



Forum of the Countries
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the Caribbean on
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
Santiago
31 March–4 April **2025**

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

Santiago, 31 March–4 April 2025



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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Eighth Meeting of the Forum was held in Santiago from March 31 to 4 April 2025. The meeting was convened by Peru, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee of the Whole 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. It was open to member States of the Forum and observers; agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system; regional and subregional bodies; international financial institutions; the private sector; academia and civil society.

Attendance¹

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

3. Attending as observers were the following non-Forum-member States members of the Commission: Canada, France, Germany, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Türkiye, and United Kingdom.

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

5. Representatives of the following Member States of the United Nations that are not member States of the Commission attended as observers: Australia, Finland and Russian Federation.

6. Attending from the United Nations Secretariat were the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and representatives of the Development Coordination Office, and resident coordinators.

7. The following entities of the United Nations system were also represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 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 Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) World Bank and World Food Programme (WFP).

¹ See annex 7 for the full list of participants.

8. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended: Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE).

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

Chair

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

B. AGENDA

11. The Forum adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.

Dialogues on global action

2. Session on the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (Seville, Spain, 2025).
3. Session on the Second World Summit for Social Development (Qatar, 2025).
4. Session on the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Belém do Pará, Brazil, 2025).
5. Session on the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
6. Session on the Pact for the Future.

Dialogues on regional action

7. Presentation of the document *Latin America and the Caribbean in the Final Five Years of the 2030 Agenda: Steering Transformations to Accelerate Progress*, eighth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Contribution of the United Nations sustainable development system in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - Presentation of the 2024 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean.
9. Advancing Caribbean development through greater synergy in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States.

10. Strengthening public-private partnerships to accelerate the use of private and disaggregated data: a path to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
11. Peer learning sessions.
 - Panel 1: Goal 3 – Good health and well-being
 - Panel 2: Goal 5 – Gender equality
 - Panel 3: Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth
 - Panel 4: Goal 14 – Life below water
 - Panel 5: Goal 17 – Partnerships for the goals

Dialogues on national action

12. Session on successful national experiences in accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
13. Good practices and challenges in the preparation of voluntary national reviews.
14. Public innovation to advance the Pact for the Future: accelerating action and collaboration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level.
15. Other matters.
16. Intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

12. At the opening session, statements were made by José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; Félix Denegri, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, the country serving as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development; Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations; and Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (pre-recorded video).

13. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) said that in the current uncertain economic and geopolitical context, financing, international and regional cooperation, and multisectoral partnerships were essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ECLAC worked to galvanize the management of transformations in areas such as governance, social dialogue and the technical, operational, political and prospective capabilities of the institutions responsible for each SDG, and provided the countries of the region, which were facing development traps, with information and data for decision-making, a space for dialogue and technical assistance for implementing measures and building capacity. The agreed outcomes of the discussions of the Forum would be presented at the high-level political forum to be held in New York in 2025.

14. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, said that the Forum promoted coordination and collaboration among countries of the region, fostered national capacity-building, identified gaps, challenges and shared goals, and enabled peer-to-peer learning through the exchange of

good practices and lessons learned. At the meeting of the Forum, the dialogue would be organized around three levels: global, regional and national. He reaffirmed Peru's commitment to multilateralism and the promotion of an international development agenda centred on social inclusion, sustainability and cooperation, and reiterated the need to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

15. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations said that the stark realities and escalating global challenges that undermined development gains and growth prospects called for a decisive response and renewed urgency to strengthen multilateralism. He highlighted the region's leadership in transformative, people-centred sustainable development policies, and the Commission's support, noting that the pivotal conferences to be held in 2025 would reset the trajectory towards the SDGs and a fit-for-purpose international system. Mobilizing the region's contributions and amplifying its voice, the Forum enriched global dialogue and its collective wisdom should be harnessed to generate scalable, replicable solutions.

16. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations said that with five years remaining and progress on sustainable development dangerously off-track, countries of the region nevertheless continued to lead on the global stage. The Pact for the Future must not remain words on paper: achieving the SDGs demanded bold reform, regional unity of purpose in an increasingly divided world and acceleration of the key transitions to drive systemic change. The unprecedented merging of policy and operational assets resulting from the stronger link between regional commissions and the resident coordinator system had the potential to enhance support to the entire region. Official development assistance (ODA), though vital, was not enough to meet the scale of the challenges faced. The Forum must be a turning point for renewed commitment to the 2030 Agenda and joint action, leaving no one behind.

Dialogues on global action

17. Opening the dialogues, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations said that the Forum uniquely integrated dialogues for action at all levels, which was crucial for innovative responses to sustainable development challenges. The window for achieving the 2030 Agenda was rapidly closing and multilateralism, the sole viable solution to navigate cascading crises, was under threat. The three upcoming global summits were critical opportunities for the international community to reinvigorate partnerships to arrest detrimental trends and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through bold action in areas such as financing for development, debt and international financial architecture reform, social development, poverty eradication, and climate resilience and adaptation. The successful outcomes thereof would reinforce multilateralism and he was confident the deliberations at the Forum would provide valuable recommendations.

Session on the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (Seville, Spain, 2025) (agenda item 2)

18. The session was moderated by Roberto Carlos Ramírez, Undersecretary of Finance of Honduras and the panellists were Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations; José Antonio Ocampo, Professor of the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University (virtual); Daniel Titelman, Chief of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC; Dinorah Singer, Senior Executive at the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) in Chile; and Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica (pre-recorded video).

19. The moderator invited the panellists to discuss the main themes to be addressed at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, such as opportunities to increase financing commitments and innovations to shrink financial deficits in order to achieve the SDGs.

20. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations said that obstacles to vital investment in sustainable development and climate action trapped developing countries in a vicious cycle of limited growth or worse, stagnation. The draft outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development proposed a transformative investment push for fiscal space and resource mobilization, and a fundamental overhaul of the international financial architecture. The region's perspectives, expertise and commitment were indispensable to achieving an ambitious outcome for the Conference.

21. The Professor of the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University spoke about various measures to tackle debt distress in developing countries, strengthen national and international development banks, establish specific funds to support sustainability and address taxation of global corporations and high-income earners.

22. The Chief of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC said that national and international finance pillars were complementary and that tax reform was needed to achieve more progressive systems at both levels. Discussions on cooperation architecture at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development would be crucial for the region.

23. The Senior Executive at the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) in Chile said that at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, CAF would highlight development banks' role in helping countries to narrow gaps and the need to strengthen their resource mobilization and foster a new international financial architecture, regarding which CAF stood ready to share its experience.

24. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, in a pre-recorded video, said that the financial obstacles to SDG attainment in the region should be addressed through international financial architecture reform, reorientation of financing for sustainable development and private sector engagement aligned with international financial institutions' initiatives targeting developing countries.

25. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Chile said that democratic governments must develop new strategies to address inequality and affirmed the need to foster a more representative financial architecture. The representative of Colombia said that official development assistance should be more inclusive and that progress was needed in designing innovative mechanisms to overcome the obstacles faced by countries owing to their debt. The representative of Costa Rica spoke of the need for novel mechanisms for access to concessional financing, a recapitalized multilateral development bank and environmentally sound technologies. The representative of Cuba called for international architecture reform through inclusive debate, and spoke of the need to improve capacity-building and knowledge transfer programmes. The representative of Ecuador referred to her country's main advances in resource mobilization and said that effective financing would only be possible with a more just financial architecture adapted to each country.

26. The representative of Guatemala spoke of themes including the improved use of remittances, the fight against corruption, countries' regulations concerning multilateral bank loans and institutional credibility. The representative of Mexico advocated for the mobilization of sustainable financing through key actors, the alignment of national budgets with the SDGs and, in particular, the reduction of remittance costs.

The representative of Brazil said that the fight against hunger and poverty should be central to the financing for development agenda and that it was essential to foster a more representative and inclusive governance structure. The representative of the Dominican Republic underscored the importance of strengthening statistical data systems, as they allowed for informed policymaking, and thereby encouraged public trust and international cooperation. The representative of Spain spoke of debt sustainability and the localization of financing for development, and said that gender equality was a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Session on the Second World Summit for Social Development (Qatar, 2025) (agenda item 3)

27. The session was moderated by Michelle Muschett, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the panellists were Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations; José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; Kirk Humphrey, Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs of Barbados; Javiera Toro, Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile; Leslie Carol Urteaga Peña, Minister of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru; Laís Abramo, National Secretary for Care and Family in the Ministry of Social Development and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil; Juan Somavía, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Chair of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995); and Yamile Socolovsky, President of the Committee of Working Women of the Americas (CMTA-CSA).

28. The moderator said that the region had achieved unprecedented social progress in the 30 years since the first World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen, and had demonstrated a singular capacity for innovation in public policy. However, stalled progress in the wake of the pandemic had shown that the approach to human development had not been sufficiently resilient to withstand increasingly intense and interconnected shocks, highlighting the need for a redefined development model to address that limitation.

29. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, said that social development progress in the past 30 years had brought one billion people out of extreme poverty, but the current moment was one of profound global crisis. The Second World Summit would chart a course forward, shaped by Member State deliberations in New York on a declaration for possible adoption. The region's preparatory inputs had been especially important, and he looked forward to its active participation in both New York and Doha.

30. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented the special report entitled "The road to the 2025 Second World Summit for Social Development: towards a pact for inclusive social development"² and summarized its key ideas. There were 10 points that ECLAC deemed integral to an inclusive social development pact, which was necessary to address structural social challenges. Strengthening institutional frameworks and dialogue on social policy and ensuring its financial sustainability were critical measures.

31. The Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs of Barbados expressed both hope and scepticism, recalling the aspirational spirit of the first World Summit while acknowledging its failure to determine the "hows" of implementation, and he called for bravery moving forward.

32. The Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile said that social development ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean had agreed that the document *Latin America and*

² See <https://hdl.handle.net/11362/81412>.

*the Caribbean looking ahead to the Second World Summit for Social Development: proposals for inclusive social development*³ would serve as the region's input for the Second World Summit. Amid geopolitical instability, weakening democratic institutions and the rise of anti-rights rhetoric casting doubt on the value of the State and multilateralism, social protection must be safeguarded by building a new model that placed people at the centre of development.

33. The Minister of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru reaffirmed her country's commitment to regional cooperation as a means to chart a course forward based on mutual support. Peru had made efforts to address challenges recently, including urban population growth following the pandemic and the effects of disasters on the most vulnerable groups. With regard to the second challenge, she said that an adaptive approach to social protection was a way to get ahead of potential problems through preventive and transformative policies for more flexible and resilient social protection systems.

34. The National Secretary for Care and Family in the Ministry of Social Development and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil said that her country's recent experience had shown that eliminating hunger and poverty was possible through a set of coordinated policies, such as a conditional income transfer programme, non-contributory pensions, formal job creation, an increased minimum wage and expanded public services. Concluding a pact for inclusive social development at the Second World Summit and holding the first summit of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty would be key for accelerating the 2030 Agenda.

35. The former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Chair of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, said that the current global climate, characterized by growing geopolitical disorder, the dissolution and formation of new alliances and a preference for arms over diplomacy, was affecting the United Nations, which should be prepared to defend its identity and mandates. Its social development mandate, going back to the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations and clearly enshrined in the 2030 Agenda, must be fulfilled. The agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system must work together and develop a methodology for policy integration to identify creative solutions to social challenges.

36. The President of the Committee of Working Women of the Americas said that the union perspective was that the social rights debate should give priority attention to the world of work, where inequalities and obstacles to building societies based on full social justice were plain to see. Progress on the development of universal social protection systems incorporating a gender perspective was fundamental. The ground that had been gained could still be lost; democracy's best defence was a development model based on social justice and the full recognition of human rights and dignity for all.

Session on the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Belém do Pará, Brazil, 2025) (agenda item 4)

37. The session was moderated by Manuel Pulgar Vidal, global leader of climate and energy at the World Wide Fund for Nature International, and the panellists were Paulo Roberto Soares Pacheco, Ambassador of Brazil to Chile; Dwight G. Sutherland, Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance of Barbados; Macarena Sánchez, Director of Environment and Impact for Chile, Peru and Ecuador at Patagonia, Inc.; and Daniel Seidel, Coordinator of the Ecclesial Network for Justice and Peace of the Greater Homeland.

³ See <https://hdl.handle.net/11362/81414>.

38. The moderator stressed that climate change was one of the most serious threats facing humanity and that the success of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties depended on strengthening the narrative and confronting denialist voices. Participants should also seek to build on the achievements of previous sessions and defend multilateralism as the most effective means to fight climate change. People wanted to see concrete actions, not just negotiations, thus the time had come to focus on implementing agreed action.

39. The Ambassador of Brazil to Chile said that all stakeholders and resources should be aligned to achieve the goal of fostering low-carbon and climate-resilient development and strengthening climate governance in the framework of sustainable development. It was essential that new nationally determined contributions include initiatives to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C in order to prevent extreme weather events. Brazil's new nationally determined contributions reflected the country's determination to define a new development paradigm that reconciled the goals of enhancing social development and combating climate change.

40. The Minister of Housing, Lands and Maintenance of Barbados presented the achievements to date of the Bridgetown Initiative, an agenda to reform the global financial architecture that includes a focus on climate finance, and outlined the initiatives under way in Barbados to mitigate climate change, build resilience and transform the urban environment.

41. The Director of Environment and Impact for Chile, Peru and Ecuador at Patagonia, Inc. explained how the company she represented had managed to be both profitable and responsible towards the environment and local communities. The company was also part of an international alliance that aimed to establish a biological corridor in Patagonia.

42. The Coordinator of the Ecclesial Network for Justice and Peace of the Greater Homeland called on countries to sign the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), given that the Amazon region was where the highest number of environmental leaders were killed. He referred to often-used false solutions to climate change, such as using profits from oil extraction to finance the energy transition or degrading biomes through the exploitation of rare minerals used to produce "clean" energy. Instead, he proposed a cultural shift towards a new lifestyle based on "happy sobriety" as a means of resistance to consumerism, education for ecological transformation and the empowerment of local communities.

43. The representative of Costa Rica highlighted her country's commitment to sustainable development, conservation and the fight against climate change, as well as the importance of financing, particularly climate finance. The representative of Cuba said that developed countries should take the lead in reducing emissions and that countries' capacities to address climate change were directly proportional to their access to resources. The representative of Mexico referred to debt-for-development swaps and the importance of aligning national budgets with the SDGs, and mentioned her country's efforts on climate action. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago outlined her country's policy priorities and advocacy efforts to secure climate finance, strengthen adaptation and advance just transition strategies in alignment with global climate goals. The representative of Colombia said that her country was committed to seeking synergies between the climate change agenda and biodiversity, and that reducing the high costs of capital for developing countries was a priority.

44. The representative of UN-Habitat said that member States could access its working methodologies and international experiences in order to include the issue of cities in their nationally determined contributions. The representative of FAO referred to agrifood systems, which were fundamental for food

security and job creation, and to the Platform of Latin America and the Caribbean for Climate Action on Agriculture. The representative of UN-Women said that, as vulnerable groups, women and girls experienced the worst effects of environmental crises, which needed to be addressed through climate action. The representative of UNEP referred to the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and its focus on water, which had been integrated into the climate and biodiversity agendas, among others.

45. The representative of Asociación Ciudadana por los Derechos Humanos, Red de Defensoras del Ambiente y el Buen Vivir and Red Ecofeminista LAC, and of 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 called for better and greater funding for climate change prevention policies, a just transition and a paradigm shift in the countries of the region.

Session on the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (agenda item 5)

46. The session was moderated by Laura Moreno, Ambassador of Mexico to Chile, and the panellists were 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); Virginia Vargas, co-founder of the Flora Tristán Centre of Peru and member of Articulación Feminista Marcosur; Noemi Espinoza Madrid, Secretary-General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS); and Virginia Albert-Poyotte, Minister of Public Service, Home Affairs, Labour and Gender Affairs of Saint Lucia (virtual).

47. The moderator said that the central aim of the panel would be to evaluate the impact of the Beijing Platform for Action in terms of ensuring the fulfilment of women's and girls' rights, relying on national reviews to assess progress and focus efforts on obstacles stemming from inequality. She invited delegations to participate in the sixteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which her country would host in August 2025.

48. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women said that femicide, the disproportionate burden of care work on women and gender stereotypes persisted in the region, despite its having set a global example with its gender equality efforts.

49. The co-founder of the Flora Tristán Centre of Peru and member of Articulación Feminista Marcosur said that the women's movement had been a proactive participant in drafting the Beijing Platform for Action agreed by governments, but something had been lost in its implementation. The linking of the Platform and the 2030 Agenda had enabled gender mainstreaming across the 17 SDGs.

50. The Secretary-General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) said that ACS reaffirmed its commitment in the face of the challenges that the climate crisis, economic inequalities and the need for improved access to justice posed for women. She highlighted a range of proposals related to gender and the SDGs that would be considered at the current meeting.

51. The Minister of Public Service, Home Affairs, Labour and Gender Affairs of Saint Lucia, said that the Caribbean had made significant progress on the Forum's priority SDGs, including poverty, education and jobs. Tremendous progress, however, could give way to setbacks, so focus on the Goals must not waiver.

52. The representative of Costa Rica drew attention to the political declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-ninth session and said that gender equality was a key driver of inclusion. The representative of Mexico said that, for her country, gender equality was an essential pillar of sustainable development and that public policies must incorporate a gender perspective. The representative of the Dominican Republic stressed the need for a guaranteed right to care, reduced gender inequalities and gender mainstreaming in the production of official statistics. The representative of Uruguay described the status of women in his country and highlighted the importance of strengthening multilateralism and safeguarding rights to achieve social justice.

53. A representative of civil society said that the rights of women in all their diversity must be strengthened, and their full and meaningful participation must be ensured to build an equal world.

54. The representative of PARLACEN highlighted her institution's firm commitment to gender equality and said that inclusive and equitable inclusion was fundamental for ensuring women's and girls' empowerment and rights.

Session on the Pact for the Future (agenda item 6)

55. The session was moderated by Carla Serazzi, Deputy Secretary General for Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, and the panellists were Hugo Francisco Rivera, the Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation of the Dominican Republic; Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, in her capacity as co-facilitator of the ministerial declaration of the 2025 high-level political forum (virtual); Themba Kalua, Director for the Pact for the Future Implementation in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (virtual); Philipp Schönrock, Director of the Centre for International Strategic Thinking (CEPEI); Rolando Pelicot Ruiz, social entrepreneur and activist for peace, education and climate action and member of the Resolution Project; Rosario Díaz Garavito, co-facilitator of the impact coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Pact for the Future; Marcela Browne, Education Coordinator of Fundación SES of Argentina; Albert Ramdin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Suriname and Secretary General-elect of the Organization of the American States (OAS) (pre-recorded video); and Mario Lubetkin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay (pre-recorded video).

56. The moderator recalled that the Pact for the Future had been adopted at the Summit of the Future in 2024 with the aim of revitalizing multilateralism and improving global governance to address the emerging challenges of the twenty-first century. Chile had been an active and committed participant, convinced that only through international collaboration could challenges like the climate crisis, gender inequality and building fairer societies be met. The shared circumstances of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean enabled joint, innovative solutions in the region and the aim of the session was to share ideas in that vein.

