirm that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation and is an important element of international cooperation for development; acknowledge the need to enhance development effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation; and welcome the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development;

45. *Recognize* that triangular cooperation complements and adds value to South-South cooperation by enabling requesting developing countries to source and access a greater and broader range of resources, expertise and capacities, that they identify as needed in order to strengthen national capabilities, and support States' efforts to achieve their national development goals and internationally agreed sustainable development goals, and stress the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise;

46. *Welcome* resolution 752(PLEN.36), adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held at United Nations headquarters in New York on 3 December 2021, in which the Committee approved the renaming of the Committee on South-South Cooperation as the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean and invite the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in the first session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean which will be held on 30 and 31 May 2023, at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago;

47. *Commit* to continuing to promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and welcome the outcomes of its Twelfth Ministerial Conference held in June 2022, in particular the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, with a view to its prompt entry into force as well as to the conclusion of additional provisions by the Thirteenth WTO Ministerial Conference, according to the WTO agreed mandates, while we reaffirm the importance of the continuous reform of agricultural trade rules towards the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference to be held in February 2024, in accordance with their long-standing and pending mandates and emphasize, in addition, that trade, with appropriate supporting policies, can, inter alia, contribute to promoting inclusive economic growth, reducing inequalities within and among countries and eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

48. *Welcome* the convening of the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in Bridgetown, from 3 to 7 October 2021, under the theme "From inequality and vulnerability to prosperity for all", and also welcome the adoption of its outcome document entitled "Bridgetown Covenant", and commit to work through the three pillars —research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation— to contribute to the implementation, monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals;

49. *Reaffirm* that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

50. *Recommend* redoubling efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, including by combating tax evasion and corruption and increased international cooperation as well as reducing opportunities for tax avoidance to make sure that all companies, including multinationals, pay taxes to the governments of countries where economic activity occurs and value is created, as well as that the value created is distributed in a way that reinforces economic and social equality and inclusion, particularly in favour of the most vulnerable, to achieve sustainable development, according to national legislations; and further recall that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity;

51. *Express concern* that the region continues to experience a decline in correspondent banking relationships, impacting the ability to send and receive international payments, with potential consequences for the cost of remittances, financial inclusion and international trade, among other areas, and thus for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

52. *Recognize* the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination and stress that remittances are a form of private capital that cannot be equated to other international financial flows such as foreign direct investment, ODA, or other public sources of financing for development; and encourage concrete measures, as appropriate, to ensure that adequate and affordable financial services are available to migrants and their families in both origin and destination countries, and to reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and to eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5% of the amount transferred, while promoting conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances in both source and recipient countries;

53. *Recall* the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018; and in this regard take note of the endorsement by a number of Latin American and Caribbean countries[1] of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;

54. *Reaffirm,* inter alia, the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law, including international human rights law;

55. *Call upon* States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women, children and adolescents, and to address international migration through scaling up international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

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[1] Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

56. *Recognize* the importance of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development as the regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014 in order to reinforce the application and further implementation and follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and as a complementary tool for the integration of population issues into sustainable development; and take note of the report of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,[2] held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, from 28 to 30 June 2022 and its outcome;

57. *Also recognize* the importance of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, adopted during the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico in 2019, for promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, tackling the current multidimensional crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and moving towards a transformative, inclusive and resilient recovery with equality; take note of the outcome of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held virtually from 26 to 28 October 2021 under the chairship of Antigua and Barbuda; and invite the countries to participate in the fifth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development which will be held at the headquarters of the Commission in Santiago in October 2023;

58. *Reaffirm* that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and the full realization of their human rights, including the right to development, are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies, and further reaffirm the commitment to adopting and strengthening sound policies and enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels to ensure women's equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy and to eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination in all its forms;

59. *Welcome* the ongoing regional efforts to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls throughout their life course, and recall the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, adopted at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and note the Santiago Commitment, adopted at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the sixty-first and sixty-second meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women, and underscore that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout their life course will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and that the protection and full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and in this regard recommend further mainstreaming of a gender-responsive approach and transformative approaches in national sustainable development policies, programmes and strategies, and emergency and recovery responses to the COVID-19 pandemic;

60. *Note* the Buenos Aires Commitment, adopted at the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires in November 2022 and recognize the importance of advancing recovery plans with proactive measures to achieve substantive equality that foster comprehensive care systems, decent work and the full, significant and equal

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[2] See *Report of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America* (LC/CRPD.4/7/Rev.2), 2023.

participation of women in positions of leadership in strategic sectors of the economy for a transformative recovery with gender equality aimed at the sustainability of life and for the transition to a care society;

61. *Also note* the convening of the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Santiago from 13 to 15 December 2022, and further note the Santiago Declaration "Human rights and participation of older persons: towards an inclusive and resilient care society";

62. *Note with appreciation* the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons;

63. *Recall* General Assembly resolution 68/237 in which it proclaimed 2015–2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent, recognizing that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected, and note that 2021 marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as the commemoration on 31 August of the first International Day for People of African Descent, as mandated by resolution 75/170, which represents an important opportunity for the region to reaffirm its commitment to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

64. *Welcome* General Assembly resolution 75/314 establishing the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent to contribute to the full political, economic and social inclusion of people of African descent in the societies in which they live as equal citizens without discrimination of any kind and contribute to ensuring equal enjoyment of all human rights and in this regard welcome the elaboration of a United Nations declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent;