57. The Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation of the Dominican Republic explained that over the previous 10 years, the country had grown, democracy had progressed and poverty had declined. His country's food security and partnerships with productive sectors had enabled it to overcome the logistics chain disruption during the pandemic. He noted, however, that no single country on its own could succeed in fully implementing the Pact for the Future and achieving sustainable development. It was important to help countries that needed more international cooperation, such as Haiti, and to overcome connectivity barriers in the region, which would be much stronger if united.

58. The Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, in her capacity as co-facilitator of the ministerial declaration of the 2025 high-level political forum—for which negotiations would conclude by June—called for a concise, science-based and action-oriented declaration, with support for developing countries, to drive progress on the SDGs.

59. The Director for the Pact for the Future Implementation in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General said that the political commitments of the Pact must now translate into tangible action, including on peace and security, regional representation, international financial reform and governance of artificial intelligence. National implementation policies should prioritize ambitious, synergistic outcomes, tailored commitments and strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships.

60. The Director of the Centre for International Strategic Thinking (CEPEI) said that digitalization was a key tool for sustainable development, provided that it was used in an ethical and equitable manner. It was important to support governments and the different stakeholders in implementation of the Global Digital Compact through concrete reforms that would work in regional and local contexts. In a rapidly evolving digital context, Latin America and the Caribbean had a unique opportunity to lead its digital transition, but it was essential to ensure that international governance mechanisms reflected the region's voice and to conduct high-quality research to advance an innovative agenda and build public digital infrastructure that served all.

61. The social entrepreneur and activist for peace, education and climate action and member of The Resolution Project noted the vital role played by young people, who worked together and mobilized to lead initiatives aligned with the different areas encompassed by the Pact for the Future. Children and adolescents should not be seen merely as beneficiaries of programmes and projects, but rather as strategic stakeholders and agents of change in implementing the Pact. To that end, financing, integration and intentional inclusion were required at all levels, and children and young people must be given a voice, a vote and a meaningful role in decision-making.

62. The co-facilitator of the impact coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Pact for the Future explained that impact coalitions were forums that assembled a variety of key stakeholders working on different subjects linked with the Pact for the Future, with a view to establishing networks and spaces to support countries in implementing reforms for progress. The coalition, which had participated in the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future, was a diverse and non-hierarchical space for reaching agreement, in which different sectors viewed each other as partners. Implementing the Pact would require solidarity, ambitious action and the ability to transcend polarization in order to work on shared priorities.

63. The Education Coordinator of Fundación SES of Argentina and member of 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 welcomed the Pact's concrete responses to pressing challenges such as climate change, inequality and the digital transition. There was no lack of ideas; what was needed was to move from commitments to action. She recommended that institutional frameworks and governance should be strengthened to prioritize the SDGs and the Pact nationally and internationally, and offered decision makers a repertoire of practices that civil society had implemented in the region to accelerate the 2030 Agenda, which could be replicated in different contexts.

64. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Suriname and Secretary General-elect of the Organization of American States said that implementation of the Pact required decisive leadership through a whole-of-society approach, with community buy-in and legislative commitment to a concrete agenda, in alignment with national development strategies. Multilateralism must be strengthened through effective, ongoing dialogue for a hemispheric approach to shared challenges.

65. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay reaffirmed his country's commitment to multilateralism and said that the SDGs had served as its fundamental policy planning and implementation framework. Economic development, peace and human rights were indivisible and the environmental dimension was critical for guaranteeing social rights. The Pact for the Future was a useful tool for discussing subjects such as international peace and security and for energizing the needed reforms and modernizing governance systems to achieve a fairer, more sustainable world for all. However, enhancing international cooperation was indispensable to ensure its implementation.

Dialogues on regional action

Presentation of the document *Latin America and the Caribbean in the Final Five Years of the 2030 Agenda: Steering Transformations to Accelerate Progress*,⁴ eighth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 7)

66. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that with five years remaining to achieve the SDGs, progress was lagging behind expectations and, in an unfavourable global economic scenario, transformations must be steered to accelerate progress. In the document, it was noted that only 23% of the SDG targets were expected to be achieved in the region by 2030; for 41%, the trend was moving in the right direction but too slowly to reach established thresholds; and for the remaining 36%, progress had stalled or reversed compared with 2015. ECLAC proposed that the answers lay in five key areas: governance and collaboration arrangements among stakeholders for each SDG; the technical, operational, political and prospective capabilities of the institutions responsible for policies relevant to each SDG; spaces for social dialogue among the institutions and key stakeholders involved in each area; the political economy of reforms and transformations; and the challenge of financing, which encompassed domestic resource mobilization and possible reforms to the international financial architecture.

67. He examined the development traps the region faced —low capacity for growth, high inequality with low social mobility and social cohesion, lack of environmental sustainability and weak institutional capacities—, the chances of achieving the SDG targets, and the role of non-governmental stakeholders. The Pact for the Future articulated a shared vision, promoted international cooperation and charted a peaceful course for solving the problems facing humanity. Along those very lines, the Forum was a catalyst for hope that it was possible to build a better future.

68. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Colombia called for transformation of the production model and urged countries to rely on the road map of the 2030 Agenda, increase the availability of data and foster technical cooperation. The representative of Costa Rica said that efforts must be redoubled and called for urgent, decisive action to avoid a third lost decade in the region, emphasizing the importance of foresight capabilities and multi-stakeholder participation. The representative of Ecuador said that there was a need to strengthen data collection, prioritize development policies and identify financing mechanisms, and reaffirmed her country's commitment to sustainable development. The representative of Honduras emphasized the need for public policies that focused on achieving the targets and for immediate, effective solutions within a financial system of improved design.

69. The representative of Mexico referred to decent work and gender equality and said that it was critical to foster local development and have data that brought to light the problem of the care economy. The representative of Peru highlighted capacity-building, the productive transformation and work with other stakeholders, and called on countries to implement social and environmental policies to achieve the

⁴ See <https://hdl.handle.net/11362/81406>.

SDG targets. The representative of Uruguay referred to questions on the effectiveness of the 2030 Agenda and the cultural changes it was bringing about, and underscored the need to establish data dissemination mechanisms. The representative of Guatemala said that to overcome gaps, it was key to consider the regional and national political context in order to design more realistic and relevant strategies.

70. The representative of UN-Women highlighted the importance of improving data dissemination and mentioned different areas, such as science and technology, in which progress must be made to ensure women's participation. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) drew attention to the links between human rights and international financial reform, including debt and taxation, and to the human rights economy, recognizing Cuba and Chile for significant achievements in the Human Rights Council. The representative of FAO said that implementation of gender policies entailed ensuring women's access to land and eradicating child labour in the agricultural sector, for example. The representative of PAHO/WHO said that resilient health systems were a pre-requisite for addressing emergencies and ensuring sustainable development, and called for increased health spending and intersectoral collaboration. The representative of UNICEF highlighted urban-rural divides affecting children's access to basic services like schooling and technology. Violence impacting children in the region called for prioritizing prevention over response, which was a less productive approach.

Contribution of the United Nations sustainable development system in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 8)

71. The session was moderated by Jorge Félix Rubio Correa, Director General for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, the country serving as Chair of the Forum, and the panellists were José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in his capacity as Vice-Chair of the Platform; Michelle Muschett, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Platform; Nahuel Arenas, Chief of the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); 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); Roberto Valent, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Development Coordination Office of the United Nations; and Susana Sottoli, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

72. The moderator noted that the report being presented shed light on the contributions of the United Nations system in the region, mainly through the work of the Regional Collaborative Platform's issue-based coalitions and working groups, which aimed to improve the system's coherence, efficiency and effectiveness at the regional level. Through coordinated action, the platform mobilized system-wide expertise to strengthen the efforts of United Nations country teams and resident coordinators in advancing towards the SDGs. The collaboration had allowed the United Nations system to provide crucial support in response to emerging needs in the region.

73. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, in his capacity as Vice-Chair of the Platform, presented the fifth report on the Platform's results since its establishment. Latin America and the Caribbean had shown resilience and innovative capacity despite the complex development landscape it continued to face, marked by low economic growth, an annual financing gap, high levels of labour informality, food security problems, a high homicide rate, gender-based violence, education gaps, vulnerability to climate change and disasters, and challenges posed by migration. In 2024, the Platform had made progress in implementing the United Nations reform and in the areas of knowledge management, data and statistics, transparency and results-based management, and optimization of common services at the regional level.

74. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Platform, presented the activities undertaken by the issue-based coalitions on climate change and resilience, equitable growth and financing for development, human mobility and governance for peace, justice and strong institutions. She also summarized the activities of the working groups on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, youth, populations left behind, peer support, SDG data and statistics, and evaluation. Lastly, she referred to the work of the regional operations management team, the knowledge management hub and the partnerships and communication working group, as well as potential partnerships beyond the Platform with entities of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional mechanisms, intergovernmental bodies, academic and research institutions, specialized initiatives, and government and civil society partners.

75. The Chief of the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of UNDRR summarized the achievements of the issue-based coalition on climate change and resilience in coordinating country-level support on disaster risk reduction and climate commitments, leveraging regional expertise to maximize its impact.

76. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women referred to the collaborative work with entities of the United Nations system and highlighted the development of the Regional Gender Equality Profile for Latin America and the Caribbean, a tool to strengthen understanding, advocacy and programming on gender issues, which was available to all stakeholders.

77. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Development Coordination Office of the United Nations highlighted the critical role of the resident coordinator system and the Regional Collaborative Platform and stressed the need for responsive regional cooperation in close alignment with country needs.

78. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNFPA described the work on youth issues with other United Nations entities, which would continue in 2025 in order to translate youth agendas into action, while continuing to support youth participation in various discussion forums.

79. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Barbados recognized the vital role of the United Nations system in fostering dialogue, building consensus, enhancing regional cooperation and leveraging expertise to advance sustainable development in the region. The representative of Brazil referred to the contribution of the United Nations system in implementing the 2030 Agenda and stressed that data collection was fundamental to public policymaking. The representative of Cuba mentioned the constraints linked to the blockade imposed on his country and said that, despite the complex situation, Cuba would continue to advocate for multilateralism, the search for concerted solutions and international partnerships. The representative of Mexico noted that collaboration with the United Nations had enabled his country to make steady progress towards achieving the SDGs and mentioned joint work in areas such as gender equality, climate change and sustainable economy.

Reading of statements by stakeholders

80. The statements of the Forum of children, adolescents and youth of Latin America and the Caribbean, 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, and the Interfaith preforum of the eighth meeting of the Forum were read.

Advancing Caribbean development through greater synergy in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States (agenda item 9)

81. The session was moderated by Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda, and the panellists were Pauline Antoine-Prospere, Parliamentary Secretary for the Department of Sustainable Development in the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training of Saint Lucia; Kennethia Douglas, Senior Programme Manager for Sustainable Development and SIDS National Focal Point in the Ministry of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago; Nahuel Arenas, Chief of the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); Benito Wheatley, Special Envoy of the Premier of the British Virgin Islands; and Crenston C. Buffonge, Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister of Montserrat.

82. The moderator said that despite the challenges they faced, small island developing States could draw hope from the 10-year Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States. He invited the panellists to explore strategies for synergistic implementation of that Agenda and the 2030 Agenda with regard to aligning priorities, strengthening financing mechanisms, enhancing climate resilience and environmental sustainability, boosting digital and human capital development, and examining regional cooperation and advocacy.

83. The Parliamentary Secretary for the Department of Sustainable Development in the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training of Saint Lucia said that her country was well positioned to leverage synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, and was taking steps to build climate resilience through ambitious efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while building adaptive capacity.

84. The Senior Programme Manager for Sustainable Development and SIDS National Focal Point in the Ministry of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago said that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States was an opportunity to identify and address Samoa Pathway implementation gaps. Her country would work to integrate that Agenda's targets and indicators, when available, into the SDG data repository.

85. The Chief of the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of (UNDRR said that financing for prevention through national budgets and ODA was not commensurate with the high risks the subregion faced. The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda's focus on resilience as the backbone of sustainable development was the only way forward. The overemphasis on compensatory measures and response often increased the debt burden; more prospective measures were therefore needed, and investment must not only be boosted, but informed by risk.

86. The Special Envoy of the Premier of the British Virgin Islands highlighted the importance of South-South cooperation and of greater collaboration within the region. The territory, ineligible for development finance, was already taking steps to advance its sustainable development, for example mobilizing domestic resources by boosting underperforming revenue streams. He expressed appreciation for United Nations system support to associate members and called for greater inclusion of and investment in young people.

87. The Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister of Montserrat outlined the five development priorities of Montserrat as well as the significant technical, administrative, access and financial challenges it faced because of its sovereignty status. Policy changes by once-reliable partners were

putting small island developing States' development and access to resources at risk amid increasing global conflict and a reduction in development aid. He called on United Nations counterparts to protect small island developing States and urged rapid implementation of the multidimensional vulnerability index.

88. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Cuba said that small island developing States faced a multidimensional crisis that called for support to achieve the SDGS, and that their access to goods and services markets must be improved. The representative of Jamaica welcomed the recognition of country-specific solutions in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda and said that multilateral development banks should incorporate the multidimensional vulnerability index in policy coordination. The representative of the Dominican Republic spoke of small island developing States' vulnerability to climate change and said that the phenomenon should be addressed through joint action, and also highlighted the importance of the topics of the forthcoming 2026–2035 Strategic Plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, which her country chaired, as well as efforts to strengthen women's leadership in statistics. The representative of Anguilla thanked ECLAC for its expected support in ensuring that Anguilla's national sustainable development plan enabled more effective sustainable development planning and implementation. The representative of Mexico recognized the importance of building consensus on an ambitious and pragmatic agenda, and of fostering a fairer and more integrated international financial architecture.

89. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked participants for the rich and insightful presentations and noted the commitment of Caribbean countries to the 2030 Agenda and its implementation. He outlined several of the technical assistance programmes, development projects, studies and capacity-building initiatives undertaken by the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and reiterated that ECLAC would continue to work tirelessly with member States and associate members to support the needs of the Caribbean.

Strengthening public-private partnerships to accelerate the use of private and disaggregated data: a path to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (agenda item 10)

90. The session was moderated by Miosotis Rivas Peña, General Director of the National Office of Statistics of the Dominican Republic, member of the High-Level Group on Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building in Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, and the panellists were Freddy Rodríguez, Senior Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Manager, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, and former Coordinator of Statistical Regulation with the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia; Abraham Muñoz, Director of Education for Sharing (E4S) of Mexico; Félix Romano, Chair of 2030 Agenda Committee of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers (CONCAMIN) of Mexico; Denise Silva, Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the International Statistical Institute; and Philipp Schönrock, Executive Director of CEPEI.

91. The moderator said that the growing use of data from the private sector to produce official statistics posed challenges in areas such as privacy and security. National statistical offices recognized that and were working to establish agreements to appropriately leverage the potential of such data.

92. The Senior Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Manager, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, and former Coordinator of Statistical Regulation with DANE of Colombia recognized the value of collaboration with the private sector, which enabled access to technologies and the development of joint solutions. There was no such thing as a universal road map, and reliability and adaptability were fundamental, as was trust-building among the different stakeholders to consolidate agreements that suited them all.

93. The Director of Education for Sharing of Mexico said that while there was significant information in the private sector on initiatives that targeted the SDGs and that could be replicated, people did not always know how to encourage its use. That information should be identified and made available so that it could be leveraged, and incentives should be offered to companies to broaden the scope of their operations.

94. The Chair of 2030 Agenda Committee of CONCAMIN of Mexico emphasized that all sectors should work together on the 2030 Agenda and said that the formula for a sustainable future merged technology, soft and hard skills, gender diversity in the workplace, social justice and environmental protection and restoration.

95. The Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the International Statistical Institute said that the private sector had an important role to play in the ecosystem of data production and data-sharing for official statistics, and she stressed the need to focus on data integration for SDG disaggregation.

96. The Executive Director of CEPEI noted the volume of data that was generated and its underutilization. There was a need for mechanisms for collaboration with the private sector, a more robust enabling environment, methodologies adapted to the region's requirements, investment in public digital infrastructure, and the capability to measure the impact of data use.

97. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Mexico said that alignment with the private sector was more important than ever and that the ties between multiple stakeholders needed to be strengthened to leverage the power of the private sector. The representative of Guatemala referred to his country's need for information on the demand for professionals in the labour market and on the supply from universities, to guide the management of a scholarship fund. It was very costly to generate that information and private universities did not share their data.

98. The representative of UN-Women emphasized the importance of data in the context of public policy discussions and said that fostering a shift in the vision of national statistical offices was essential to help them to view gender statistics as a powerful policymaking tool.

Peer learning sessions (agenda item 11)

99. Five panel discussions were organized to allow 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: Goal 3 – Good health and well-being

100. The panel was moderated by Susana Sottoli, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the panellists were Ximena Aguilera, Minister of Health of Chile; Pilar Torres, Head of the Office for Planning and Sectoral Studies of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Colombia; Regina Guzmán, Head of e-Government and Information Systems of the Ministry of Public Health of Uruguay; Luisa Cabal, Director of the Regional Support Team for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); Giovanni Escalante, Representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Chile; Andrés Martínez García, Regional Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI); and Estefanía Mirpuri Merino, Director of ONCE Foundation for Latin America (FOAL).

101. The moderator said that improvements had been made in the region in the area of health, including on child mortality, tobacco use and premature deaths from chemicals and pollution. It was nonetheless alarming that unacceptable barriers to the achievement of Goal 3 persisted, such as the increase in maternal mortality and adolescent fertility. To realize the right to health, political will was needed to develop plans and strategies with clear and implementable objectives, along with sufficient investment to translate them into action that would have an impact on people's lives.

102. The Minister of Health of Chile listed a variety of milestones in the history of her country's healthcare system, and described some of the institutional efforts and strategies maintained through the years, such as the national immunization programme, a pioneering model for food labelling and innovative early childhood development programmes. The challenges included gaps in access and outcomes, rapid population ageing and territorial inequalities. In that regard, her country's main strategy was to strengthen primary healthcare, by incorporating new technologies and professional capabilities that aligned with emerging needs.

103. The Head of the Office for Planning and Sectoral Studies of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Colombia provided an overview of her country's achievements related to Goal 3. Since 2003, Colombia had had a strategy for strengthening primary healthcare, under which it had been sending teams to the most remote areas of the country. Reductions had been achieved in maternal and under-5 mortality rates, the death rates for HIV and non-communicable diseases, and the fertility rate of girls and adolescent girls. Increases in the healthcare budget had enabled the recovery of abandoned and dilapidated infrastructure, such as primary care centres in remote regions.

104. The Head of e-Government and Information Systems of the Ministry of Public Health of Uruguay explained that her country had prepared a strategy with national healthcare objectives based on SDG targets and indicators. Health system coverage was 100%, the immunization rate was high and circulatory system diseases had declined. However, maternal and under-5 mortality had risen, as had tuberculosis and other respiratory illnesses and mental health problems. Pending challenges included guaranteeing early childhood health through legislation, ensuring access to medicines, improving access to healthcare appointments and procedures, and fully implementing the mental health act.

105. The Director of the Regional Support Team for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNAIDS said that the region had made strides in the area of health thanks to a collective multisectoral commitment akin to the response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The commitment and solidarity demonstrated had enabled the expansion of coverage of antiretroviral therapy, and mortality had declined. However, political and financing challenges remained, and many people in the region thought that HIV/AIDS was a disease of the past, which had triggered a rise in infections. Investment was needed in comprehensive sexuality education and in making tests available and medications accessible.

106. The Representative of PAHO in Chile spoke of investment in health as a catalyst for sustainable development and of the need to direct it towards comprehensive approaches to the social determinants of health. It was essential to increase public health spending to 6% of GDP, since strategic investment in that area was not an expense but rather an investment which yielded high returns in the reduction of poverty and inequality and in education, labour inclusion and economic growth. PAHO strategies promoted cooperation among countries, combined technological innovation with equitable access and ensured that solutions were tailored to local needs.

107. The Regional Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI) said that mental health was one of the most neglected areas of public health and that a lack of universal care that was sensitive to cultural differences often worsened the problems faced by those affected by conflicts, disasters and poverty. Faith-based and community-led organizations were deeply embedded in communities and could operate in areas that other stakeholders could not reach, but they often acted on the margins of the formal health system, without resources or support. For that reason, mechanisms should be established for them to cooperate with governments.

108. The Director of ONCE Foundation for Latin America (FOAL) a foundation focused on educational, social and labour inclusion for persons with visual disabilities, noted that persons with disabilities faced barriers in access to health, not only because they could not afford medical care but also because of a lack of accessibility in documentation, information on websites and applications, and infrastructure and signage in health centres, and because little training was provided to healthcare personnel on accessible communication. She also mentioned the need to strengthen public health policies, incorporating accessibility regulations and assigning sufficient financial resources to enable it.

109. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Costa Rica referred to his country's health policy and to the progress and challenges related to Goal 3 and noted the need to strengthen regional cooperation in that area. The representative of Brazil mentioned his country's initiatives to strengthen the health system and the challenges faced by marginalized populations and said that health was the driving force for sustainable development. The representative of Mexico referred to her country's public health policies and called for the establishment of inclusive healthcare systems and for new parameters for measuring development, which went beyond GDP. The representative of Peru referred to the policies implemented in his country to fulfil Goal 3 and mentioned challenges such as the lack of suitable infrastructure and qualified medical personnel.

110. The representative of OHCHR said that access to sexual and reproductive health was fundamental for women's enjoyment of all other rights. The representative of FAO said that agrifood systems played a key role in achieving Goal 3 and that governance and intersectoral collaboration needed to be strengthened to develop sustainable health systems. The representative of UN-Women pointed to key aspects of health, well-being and the gender dimension and called for the establishment of inclusive intersectional policies to ensure access to health services.

Panel 2: Goal 5 – Gender equality

111. The panel was moderated by María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women, and the panellists were Ana Gúezmes García, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC; June Soomer, Chair of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent; Ana Raquel Martínez Chamorro, Regional Ministerial Secretary for Women's Affairs and Gender Equality of the Santiago Metropolitan Region in Chile; and Pamela Martín García, representative of Vecinas Feministas.

112. The moderator said that gender equality was not just a fundamental human right, but also a structural condition for advancement towards sustainable development. The Forum was being held at a difficult time, when several crises were deepening inequalities and weighing disproportionately on women and girls.

113. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that the region showed progress in formal gender equality, but was far from achieving substantive equality. Large debts remained in terms of poverty, economic autonomy, paid and unpaid work, early marriage, violence, femicide and political

participation. She underscored the need for agreements at various levels to advance towards care societies. She highlighted the recent ECLAC publication *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean: gender indicators up to 2024*.⁵

114. The Chair of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent said that the SDGs did not adequately consider the specific needs and realities of women and girls of African descent, who faced elevated poverty rates caused by educational disparities, labour market inequality, social norms and gender roles, all exacerbated by racism inherited from colonialism and enslavement.

115. The Regional Ministerial Secretary for Women and Gender Equality of the Santiago Metropolitan Region in Chile spoke of her country's progress in creating a national care system based on managing a network of service providers and entities. The aim was to ensure that care was a concern for society as a whole and to build a State-level policy that included targets, indicators, deadlines and persons in charge of implementing it.

116. The representative of Vecinas Feministas said that democracy was under attack and must be bolstered. Feminist movements had as much power as groups that were against rights; however, their tools were not intimidation and fear, but rather sustained work, experience and progress on rights in the region.

117. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women said that data, which were fundamental for driving public policy, showed the urgent need for intensified efforts to overcome gender inequalities and meet expected targets. The care society would serve as a model for gender equality and sustainable development.

118. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Brazil spoke of the national care policy and expressed her country's firm commitment to the creation of robust mechanisms to achieve gender equality and social justice. The representative of Costa Rica referred to initiatives undertaken in his country to achieve Goal 5, and said that women's participation in decision-making spaces was fundamental. The representative of Ecuador spoke of her country's progress in eliminating violence against women, their participation in decision-making and their representation in leadership roles. The representative of Peru referred to his country's regulations to achieve gender equality and underscored the need to strengthen measures to prevent violence against women and mainstream the gender perspective.

119. The representative of the Dominican Republic highlighted the importance of data and statistics, and of partnerships between the public and private sector, and said that public policies must include the gender perspective. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that the feminization of poverty was a structural phenomenon and that women must be economically as well as politically empowered. The representative of Mexico gave a brief historical analysis of regional meetings on women's affairs, and said that achieving the SDGs would require the adoption of concrete measures. The representative of Uruguay spoke of some issues being addressed in his country at the parliamentary level, such as sexual violence, and said that public policymaking relating to gender affairs was of the utmost importance.

120. The representative of OHCHR said that economic violence was an obstacle to women's empowerment and it was fundamental to boost the economy of human rights for women. The representative of FAO spoke of the feminization of all forms of malnutrition and the problem of care, and underscored the need to develop social protection systems that addressed the needs of rural women. The representative of UNAIDS emphasized the importance of shedding light on women and HIV, and strengthening women's self-care to avoid late

⁵ See <https://hdl.handle.net/11362/81489>.

diagnosis, especially among women who were marginalized or faced discrimination. The representative of UNFPA underscored the need for socioeconomic evidence on the aspects of gender equality that required the most progress and for transforming the narrative that challenged women's basic rights.

121. Representatives of civil society expressed their concern about the backsliding in relation to human rights and lauded the existence of regional and international forums for dialogue.

Panel 3. Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

122. The panel was moderated by Fabio Bertranou, Director of the ILO subregional office for the Southern Cone of Latin America, and the panellists were Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda; Carlos Rafael Emiliano Gómez Rodríguez, Director General for Monitoring, Administration and Supervision of Trade Treaty Compliance in the Secretariat of Economic Affairs of Mexico; Mónica Recalde, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Paraguay; and Fanny Sequeira, Secretary-General of the Confederation of Workers Rerum Novarum.

123. The moderator said that Goal 8 was very important and linked to all 2030 Agenda targets, and the region's main challenges in that area were to achieve economic growth and decent work. There was a need to regain the pace of growth through productive development policies that encouraged investment and helped to create quality jobs. Latin America and the Caribbean faced the significant challenge of reducing informality rates, and the panel would present policies and practices to try to overcome informality and other problems.

124. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda summarized national efforts to achieve Goal 8 and put forward recommendations for its attainment in the region, including focusing on sustainable growth, diversifying industries, investing in human capital and addressing climate change impacts.

125. The Director General for Monitoring, Administration and Supervision of Trade Treaty Compliance in the Secretariat of Economic Affairs of Mexico explained that the country's economic policy was focused on guaranteeing access to basic rights that were essential to well-being through three main actions: the promotion of social welfare programmes, which had reduced poverty and unemployment; a people-centred national development plan, drafted in consultation with the public; and Plan Mexico, an industrial strategy aimed at strengthening strategic sectors and fostering workforce training aligned with those sectors in order to transform the production structure.

126. The Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Paraguay explained that her country had worked on formalizing labour, promoting social security, creating youth employment, improving labour inspections and creating spaces for social dialogue and conflict resolution. A number of structural challenges hampered the full achievement of the goals, with labour informality being the main obstacle, especially for women, young people and older persons. She pointed to the need for training programmes that were adapted to the shifting labour market, covering digital transformation, the green economy and the development of care systems.

127. The Secretary-General of the Confederation of Workers Rerum Novarum indicated that while countries reported gradual progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda in their voluntary national reviews, trade union and civil society movements noted delays and stagnation, but their voices were seldom considered in the drafting of reports. Decent work, as the main source of sustainable development, remained a utopia for many, and governments had an inescapable responsibility to ratify and enforce compliance with ILO standards to guarantee workers' rights and to transform the development model through a new social contract.

128. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Brazil reaffirmed his country's commitment to promoting decent work, economic growth and a stronger work environment, especially for women and young people. The representative of OHCHR outlined the limitations of using GDP as the main indicator of economic progress and guiding principles and variables to consider for an alternative metric rooted in human rights. The representative of FAO referred to the importance of agrifood systems in generating decent work and empowering young people, and mentioned the main challenges faced by migrant workers. The representative of UN-Women noted the obstacles faced by women in the work environment, such as informality and the wage gap, and called for increasing their participation in the field of technology. The representative of ILO referred to the problem of labour informality, and said that implementing comprehensive policies and fostering social dialogue between productive sectors were essential for sustained and sustainable growth.

Panel 4. Goal 14: Life below water

129. The panel was moderated by Juan Bello, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the panellists were Arnaldo André Tinoco, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica (virtual); Víctor Alegría, Director of the Sustainable Development Unit in the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change of Belize; Maya Takagi, Programme Leader at the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Léa Cabrol, Researcher at the French Institute of Research for Development and the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanology and Assistant Researcher at the Millennium Institute for Antarctic and sub-Antarctic Ecosystem Biodiversity in Chile; Zoila Bustamante, President of the National Small-Scale Fisheries Association of Chile and of the Latin American Union of Artisanal Fisheries; and Juanita de los Ángeles Ariza, Director of Red Nacional del Agua of Colombia.

130. The moderator said that oceans were of paramount importance for the planet's sustainability. The region faced a range of threats, including excessive fertilizer use, untreated wastewater runoff, plastic pollution and overexploitation, but had also made progress on governance, international cooperation and good practices with regard to the oceans.

131. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica highlighted the disconnect between the severity of threats to oceans and the level of investment and cooperation. Ambitious commitments were needed, as were the mobilization of all available resources and coordinated, measurable and results-oriented action. Strengthening ocean governance through cooperation could not wait.

132. The Director of the Sustainable Development Unit in the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change of Belize said that SDG 14 meant life for his country. He highlighted successes including blue bonds and PROCARIBE+ support to enhance the traceability of key commercial marine species in Belize.

133. The Programme Leader at the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of FAO drew attention to an FAO-proposed framework for action on the blue transformation, which aimed to expand sustainable aquaculture, the effective management of fisheries and the upgrading of aquatic food system value chains. Measures were urgently needed to achieve the SDG, and international cooperation was vital.

134. The Researcher at the French Institute of Research for Development and the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanology and Assistant Researcher at the Millennium Institute for Antarctic and sub-Antarctic Ecosystem Biodiversity in Chile said that the region invested little in oceanography research. Such investment was important for channelling resources to effective protection policies, encouraging more sustainable economic practices, boosting innovation and using ocean resources to solve a range of challenges.

135. The President of the National Small-Scale Fisheries Association of Chile and of the Latin American Union of Artisanal Fisheries highlighted the importance of artisanal fishing, a sector that managed and restored marine resources, provided jobs and food, and lived off the oceans. Members of the artisanal fishing community should have a seat at any table for any consequential discussion of ocean matters.

136. The Director of Red Nacional del Agua of Colombia referred to ocean governance as a pillar of global security. She detailed factors at the root of socioenvironmental conflicts and the set of measures that would lead the way to a new economic development model with a view to restoring human and environmental rights, and she listed a number of initiatives to which her organization was committed.

137. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Brazil said that her country had adopted measures to ensure food security, improve the conditions of fishing communities, encourage sustainable practices and combat illegal fishing. The representatives of Costa Rica and France, in a joint statement, reaffirmed the need for concrete measures to protect and preserve the oceans and support scientific research to strengthen and disseminate oceanographical knowledge, and invited delegations to attend the third United Nations Ocean Conference, to be held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025. The representative of Panama, in reference to the ocean emergency, reiterated the call for global leaders to commit to the decarbonization of maritime transport and to net-zero-emissions projects. The representative of Mexico reaffirmed his country's commitment to ocean sustainability and said that ocean protection required a comprehensive approach and cross-cutting public policies. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago said that some SDG 14 targets lacked timeframes, quantification and data, and described her country's renowned sea turtle conservation efforts.

138. The representative of UNESCO described her organization's work pertaining to scientific efforts and research on oceans, marine conservation and ocean literacy. The representative of UN-Women emphasized women's role in the sustainable conservation of oceans, seas and marine resources and called for their increased representation in the marine sciences. The representative of UNIDO said that blue industries needed strengthening to foster sustainable livelihoods, regenerate aquatic ecosystems, feed the world in a responsible manner and support blue technologies.

Panel 5. Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

139. The panel was moderated by Emilia Ruiz Revelo, Under-Secretary General of Planning of Ecuador, and the panellists were Paul Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda; William Díaz Menéndez, Director General for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba; Amalia Dolores García Medina, Senator and President of the Special Commission for Follow-up of the 2030 Agenda of Mexico; Olivier Najjar, Regional Economist, Agence Française de Développement (AFD); Ander Arredondo, official of the Support, Planning and Coordination Unit of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB); Dirk Meyer, Director General for Multilateral Development Policy, Transformation and Climate in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany (virtual); Dima Al Khatib, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) (virtual); Javier Surasky, Head of the International Cooperation Department of the Institute of International Relations at Universidad Nacional de La Plata; and Elías Szczytnicki, Regional Secretary-General of Religions for Peace, Latin America and the Caribbean.

140. The moderator referred to Goal 17 as a fundamental pillar of the 2030 Agenda, saying that its successful implementation depended on the ability of different stakeholders to work together on the basis of shared principles, values and goals. In an interconnected world, cooperation was crucial for mobilizing

resources, sharing knowledge and developing innovative solutions. Prospects for achieving the targets linked to financing for sustainable development were not encouraging, given the constraints on domestic resource mobilization.

141. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda called for a collective commitment to international cooperation, innovation, multi-stakeholder partnerships and international trade, including lowering trade barriers, for the effective implementation of Goal 17 in the region.

142. The Director General for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba noted that the Forum had established itself as a regional mechanism for forging alliances based on respect for State sovereignty. The world was moving away from multilateralism, fair rules and cooperation. Cuba shared the problems of middle-income countries and Caribbean small island developing States, but was also subject to an economic and financial blockade by the United States, which hindered its implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, the country continued to advocate for an inclusive and sustainable development model with the SDGs at its core and to offer cooperation, especially in the field of health, to countries in need.

143. The Senator and President of the Special Commission for Follow-up of the 2030 Agenda of Mexico expressed concern about the questioning of the rules and institutions that were established after the Second World War to strengthen dialogue between nations, and the rise of protectionism and isolationism. Fundamental gains had been made in human rights within the framework of those institutions, and multilateralism and partnerships would make further progress possible; therefore all stakeholders had to actively participate in their consolidation and strengthening. When the relevance of certain United Nations agencies was questioned, there was a need to reflect on their role in promoting human development.

144. The regional economist at AFD advocated for multilateralism and international cooperation in response to current crises and outlined three areas where the agency was mobilizing action to accelerate achievement of the SDGs: finance, civil society, and technical expertise and knowledge.

145. The official of the Support, Planning and Coordination Unit of SEGIB explained the fundamental role played by the Secretariat in building multi-stakeholder and multilevel alliances in the Ibero-American space. SEGIB coordinated horizontal regional cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe, promoting transformative public policies, sharing of experiences and good practices; supporting the development of global governance instruments, as well as effective and cost-effective partnerships; and contributing to the design of national SDG-oriented policies.

146. The Director General for Multilateral Development Policy, Transformation and Climate in BMZ of Germany reaffirmed his country's commitment to the Pact for the Future and to multilateralism, which was essential for tackling global challenges. He gave examples of Germany's cooperation activities in various countries of the region and its development policy commitment to strengthening Goal 17, as evidenced by its collaboration with ECLAC to provide targeted country-level support and its organization of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference. Against the backdrop of insufficient public revenues and low investment rates, domestic and external resource mobilization were essential to finance inclusive and environmentally sustainable development in the region.

147. The Director of UNOSSC outlined the Office's role and efforts in the region and advocated for South-South and triangular cooperation as a key complementary mechanism for countries to co-create sustainable solutions and accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.

148. The Head of the International Cooperation Department of the Institute of International Relations at Universidad Nacional de La Plata spoke about the impact that information and communications technology and artificial intelligence were having on the way sustainable development was being conceived, measured and implemented. The world order and global economic model were being reshaped around such technologies, and countries that failed to keep up would be left behind for at least a century. The region needed to participate in discussions on the governance of artificial intelligence, but it lacked a strong and united voice. It should harness the resources and energy at its disposal, which fuelled artificial intelligence, and forge partnerships aimed at transforming the future.

149. The Regional Secretary-General of Religions for Peace, Latin America and the Caribbean said that religion, which upheld values linked to human dignity, poverty eradication and environmental protection, had long been forgotten by the United Nations. In a region where 80% of the population continued to identify with a faith community, such groups could be the key to accelerating sustainable development, as religion shaped the moral and ethical frameworks that guided human behaviour and could influence how people related to the SDGs.

150. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Brazil mentioned the initiatives carried out in his country and highlighted the need to establish partnerships to implement the SDGs, including through the localization of the 2030 Agenda. The representative of Costa Rica stated that cooperation and consensus should be the basis of all national efforts, and stressed the importance of the private sector in managing cooperation projects. The representative of Mexico said that achieving the SDGs was a shared responsibility among all stakeholders, particularly young people, and that it was crucial to share initiatives with local communities. The representative of Peru pointed out that, in terms of financing for development, there was a need to ensure fair distribution of income and to recognize countries' specific vulnerabilities.

151. The representative of OHCHR pointed to the need to build economies that promoted human rights, to rethink debt sustainability assessments and to develop more inclusive tax systems. The representative of FAO stressed the need to transform agrifood systems, strengthen multilateralism, expand data systems and promote technology transfer. The representative of UN-Women underscored the importance of mainstreaming gender equality in all partnerships and strengthening public-private partnerships in the business sector.

152. The representative of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) said that the purpose of the GIZ-ECLAC strategic partnership was to achieve shared goals between Germany and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, such as those related to the ecological, energy and digital transitions and the reduction of disparities. She referred to the partnership's projects on economic, productive, ecological and socially just transformation, the care economy and gender mainstreaming. The creation and strengthening of multi-stakeholder partnerships was a core element at the regional, intraregional and international levels. The cooperation between GIZ and ECLAC was based on shared principles, goals and objectives, which implied a continuous effort to reconcile national and regional priorities, and to maintain a spirit of solidarity and mutual respect.