65. *Reaffirm* the importance of protecting and enhancing Indigenous and traditional knowledge as well as cultural, social and environmental practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and their contribution to global efforts and initiatives, in accordance with national legislation, to enable sustainable livelihoods, sustainable consumption and production patterns and practices, and food security in harmony with nature;

66. *Welcome* the multiple environmental and sustainable development events that took place during 2022, such as the seventeenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP 15), the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), and the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27), and look forward to the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28), which will take place in 2023, and in this regard call for the enhancement of synergies among these events, considering regional intergovernmental priorities as established by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, as appropriate;

67. *Recognize* that the region is highly vulnerable to climate change owing to its geography, climate, socioeconomic conditions and demographic factors, and in this regard note with concern the findings contained in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) and its three Working Groups as well as the Special Reports of IPCC on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels; the *IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas*

Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems; and the *IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* and the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* of IPBES; all of which represent the best available science and underscore the need to urgently increase ambition for climate action in order to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC and encourage all Parties to the Paris Agreement to fully implement it;

68. *Take note* with appreciation of the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27), including the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan and, in particular, the decisions adopted that will enable the full implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement adopted under that Convention in a manner consistent with its long-term goals and environmental integrity, including the decision to establish new funding arrangements for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in responding to loss and damage, including with a focus on addressing loss and damage by providing and assisting in mobilizing new and additional resources, and that these new arrangements complement and include sources, funds, processes and initiatives under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

69. *Stress* the importance of strengthening the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of ensuring that its allocation of resources allows the effective implementation of its mandate, emphasizing, in that sense, the need to reinforce our efforts to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and ensure enhanced access to international climate finance in order to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including least developed countries and small island developing States in order to leave no one behind;

70. *Emphasize* the need to significantly increase climate finance, which is additional to official development assistance (ODA), to support action on mitigation and adaptation to climate change and enhance access to international climate financial flows with a special focus on increasing the resilience of the most vulnerable; and in this regard aim to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development;

71. *Underscore* the need, in view of the high vulnerability of the region to climate change, to urgently promote the adoption of policies and planning that effectively contribute to increasing resilience to climate-induced disasters and achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the long-term goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, inter alia and where applicable, by taking climate change into account in macroeconomic policy, fiscal planning, budgeting, credit risk, public investment management and procurement practices;

72. *Welcome* the updated nationally determined contributions submitted in 2022 and call for the nationally determined contributions that will be updated and submitted in 2023 to reflect the highest possible level of ambition, in line with the principles of progression and non-regression and the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement;

73. Considering the global trend of biodiversity loss and the need to realize the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature, *welcome* the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030, at the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), held in Montreal, Canada;

74. *Recognize* the United Nations General Assembly proclamation on the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and welcome the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future, our responsibility" adopted at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, under the overarching theme, "Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions, held from 27 June to 1 July 2022;

75. *Welcome* the holding of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, held from 22 to 24 March 2023, and look forward for the implementation of the voluntary commitments, pledges and actions contained in the Water Action Agenda;

76. *Also welcome* Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 and recall General Assembly resolution 76/300 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as important for the enjoyment of human rights;

77. *Recognize* that improving the environmental quality in our cities is one of the challenges we have ahead of us to achieve sustainable development, which will require efforts from member States and other relevant stakeholders in a multitude of areas, such as air, soil and water pollution, water scarcity, sanitation, sustainable transportation, sustainable production and consumption, energy efficiency, including clean energy sources, sustainable management of chemicals and waste, and decreasing food loss and waste, taking into consideration the New Urban Agenda, which promotes the full realization of the right to adequate housing and the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, welcome the outcome of the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, which took place in May 2019, as well as the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which took place in New York on 28 April 2022, and look forward to the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023 in Nairobi;

78. *Welcome* the Declaration of Santiago "Transform and humanize the city and the territory", adopted at the thirty-first General Assembly of the Forum of Ministers and Highest Authorities of Housing and Urbanism of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), held in Santiago on 5 and 6 December 2022 and the ministerial meeting entitled "Funding for Climate Change Mitigation in Urban Settlements", held in Buenos Aires on 10 and 11 April 2023;

79. *Recall* the need to renew and enhance efforts for the sound management of chemicals and waste, as expressed in the 2030 Agenda, including its relevant Goals and targets, recognize the Action Plan for Regional Cooperation on Chemicals and Waste Management, adopted by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, that aims, inter alia, to support the implementation of the chemicals and waste-related international agreements in the countries of the region, and encourage the implementation of the decisions adopted at the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean held in Barbados from 1 to 2 February 2021;

80. *Welcome* the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, in its resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022, to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities, underscore the importance of securing an ambitious international legally binding instrument to

end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, while acknowledging that some legal obligations arising out of a new instrument will require capacity-building and technical and financial assistance in order to be effectively implemented by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and welcome the commitment made by ministers during the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development to actively follow up on the decision by engaging in the intergovernmental negotiating committee with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024;

81. *Applaud* the "Caribbean first" initiative advanced by ECLAC since its thirty-seventh session, held in Havana in May 2018, and the peer learning sessions on challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean, held in the framework of the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth meetings of this Forum;

82. *Recognize* the impact of disasters on sustainable development, poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean; acknowledge the need to adopt a broader and more people-centred and inclusive preventive approach to disaster risk reduction, and realign disaster financing to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk; commit to integrating disaster risk reduction into plans, policies and strategies at all levels, highlighting the importance of generating environmental and territorial data and information for decision-making by governments and policymakers, in line with national priorities, considering multidisciplinary and interinstitutional coordination mechanisms; underscore the urgent need for new conceptual and analytical approaches to improve understanding and management of risk dynamics and complex, interconnected risk drivers and cascading consequences; welcome the outcome of the Eighth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 28 February to 2 March 2023; and recognize that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, including its core provision to "build back better", provides guidance for a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and also for identifying and addressing underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systematic manner;