Dialogues on national action

Session on successful national experiences in accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (agenda item 12)

153. The session was moderated by Roberto Valent, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Development Coordination Office of the United Nations, and the panellists were Fernanda Cardona, Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay (virtual); Pablo Ruiz Hiebra, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Uruguay; Charmaine Hippolyte, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment of Saint Lucia (virtual); Simon Springett, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Countries and territories (virtual); Ignacia Fernández, Undersecretary of Agriculture of Chile; María José Torres Macho, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Chile; María Eugenia Pino, Director of International Organizations and Conferences in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama; and Ana Graça, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Panama.

154. The moderator said that as the deadline of the 2030 Agenda approached, there was a need to intensify implementation and scale up what worked. The session aimed to renew momentum across the region and beyond through the sharing of practical lessons and transferable models.

155. The Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay spoke of her country's energy policy based on a multiparty agreement that promoted investment, employment, energy efficiency, renewable sources and regional integration, and perceived access to energy as a human right. There was a desire to integrate the lessons learned from energy policy into policies relating to Goals 8 and 9.

156. The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Uruguay said that the Organization's support to accelerate the country's energy transition was based on environmental, gender and social impact, and went beyond profitability to incorporate regulations, partnerships and incentives, for example. It was hoped that the experience would provide lessons for the region and the world.

157. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment of Saint Lucia described outcomes of the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund's initiatives in Saint Lucia relating to Goal 1, which included strengthening social safety nets for vulnerable children and adults, promoting job creation, improving education and healthcare access, and increasing climate resilience.

158. The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Countries and Territories spoke of the importance of linking social protection systems to disaster risk management to ensure people had access to government support in crises. The Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund in the Eastern Caribbean was a successful example of regional collaboration to support national legislative and policy development, and highlighted how SDG acceleration could be best achieved.

159. The Undersecretary of Agriculture of Chile spoke of her country's rural development strategy, which aimed to close gaps with urban areas regarding housing and habitat, young people, care and digital connectivity. She underscored the importance of dialogue, interministerial work, coordination with the private sector and collaboration with United Nations entities.

160. The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Chile referred to the Connected Communities programme, which fostered digitalization as a development accelerator for two regions in the country. Partnerships between United Nations entities, ministries and regional and local governments, cultural relevance, work with communities and gender mainstreaming were fundamental.

161. The Director of International Organizations and Conferences in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama said that her country was positioning itself as a leader in protecting the oceans and its experience showed it was possible to strike a balance between economic development and environmental stewardship. Sustainable management was a responsibility that transcended borders. International commitments and public policies had been key in that regard.

162. The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Panama said that the support of the Organization's entities in the country focused on innovation, which was crucial for monitoring and protecting marine areas. She also spoke of the strategic collaboration of those entities on technologies and methods to meet several environmental targets regarding the Panama Canal.

163. In the ensuing discussions, the representative of Brazil spoke of her country's successes in relation to ethnic and racial equality, dissemination of the 2030 Agenda and legal affairs, in particular the investigation of environmental crimes. The representative of Colombia referred to the multi-stakeholder platform used by her country to coordinate the leadership of various actors and initiatives relating to the localization of SDGs and use of statistical data. The representative of Mexico outlined the measures adopted by his country relating to public policies, social programmes to combat poverty, gender equality, health, the environment and the economy. The representative of Peru highlighted the tools used and the projects carried out in his country to measure private sector contributions, improve implementation of institutional activities and follow up achievement of the SDGs.

164. The representative of Costa Rica shared the experiences of his country, including the adaptation of global targets to the local context and implementing a collaborative approach as a key planning tool. The representative of Cuba said that implementation of the 2030 Agenda required sufficient financing, multi-stakeholder partnerships and evaluation of adaptation to the specific conditions of each country. The representative of the British Virgin Islands said that implementation of the territory's national sustainable development plan aligned with the 2030 Agenda had begun in earnest with the 2025 medium-term development strategy that completed establishment of the sustainable development framework.

165. The representative of OHCHR spoke of the need to build economies that promoted human rights at the national level and to transform the international financial architecture and global economic governance. The representative of FAO referred to the intersectoral nature of agrifood systems and underscored the urgent need to reshape consumption and production patterns to transform those systems.

166. A civil society representative spoke of the importance of recognizing regulated professional councils as strategic actors that could advance the achievement of the SDGs.

Good practices and challenges in the preparation of voluntary national reviews (agenda item 13)

167. The session was moderated by Mario Otero, Director of International Relations in the Office of the Vice President and Executive Director of the National Council for Sustainable Development of El Salvador, and the panellists were Rochelle W. Newbold, Special Adviser on Climate Change and Environmental Matters in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas; Latoya Clarke, Programme Director of the Sustainable Development Goals Secretariat of the Planning Institute of Jamaica; Nelson Chávez, Director General of Economic Development in the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic; Pauline Antoine-Prospere, Parliamentary Secretary for the Department of Sustainable Development in the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training of Saint Lucia; and Charissa Dhauri, Desk Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname.

168. The moderator thanked ECLAC for providing a space in which to share country experiences in the preparation of voluntary national reviews and for helping to drive SDG achievement through the related community of practice. Given the complex international landscape, voluntary national reviews were not only an opportunity to be accountable to the international community but also an exercise of national reflection regarding progress made and challenges that remained. The session would focus on sharing good practices, analysing shared challenges and learning about innovative approaches for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.

169. The Special Adviser on Climate Change and Environmental Matters in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas cited stakeholder engagement, data collection and alignment with guidelines as good practice, and limited personnel, resources, data quality, awareness and capacity as challenges.

170. The Programme Director of the Sustainable Development Goals Secretariat of the Planning Institute of Jamaica highlighted good practices, including evidence-based policies and innovative communications strategies, and said that the availability of timely, high quality data remained a critical challenge.

171. The Director General of Economic Development in the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic said that his country was carrying out its third voluntary national review and that the process, in which a collaborative approach had been adopted, with rigorous technical analysis and a participatory review including all sectors of society, helped to strengthen national capacities for planning and monitoring and to build capacities for development statistics. However, improvement was needed regarding the participation of vulnerable territories and groups in an equitable and binding manner, the collection of disaggregated and timely data and long-term strategic planning.

172. The Parliamentary Secretary for the Department of Sustainable Development in the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training of Saint Lucia, said that ECLAC technical assistance had supported a national SDG data gap assessment.

173. The Desk Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname, said that her country—one of three that were carbon-negative— had expanded a national SDG platform to include religious and tribal organizations in the review process.

174. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Peru said that peer review and the inclusion of expert facilitators to improve content was very important in the preparation of the voluntary national reports. The representative of Brazil and the President of the Institute of Applied Economic Research of Brazil said that focal points, drafting groups and subnational governments had worked together on the reviews to identify priority targets and good practices. The representative of Colombia said that her country had included issues relating to the fight against hunger and malnutrition in the reviews, which represented a collective effort to achieve sustainable development.

175. The representative of Costa Rica highlighted peer review and multi-stakeholder participation in the preparation of reviews and called for progress on accountability and local voluntary reviews. The representative of Belize said that his country had conducted a data collection needs assessment to get ahead of the limitations that it and many other countries faced in their voluntary national reviews. The representative of the Dominican Republic joined others in noting the importance of disaggregated and high-quality statistical data for the review process and emphasized capacity-building in that regard. The representative of Mexico said that voluntary national reviews were fundamental for assessing the impact of public policies at all levels of government and responding to the specific needs of the community.

176. The representative of OHCHR invited countries to incorporate human rights into their reports to improve their content and effectiveness and encourage active participation and transparency. The representative of FAO called for analysis of individual SDGs in voluntary national reviews and encouraged countries to use FAO tools for support in addressing interconnected challenges. The representative of UN-Women highlighted the importance of including women and those furthest behind in the preparation of voluntary national reviews and of having disaggregated data and adequate resource allocation.

Public innovation to advance the Pact for the Future: accelerating action and collaboration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level (agenda item 14)

177. The session was moderated by Javier Medina Vásquez, Deputy Executive Secretary a.i. of ECLAC, and the panellists were Orlando Rojas, Executive Director of the Chilean Government Laboratory; Camila Medeiros, Director of Innovation in the GNova government innovation laboratory of the National School of Public Administration (ENAP) of Brazil; Daniel Quiroga, Undersecretary for Open Government in the Office of the President of Ecuador; and Latoya Clarke, Programme Director of the Sustainable Development Goals Secretariat of the Planning Institute of Jamaica.

178. The moderator said that although progress towards the SDGs had fallen short of expectations and the global context posed significant challenges, there was a margin of action to boost progress and countries' commitment remained high. Providing State entities with innovative capacities ensured more timely and efficient responses to the challenges they faced.

179. The Executive Director of the Chilean Government Laboratory said that innovation was a necessity of the State to satisfy an increasingly demanding citizenry, both as a form of governance and of good public management. Institutional support, budgetary resources and time, among other enabling factors, were required. A procedural approach to innovation was needed, as it was not just experimentation, but a way of working.

180. The Director of Innovation in the GNova government innovation laboratory of the National School of Public Administration (ENAP) of Brazil referred to the promotion of public innovation in her country at the individual, organizational and systemic levels. She outlined various initiatives in the areas of capacity-building, creation of safe spaces for experimentation, regulatory frameworks, governance and funding to support innovation efforts.

181. The Undersecretary for Open Government in the Office of the President of Ecuador said that the enabling factors for public innovation included: a necessary cultural shift; the involvement of oversight bodies; institutional legitimacy; the participation of local governments, which were most aware of citizens' needs; and the involvement of the private sector, civil society and academia.

182. The Programme Director of the Sustainable Development Goals Secretariat of the Planning Institute of Jamaica said that modernization was a driver of development and the benefits of technological transformation included more robust decision-making and improved human resource and performance management in government. She referred to measures implemented in e-government, ICT, education, health, civil registry and early warning systems, all of which improved the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and use of resources. Lastly, she highlighted the transformative potential of artificial intelligence and the importance of harnessing benefits while managing risks responsibly.

Intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (agenda item 16)

183. 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 eighth meeting of the Forum was prepared.⁶

184. The representative of Paraguay read a statement that is included in annex 3 of this report.

Closing session

185. Jorge Félix Rubio Correa, Director General for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, in his capacity as Chair of the Forum, recalled some of the issues raised at the meeting, such as the importance of more equitable and efficient financing for development, and the progress and challenges relating to social development and climate change. He also recalled that the SDGs should not be treated as isolated goals, but as cross-cutting areas of sustainable development. Lastly, he reaffirmed that although time was running out, the SDGs could still be achieved with political will, active cooperation and citizen engagement.

186. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the necessary transformations would only come to fruition with various stakeholders—including women, young people and persons with disabilities— all working together. It was essential to continue to give voice to the region's position in key international conferences, and he underscored the importance of prioritizing financing for development and strengthening the model of the care society. He concluded with a call to build a more productive, inclusive and sustainable future, founded on collaboration and partnerships.

⁶ See <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2025/en/documents/intergovernmentally-agreed-conclusions-and-recommendations-eighth-meeting-forum-countries>.

Annex 1

**INTERGOVERNMENTALLY AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE EIGHTH 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, at the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, from 31 March to 4 April 2025, 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 universal, 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 of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which builds on the 2002 Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development 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, and recognize the synergies of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with relevant instruments, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034, the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, and the Pact for the Future and its annexes, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations;

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. *Look forward* to the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council that will be convened under the theme “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”, which will review in depth Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), and Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development), while recognizing the integrated, indivisible, interlinked and universally applicable nature of the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Welcome* the Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council on the theme “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions” adopted in July 2024,¹ and call for its urgent implementation;

6. *Also welcome* the convening of the Summit of the Future on 22 and 23 September 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, at which resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024, entitled “The Pact for the Future”, and its annexes were adopted;

7. *Recall* the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development held on 20 September 2023 and look forward to the tenth Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, which will be held on 28 and 29 April 2025;

8. *Look forward* to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development from 30 June to 3 July 2025 in Seville, Spain, to, inter alia, assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, identifying obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints, and to address new and emerging issues, including in the context of the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to support reform of the international financial architecture;

9. *Note with concern* that the Sustainable Development Goal 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 conserve biodiversity, develop disaster risk reduction strategies, increase the availability of timely, quality and disaggregated data, engage young people, and enhance financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries;

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

11. *Also note* that the fourth 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, will be held from 22 to 24 April 2026;

12. *Reaffirm* our commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity in the global response to the residual impacts and consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and emphasize that multilateralism is a necessity as we continue to 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 since the creation of the United Nations, which celebrates its eightieth anniversary this year;

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, have been further exacerbated within and among countries, and perpetuate all multiple and intersecting forms of violence, particularly against women and girls, and discrimination, stigmatization and exclusion in the region, especially for persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations, which emphasizes the interconnected nature of inequalities

¹ E/HLS/2024/1.

related to gender and race; and that tackling inequality requires, inter alia, further investment in social services, including social protection services, and economic opportunities in global, regional and national partnerships, as well as coordination between 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 had a devastating impact on health, including mental health and well-being, causing loss of life, post-COVID-19 conditions, as well as reported new impairments which directly affect disability data and equity efforts, and on external debt, economic growth and employment, resulting in the decimation of jobs and entrepreneurs, 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 matters of access and accessibility, inclusive, equitable and quality education, and lifelong learning opportunities 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. *Also 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 and racial 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 and its resources for future generations;

17. *Further 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;

18. *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;

19. *Also 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;

20. *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 multiple and interlinked crises and challenges in order to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including multidimensional poverty, while striving for fair and equal growth for all sectors of the economy;

21. *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 and remote areas, children with disabilities, migrant and refugee children and those in conflict and post-conflict situations, children of African descent and of Indigenous origin 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;

22. *Recognize* that, in general, women and girls, including adolescent 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;

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 resilience 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, local authorities, academia and the private sector;

24. *Urge* member States and other relevant stakeholders, according to their roles and responsibilities, to accelerate the catalytic role of inclusive digital technologies, Internet access, meaningful connectivity and digital inclusion and accessibility in improving social welfare and economic prosperity, lifelong learning and inclusive, equitable and quality education, health, communication and commerce, as well as to ensure a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while striving to address all digital divides within and among countries and regions, in line with the Global Digital Compact, and look forward to the establishment of a multidisciplinary Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence, with balanced geographic representation, to promote scientific understanding through evidence-based impact, risk and opportunity assessments, and to the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance;

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, reinforcing language and action against hate speech and dissemination of misinformation;

26. *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 recovery from the global pandemic and multiple and interlinked crises, including by the creation of new financial mechanisms or funds to support countries facing fiscal pressures, including those undertaking structural reforms, and by considering offering low-interest loans to open up 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;

27. *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 and debt restructuring mechanisms, 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;

28. *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;

29. *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;

30. *Reiterate* that national averages based on criteria such as gross national income 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;

31. *Reaffirm* the need to urgently develop measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product and that reflect progress on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, including in the consideration of informing access to development finance and technical cooperation;

32. *Look forward* to the establishment of an independent high-level expert group to develop recommendations for a limited number of country-owned and universally applicable indicators of sustainable development that go beyond gross domestic product, in close consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, and the United Nations-led intergovernmental process on measures that complement or go beyond gross domestic product, in line with Action 53 of the Pact for the Future;

33. *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 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 for measuring development;

35. *Reiterate* the call upon the international community for immediate and substantial actions to address the vulnerability of small island developing States and to continue to seek solutions to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner, in line with their commitments to support the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States adopted at the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024, under the overarching theme “Charting the course toward resilient prosperity”, and call for its implementation;

36. *Welcome* the launch of the Centre of Excellence for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which includes a small island developing States data hub, a technology and innovation mechanism and an Island Investment Forum, and the global small island developing States debt sustainability support service, by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda;

37. *Encourage* the international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to incorporate the priorities of small island development States, as outlined in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, into their relevant strategic and programmatic documents, in line with their respective mandates, and to ensure representation and participation of small island developing States, as well as other developing countries, in decision-making in their institutions;

38. *Reiterate* the request to the United Nations development system entities to integrate the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States into their strategic plans and workplans, including through United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks at the country level, in accordance with their mandates;

39. *Welcome* the work of the High-Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States, which was co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, and the former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, including its consultations with Member States, and in this regard, take note of the final report of the Panel and the recommendations contained therein, further welcome the adoption of General Assembly resolution 78/322 of 13 August 2024 on the multidimensional vulnerability index, and call for the full and effective implementation of its mandate, and in this regard note that small island developing States look forward to participating in the piloting of the index, and encourage the participation of other interested developing countries as well;

40. *Welcome* the commitment to engaging in systematic monitoring and evaluation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States over the next 10 years, as well as the convening of an inter-agency task force to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework, with clear targets and indicators, to be completed by no later than the second quarter of 2025;

41. *Also welcome* the adoption of the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034, which determines a renewed and strengthened commitment by the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, development partners, the United Nations system and international, regional and subregional organizations, multilateral and regional development banks and the international community as a whole to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner to contribute to an enhanced rate of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, effective participation in international trade and the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme and multidimensional poverty;

42. *Recall* the convening of the high-level Latin America regional review meeting on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in Asunción on 27 and 28 July 2023 and its “Asunción call for action” outcome document, and express appreciation to the Government of Paraguay for organizing and hosting this meeting, and encourage the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to undertake biennial regional reviews on the implementation of the new Programme of Action, in close coordination and cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

43. *Look forward* to the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, under the overarching theme “Driving partnerships for progress”, and the active participation at the highest possible level of all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies, in particular landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, as well as the United Nations system and international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders;

44. *Call upon* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations and relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the new Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034 into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in their implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

45. *Recall* the request to the Secretary-General to ensure the full mobilization of all relevant parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation and coherence in the follow-up to and monitoring of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

46. *Emphasize* the need to strengthen international development cooperation, noting with concern that there are still structural problems aggravated by the reduced access to official development assistance and concessional finance for countries in the region, including middle-income countries, and call upon the developed countries to fulfil their official development assistance 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 the implementation of policies and programmes to increase and direct investment in sustainable development;

47. *Encourage* the countries in the region, in cooperation with the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders, to prioritize and strategically harness the region’s inherent strengths in areas such as biodiversity, climate, clean energy, food security, and foreign direct investment inflows, to fully capitalize on the region’s vast development potential;

48. *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;

49. *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;

50. *Further reaffirm* the outcome document of the second United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation 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;

51. *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;

52. *Take note* of the outcome of the first session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean² held on 30 and 31 May 2023 and the agreements adopted at the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation, held on 19 June 2024, and look forward to the second session of the Regional Conference, to be held on 17 and 18 June 2025 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago;

53. *Commit* to continuing to promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory fair and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization and welcome the outcomes of its Thirteenth Ministerial Conference held from 26 to 29 February 2024 in Abu Dhabi, and look forward to the Fourteenth Ministerial Conference, which will be held from 26 to 29 March 2026 in Cameroon;

54. *Note with concern* the rise of unilateral trade measures that put at risk the multilateral trading system and reiterate the need to have a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all member States;

55. *Reaffirm* the importance of the continuous reform of agricultural trade, in accordance with long-standing and pending mandates, to substantially and progressively reduce agricultural support and protection, and emphasize, in addition, that trade, can, inter alia, contribute to promoting inclusive economic growth, reducing inequalities within and among countries and eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

56. *Note with concern* the little progress made in the negotiations on agriculture and fisheries subsidies since the Twelfth Ministerial Conference, and hope that members can deliver tangible and concrete outcomes at the Fourteenth Ministerial Conference;

57. *Welcome* the finalization of the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement and call for its incorporation into Annex 4 of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, recognizing that a core objective of this Agreement is to promote a greater participation of developing countries, including least developed countries, in global investments flows including through enhanced technical assistance and capacity building;

² LC/CCSS.1/4.