83. *Note with concern* that the human and financial cost of disasters is rapidly rising, trapping countries in a continuous cycle of emergency response and curtailing governments in their capacity to achieve sustainable development, therefore reinforcing the need to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and enhance risk governance through multisectoral engagement at national and local levels, putting disaster risk reduction at the core of sustainable development and climate change efforts, as well as the New Urban Agenda;

84. *Welcome* the decision of the General Assembly to hold a midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in 2023 to assess progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practice, gaps and challenges, and accelerate the path to achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework and its seven global targets by 2030, look forward to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review, to be held in New York on 18 and 19 May 2023 at the highest possible level, and encourage States to assess and report on progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

85. *Note with appreciation* the continued support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to member countries in the conduct of damage and loss assessments following disasters, most recently the assessments done in the Bahamas and Panama following the COVID-19 pandemic, in Honduras and Guatemala following the passage of Tropical Storm Julia in 2022, while conveying our solidarity for the recent impacts of hurricanes and other hydro-climatic events in other countries of the region, including Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Paraguay, added to the difficulties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and recognize that sustainable

development objectives, including economic growth, the reduction of poverty and inequality, and the promotion of sustainable cities and settlements, are inextricably linked to the achievements of disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction;

86. *Reiterate* that the region, in particular small island developing States, continues to face the adverse effects of climate change and disasters and, in this regard, recognize the economic challenges, including unsustainable debt levels, arising in part from extreme weather events and slow-onset events, and the need to build creative and innovative partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean for sustainable development with regard to environment, climate resilience and post-pandemic recovery;

87. *Recognize* that each country has primary responsibility for its own sustainable development in the three dimensions, as well as for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local, national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing its Goals and targets, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities; and that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development;

88. *Welcome* the continuous efforts of countries from our region to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda through their mainstreaming in public policies, institutional arrangements, and national and local follow-up and review as well as by strengthening the involvement of local and other actors at the national level, as appropriate, in the achievement of sustainable development; encourage these countries to further deepen their national efforts in that endeavour and to engage in in-depth knowledge-sharing with peers and partners throughout the region; and highlight in that regard the 28 national coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the increase in the number of national and subnational initiatives promoting articulation between development priorities, plans, budgets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the efforts of raising awareness and training to disseminate the Agenda and its relationship with national development objectives;

89. *Also welcome* the numerous contributions and the support provided by the United Nations development system at the regional level, aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; and reiterate the need that their activities be carried out in a coherent and coordinated manner and in line with national policies and priorities;

90. *Further welcome* the actions taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen and adapt the United Nations development system to better support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the repositioning of the United Nations development system, including through an empowered and independent Resident Coordinator system, supported by the Development Coordination Office, including its regional presence, and reiterate our commitment and support to the Secretary-General in advancing, implementing and conducting respective follow-up of his actions in this regard;

91. *Welcome* the efforts of the Secretary-General in formulating the recommendations to harness the regional assets of the United Nations development system, recognizing the steps taken to better position the regional assets to support countries and accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region;

92. *Take note* of the presentations of the 2022 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean and take note also of the practice of convening the United Nations Regional Collaborative Platform and the Resident Coordinators of Latin America and the Caribbean during the meetings of the Forum, the latter upon previous consultation with their respective national public counterparts, as an opportunity to interact with the regional mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with the member States of the Forum and strengthen the nexus among analytical, policy and operational work of the United Nations development system at the regional level;

93. *Welcome* the detailed commitments and actions of the Secretary-General to improve the United Nations development system's offer in countries serviced by multi-country offices to ensure more tailored technical and policy support, enhanced and aligned capacities and physical presence, strengthened policy support with regard to financing for development, data systems, disaggregated data collection and data use for informed decision-making, as well as better integration and participation of States in intergovernmental forums and processes and fostering South-South and triangular cooperation and cross- regional learning, and commend the work of ECLAC in supporting its member States and associate members covered by the multi-country offices in the region;

94. *Reaffirm* the role of the Commission as an essential component of the United Nations development system based on: (i) its convening function as an intergovernmental platform for policy advice and dialogue; (ii) its ability to act as a think tank for devising analysis and policy recommendations; and (iii) its capacity to provide technical cooperation and normative and capacity-building support to its member States, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring adequate regular budget resources in order to fulfil the mandate of the commission;

95. *Commend* the implementation of the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway) developed through a regional inter-agency effort of the United Nations system under the leadership of ECLAC, as a key tool for supporting the capacities of countries and other stakeholders in the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, encourage the countries to use it to promote collaborative work and horizontal cooperation for closing gaps in data availability for follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and further invite the countries of the region to disseminate their statistical information relating to the Sustainable Development Goals via online platforms that can be integrated with the SDG Gateway;

96. *Take note* of the **sixth** report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean entitled *Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and recommendations for acceleration*;

97. *Commend* the 31 countries of the region[3] that have already presented voluntary national reviews at the ministerial segment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, and the 5 countries[4] preparing to do so in 2023, of which 4 are presenting a second or third review, and highlight the commitment and leadership shown by

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[3] Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[4] Barbados (second review), Chile (third review), Guyana (second review), Saint Kitts Nevis, Venezuela (second review).

these countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by integrating it into their national strategies and adjusting institutional arrangements;

98. *Take note* of the efforts of subnational and local governments who have conducted local voluntary reviews, showing the increasing political will and commitment of their cities and regions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as their interest in actively supporting the follow-up and review processes;

99. *Encourage* countries to conduct regular and inclusive reviews, which are country-led and country-driven, of progress at the national and local levels;

100. *Recognize* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in preparation for the high-level political forum, has become an example of regional coordination of multiple stakeholders, such as governments, the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and civil society, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**;**

101. *Highlight* the commitment of the countries of the region to address statistical challenges and advance in the generation of quality data for the SDGs, in a timely manner, including through the strengthening of statistical systems that guarantee reliable and disaggregated data, to allow a detailed analysis of the progress in the SDGs, in order to identify inequalities and needs of the most vulnerable, and acknowledge the contribution made by ECLAC and the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to the indicators of the region; recommend that such contribution continue on a regional framework of indicators for regional statistical follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean; and encourage the Statistical Conference of the Americas to continue analysing national statistical capacities of the region to identify areas of cooperation, in consultation with the respective governments, with a view to advancing in the generation of disaggregated, accessible, timely and reliable data;

102. *Commend* the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development for providing useful opportunities for sharing of best practices and lessons learned among multiple stakeholders in the peer learning sessions on institutional arrangements, national measurements and challenges and priorities, challenges in the Caribbean, participatory approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, platforms for follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals, continuity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, institutional framework, planning and budgeting for the 2030 Agenda, implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national and local levels, statistical capacities, and measurement and georeferencing, and voluntary local reviews (VLRs), held during the six meetings of the Forum convened thus far, and recommend continuing to include peer learning sessions in its meetings on other emerging issues of interest, upon request and as identified by the Forum;

103. *Welcome* the participation and contributions of the associate members of ECLAC in the Forum, recognize their specific political and economic constraints and their vulnerabilities in their pursuit of sustainable development, and encourage their continued inclusion, where appropriate, in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies;

104. *Also welcome* the work of civil society to strengthen its engagement in the Forum, including through the Mechanism for the participation of civil society in the Sustainable Development Agenda, adopted by

civil society at the margins of the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the participation in the third, fourth and fifth meetings and their declarations, and look forward to the meaningful participation and contribution of civil society in the sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development;

105. *Further welcome* the contributions of all relevant stakeholders to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region, and the participation, according to resolution 700(XXXVI) of ECLAC, of parliamentarians, local governments, private sector, civil society and academia in the sixth meeting of the Forum, and encourage their continued commitment to ensure that no one is left behind;

106. *Recommend* that the Chair of the thirty-ninth session of ECLAC submit the present conclusions and recommendations and a Summary of the Chair as regional contributions to the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, along with the 2022 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean, for their due consideration, as well as to make them available for other relevant regional and international events and processes;

107. *Request* that this regional contribution, which reflects the commitment of the countries of the region to the 2030 Agenda and highlights the challenges, priorities and progress achieved in the region on the implementation of the Agenda, be considered an input to the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and the Ministerial declaration of the High-Level Political Forum by its facilitators;

108. *Also request* the President of the Economic and Social Council that the contribution of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development be mainstreamed in the sessions of the high-level political forum to enrich its debates, highlight the region's expectations in this global platform and ensure coherence in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels (national, regional and global);

109. *Commit* to actively participate in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in relation to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to benefit from lessons learned;

110. *Express* our deepest appreciation to Argentina as the Chair of the Forum, and to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, for their leadership in convening the sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

Annex 2

EXPLANATION OF THE POSITION OF GUATEMALA[1]

Guatemala aprovecha esta oportunidad para dejar muestra de su posición frente a los siguientes párrafos del anexo 1

Conclusiones y recomendaciones acordadas entre los gobiernos reunidos en la sexta reunión del Foro de los países de América Latina y el Caribe sabre el desarrollo Sostenible.

En el Párrafo 15. Guatemala reafirma el compromiso de la lucha por garantizar la disponibilidad y la gestión sostenible del agua y la lucha para la reducción de la contaminación, aumentar la proporción de energías renovables, así como el desarrollo de infraestructuras regionales y transfronterizas. De conformidad con la Política de Estado en Materia de Cursos de Agua Internacionales, Guatemala considera que el uso de los cursos de agua internacionales debe ser objeto de tratados internacionales bilaterales cuya negociación y celebración corresponde exclusivamente a los Estados implicados. Así cabe mencionar que Guatemala no admite el término de "Cooperación transfronteriza" teniendo en consideración que la constitución política de la República de Guatemala, así como la política de estado en materia de Curso de Agua Internacionales, reconoce el agua como un bien del estado que debe ser administrado y utilizado por los órganos competentes nacionales para beneficio de la población.

Courtesy translation provided by the secretariat

Guatemala takes this opportunity to state its position with regard to the following paragraphs of annex 1 Intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the sixth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

In paragraph 15. Guatemala reaffirms its commitment to the struggle to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and the fight to reduce pollution, increase the share of renewable energies, and develop regional and transboundary infrastructure. In accordance with the State Policy on International Watercourses, Guatemala considers that the use of international watercourses should be the subject of bilateral international treaties, negotiation and conclusion of which is the sole responsibility of the States involved. In that regard, Guatemala does not accept the term “transboundary cooperation” owing to the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala and the State Policy on International Watercourses, recognizes water as a State good that must be managed and used by the competent national bodies for the benefit of the population.

[1] This explanation is reproduced in the language in which it was given. A courtesy translation by the secretariat follows.

Annex 3

DECLARATION BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH GROUP IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Grupo de Niñas, Niños, Adolescentes y Juventudes - MeSCALC

Major Group for Children and Youth

Declaration of Children and Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean

On April 24, 2023, in the city of Santiago, Chile, the Forum of Children and Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean 2030 - 2023 edition was held, a preparatory activity for the VI Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC Youth Forum. This meeting was one of the highlights of a long process of involvement in the review and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, promoted by the Children, Adolescents and Youth Group of the Mechanism for Civil Society Participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda, which involved more than 500 children, adolescents and young people between 7 and 35 years of age, from more than 20 countries in the region, from various groups and communities.

Based on the contributions gathered during the process, we present the following demands and recommendations:

- Recognize our right to participation as a fundamental element to exercise our human right to development.
- Address the challenges in access to water, sanitation, and wastewater treatment; as well as mobilize the necessary resources to ensure integrated water management, including local communities and children and youth in water governance, considering the worldview of indigenous peoples and strengthening community organization. Declare water bodies as subjects of rights and mobilize the necessary resources to establish mechanisms to control and regulate their use, as well as guarantee the implementation of existing policies in this area, such as infrastructure development and prevention in the face of the water crisis and its impacts. "For every dollar invested in clean water and sanitation, 8 dollars are saved in consequences of contaminated water use."
- Ensure the protection of environmental defenders by ensuring the effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement. We urge States to ratify the agreement: No more criminalization and death, against the defenders in our region!
- Mobilize the necessary resources to implement quality educational processes related to science, technology and innovation; with an intercultural, decentralized and gender focus, allowing the integration of the region into the digital world.
- Generate regional standards to ensure technological and quality progress; implementing transparency and traceability mechanisms regarding the carbon footprint for the development of technologies.
- Address regional and gender inequalities that limit access to technology, innovation and infrastructure.
- Promote long-term policies and programs that mitigate the negative effects of technological progress on the productive matrix and the labor market.
- Ensure access to affordable and sustainable energy for the entire population, regardless of their location or socioeconomic level, through integrated and territorialized public policies, with goals that measure the impact of the implementation of renewable sources from a socio-environmental, cultural and access point of view; and guarantee the segregation of data on access to renewable energy from the point of view of reliability and price.

- Reduce investment in polluting energies, such as fossil fuels and fracking; and encourage the use of renewable energies, through local enterprises and companies and public-private partnerships, taking into account the communities where new infrastructures are implemented. In addition, the development of local technology should be promoted to reduce technical imports.
- Ensure a just and popular energy transition with energy security that guarantees not only a change of energy sources, but also the fight against poverty and inequality. Likewise, to promote policies that encourage energy generation from homes.
- Ensure a regional response to the energy transition, in order to avoid generating energy dependence or energy-neocolonialism.
- We urge not to fall into the extractivist rhetoric of lithium to cover unsustainable energy demands such as electric car parks in other regions, which only leave social and environmental costs in our region.
- Ensure investment in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, with a universal approach, providing accessibility to all people, and not leaving rural areas behind.
- Mobilize political will and the necessary resources to strengthen the technology transfer process and promote the development of artificial intelligence, robotics and information and communication technology. This should include the regulation of technology through codes of ethics.
- In the case of artificial intelligence, ensure that advances in this area are in line with advances in other agendas and frameworks for the protection of rights, such as the Global Commission on the Future of Work and ILO Convention no. 169, labor rights, among others.
- Protect the tangible and intangible heritage of cities, and ensure the right to decent housing through housing programs, counteracting processes of gentrification and real estate speculation, including local and municipal governments.
- Strengthen the integration of urban, peri-urban and rural areas as closely related elements for the achievement of SDG 11.
- Develop concrete actions to address corruption as a condition for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda, through transparency, accountability and oversight mechanisms, such as citizen oversight mechanisms, friendly and accessible to children and the entire population. Integrate children and youth in a significant way in participatory budgeting processes.
- States must ensure data transparency, as well as the creation and operation of systems for monitoring and evaluating progress on the 2030 Agenda, ensuring independence and participation of civil society, children, youth, academia, the private sector, the public sector, among others.
- Ensure that the way forward, such as the High Level Political Forum, the SDG Summit, the Summit of the Future and the creation of the UN Youth Office, have a regional perspective and include children, adolescents and youth.
- To formalize the Forum of Children and Youth as part of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, transforming this space into one with an intergenerational perspective. Likewise, we urge the mobilization of the necessary resources to ensure the participation of children and youth in this space.
- We ask that the demands and recommendations presented here be taken into account by the States, United Nations agencies, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations, in order to include and guarantee the perspective of

Grupo de Niñas, Niños, Adolescentes y Juventudes - MeSCALC

Major Group for Children and Youth

children, adolescents and youth in the region, moving away from adultcentrism, tokenism and avoiding "youth washing".

We are at a crucial moment for the 2030 Agenda: we have reached the mid-term of its implementation and we know that we are far from meeting the proposed goals. In this context, children, adolescents and youth have a fundamental role to play, and we must be seen as great allies for the achievement of the Goals. We invite you to join us in an alliance which is intergenerational, multicultural, sustainable and respectful of diversity.