58. *Also 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 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;

59. *Look forward* to the convening of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in Viet Nam in October 2025, under the theme “Shaping the future: Driving economic transformation for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development”;

60. *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;

61. *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;

62. *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;

63. *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, official development assistance, or other public sources of financing for development, and encourage concrete measures, inter alia, 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;

64. *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 countries³ of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;

³ 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).

65. *Also recall* that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is based on the following set of cross-cutting and interdependent principles: people-centred, international cooperation, national sovereignty, rule of law and due process, sustainable development, human rights, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach;

66. *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;

67. *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;

68. *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 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 fifth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), on 3 and 4 July 2024, and its outcome, in which member States resolved to establish the open-ended group of friends of the Chair on the rights of persons with disabilities and the population and development agenda in the framework of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Cartagena group), to examine possible strategies to advance the inclusion of persons with disabilities, in close collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, and called upon countries to cooperate actively in the analysis of strategies to advance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the framework of the Conference and to contribute to the promotion and protection of their human rights;

69. *Also recognize* the importance of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, adopted at 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 crises and moving towards a transformative, inclusive and resilient recovery with equality, take note of the outcome of the fifth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, from 3 to 5 October 2023, the agreements adopted at the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Bridgetown, on 31 October 2024, and the special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Conference, held in virtual format on 24 March 2025, under the chairship of Chile, and look forward to the convening of the sixth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Brasilia from 2 to 4 September 2025;

70. *Stress* that the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Qatar in November 2025, represents an opportunity to position the voice of Latin America and the Caribbean and to secure agreements and commitments that will enable decisive progress towards inclusive social development;

71. *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 achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and within the three dimensions of sustainable development to ensure women's equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy and at all levels and to eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination in all its forms;

72. *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-third, sixty-fourth, sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth 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;

73. *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 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;

74. *Look forward* to the sixteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Mexico City from 12 to 15 August 2025, under the theme "Political, economic, social, cultural and environmental transformations as a means of advancing the care society and gender equality", and note that 2025 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

75. *Welcome* General Assembly resolution 77/317 of 24 July 2023 proclaiming 29 October as the International Day of Care and Support;

76. *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 take note of the Santiago Declaration "Human rights and participation of older persons: towards an inclusive and resilient care society";

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

78. *Recall* General Assembly resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013, in which the Assembly 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 of 16 December 2020, which represents an important opportunity for the region to reaffirm its commitment to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

79. *Welcome* General Assembly resolution 79/193 of 17 December 2024, which proclaims the Second International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2025 and ending on 31 December 2034, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”;

80. *Commit* to stepping up our efforts to fight against racism, all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion and respect for diversity;

81. *Welcome* General Assembly resolution 75/314 of 2 August 2021 establishing the Permanent Forum on 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;

82. *Emphasize* the importance of integrating Indigenous and traditional knowledge along with cultural, social and environmental practices of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, as fundamental components of global initiatives, in accordance with national legislation, with a view to fostering sustainable livelihoods, ensuring a just transition towards sustainable consumption and production patterns and practices, and food security in harmony with nature;

83. *Welcome* the multiple environmental and sustainable development events that took place during 2024, such as the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the nineteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024, under the theme “Peace with nature”, as well as the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held from 26 February to 1 March 2024, and look forward to the XXIV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, scheduled to take place in Lima from 29 September to 3 October 2025, and to the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly which will take place from 8 to 12 December 2025 in Nairobi, 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;

84. *Also welcome* the operationalization of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage during the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, including the establishment of the Board of Directors and the appointment of Ibrahima Cheikh Diong as its Executive Director, and call for sustained contributions to the Fund to ensure it can effectively support vulnerable communities impacted by climate change, and recall the invitation for financial contributions, with developed country parties continuing to take the lead to provide financial resources;

85. *Further welcome* the UAE consensus adopted at the twenty-eighth session of Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits to accelerating climate action in this critical decade on the basis of the best available science, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, and affirm full support to the Presidencies of the twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Conference in their role of guiding the “Roadmap to Mission 1.5” to significantly enhance international cooperation and the international enabling environment with a view to strengthening action and implementation over this critical decade and keeping 1.5°C within reach;

86. *Recognize* that the region is highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change owing to its geography, climate, socioeconomic conditions and demographic factors, and in this regard note with concern the findings contained in the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including the synthesis report of the Sixth Assessment Report and the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, *Climate Change and Land*, and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, 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 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and encourage all Parties to the Paris Agreement to fully implement it;

87. *Take note with concern* of the findings of the latest report of the World Meteorological Organization, the *State of the Climate 2024 Update for COP29*, which informed, inter alia, that the past 10 years, 2015–2024, were the 10 warmest years in the 175-year observational record;

88. *Take note with appreciation* of the outcomes of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the adoption of a new collective quantified goal on climate finance, while recognizing that it remains insufficient for developing countries to address their needs in effectively combating climate change through mitigation and adaptation measures, and therefore welcome the launch of the “Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T” and reiterate the call to scale up the financing to developing countries for climate action from all public and private sources to at least US\$ 1.3 trillion per year by 2035; and also welcome the extension of the Lima work programme on gender for an additional 10 years, reaffirming the global commitment to integrate gender considerations across all aspects of climate policy and action, and urging the conclusion of an ambitious Action Plan on Gender at the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2025, under the presidency of Brazil;

89. *Express deep concern*, in the context of the first International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation, over the significant loss of glacier surface in the region, as well as over the severe drought, floods and recurrent wildfires, and call for urgent measures to mitigate climate change and support adaptation, and intensify global efforts for the monitoring, conservation, protection, and restoration of glacier and other ecosystems;

90. *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;

91. *Acknowledge* that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement are the primary international, intergovernmental forums for negotiating the global response to climate change, recognize that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation and, in this regard, express determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, including by increasing the ability to adapt to its adverse impacts and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in the light of different national circumstances and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and in a manner that does not threaten sustainable economic growth and development and efforts to eradicate poverty, while noting that measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade;

92. *Emphasize* the need to significantly increase climate finance, which is additional to official development assistance, 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;

93. *Look forward* to the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Belém, Brazil, from 10 to 21 November 2025;

94. *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 its 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;

95. *Underline* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of disasters caused by human-made or natural hazards, many of which are exacerbated by the adverse effects of climate change, in this regard stress the urgent need to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events, and urge member States to continue to engage in adaptation planning processes and to enhance cooperation in disaster risk reduction at all levels, and recognize in this regard, the ongoing efforts of the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure, the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership, the Early Warnings for All initiative and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative;

96. *Welcome* the updated nationally determined contributions submitted in 2024 and call for the timely update of the nationally determined contributions to be presented in 2025 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;

97. *Also welcome* the outcomes of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Colombia from 21 October to 1 November 2024, and in its resumed session, held in Rome, from 25 to 27 February 2025, including the landmark agreement on the operationalization of a new global mechanism to share benefits from the use of digital genetic information; and call for accelerated action to meet the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

98. *Recognize* the United Nations General Assembly proclamation on the United Nations 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;

99. *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;

100. *Also welcome* the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, and call upon countries to consider signing and ratifying the Agreement for its early entry into force;

101. *Reiterate* the calls made in the declarations entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” and “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”, adopted, respectively, at the 2017 and 2022 United Nations Ocean Conferences, acknowledging also the further enhanced actions to support an integral implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its targets that matured in 2020, and look forward to the convening of the high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development that will be held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica, under the overarching theme of the Conference “Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”, as well as to significantly increase financing; and reiterate the importance of cooperating at the global, regional and subregional levels to achieve all targets as soon as possible without undue delay;

102. *Note with appreciation* the convening of the high-level event on ocean action “Immersed in change” which took place on 7 and 8 June 2024 in San José, to exchange good practices and successful experiences on topics related to the governance and health of the ocean, sustainable fisheries, ocean-based economy and technologies, scientific cooperation, plastic pollution and the mobilization of financing, that contribute to harnessing action and implementation towards the United Nations Ocean Conference in 2025;

103. *Welcome* the convening by the President of the General Assembly of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing the existential threats posed by sea-level rise, during its seventy-ninth session;

104. *Also welcome* Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 of 18 October 2021 and recall General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as important for the enjoyment of human rights;

105. *Recognize* the importance of human rights and gender equality, as well as Indigenous Peoples’ participation in delivering substantial environmental, cultural and social contributions and offering effective solutions to current environmental challenges;

106. *Encourage* and support the use of the Global Urban Monitoring Framework, as the United Nations reference framework to monitor urban development, to improve reporting on the New Urban Agenda and the localisation of the 2030 Agenda;

107. *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, as well as other principles that foster inclusive and sustainable urban development, in particular the right to the city without discrimination, welcome the ministerial declaration of the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session⁴ held from 5 to 9 June 2023 in Nairobi, the Cairo Call to Action, adopted at the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum under the theme, “It all starts at home: local action for sustainable cities and communities”, and look forward to the thirteenth session in 2026;

108. *Welcome* the Declaration of Belém, adopted at the thirty-third General Assembly of the Forum of Ministers and Highest Authorities of Housing and Urbanism of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), held in Belém, Brazil, on 12 and 13 December 2024;

109. *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 on 1 and 2 February 2021 and at the XXIII Meeting of the Forum, held in Panama City, from 24 to 26 October 2023, and look forward to the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to take place from 28 April to 9 May 2025 as well as its high level segment all under the theme “Make visible the invisible: sound management of chemicals and wastes”;

110. *Also recall* the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, in its resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022, encourage the intergovernmental negotiating committee to work steadfastly to complete its task of developing 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, and 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;

⁴ HSP/HA.2/HLS.1.

111. *Applaud* the “Caribbean first” initiative advanced by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean 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, sixth, seventh and eighth meetings of this Forum;

112. *Recognize* the impact of disasters on sustainable development, the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions 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;

113. *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;

114. *Reaffirm* the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of natural and human-made hazards, including weather-related hazards, those driven by natural climate cycles, such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and La Niña, while expressing deep concern over developing 2023/24 El Niño phenomenon conditions setting the stage for a likely surge in global temperatures and disruptive weather and climate patterns, which could have far-reaching and profound environmental, economic and social impacts across the globe, particularly in developing countries, and call for developing risk-informed strategies, risk finance tools, including forecast-based financing approaches and disaster risk insurance mechanisms and coordinated multi-hazard early warning systems, including timely risk communication at the local, national and regional levels;

115. *Welcome* the convening of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 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, note its political declaration adopted in 2023,⁵ and encourage States to assess and report on progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

116. *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 Honduras and Guatemala following the passage of Tropical Storm Julia in 2022, in Brazil following the floods in Rio Grande do Sul, in Honduras following the passage of Tropical Storm

⁵ General Assembly resolution 77/289.

Sara and in Barbados following the passage of Hurricane Beryl in 2024, while conveying our solidarity for the recent impacts of hurricanes and other hydro-climatic events in other countries of the region, including Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 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;

117. *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 and social 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, precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects and post-pandemic recovery;

118. *Call on* Member States and all stakeholders to promote bioeconomy strategies to contribute to enabling sustainable development in its three dimensions, and to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the environmental and socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

119. *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;

120. *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;

121. *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;

122. *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;

123. *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;

124. *Take note* of the presentations of the 2024 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;

125. *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 the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in supporting its member States and associate members covered by the multi-country offices in the region;

126. *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;

127. *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 the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which includes statistical and geospatial resources, such as the Commission's SDG Geoportal for Latin America and the Caribbean that enables the visualization and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals across territories and the exploration of statistical data from CEPALSTAT, 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;

128. *Take note* of the eighth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, *Latin America and the Caribbean in the Final Five Years of the 2030 Agenda: Steering Transformations to Accelerate Progress*,⁶ prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

⁶ LC/FDS.8/3.

129. *Commend* the 31 countries of the region⁷ 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 6 countries⁸ preparing to do so in 2025, all of which are presenting either a second, third or fourth review, and highlight the commitment and leadership shown by 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;

130. *Note* the efforts of subnational and local governments who have conducted local voluntary reviews, showing the increasing political will, commitment and participatory decision-making at all levels 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;

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

132. *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 on sustainable development, has become an example of regional coordination of multiple stakeholders, such as governments, the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, the private sector, academia and civil society, to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

133. *Highlight* the commitment of the countries of the region to address statistical challenges and advance in the generation of quality data for the Sustainable Development Goals, 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 Goals, in order to identify inequalities and needs of the most vulnerable, and acknowledge the contribution made by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean 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;

134. *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, its institutional framework, planning and budgeting, including at the national and local levels, statistical capacities, and measurement and georeferencing, and voluntary national and local reviews, held during the eight meetings of the Forum convened thus far, and

⁷ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

⁸ Bahamas (third review), Dominican Republic (third review), El Salvador (third review), Guatemala (fourth review), Saint Lucia (second review) and Suriname (second review).

recommend continuing to include peer learning sessions in its meetings on other emerging issues of interest, upon request and as identified by the Forum;

135. *Welcome* the participation and contributions of the associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean 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;

136. *Reaffirm* the role of civil society as a driving force in implementing the 2030 Agenda in the region, welcoming their work to strengthen its engagement in the Forum, including through the Forum of children, adolescents and youth of Latin America and the Caribbean and 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, 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 fifth, sixth and seventh meetings and their declarations, and look forward to the meaningful participation and contribution of civil society in the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development;

137. *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 the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of parliamentarians, local governments, private sector, civil society and academia in the eighth meeting of the Forum, and encourage their continued commitment to ensure that no one is left behind;

138. *Recommend* that the Chair of the fortieth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean submit the present conclusions and recommendations and a Summary of the Chair as regional contributions to the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, along with the 2024 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;

139. *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;

140. *Request* the President of the Economic and Social Council to ensure that the contribution of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development is mainstreamed in the sessions of the high-level political forum on sustainable development 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);

141. *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;

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

Annex 2

EXPLANATION OF THE POSITION OF ARGENTINA

**Permanent Mission of Argentina
to the United Nations**

ENAUUN N° 96/2025

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Perú to the United Nations, in its capacity as Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, and has the honor to refer the recently negotiated document "Intergovernmentally Agreed Conclusions and Recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development", to be adopted in the eighth meeting of the forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development (to be held in Santiago, from 31 March to 4 April 2025). In this regard, the Argentine Mission requests the dissociation of the entire document, recalling its general political position:

The Argentine Republic recalls that it dissociated itself from the Pact for the Future and considers that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is composed of legally non-binding aspirations that each State, in the exercise of its sovereignty, has the right to freely interpret and pursue.

Based on this, the Argentine Republic reserves its national position in all those paragraphs with mentions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as mentions on the Pact for the Future and Climate Change. This reservation also extends to all those paragraphs that go against the guiding principles of the protection of life, liberty and private property; and those referring to gender.

Regarding gender, the Argentine Republic understands that gender refers to the two sexes, male and female, in the context of society. The term gender shall have no other meaning than the above (Cfr. Rome Statute, Art. 7.3).

The Argentine Republic considers that, in all matters related to climate change, scientific advances based on evidence should be followed without dogmatism of any kind. At the same



**Permanent Mission of Argentina
to the United Nations**

time, the Argentine Republic makes it known that, in accordance with the provisions of Article 41 of its National Constitution, “all inhabitants enjoy the right to a healthy, balanced environment, suitable for human development and for productive activities to satisfy present needs without compromising those of future generations; and have the duty to preserve it.”

The Argentine Republic requests that this statement be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and request to circulate this communication among the Member States of this Forum.

The Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations, the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 13th March 2025



To the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations
New York

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enaun@mrecic.gov.ar

Annex 3

STATEMENT BY PARAGUAY¹

El Paraguay renueva su firme convicción de que el multilateralismo sigue siendo la herramienta más eficaz para abordar los desafíos que trascienden nuestras fronteras.

Paraguay reconoce y valora el papel de las Naciones Unidas en la promoción de la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo, impulsando una visión que armoniza sus tres dimensiones fundamentales: social, económica y ambiental. Entendemos que estos pilares son interdependientes y que el desarrollo requiere una aproximación integral que no relegue ninguna de estas esferas.

El Paraguay comparte esta visión, pero también subraya lo expresado por el Presidente Santiago Peña, en el marco de la Cumbre del Futuro celebrada en septiembre del año pasado en Nueva York, al referirse al Pacto del Futuro, que constituye un documento de carácter declarativo y no vinculante, y cada Estado es libre de implementar sus lineamientos en función de su propio marco constitucional, valores, principios, tradiciones y cultura.

En el caso de Paraguay, nuestra Constitución otorga rango constitucional al desarrollo cultural de la nación. La cultura no es solo un componente de la educación formal, sino un componente consustancial a la identidad de los pueblos, que debemos respetar y valorar, asegurando la pluralidad de voces, en el interior de nuestras naciones, pero también en el marco de las Naciones Unidas.

En consecuencia, todos estos elementos citados precedentemente son los que guiarán nuestra interpretación del documento que hoy se adopta en este Foro, las “Conclusiones y recomendaciones acordadas entre los Gobiernos reunidos en la Octava Reunión del Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible”.

Por otra parte, es importante recordar que, a lo largo de su historia, los mayores logros del multilateralismo han sido posibles gracias al respeto del principio fundamental de la igualdad soberana de los Estados, conforme quedó plasmado en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas. Somos naciones diversas y, precisamente por ello, muchas veces tenemos visiones divergentes. La confianza mutua, cimiento indispensable donde reposa el multilateralismo, solo es posible si respetamos y honramos esa diversidad y pluralidad de opiniones.

Dentro del pilar social, una de las cuestiones centrales es la lucha contra la pobreza y el hambre, un desafío inseparable del rol de los países productores de alimentos. En este sentido, Paraguay defiende el derecho al desarrollo agropecuario, las políticas para combatir el cambio climático y proteger el medioambiente no deben estrangular las economías de los países más pequeños, sino fortalecerlas a través del acceso equitativo a tecnología, financiamiento y mercados internacionales.

Asimismo, la salud es un componente fundamental del desarrollo humano. Un sistema de salud accesible y resiliente es clave para garantizar la dignidad de los pueblos, reducir las desigualdades estructurales y promover la estabilidad social.

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

Uno de los obstáculos más críticos para la implementación efectiva de la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo es el acceso desigual al financiamiento. La brecha financiera que enfrentan los países en desarrollo limita su capacidad para invertir en infraestructura, salud, educación y adaptación al cambio climático.