Organisations:

The Millennials Movement

Corporación Norte Grande

IPPF International Planned Parenthood Federation Americas and the Caribbean Region

Movimiento Mundial por la Infancia de Latinoamérica y El Caribe

Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe RSMLAC

RED JU AFRO

Grupo de Trabalho da Sociedade Civil para a Agenda 2030

RED LAC

Annex 4

CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION[1]

Mecanismo de Participación de la Sociedad Civil de América Latina y el Caribe para el Desarrollo Sostenible - MeSCALC

DECLARACIÓN DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL EN LA SEXTA REUNIÓN DEL FORO DE PAÍSES DE LATINOAMÉRICA Y EL CARIBE PARA EL DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE

El Mecanismo de Participación de la Sociedad Civil de América Latina y el Caribe para el Desarrollo Sostenible reafirma su compromiso con la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible de las Naciones Unidas, con el objetivo de que nadie se quede atrás ni afuera. Trabajamos de manera permanente dando seguimiento a la Agenda, aportando y construyendo desde la territorialidad.

Con alarma advertimos que por el camino actual no se alcanzarán los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible ni sus metas, especialmente en áreas sustanciales para la vida como son la salud, la educación, igualdad de género, incluyendo las tecnologías, el acceso al trabajo decente, a la protección social, a la vivienda digna, al agua, al cuidado del medio ambiente, la justicia y a la participación igualitaria.

En Latinoamérica y el Caribe enfrentamos un enorme incremento de la pobreza. Ello agudiza la crisis sanitaria y la del agua, afectando especialmente a las mujeres, las niñas, niños, adolescentes, personas con discapacidad y a las personas mayores. **La vulneración de los derechos humanos en nuestros países tienen rostro:** mujeres, niños, niñas y adolescentes, juventudes, personas mayores, personas con discapacidad, personas LGBTQI+, personas que viven con VIH, migrantes, personas trabajadoras, incluyendo las precarizadas, informales y trabajadoras sexuales, los pueblos originarios, población rural y afrodescendientes.

Por ello, **exigimos el cumplimiento de los compromisos asumidos** por los Estados, así como la inclusión y participación de representantes de todos los sectores sociales en la búsqueda de soluciones para el logro de los Objetivos y Metas de la Agenda 2030, teniendo como base los derechos humanos.

Proponemos la construcción de economías y sociedades post extractivistas. Para proteger la diversidad cultural y natural, necesitamos una transición socio-ecológica estructural y justa, una salida ordenada y progresiva de la dependencia del petróleo, carbón y gas, de la minería, la deforestación y los grandes monocultivos. Es necesario transitar hacia matrices energéticas renovables, descentralizadas, des-mercantilizadas y a modelos de movilidad colectivos, seguros y de calidad.

Afirmamos el acceso al agua como derecho humano, por lo que es fundamental mejorar los marcos normativos para su regulación y protección. Es urgente priorizar el agua para la vida y no para

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[1] This declaration is reproduced in the language in which it was given. A courtesy translation by the secretariat follows.

el modelo de producción extractivista y de lucro. Exigimos pasar de un enfoque de agua potable y saneamiento a la gestión integrada de los recursos hídricos, con la participación efectiva de los pueblos, las comunidades y principalmente las mujeres.

Llamamos la atención sobre los procesos de transición energética corporativa que visualiza a la región como un mapa de operaciones para la extracción de bienes comunes que financian los modelos de desarrollo y la transición energética de países industrializados del norte global. Es urgente una transición justa, para enfrentar de forma eficiente la crisis climática y ambiental, atendiendo las necesidades de las personas, los trabajadores, trabajadoras y las comunidades afectadas por la transición energética. Es imperante la ratificación y aplicación efectiva del Acuerdo de Escazú por parte de todos los países de la región, sin excusas.

Pugnamos por el acceso democrático a las energías, con énfasis en las que son limpias y renovables, subrayando que es un derecho humano fundamental del que nadie debería ser privado y que las tarifas no debieran superar la capacidad de pago de las personas a nivel individual, familiar y comunitario.

Instamos a los gobiernos a fortalecer el financiamiento en infraestructuras sostenibles, con las políticas y programas de respuesta y apoyo para acompañar las transiciones e incorporar un indicador que mida la inversión pública y el gasto, en la investigación sobre esas temáticas.

Los Estados deben reconocer las contribuciones y los sistemas tradicionales de conocimiento de los pueblos originarios y principalmente de las mujeres indígenas, priorizando mayor acceso a las tecnologías, comunicación, infraestructura, industria e innovación y el acceso a la educación en STEM, para proteger los derechos, las identidades culturales, los recursos y los territorios indígenas.

Asimismo, **en el marco del derecho a la educación a lo largo de la vida**, se deben garantizar la protección de los derechos colectivos de propiedad intelectual por sobre el extractivismo y la apropiación ilícita en la era digital. Los Estados de la región deben asegurar la implementación plena de la Recomendación General no. 39 de la CEDAW sobre los Derechos de las Mujeres y Niñas Indígenas.

Los gobiernos deben garantizar ciudades con infraestructura para una vida digna. Las personas mayores, las niñas, niños y adolescentes, las personas con discapacidad y las poblaciones rurales requieren de infraestructura adecuada a sus necesidades. Deben garantizarse la sostenibilidad de la vivienda y la estabilidad habitacional, deben construirse centros públicos de atención y cuidados, debe garantizarse el transporte público adecuado, los espacios de esparcimientos y recreativos, así como el acceso a las tecnologías digitales, lo que habilita la libre circulación, el acceso a la información, promoviendo la autonomía y participación ciudadana.

Los estados deben poner énfasis en la protección de las personas que utilizan internet y en la comunicación digital, previniendo los abusos y violencias en el ámbito del uso de la tecnología. Se deben crear estrategias de inclusión digital, con ciber seguridad y candados para evitar violencias cibernéticas especialmente contra personas de escasos recursos, migrantes, niñas, niños y adolescentes, personas con discapacidades y personas mayores.

Desde el Mecanismo de participación de la Sociedad Civil enfatizamos que es necesario abordar la agenda de seguridad en el espacio público, sin estigmatizar ni criminalizar a sectores en

situación de vulnerabilidad social. Como también detener el proceso de gentrificación en las grandes capitales, que expulsan y esconden a los sectores más empobrecidos de la sociedad.

Proponemos un nuevo contrato social que coloque en el centro a la vida, con un modelo de desarrollo que recupere el equilibrio con la naturaleza, que promueva las energías renovables con tecnologías sostenibles que provengan de cadenas de producción justas y con principios de nuevas economías.

Los Estados deben reconocer el papel central de la economía social, solidaria y popular, para el desarrollo de nuestra región y fomentar la transición de la economía informal a la formal, en el marco de los Convenios fundamentales de la OIT. Asi mismo, desarrollar políticas de creación de empleo y promover la universalidad y suficiencia de la protección social.

Es necesario abrir espacios de diálogo institucionalizados entre la sociedad civil y los gobiernos que presten debida atención a la criminalización y estigmatización de las juventudes y otras poblaciones más vulnerables que son afectadas por el actual modelo de desarrollo. Frenar la represión a comunicadores y comunicadoras, la persecución a personas defensoras de derechos humanos, de medio ambiente, de territorios, a las feministas, a las y los sindicalistas, a las defensoras de los derechos sexuales y reproductivos y a los pueblos originarios y las mujeres indígenas.

Existe un impacto diferencial de las injusticias sobre las niñas, las adolescentes y las mujeres en toda su diversidad, que sufren empobrecimiento, escasa respuesta estatal y judicial frente a las violencias, a lo que se suman las insuficientes campañas de prevención de violencia machista que ha llegado a niveles extremos y la falta de servicios de atencion y proteccion a nivel territorial. A esto se suman las múltiples barreras para acceder a los servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva, especialmente para mujeres diversas, personas lgbtttiq+ y afectadas por el VIH-SIDA.

Exigimos a los gobiernos que garanticen de manera efectiva el acceso a la salud integral para todes, integrando a los derechos sexuales y derechos reproductivos, el acceso a la anticoncepción, a los servicios de aborto seguro y gratuito, como también a la Educación Sexual Integral laica, científica y de calidad.

Es preocupante que las corporaciones multinacionales sigan sin contribuir lo suficiente para el alcance de la Agenda 2030, y que su nivel de influencia esté aumentando sobre los gobiernos y sobre las Naciones Unidas, mientras que las relaciones comerciales continúan imponiendo barreras a los derechos humanos, laborales y ambientales. Esto también debilita nuestras democracias en América Latina y el Caribe.

Demandamos a los países poner fin al abuso. Poner fin a las exenciones de impuestos corporativos, poner fin a la elusión y a la evasión de impuestos que agotan recursos clave para abordar las desigualdades que marcan a nuestra región. **Exigimos la implementación de sistemas fiscales progresivos, el control de la elusión y evasión fiscal** y tributación a las transacciones financieras.

Exigimos **que la sociedad civil sea tratada de manera efectiva como agente de desarrollo fundamental para la implementación de la Agenda 2030**, siendo integrada a mecanismos de financiación transparentes para impulsar proyectos y tecnologías sociales en el marco de la Alianza Mundial para la Cooperación Eficaz para el Desarrollo.

Exhortamos a los gobiernos a promover la transparencia y rendición de cuentas en un contexto donde actos de corrupción han proliferado y quedan en la impunidad, demandamos una

gobernanza regional y global verdaderamente democrática que desarrolle políticas y alianzas coherentes y con enfoque en derechos humanos, sociales, ambientales y les solicitamos eliminar la aplicación de medidas coercitivas contra países de la región.

La implementación de la Agenda 2030 debe poner en el centro los derechos humanos de todas las personas. Es sustancial un enfoque de desarrollo que pugne de manera efectiva, por la igualdad, la inclusión y la no-discriminación.

Nos están dejando atrás y afuera, pero estamos a tiempo aquí para acompañarles en los desafíos que nos plantea la Agenda 2030 sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible en nuestra América Latina y el Caribe, más participación es más derechos, y mejor democracia.

Muchas gracias.

Santiago de Chile, 27 de abril de 2023.

CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT AT THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Courtesy translation provided by the secretariat

The Mechanism for civil society participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda and in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to leave no one behind. Our work in following up on the Agenda is ongoing, contributing to it and building on it from a territorial perspective.

We express our alarm that the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, especially in areas that are essential for life, such as health, education, gender equality, technology, access to decent work, social protection, decent housing, water, environmental care, justice and equal participation, will not be met if we continue on the current path.

Latin America and the Caribbean is facing a substantial increase in poverty. This has exacerbated the health and water crises, affecting women, children, adolescents, persons with disabilities and older persons in particular. The faces of human rights abuses in our countries are the faces of women, children and adolescents, youth, older people, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ persons, people living with HIV, migrants, workers, including those in precarious employment, informal workers and sex workers, Indigenous Peoples, rural populations and people of African descent.

Therefore, we demand the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken by States, as well as the inclusion and participation of representatives of all social sectors in the search for solutions to achieve the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, with human rights at the core.