Debemos garantizar un acceso más justo y equitativo a los recursos financieros, con mecanismos que tomen en cuenta las desigualdades estructurales y las condiciones particulares de los países en desarrollo, en especial aquellos en situaciones de vulnerabilidad, como los Países en Desarrollo sin Litoral (PDSL). Para estos Estados, el financiamiento no es solo un factor de desarrollo, sino una herramienta para superar barreras geográficas y estructurales que afectan su acceso a mercados internacionales y su competitividad económica.

El Paraguay reafirma su compromiso con el multilateralismo como el mejor camino para abordar los desafíos globales. Pero la respuesta a la crisis de confianza que enfrentamos hoy es más multilateralismo, uno que sea inclusivo, representativo y eficaz en la implementación de los compromisos asumidos, así como respetuoso de las soberanías nacionales.

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Paraguay reiterates its firm belief that multilateralism remains the most effective tool for addressing the challenges that go beyond national borders.

Paraguay recognizes and values the role of the United Nations in promoting international development cooperation, with a vision that brings together the three fundamental dimensions of development: social, economic and environmental. We understand that these pillars are interdependent and that a comprehensive approach to development is needed in which none of these dimensions are overlooked.

Paraguay shares this vision, but wishes to highlight the words of President Santiago Peña in his address to the Summit of the Future, held last September in New York, noting that the Pact for the Future is a declaration and a non-binding document, and that each State is free to apply its guidelines in accordance with its Constitution, values, principles, traditions and culture.

In the case of Paraguay, the nation's cultural development is enshrined in the Constitution. Culture is not just a component of formal education; it is an integral part of the identity of peoples that must be respected and valued, ensuring the plurality of voices, not only within our nations, but also within the wider United Nations.

Accordingly, the above-mentioned elements will guide our interpretation of the document adopted today at this meeting, the "Intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development".

It is also important to recall that, throughout history, multilateralism has been most successful when the principle of the sovereign equality of States, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, has been respected. Our nations are diverse and it is precisely for this reason that our perspectives often diverge. Mutual trust, the bedrock of multilateralism, is only possible when we respect and honour diversity and the plurality of opinions.

One of the central issues in the social dimension is the fight against poverty and hunger, a challenge that is relevant for food-producing countries. In that regard, Paraguay defends the right to agricultural development. Policies to combat climate change and protect the environment should not stifle the economies of small countries, but rather strengthen them by ensuring equal access to technology, financing and international markets.

Health is also a fundamental component of human development. An accessible and resilient health system is key to ensuring the dignity of peoples, reducing structural inequalities and fostering social stability.

One of the most critical obstacles to the effective implementation of international development cooperation is unequal access to financing. The finance divide facing developing countries limits their capacity to invest in infrastructure, health, education and climate change adaptation.

We must ensure more just and equitable access to financial resources, with mechanisms that take into account the structural inequalities and special circumstances in developing countries, in particular those that are in vulnerable situations, such as landlocked developing countries. For those States, financing is not only a factor of development, but also a tool for overcoming geographical and structural barriers that hinder their access to international markets and their economic competitiveness.

Paraguay reaffirms its commitment to multilateralism, which is the best path for addressing global challenges. The answer to the crisis of confidence we face today is greater multilateralism —one that is inclusive, representative and effective for implementing the commitments undertaken, and respectful of national sovereignty.

Annex 4

STATEMENT OF THE FORUM OF CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN¹



Grupo de Niñas, Niños,
Adolescentes y
Juventudes - MeSCALC

Declaración de Niñas, Niños, Adolescentes y Juventudes de América Latina y el Caribe 2025

Cada año, el Grupo de Niños, Niñas, Adolescentes y Juventudes (NNAyJ), perteneciente al Mecanismo de Sociedad Civil, lleva a cabo un proceso de participación en la evaluación de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible que se encuentran bajo revisión. Este año participamos más de 700 personas en diferentes modalidades de 17 países de la región y diversas instituciones aliadas. En este proceso las infancias, adolescentes y juventudes trabajaron para presentar una serie de demandas y propuestas, las cuales a continuación presentamos ante ustedes, con el objetivo común de alcanzar la Agenda 2030, esto escuchando e involucrando nuestras voces:

ODS 3

En los últimos años, hubo avances para el cumplimiento del ODS 3, como en marcos legislativos en materia del cumplimiento del aseguramiento universal; sin embargo, aún presentamos diversos retos, como la brecha de acceso a servicios de salud, sobre todo en contextos de crisis. Esto afecta sobretodo a las personas en situaciones de vulnerabilidad, como jóvenes indígenas, migrantes, afrodescendientes, con discapacidad, con VIH, entre otros; se suma el aún existente estigma en torno a la salud mental y la salud sexual integral, afectando la calidad de la atención de los servicios en relación a estos temas a las niñas y juventudes. Las condiciones empeoran con la precariedad de los servicios, la falta de infraestructura y presupuesto, la falta de capacitación de los profesionales de salud y tomadores de decisiones, y la gestión ineficiente de recursos. Asimismo, la crisis climática compromete la seguridad alimentaria y la salud de la población, conllevando el surgimiento de nuevas enfermedades, y el aumento de la migración climática; ampliando las brechas sociales.

Por ello, se debe garantizar la promoción de educación sexual integral, la creación de espacios seguros y accesibles a los servicios de salud con un enfoque integral, interseccional e intercultural, especialmente en los de salud mental y de salud sexual y reproductiva, respetando la autonomía y voz de lxs NNAyJ. Además, implementar acciones integrales basadas en evidencia científica, y con una visión de la promoción de la salud y la prevención de la enfermedad, teniendo siempre presentes las necesidades de las comunidades en situación de vulnerabilidad.

ODS 5

En el marco del compromiso con la igualdad de género, lxs NNAyJ destacan la necesidad urgente de eliminar las barreras que enfrentan mujeres jóvenes en su diversidad y niñas en distintos contextos. Reconocemos el desarrollo de políticas públicas y leyes que han fortalecido los marcos normativos. Sin embargo, faltan esfuerzos, que aseguren efectivamente la igualdad sustantiva y empoderamiento de la mujer desde edades tempranas.

La violencia de género sigue siendo alarmante, con altos índices de violencia doméstica, acoso y feminicidios en contextos de impunidad. En el ámbito laboral las mujeres jóvenes abandonan la educación para asumir trabajos de cuidado a edades muy tempranas. Además, el matrimonio infantil y las uniones tempranas en ALC sigue siendo preocupante. Otro desafío importante es la resistencia cultural y social a la incorporación de la perspectiva de género en políticas públicas y educación. Las mujeres indígenas, afrodescendientes, con VIH, entre otras, enfrentan discriminación estructural que

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limita su acceso a la educación, salud y empleo digno. Su escasa representación en espacios de toma de decisiones agrava aún más esta situación.

Lxs NNAYJ priorizamos la erradicación de la violencia de género y exigimos políticas públicas y presupuestos que la prevengan, garanticen mecanismos de denuncia accesibles y restituyan derechos, con un enfoque inclusivo para las personas en situación de vulnerabilidad. Además, destacamos la educación como pilar fundamental, demandando su inclusión cultural y lingüística, junto con la implementación de la Educación Integral en Sexualidad en las currículas escolares para combatir la violencia hacia las mujeres y el estigma hacia personas con VIH, jóvenes de las poblaciones clave, entre otras. Además, exigimos mayor participación en la toma de decisiones y asegurar que cada voz de las niñas, adolescencias y juventudes sean escuchadas y sus derechos plenamente garantizados.

ODS 8

Mientras aún erróneamente nos llaman NiNis, las juventudes aún nos enfrentamos obstáculos como desempleo juvenil, precariedad laboral, la discriminación, capacitismo, inseguridad, violencia y el adultocentrismo. Estos desafíos no nos afectan a todos por igual, siendo las juventudes en situación de vulnerabilidad las más afectadas. Necesitamos formar parte en el proceso de desarrollo económico de nuestra región desde la base de los derechos laborales. Para avanzar en el ODS 8, es fundamental:

- Asegurar los medios para lograr trabajo decente, incluyendo la formalización del empleo juvenil, garantizando la inclusión y accesibilidad laboral efectiva de personas en situación de vulnerabilidad y/o grupos generalmente marginalizados y fortalecer la educación financiera en las currículas escolares, asegurando la transición de la escuela al trabajo considerando los trabajos del futuro. Los Estados deben supervisar normativas inclusivas, el sector privado debe comprometerse con contrataciones justas y la sociedad civil debe impulsar la participación juvenil en la formulación de políticas económicas, laborales y de diversidad.
- Abordar las barreras sociales que existen que limitan el acceso a trabajo decente y seguro, para que podamos prosperar desde nuestros territorios - “no más jóvenes víctimas de trata y de explotación laboral”. Necesitamos reformas de los sistemas de empleabilidad juvenil mediante programas de pasantías remuneradas para acceder al primer empleo.
- Potenciar la economía local, es necesario apoyar emprendimientos juveniles a través de capacitación, financiamiento y asesoramiento, con especial enfoque en áreas sostenibles como la economía circular y los empleos verdes. Destacamos, que los espacios como centros de innovación y coworking, junto con el apoyo a iniciativas de bioeconomía, contribuirán al desarrollo empresarial sostenible y al empleo digno.

ODS 14

- La necesidad de facilitar a las alianzas interinstitucionales y multiactor que pongan a lxs NNAYJ como actores centrales en la toma de decisiones, ya que su conocimiento del presente es tan válido como de otras personas, promoviendo la colaboración entre el Estado, la sociedad civil y el sector privado.
- Lxs NNAYJ proponen la gestión correcta de las áreas marinas protegidas (AMP) y contrarrestar la pérdida de biodiversidad marina, resultado de contaminación, la sobreexplotación de recursos, pesca ilegal, industrial y no reglamentada, así como también las amenazas inminentes como la minería submarina, la crisis climática y los cultivos de especies no nativas.



Grupo de Niñas, Niños,
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- Vemos la necesidad de regulaciones pesqueras y promoción de la participación juvenil en las políticas públicas, de ampliar al marco normativo de manera coherente para la implementación de medidas efectivas de conservación, seguimiento y evaluación de las políticas y medidas implementadas.
- Abogamos por la inclusión de programas educativos obligatorios sobre conservación de océanos y sostenibilidad en los currículos escolares, desde la educación básica hasta la universitaria, utilizando metodologías interactivas como talleres y visitas a AMPs y apoyar las vocaciones científicas. También, se debe promover el uso de tecnologías sostenibles, aplicaciones móviles y satelitales, para proteger los ecosistemas marinos, junto con el fomento de emprendimientos circulares y la reducción de uso de los plásticos, promoviendo el cambio de diseño industrial y modelos de consumo.
- Considerar saberes locales, conocimientos tradicionales de las comunidades costeras en la gestión marina y a la vez, valorar la perspectiva de NNAyJ como una fuente de innovación a largo plazo, reconociendo que los jóvenes son fundamentales para garantizar la sostenibilidad intergeneracional.

ODS 17

- Consideramos fundamental pasar de lo consultivo-simbólico, a lo vinculante-real, garantizando nuestro acceso a espacios de toma de decisiones y promoviendo acciones concretas para un desarrollo sostenible e inclusivo. Exigimos la incorporación de programas educativos con enfoque de género e interculturalidad, orientados a la prevención de la violencia y la discriminación, así como la promoción de habilidades digitales, derechos humanos y su defensa, pensamiento crítico y liderazgo. El aprendizaje debe ser práctico y comunitario, fomentando nuestra toma de decisión, vinculado con los currículos nacionales y acompañado de recursos diversos, incluyendo tecnologías digitales, materiales educativos, metodologías innovadoras y recursos lúdicos.
- Requerimos la creación y fortalecimiento de plataformas políticas, económicas y sociales independientes de ideologías partidistas, con enfoque en la inclusión de niñas, mujeres, comunidades indígenas y rurales. Proponemos la implementación de consejos juveniles y estudiantiles en temas de salud, medio ambiente, equidad y educación. Estos espacios permitirán que las niñas y juventudes participen activamente en el diseño e implementación de soluciones a problemáticas locales.
- Demandamos financiamiento sostenido para proyectos juveniles enfocados en equidad de género, economías solidarias, desarrollo comunitario y derechos humanos. Esto implica garantizar becas, subsidios, créditos y fondos accesibles para el impulso de iniciativas con impacto social y ambiental positivo. Exigimos campañas de sensibilización enfocadas en la prevención de violencia y la promoción de derechos. A la par, demandamos garantizar entornos seguros para la participación de NNAyJ en todos los espacios públicos y políticos.

Nuestro rol en la implementación de los ODS es innegable. No somos una frase en un discurso - somos el presente y el futuro de esta región y estamos listxs para contribuir activamente con el avance de la Agenda 2030, pero también para resguardar y abogar por los derechos de las generaciones más jóvenes y las futuras. A menos de 5 años de llegar al año 2030, y luego de haber demostrado nuestra capacidad de movilización y transformación de nuestros territorios, exigimos un compromiso real de todos los actores claves para garantizar nuestra participación efectiva en la construcción de una región más justa, equitativa y sostenible ¡Estamos aquí vigilantes de este proceso pero también dispuestos a trabajar con ustedes!

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Each year, the Children, Adolescents and Young People group of the Mechanism for the participation of civil society in the Sustainable Development Agenda engages in an assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review. This year, more than 700 people, from 17 of the region's countries and various partner institutions, participated in different modalities. In this process, children, adolescents and young people put forward a series of demands and recommendations, set forth below, with the shared objective of achieving the 2030 Agenda while ensuring that our voices are heard and included.

Goal 3

In recent years, progress has been made towards the achievement of Goal 3, for example in legislative frameworks for universal health insurance. However, we are still facing various challenges, such as the gap in access to health services, especially in times of crisis. Those most affected are people in vulnerable situations, including Indigenous young people, migrants, Afrodescendent people, persons with disabilities and people living with HIV, and this is exacerbated by the stigmas that persist surrounding mental health and comprehensive sexual health, which affects the quality of care provided to children and young people in these areas. Conditions are worsened by unreliable services, inadequate infrastructure and underfunding, lack of training for health professionals and decision-makers and inefficient resource management. The climate crisis also compromises food security and health, leading to the emergence of new diseases, intensifying climate migration and widening social gaps.

It is therefore necessary to ensure comprehensive sexuality education and the establishment of safe, accessible spaces for comprehensive, intersectional and intercultural health services, especially in the areas of mental health and sexual and reproductive health, respecting the autonomy and voices of children, adolescents and young people. Holistic action based on scientific evidence must also be implemented, promoting health and disease prevention and always bearing in mind the needs of vulnerable communities.

Goal 5

With regard to the commitment to gender equality, children, adolescents and young people emphasize the pressing need to eliminate the barriers faced by young women in their diversity and girls in different contexts. We recognize that regulatory frameworks have been strengthened through the development of public policies and laws. However, greater efforts are needed to effectively ensure substantive equality and women's empowerment from an early age.

Gender-based violence remains alarming, with high rates of domestic violence, harassment and feminicides occurring with impunity. On the labour front, young women are dropping out of school to take on care work at very young ages. Child marriage and early unions also remain a concern in Latin America and the Caribbean. Another major challenge is cultural and social resistance to mainstreaming gender in public policies and education. Indigenous and Afrodescendent women, women living with HIV and other women face structural discrimination that limits their access to education, health and decent work. Their lack of representation in decision-making forums exacerbates this situation.

We, children, adolescents and young people, attach priority to the eradication of gender-based violence and call for public policies and budgets that prevent this violence, ensure accessible reporting mechanisms and restore rights, with an inclusive approach for vulnerable persons. We also highlight the fundamental importance of education, and call for cultural and language inclusion in education and the incorporation of comprehensive sexuality education in school curricula to combat violence against women and the stigmatization of people living with HIV and young people from key populations, among others. Further,

we demand greater participation in decision-making and assurances that the voice of every child, adolescent and young person is heard and that their rights are fully upheld.

Goal 8

Wrongly labelled “NEETs”, we young people continue to face barriers such as youth unemployment, job insecurity, discrimination, ableism, insecurity, violence and adult-centrism. These challenges do not affect us all in the same way, and vulnerable young people are the hardest hit. We need to be part of our region’s economic development in a manner that is grounded in labour rights. Progress on Goal 8 will require:

- Ensuring the means to achieve decent work, including formalization of youth employment, with effective labour inclusion and accessibility for vulnerable persons and traditionally marginalized groups, and strengthening financial education in school curricula, enabling the school-to-work transition by bearing in mind the jobs of the future. States must ensure that inclusive regulatory frameworks are in place, the private sector must commit to fair hiring practices, and civil society must promote young people’s participation in policymaking on economic, labour and diversity topics.
- Addressing existing social barriers that limit access to reliable, decent work so that we can prosper within our territories. “No more young people victims of trafficking and labour exploitation.” We need reform in youth employability systems, with paid internship programmes that provide access to a first job.
- Strengthening local economies, by supporting young entrepreneurs through training, funding and advisory services, with a particular focus on sustainable areas such as the circular economy and green jobs. We stress that spaces such as innovation hubs and co-working centres, along with support for bioeconomy initiatives, will support sustainable business development and decent work.

Goal 14

- There is a need to foster inter-agency and multi-stakeholder partnerships that place children, adolescents and young people—who are no less knowledgeable about current issues than others—at the centre of decision-making, encouraging collaboration among the State, civil society and the private sector.
- Children, adolescents and young people are advocating for responsible management of marine protected areas and for a halt to marine biodiversity loss resulting from pollution, overexploitation of resources, illegal, industrial and unregulated fishing, and imminent threats such as underwater mining, the climate crisis and the cultivation of non-native species.
- We see a need for fishing regulations, the inclusion of young people in public policymaking, coherent expansion of the regulatory framework for the implementation of effective conservation mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation of the policies and measures implemented.
- We call for the inclusion of mandatory ocean conservation and sustainability programmes in school curricula, from primary school to university, using interactive teaching methods such as workshops and visits to marine protected areas, and for support for careers in the sciences. There is also a need to foster the use of sustainable technologies and mobile and satellite applications to protect marine ecosystems, as well as circular economy ventures, reduced use of plastics and shifts in industrial design and consumption patterns.

- Incorporate coastal communities' local wisdom and traditional knowledge in marine management and value the views of children, adolescents and young people as a source of innovation over the long term, recognizing that young people are crucial for intergenerational sustainability.

Goal 17

- We believe that it is essential to move from symbolic to real and binding consultation, ensuring our access to decision-making spaces and advancing concrete actions for sustainable and inclusive development. We demand curricula with a gender and intercultural focus, that are geared towards preventing violence and discrimination and that foster digital skills, human rights and human rights advocacy, critical thinking and leadership. Learning must be practical and community-based to develop our decision-making skills, linked with national curricula and complemented by digital technologies, educational materials, innovative methodologies and resources for recreation.
- We call for the establishment and strengthening of political, economic and social platforms that are independent of partisan ideologies and focus on the inclusion of children, women and Indigenous and rural communities. We advocate for the establishment of youth and student commissions on health, the environment, equality and education. These spaces will allow children and young people to actively participate in the design and implementation of solutions to local problems.
- We demand sustained funding for youth projects on gender equality, solidarity-based economies, community development and human rights. This implies ensuring the availability of scholarships, subsidies, loans and accessible funding for initiatives with a positive social and environmental impact. We demand awareness-raising campaigns on violence prevention and on respect for rights. We also demand safe environments for the participation of children, adolescents and young people in all public and political spaces.

Our role in implementing the SDGs is undeniable. We are not just words in a speech; we are the present and future of this region and we stand ready not only to actively contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda, but also to safeguard and advocate for the rights of younger and future generations. With less than five years remaining before 2030, and having demonstrated our ability to mobilize people and transform our territories, we demand a meaningful commitment from all key stakeholders to ensure our effective participation in building a more just, equitable and sustainable region. We are here to monitor this process, but we are also ready to work with you!

Annex 5

STATEMENT OF 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 DEVELOPMENT¹



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

VIII Reunión del Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible 2025

Cumplir los compromisos asumidos ¡es urgente!

La región de América Latina y el Caribe ha logrado importantes avances, sin embargo las desigualdades estructurales, las crisis sociales y ambientales y las limitaciones en la movilización de recursos en la región son obstáculos significativos para la realización de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible. Según el informe de la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL), de diciembre de 2024, al ritmo actual, la región cumplirá apenas un 22% de las metas.

Rechazamos los retrocesos y el apartamiento de la Agenda 2030, especialmente contra los derechos humanos, los derechos sexuales y reproductivos, la crisis climática, la equidad de género, los derechos de las personas con discapacidad, el reconocimiento pleno de la identidad y expresión de género. La democracia exige el compromiso inquebrantable con la justicia social, la inclusión y la sostenibilidad, garantizando que nadie quede atrás. Nos pronunciamos a favor de un modelo de desarrollo basado en la igualdad, la participación y el respeto a los derechos humanos, garantizando su protección.

En este contexto de debilitamiento de la institucionalidad, del desmantelamiento de los mecanismos de adelanto para la mujer, las democracias se fragilizan. Y sin democracia no hay derechos. Hacemos un llamado urgente a los Estados a acelerar los compromisos hacia un futuro más justo, accesible y sostenible para todas las personas sin distinción. Es urgente accionar en coherencia con los tratados internacionales de derechos humanos en diálogo con la sociedad civil y garantizar el financiamiento para la implementación de la Agenda 2030 en su integralidad, para acelerar y lograr en cinco años cerrar las actuales brechas.

Respecto a los Objetivos que se revisan en 2025, recomendamos que los Estados prioricen su esfuerzo en las siguientes acciones:

ODS 3: Salud y Bienestar

- Garantizar la universalización de la cobertura en salud y prevención de las enfermedades, mediante inversiones sostenidas en infraestructura y personal sanitario en todos los territorios. Es obligación de los Estados asegurar el acceso al derecho a la salud gratuita y de calidad para todas las personas, especialmente para comunidades históricamente excluidas, como pueblos indígenas, afrodescendientes, comunidades rurales, niños y niñas, mujeres, población en situación de movilidad, personas con VIH, con discapacidad, y de la diversidad

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de orientación sexual, identidad y expresión de género y características sexuales (OSIEGCS), también agrupadas bajo el acrónimo LGBTQ+.

- Implementar sistemas de cuidados de larga duración para mejorar las condiciones de vida de las personas desde el nacimiento, y en particular para la población mayor, que es creciente y a menudo víctima de enfermedades crónicas.
- Establecer programas regionales de prevención y tratamiento de enfermedades no transmisibles, como hipertensión y diabetes, responsables del 78% de las muertes en la región (OPS, 2023).
- Promover estilos de vida saludables, creando espacios públicos para la actividad física, políticas sensibles a la nutrición y seguridad alimentaria, en articulación con las organizaciones de pequeños productores locales.
- integrar servicios de salud mental y prevención de consumos problemáticos a los servicios de atención primaria de salud, de forma de asegurar acompañamiento psicológico y psiquiátrico universal y desarrollar campañas para reducir el estigma asociado a los trastornos mentales.
- Garantizar la flexibilidad de las normas del Acuerdo sobre los Aspectos de los Derechos de Propiedad Intelectual Relacionados con el Comercio (ADPIC) vinculados a las vacunas y medicamentos esenciales.
- Garantizar la información, distribución y acceso a distintos métodos anticonceptivos, de planificación familiar y de aborto seguro para todas las personas en los servicios de salud.
- Promover entornos educativos seguros y garantes de bienestar asociados a políticas de cuidados.

ODS 5: Igualdad de Género

- Implementar marcos legales eficaces para prevenir, investigar y sancionar la violencia de género contra las mujeres y personas LGBTQ+, incluyendo mecanismos de protección y reparación para las víctimas, para abatir la violencia, feminicidios, lesbicidios y transfemicidios crecientes en la región. Igualmente, para enfrentar la trata de personas, los trabajos forzosos y la explotación sexual comercial que afectan mayoritariamente a las mujeres y niñas de ALC.
- Fomentar y controlar los mecanismos para ampliar la participación de las mujeres y personas LGBTQ+ en lugares de decisión.
- Asegurar la igualdad en el mercado laboral, garantizando igual salario a igual trabajo.
- Impulsar la transición hacia sistemas integrales de cuidados para eliminar la desigualdad de género, garantizando la redistribución y reconocimiento del trabajo de cuidados remunerado y no remunerado, en línea con las 5R de la OIT: Reconocer, Reducir, Redistribuir, Recompensar y Representar.
- Promover una educación transformadora de las relaciones de género, sin estereotipos ni discriminaciones por ninguna razón.
- Impulsar acciones para la participación de los hombres, especialmente jóvenes, en actividades que fomenten la igualdad con las mujeres, con el objeto de poner en valor las contribuciones de ambos en la construcción social.
- Fomentar la participación igualitaria en sectores de tecnología y ciencias, con becas y mentorías específicas.
- Aplicar mecanismos de fiscalización del registro formal del empleo para garantizar la seguridad social y que se vea reflejado en jubilaciones dignas y en el acceso a la salud, reconociendo las tareas del cuidado realizadas por las mujeres a lo largo de su vida.
- Frente a la creciente feminización del fenómeno de la movilidad humana, especialmente en Centroamérica, visibilizar la situación de las mujeres, niñas, adolescentes y jóvenes en situación de movilidad, a través de su inclusión estadística en los datos e indicadores educativos, laborales y de salud.
- Adoptar presupuestos con perspectiva de género en todos los organismos estatales, acceso a la información, rendición de cuentas y transparencia a la gestión con evidencia.

- Establecer un marco regulatorio que garantice el ejercicio legal del trabajo sexual y que la actividad pueda realizarse en condiciones de igualdad con cualquier otro trabajo. Se requieren protocolos de seguridad que permitan combatir abusos y violencias a las que son sometidas las personas que ejercen el trabajo sexual, la trata de personas y la explotación sexual.

ODS 8: Trabajo Decente y Crecimiento Económico

- Garantizar el respeto de los derechos laborales, en especial el derecho a la libertad sindical, la negociación colectiva y el derecho a huelga.
- Enfrentar las discriminaciones y desigualdades en el ámbito laboral, la brecha salarial entre hombres y mujeres, las altas tasas de desempleo juvenil y la informalidad en la región, que afecta especialmente a las mujeres, personas con discapacidad, migrantes, indígenas, afrodescendientes, personas que ejercen el trabajo sexual y población LGBTQ+. Según la OIT (2024) 51% de las personas trabajadoras en ALC están en el sector informal. Esto las deja sin acceso a sistemas de protección social y derechos laborales básicos (OIT, 2023), implica un salario cerca de 30% menor del que tienen las personas que están formalmente empleadas (OIT, 2024), y les deja en situación de vulnerabilidad.
- Urge abordar de manera integral los desafíos que se imponen al mundo del trabajo debido al conjunto de las transiciones que enfrentan las sociedades. Los cambios demográficos (migración, envejecimiento de la población, juventud), el cambio tecnológico (digitalización, economía de plataformas, inteligencia artificial, educación permanente) y el cambio climático crean desafíos aún mayores para las y los trabajadores, en particular los informales. Es fundamental establecer regulaciones en un ambiente democrático y en el marco del diálogo social, con propuestas estructurales para que estas transiciones fomenten el trabajo digno.
- Instar a los gobiernos de ALC a fortalecer y desarrollar la economía social y solidaria (ESS), que ha sido reconocida por la OIT en el 2022 como fundamental para reducir la pobreza y las desigualdades. En el mismo sentido, las asambleas de la ONU en el 2023 y 2024 han definido que la ESS aporta al trabajo decente, a la promoción de la democracia, la justicia social y el desarrollo sostenible. A su vez, alentaron los Estados Miembros a que promuevan y apliquen estrategias, políticas y programas nacionales de ESS, adecuando los marcos normativos.
- Asegurar el derecho a entornos de trabajo seguros y saludables, avanzando en un enfoque prevencionista de salud mental y física que identifique los diferentes riesgos a los que las y los trabajadores se enfrentan, desde una mirada interseccional.
- Garantizar el acceso a la educación para el trabajo decente, así como una formación continua que asegure el desarrollo de competencias adecuadas a las cambiantes necesidades del mercado laboral, particularmente para jóvenes y mujeres.
- Implementar procesos de trazabilidad de la educación, homologación de titulaciones y el reconocimiento de certificación de competencias, con miras a facilitar la inclusión laboral de personas en situación de movilidad y retornadas.
- Considerando que 8,2 millones de niñas, niños y adolescentes están expuestos al trabajo infantil, reforzar el compromiso tripartito de la Iniciativa Regional ALC Libre de Trabajo Infantil y el diálogo social regional para la construcción de políticas públicas que acompañen las multicausalidades de este fenómeno.
- Propiciar la legalización y regulación del trabajo sexual, creando mecanismos de promoción de derechos y reparación de su vulneración, y proveyendo los apoyos necesarios para las mujeres que deseen dejarlo (CEDAW).
- Fomentar la inversión en investigación y desarrollo para impulsar la innovación y la productividad.

ODS 14: Vida Submarina

- Ampliar y gestionar eficazmente las áreas marinas protegidas, promoviendo la participación activa de las comunidades locales.
- Establecer cuotas de pesca basadas en evidencia científica y reforzar las medidas contra la pesca ilegal, ya que los ecosistemas marinos y costeros de la región están gravemente amenazados por la contaminación, el cambio climático y la sobreexplotación pesquera ([PNUMA, 2023](#)). Los Acuerdos de Libre Comercio y Acuerdos de Asociación deben contemplar y respetar la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar (UNCLOS), que otorga prerrogativas a los Estados en materia de pesca y reglas de origen. Cualquier acuerdo que viole este principio debe ser considerado nulo.
- Implementar estrategias de economía circular para reducir los desechos plásticos y fomentar su reutilización, ya que estos materiales están deteriorando la biodiversidad marina y afectando a las comunidades costeras que dependen de estos ecosistemas.
- Implementar la Convención de Biodiversidad que todos los Estados de ALC han ratificado, y exhortarlos a firmar, ratificar, e implementar el Acuerdo sobre la Conservación y el Uso Sostenible de la Diversidad Biológica Marina de las Zonas Fuera de la Jurisdicción Nacional (BBNJ), el Tratado Global de Plásticos, el Convenio MARPOL y el Acuerdo Regional sobre el Acceso a la Información, la Participación Pública y el Acceso a la Justicia en Asuntos Ambientales en América Latina y el Caribe.
- Abandonar el uso de combustibles fósiles y las consecuentes exploraciones sísmicas y explotaciones marítimas.
- Adoptar de manera urgente políticas de gestión integrada de cuencas hidrográficas, que regulen estrictamente las descargas contaminantes, restauren ecosistemas acuáticos y promuevan soluciones basadas en la naturaleza.
- Proteger las fuentes de agua dulce para garantizar la sostenibilidad del planeta y el cumplimiento del ODS 14. La salud de los océanos comienza tierra adentro.
- Trabajar unidos en la discusión con los países del Norte global para obtener las reparaciones de pérdidas y daños por los efectos de la crisis climática, para encauzar transiciones justas con participación efectiva de la sociedad civil y especialmente de los grupos afectados y para dejar de lado las falsas soluciones como los mercados de carbono, los esquemas de compensación, los megaproyectos de geoingeniería y las “soluciones basadas en la naturaleza”.
- Impulsar planes, programas y proyectos de gobernanza climática y ambiental nacionales, regionales e internacionales para el monitoreo conjunto del cumplimiento de las metas del ODS 14 generando incentivos económicos de participación para la sociedad civil y los sectores público y privado en la protección integral del patrimonio oceánico global.
- Garantizar la protección de activistas ambientalistas.
- Proveer la libre circulación de información basada en hechos científicos.

ODS 17: Alianzas para Lograr los Objetivos

- Comprometerse con la solución no violenta de conflictos, y adoptar la solidaridad entre los pueblos, la convivencia democrática y la realización de los derechos humanos como horizonte de la cooperación internacional. En tal sentido, es urgente fomentar programas de educación para la paz y los derechos humanos e implementar mecanismos contra los discursos de odio, las noticias falsas y la desinformación.
- ☒ Asumir la crisis climática como prioridad ineludible sin justificación alguna.
- Arbitrar los medios para que, en el marco de la Cuarta Conferencia Internacional sobre la Financiación para el Desarrollo, se apruebe la Convención Marco sobre Deuda Soberana en Naciones Unidas que sirva no solo para aliviar de inmediato el peso de la deuda pública de los países del Sur global, sino también que ayude a prevenir futuras crisis de deuda. Así mismo, que se impulsen reformas tributarias progresivas, con gravación de impuestos a las grandes corporaciones y fortunas individuales, así como una arquitectura financiera internacional y políticas fiscales de combate a la corrupción, a los flujos financieros ilícitos entre los países,

los paraísos fiscales, los blanqueos de capitales, la evasión y la elusión fiscal. Estas medidas deben ampliar los fondos disponibles para financiar el desarrollo sostenible y la garantía de los derechos humanos a todas las personas sin distinción.

- Adoptar mecanismos de alivio de la deuda externa que constituye uno de los problemas globales más acuciantes y paralizantes para la consecución de la Agenda 2030 y la realización de los derechos humanos.
- Asegurar que la Ayuda Oficial al Desarrollo alcance al 0.7% del PBI de los países desarrollados y que los programas estén orientados al cumplimiento de la integralidad de la Agenda 2030.
- Robustecer los marcos regulatorios, el multilateralismo, los derechos humanos, la implementación de mecanismos mundiales de transparencia y rendición de cuenta de los Estados y sector privado, así como ampliar el acceso a la información pública.
- Fortalecer los medios de implementación y revitalizar la Alianza Mundial para el Desarrollo Sostenible, principalmente la Cooperación Eficaz al Desarrollo (CED) y exigir se cumpla y visibilice la AOD (Ayuda Oficial para el Desarrollo).
- Adoptar reglas y mecanismos de comercio internacional que permitan cerrar las desigualdades entre los países y financiar políticas de transición energética y climática que favorezcan especialmente a los países pobres y de medianos ingresos.
- Regular la economía digital y el comercio electrónico, así como fomentar el desarrollo de tecnologías que garanticen la soberanía digital de los países, la protección de los datos privados, de manera que la digitalización sea usada en beneficio público.
- Establecer plataformas regionales de intercambio de datos y mejores prácticas para fortalecer las capacidades estadísticas nacionales, presentando datos desglosados y desagregados por orientación sexual e identidad de género.
- Establecer normativas nacionales e implementar mecanismos de seguridad que guarden relación con las normativas internacionales de protección a personas defensoras de derechos humanos, defensoras de ambiente y activistas.

Hacemos un llamado urgente a los gobiernos de América Latina y el Caribe para que intensifiquen sus esfuerzos y cumplan con los compromisos asumidos a favor de la implementación de la Agenda 2030. Es imperativo trabajar de manera colaborativa con la sociedad civil, el sector privado y la comunidad internacional para garantizar un desarrollo sostenible que no deje a nadie atrás ni afuera. Rechazamos la indebida influencia del Norte Global y las corporaciones en los procesos multilaterales y sus implicaciones en la gobernanza, los derechos y las obligaciones de desarrollo en el Sur Global, así como toda medida unilateral que de manera coercitiva condicione el buen vivir de los pueblos. Reiteramos nuestro llamado a una redistribución justa y equitativa de la riqueza y los recursos, y a la transformación sistémica de la arquitectura financiera global para lograr un modelo de desarrollo basado en la justicia y la paz.

Cumplir los compromisos asumidos: ¡es urgente!

Courtesy translation provided by the secretariat

Commitments must urgently be fulfilled.

While Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant strides, structural inequalities, social and environmental crises and resource mobilization constraints are significant obstacles to its realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to the December 2024 report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), at the current pace, just 22% of the targets will be met.

We reject setbacks delaying progress on the 2030 Agenda, especially with regard to human rights, sexual and reproductive rights, the climate crisis, gender equality, the rights of persons with disabilities and the full recognition of gender identity and expression. Democracy requires an unwavering commitment to social justice, inclusion and sustainability, ensuring that no one is left behind. We support a development model that is based on equality, participation, and respect for and protection of human rights.

The weakening of institutional frameworks and the dismantling of machineries for the advancement of women are eroding democracies— and without democracy, there are no rights. We urgently call upon States to increase their commitments to a more just, accessible and sustainable future for all, without distinction. There is an urgent need to act, in accordance with international human rights treaties and in dialogue with civil society, and to ensure financing for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in order to increase the pace and close current gaps within five years.

Regarding the Sustainable Development Goals under review in 2025, we recommend that States prioritize the actions set out below.

Goal 3: Good health and well-being

- Ensure universal coverage for healthcare and disease prevention, through sustained investment in healthcare infrastructure and personnel in all territories. States have a duty to ensure the right to free, high-quality healthcare for all, in particular for historically excluded communities, such as Indigenous Peoples, Afrodescendent populations, rural communities, children, women, migrants, people living with HIV, persons with disabilities and people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sexual characteristics, also referred to as the LGBTQI+ community.
- Implement long-term care systems to improve people’s living conditions from birth, in particular for the growing population of older persons, who often suffer from chronic diseases.
- Establish regional treatment and prevention programmes for noncommunicable diseases, such as hypertension and diabetes, which are responsible for 78% of deaths in the region, according to the Pan American Health Organization.
- Promote healthy lifestyles by creating public spaces for physical activity and designing policies that address nutrition and food security, in coordination with organizations of local small-scale producers.
- Integrate mental health and substance abuse prevention into primary healthcare services to ensure universal psychological and psychiatric care and develop campaigns to destigmatize mental illness.

- Ensure the flexible application of standards under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights where vaccines and essential medicines are concerned.
- Ensure that healthcare services provide information on and distribute and facilitate access to different contraceptive methods, family planning and safe abortion for all.
- Foster safe educational environments and promote care policies that safeguard well-being.