We advocate the construction of post-extractivist economies and societies. To protect cultural and natural diversity, we need a structural and just socioecological transition, and an orderly and gradual withdrawal from dependence on oil, coal and gas, mining, deforestation and large monocultures. A transition towards renewable, decentralized, decommercialized energy mixes and collective, safe and high-quality mobility models is necessary.

We reaffirm that access to water is a human right, which is why the regulatory frameworks for regulation and protection must be improved. There is an urgent need to prioritize water for life and not for the extractivist and profit-driven production model. We demand a shift from a focus on drinking water and sanitation towards integrated management of water resources, with the effective participation of peoples, communities and, above all, women.

We draw attention to corporate energy transition processes that see the region as a map showing operations for the extraction of common goods that finance the development models and energy transition of industrialized countries of the global North. A just transition is urgently needed to efficiently face the climate and environmental crisis, addressing the needs of people, workers and communities affected by the energy transition. The ratification and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement by all countries of the region, without excuses, is a must.

We call for democratic access to energy, with an emphasis on clean and renewable energy, and underscore that it is a fundamental human right that no one should be deprived of and that tariffs should not exceed people's ability to pay at the individual, family and community level.

We urge governments to strengthen funding for sustainable infrastructure, with response and support policies and programmes to aid transitions, and to incorporate an indicator for measuring public investment in and spending on research on these issues.

States should recognize the contributions and traditional knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples, primarily Indigenous women, and prioritize greater access to technologies, communication, infrastructure, industry and innovation and access to STEM education with a view to protecting the rights, cultural identities, resources and territories of Indigenous Peoples.

In addition, within the framework of the right to lifelong learning, the protection of collective intellectual property rights must be ensured over extractivism and illicit appropriation in the digital age. The States of the region must ensure the full implementation of general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Governments must provide cities with infrastructure to ensure human dignity. Older persons, children, adolescents, persons with disabilities and rural populations require infrastructure that is suited to their needs. It is vital to ensure sustainable housing and housing stability, the construction of public care centres, adequate public transport, leisure and recreational spaces, as well as access to digital technologies, enabling freedom of movement, access to information, autonomy and citizen participation.

States must focus on protecting individuals who use the Internet and digital communication, preventing abuse and violence in online technology use. Digital inclusion strategies must be developed, with cyber security and safeguards to prevent cyber violence, especially against the poor, migrants, children and adolescents, persons with disabilities and older persons.

The Mechanism for civil society participation stresses the need to address the public security agenda, without stigmatizing or criminalizing sectors in situations of social vulnerability. It is also necessary to halt gentrification in large capital cities, which drives out and obscures the most impoverished sectors of society.

We propose a new social contract that places life at the centre, with a development model that restores the balance with nature, promotes renewable energies with sustainable technologies that come from fair production chains and with principles of new economies.

States must recognize the central role of the social, solidarity and popular economy for the development of our region and foster the transition from the informal to the formal economy, within the framework of the core International Labour Organization Conventions. They must also develop job creation policies and promote universal and adequate social protection.

Institutionalized forums for dialogue between civil society and governments must be opened to give due attention to the criminalization and stigmatization of young people and other vulnerable populations affected by the current development model. The repression of the media and the persecution of human rights defenders, environmental defenders, land defenders, feminists, trade unionists, defenders of sexual and reproductive rights, Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous women must be stopped.

Injustices affect girls, adolescent girls and women in all their diversity in different ways, as they suffer from poverty, inadequate State and judicial response to violence, insufficient campaigns on prevention of male violence, which has reached extreme levels, and a lack of care and protection services at the territorial level. This is compounded by the many barriers limiting access to sexual and reproductive health services, especially for diverse women, lgbtttiq+ persons and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

We demand that governments ensure effective access to comprehensive health care for all, integrating sexual and reproductive rights, access to contraception, to safe and free abortion services, and to comprehensive sexuality education that is secular, science-based and of high quality.

It is worrying that multinational corporations' contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda remain insufficient, and that their level of influence over governments and the United Nations is increasing, while trade relations continue to restrict human, labour and environmental rights. This also undermines our democracies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We call for countries to put an end to the abuse; to put an end to corporate tax exemptions, tax avoidance and tax evasion that drain the critical resources needed to address the inequalities that plague our region. We demand the implementation of progressive tax systems, controls on tax avoidance and evasion, and taxation of financial transactions.

We demand that civil society be treated effectively as a key development agent for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and be included in transparent financing mechanisms to promote social projects and technologies within the framework of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

We urge governments to promote transparency and accountability at a time when corruption is rampant and goes unpunished, we demand truly democratic regional and global governance that fosters coherent policies and partnerships with a focus on human, social and environmental rights, and we call on governments to cease the application of coercive measures against countries of the region.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda must have the human rights of all people at its core. A development approach that effectively champions equality, inclusion and non-discrimination is essential.

We are being left behind and left out, but we are here at the right time to help meet the challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in our Latin America and the Caribbean. More participation equals more rights and better democracy.

Thank you very much.

Santiago, 27 April 2023

Annex 5

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES/LIST OF PARTICIPANTS[1]

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F. Sistema de las Naciones Unidas/United Nations system

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
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Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
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Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
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Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA)/International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
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Oficina de las Naciones Unidas para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres (UNDRR)/United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
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Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial (ONUDI)/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

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Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos (ONU-Hábitat)/United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
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Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA)/Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
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Organismo Internacional de Juventud para Iberoamérica (OIJ)
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Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE)/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
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Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (OEI)/ Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI)
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