Goal 5: Gender equality

- Implement effective legal frameworks to prevent, investigate and punish gender-based violence against women and LGBTQI+ persons, incorporating protection and reparation mechanisms for victims, to reduce gender-based violence and killings of women, including lesbian and transgender women, which are on the rise in the region, and to address trafficking in persons, forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation —mainly affecting women and children— in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Foster the creation and oversight of mechanisms to broaden the participation of women and LGBTQI+ persons in decision-making forums.
- Ensure labour equality, guaranteeing equal pay for equal work.
- Advance the transition towards comprehensive care systems to eliminate gender inequality, ensuring redistribution and recognition of paid and unpaid care work, in line with the “5Rs” of care work of the International Labour Organization (ILO): recognize, reduce, redistribute, reward and represent.
- Adopt an educational approach to transform gender relations, eliminating stereotypes and discrimination on any grounds.
- Take measures to boost the participation of men, in particular young men, in activities that promote gender equality, with a view to raising awareness of the social contributions of both men and women.
- Foster equal participation in technology and science sectors, with targeted scholarships and mentorship.
- Implement mechanisms for auditing formal employment records to guarantee social security, including decent retirement and access to health, recognizing the care work performed by women throughout their lives.
- Raise awareness of the situation that migrant women, children, adolescents and young people face —in view of the growing feminization of migration, especially in Central America— by including them in statistics, data and indicators on education, labour and health.
- Adopt budgets with a gender perspective in all State agencies, ensuring access to information, accountability and transparency for evidence-based management.
- Establish a regulatory framework to legalize sex work under the same conditions as any other type of work. Safety protocols are needed to combat abuse and violence against sex workers, trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation.

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

- Ensure respect for labour rights, in particular the right to organize, the right to collective bargaining and the right to strike.
- Address discrimination and inequality in the workplace, the gender wage gap, high youth unemployment rates and informality in the region, which especially affect women, persons with disabilities, migrants, Indigenous Peoples, Afrodescendants, sex workers and LGBTQI+ persons. According to ILO, 51% of working women in Latin America and the Caribbean are

- employed in the informal sector, leaving them in a vulnerable situation, with no access to social protection systems and basic labour rights and approximately 30% less pay than people in formal employment.
- Urgently and comprehensively address labour challenges arising from the many societal transitions under way. Demographic change (migration, population ageing, youth), technological change (digitalization, platform economies, artificial intelligence, continuous education) and climate change are intensifying the challenges facing workers, in particular those in the informal sector. It is essential to establish regulations through democratic processes and social dialogue, with structural proposals to ensure that these transitions create decent work.
 - Urge the other governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen and develop the social and solidarity economy, which was recognized by ILO in 2022 as critical for reducing poverty and inequalities. At meetings held in 2023 and 2024, United Nations bodies recognized that the social and solidarity economy contributes to decent work and the advancement of democracy, social justice and sustainable development, and Member States were encouraged to support and implement national strategies, policies and programmes for the social and solidarity economy, amending regulatory frameworks.
 - Ensure the right to a safe and healthy work environment by pursuing a preventative approach to mental and physical health, identifying the different risks that workers face from an intersectional perspective.
 - Ensure access to education as a path to decent work, along with continuous training to develop the skills needed to meet the changing needs of the labour market, in particular for young people and women.
 - Implement processes for traceability in education, harmonization of degrees and recognition of skill certifications, with a view to facilitating the labour inclusion of migrants, including upon their return.
 - Strengthen the tripartite commitment of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour and regional social dialogue to design public policies that address the multiple causes of child labour, which affects 8.2 million children and adolescents in the region.
 - Legalize and regulate sex work, establishing mechanisms to promote rights and redress their infringement, and provide the necessary support for women who wish to leave the profession.
 - Encourage investment in research and development to drive innovation and productivity.

Goal 14: Life below water

- Expand and efficiently manage marine protected areas, encouraging active local community participation.
- Establish fishing quotas based on scientific evidence and strengthen the measures to end illegal fishing. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, pollution, climate change and overfishing pose a serious threat to the region's marine and coastal ecosystems. Free trade and partnership agreements must take into account and comply with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which grants States certain rights with regard to fishing and rules of origin. Any agreement that violates this principle should be deemed null and void.
- Implement circular economy strategies to reduce and encourage the reuse of plastic waste, which is harming marine biodiversity and impacting coastal communities that depend on the affected ecosystems.
- Implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, which all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have ratified, and urge them to sign, ratify and implement the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use

- of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, and its 1978 and 1997 Protocols, and the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as a global plastics treaty.
- Transition away from fossil fuel use and associated seismic exploration and offshore exploitation projects.
 - Immediately adopt integrated watershed management policies to strictly regulate pollutant discharges, restore aquatic ecosystems and favour nature-based solutions.
 - Protect freshwater sources to ensure planetary sustainability and the achievement of Goal 14. Ocean health begins on land.
 - Work together in discussions with global North countries to secure reparations for climate losses and damages in order to steer just transitions with the effective participation of civil society, in particular affected groups, and set aside false solutions like carbon markets and offsetting schemes, geoengineering megaprojects and “nature-based solutions”.
 - Promote national, regional and international climate and environmental governance plans, programmes and projects to jointly monitor the achievement of Goal 14 targets, creating economic incentives for civil society and the public and private sectors to participate in the comprehensive protection of marine world heritage.
 - Guarantee the protection of environmental activists.
 - Enable the free flow of information based on scientific facts.

Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- Commit to non-violent conflict resolution and adopt an international cooperation model based on solidarity among peoples, democratic coexistence and the realization of human rights. In that regard, there is an urgent to support programmes on peace and human rights education and to implement mechanisms to counter hate speech, fake news and disinformation.
- Approach the climate crisis as an inexorable priority, without equivocation.
- Lay the groundwork at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development for an eventual framework convention on sovereign debt, which should not only immediately alleviate the public debt burden for global South countries but also help to prevent future debt crises. Similarly, progressive tax reforms should be pursued, including taxation of large corporations and wealth, along with an international financial architecture and tax policies that combat corruption, illicit financial flows, tax havens, money-laundering, and tax evasion and avoidance. These measures should expand the funds available for financing sustainable development and ensuring human rights for all, without distinction.
- Adopt external debt relief mechanisms to address one of the most pressing global problems paralysing the realization of the 2030 Agenda and human rights.
- Ensure that official development assistance (ODA) reaches 0.7% of developed countries’ GDP and that programme aims are fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda.
- Strengthen regulatory frameworks, multilateralism, human rights and the implementation of global transparency and accountability mechanisms for States and the private sector, and expand access to public information.
- Strengthen means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, in particular effective development cooperation, and call for fulfilment of ODA commitments and transparency.
- Adopt international trade rules and mechanisms to reduce inequalities among countries and to finance energy and climate transition policies that particularly favour low- and middle-income countries.

- Regulate the digital economy and e-commerce and foster the development of technologies that protect the digital sovereignty of States and private data, such that digitalization is used for the public good.
- Establish regional data exchange platforms and best practices to strengthen national statistical capacities, with data disaggregated by sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Establish national regulations and implement security mechanisms that are aligned with international frameworks for the protection of human rights defenders, environmental defenders and activists.

We urgently call upon the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to intensify their efforts and fulfil commitments to implement the 2030 Agenda. Working in collaboration with civil society, the private sector and the international community is essential to achieve sustainable development and ensure that no one is left behind or left out. We reject the undue influence of the global North and corporations on multilateral processes and their involvement in governance, rights and development obligations in the global South, as well as any unilateral coercive measure that affects people's ability to live well. We renew our call for the fair and equitable redistribution of wealth and resources and for the systemic transformation of the global financial architecture to achieve a development model grounded in justice and peace.

Commitments must urgently be fulfilled.

Annex 6

**STATEMENT OF THE INTERFAITH PREFORUM OF
THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE FORUM¹**

PRE-FORO INTERRELIGIOSO DE LA OCTAVA REUNION DEL



Foro de los Países
de América Latina
y el Caribe sobre el
**DESARROLLO
SOSTENIBLE**
Santiago
31 de marzo a 4 de abril **2025**

**“PROMOVIENDO SOLUCIONES BASADAS EN LA FE, LA CIENCIA Y LA EVIDENCIA
PARA EL LOGRO DE LOS OBJETIVOS DE DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE”
LUNES 31 DE MARZO DE 2025**

DECLARACION FINAL

Hoy nos encontramos reunidos como lideresas religiosas y líderes religiosos, personas creyentes y representantes de organizaciones basadas en la fe de América Latina y el Caribe.

Desde el Amazonas hasta las Islas del Caribe, nuestra rica diversidad espiritual nos llama a unirnos en una misión urgente y transformadora: convertir nuestra fe en acción y alzar nuestra voz.

Y es que nuestras creencias no son solo un refugio ni algo abstracto; es un profundo llamado a la acción. Y la pregunta es clara: ¿A qué acciones nos invitan nuestras creencias? A la búsqueda incansable de la justicia y la paz, al compromiso de cumplir la promesa de que nadie se quede atrás.

- La niñez migrante, desprotegida y olvidada, que carga heridas profundas en su incierta travesía.
- Las mujeres y niñas enfrentan múltiples formas de violencia, que atraviesan sus cuerpos, así como las desigualdades en el acceso a la educación, la salud y el empleo. La desproporción en las responsabilidades del cuidado limita sus oportunidades.
- Las poblaciones más vulnerables enfrentan el hambre y el desplazamiento forzado, mientras que el narcotráfico y la violencia armada desintegran el tejido social.
- Los pueblos originarios, portadores de una sabiduría ancestral, ven cómo sus tierras son devastadas por la explotación.
- La biodiversidad, esa obra sagrada de la creación, se extingue ante la codicia que privilegia el lucro sobre la vida.
- Las personas defensoras de derechos humanos y de derechos ambientales son despojadas y despojados de sus vidas, toda vez que esta región sigue siendo la más violenta del mundo para quienes defienden la justicia, la vida y la dignidad.

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

En un contexto donde la cooperación internacional enfrenta grandes desafíos, con recortes crecientes a la ayuda oficial al desarrollo desde varios países del Norte Global, vemos amenazados los avances hacia los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y la Agenda 2030. La reducción de fondos para programas clave—ya sea en materia de lucha contra la pobreza, salud, educación o acción climática—deja a millones de personas en situación de vulnerabilidad y debilita el compromiso colectivo con un futuro más justo y equitativo.

Pero ante la adversidad, nuestra esperanza, nuestra fe nos sostiene y nos impulsa. Las organizaciones basadas en la fe, junto a las comunidades de diversas tradiciones religiosas y espirituales, somos redes de acción y solidaridad que alimentan al hambriento, brindan ecos de justicia que denuncian la marginalización, dan refugio que acoge al migrante.

Donde hay división, sembramos reconciliación, donde hay heridas vivenciamos el perdón. Somos puentes. No solo hablamos de paz; la construimos desde lo más profundo de nuestras comunidades, porque somos de la misma comunidad.

Hoy, por ello, alzamos cinco llamados urgentes, al lado de aquellos y aquellas a quienes el mundo margina sin justificación:

- ✓ Proteger integralmente a la niñez migrante debe ser una prioridad en todas las políticas orientadas a cumplir con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. El desarrollo solo será verdaderamente justo cuando logremos erradicar las causas que obligan a niños y niñas a huir de sus hogares. Hacemos un llamado urgente a la comunidad internacional para que actúe de inmediato y garantice que ningún niño o niña migrante quede en el abandono.
- ✓ Promover la igualdad de género con enfoque territorial, que es alcanzar el ODS 5, requiere liderazgo político, inversiones y reformas integrales que eliminen las barreras sistémicas. La igualdad de género debe ser un eje transversal en leyes, presupuestos e instituciones. Las mujeres, especialmente las indígenas, afrodescendientes, rom y campesinas, siguen enfrentando discriminación. Es urgente invertir en políticas públicas que aseguren su bienestar, promuevan la igualdad y garanticen una distribución equitativa de las responsabilidades de cuidado, así como su derecho a un futuro libre de violencia.
- ✓ Lograr la justicia ambiental que enfrenta una triple crisis planetaria: cambio climático, contaminación y pérdida de biodiversidad. Sus efectos van más allá del medioambiente, afectando la salud física y mental, y forzando desplazamientos debido a fenómenos naturales cada vez más intensos. Este desafío global exige una acción urgente y transformadora en todos los ámbitos de nuestra vida. Requerimos respetuosamente que las políticas y las decisiones reconozcan que nuestra supervivencia depende de la salud de nuestra “casa común”, es decir de nuestra Tierra.
- ✓ Garantizar los derechos sociales y superar el asistencialismo. Como enfatizó el Padre Alberto Hurtado: "La caridad comienza donde termina la justicia". Es esencial abordar los problemas sociales más urgentes de nuestra región desde una perspectiva de derechos, en lugar desde un enfoque asistencialista. Las personas en situación de vulnerabilidad no necesitan asistencia, sino el pleno reconocimiento y garantía de sus derechos. La pobreza y la marginación son problemas políticos y valóricos, que juntos y juntas podemos y debemos resolverlos.

- ✓ Reformar el sistema financiero y comercial global. América Latina y el Caribe deben unirse con otros países del Sur Global para impulsar un nuevo pacto económico internacional. Este pacto debe garantizar que nuestros países accedan a financiamiento justo y políticas comerciales globales equitativas.

Cuando las generaciones futuras pregunten: ¿Qué hicieron cuando el planeta ardía? Podremos responder: Nos unimos, actuamos, convertimos el dolor en acción y la fe en futuro.

Courtesy translation provided by the secretariat

**“PROMOTING FAITH-, SCIENCE- AND EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR
THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”
MONDAY, 31 MARCH 2025**

We meet today as religious leaders, believers and representatives of faith-based organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

From the Amazon region to the Caribbean islands, our rich spiritual diversity calls on us to unite in an urgent, transformative mission: to convert our faith into action and to speak up.

For our beliefs are not merely a refuge or an abstraction; they are a resounding call to action. The question is clear: what do our beliefs compel us to do? They compel us to tirelessly pursue justice and peace and commit to the promise of leaving no one behind.

- Migrant children, unprotected and forgotten, suffer tremendously on their uncertain journey.
- Women and girls face multiple forms of violence resulting in bodily harm, have unequal access to education, health and employment, and bear disproportionate care responsibilities that limit their opportunities.
- The most vulnerable populations are facing hunger and forced displacement, while drug trafficking and armed violence fray the social fabric.
- Indigenous Peoples, the keepers of ancestral wisdom, are seeing their lands devastated by exploitation.
- Biodiversity, a sacred work of creation, is being destroyed by greed, which places profit above life.
- Defenders of human and environmental rights are killed in a region that remains the most dangerous in the world for those who defend justice, life and dignity.

In a context of significant challenges for international cooperation, with increasing cuts to official development assistance by several countries in the global North, we see that progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda is at risk. Reducing funding for key programmes—whether in poverty eradication, health, education or climate action—leaves millions of people vulnerable and undermines the collective commitment to a more just and equitable future.

But in the face of adversity, our hope—our faith—sustains and drives us. As faith-based organizations, and together with communities of diverse religious and spiritual traditions, we are action and solidarity networks that feed the hungry, sound a call for justice that condemns marginalization, and provide a refuge for migrants.

Where there is division, we sow reconciliation; where there are wounds, we offer forgiveness. We are bridges. We do more than just speak of peace; we build it, from the depths of our communities, because we are one community.

This is why we raise our voices today on five pressing issues, standing with those are unjustly marginalized by the world:

- ✓ Comprehensive protection for migrant children must be a priority in all policies aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Development will only be truly fair when we eradicate the causes that force children to flee from their homes. We urgently call on the international community to take immediate action and ensure that no migrant child is left behind.
- ✓ Promoting gender equality with a territorial approach, in other words, achieving Goal 5, requires political leadership, investment and comprehensive reforms that break down systemic barriers. Gender equality must be a cross-cutting issue in laws, budgets and institutions. Women, especially Indigenous, Afrodescendent, Roma and campesino women, continue to face discrimination. Investment is urgently needed in public policies that ensure their well-being, foster equality and ensure equal sharing of care responsibilities and their right to a future free from violence.
- ✓ Environmental justice must be achieved in the face of a triple planetary crisis: climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, whose effects go beyond the environment, affecting physical and mental health and forcing population displacement owing to ever more intense natural events. This global challenge calls for urgent transformative action in all areas of our lives. We respectfully call for the recognition in policies and decisions recognize that our survival depends on the health of our “shared home”, our Earth.
- ✓ Social rights must be ensured and welfarism abandoned. As stressed by Padre Alberto Hurtado, “Charity begins where justice ends”. It is essential to address our region’s most pressing social needs from a rights perspective and not through a welfarist approach. Persons in vulnerable situations do not need assistance, but the full recognition and enjoyment of their rights. Poverty and marginalization are of the result of poor policy and values, and together we can and must solve those problems.
- ✓ The global financial and trade system must be reformed. Latin America and the Caribbean must unite with other countries in the global South to secure a new international economic compact. This compact must ensure that our countries can access financing on fair terms and equitable global trade policies.

When future generations ask, “What did you do when the planet was burning?”, we will be able to answer, “We joined forces, worked together and transformed our pain into action and our faith into a future.”

Annex 7

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS¹**

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- Patricio Scaff, Partnerships Specialist, email: pscaff@caf.com;

Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

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Parlamento Centroamericano (PARLACEN)/Central American Parliament (PARLACEN)

- Ana Glenda Hernández Estrada, Presidenta, Comisión de Educación, Cultura, Deporte, Ciencia y Tecnología;
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Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB)/Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)

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- Félix Denegri Boza, Viceministro de Relaciones Exteriores del Perú, email: fdenegri@rree.gob.pe;
- Li Junhua, Secretario General Adjunto de Asuntos Económicos y Sociales de las Naciones Unidas;
- Amina Mohammed, Vicesecretaria General de las Naciones Unidas (por video);
- Roberto Carlos Ramírez, Subsecretario de Finanzas de Honduras;
- José Antonio Ocampo, Profesor de la Escuela de Asuntos Internacionales y Públicos de la Universidad de Columbia (virtual);
- Daniel Titelman, Director de la División de Desarrollo Económico de la CEPAL;
- Dinorah Singer, Ejecutiva Sénior del Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina y el Caribe (CAF) en Chile;
- Kamina Johnson Smith, Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Jamaica (por video);
- Michelle Muschett, Directora Regional para América Latina y el Caribe del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo;
- Kirk Humphrey, Ministro para el Empoderamiento de las Personas y Asuntos de la Tercera Edad de Barbados;
- Javiera Toro, Ministra de Desarrollo Social y Familia de Chile;
- Leslie Carol Urteaga Peña, Ministra de Desarrollo e Inclusión Social del Perú;
- Laís Abramo, Secretaria Nacional de Cuidados y Familia del Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Lucha contra el Hambre del Brasil;
- Juan Somavía, ex-Embajador y ex-Representante Permanente de Chile ante las Naciones Unidas, ex Director General de la Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT) y ex Presidente del Comité Preparatorio y la Comisión Principal de la Cumbre Mundial sobre Desarrollo Social (Copenhague, 1995);
- Yamile Socolovsky, Presidenta del Comité de Mujeres Trabajadoras de las Américas (CMTA-CSA);
- Manuel Pulgar Vidal, Líder de Clima y Energía para el Fondo Mundial en favor de la Naturaleza;
- Paulo Roberto Soares Pacheco, Embajador del Brasil en Chile;
- Dwight G. Sutherland, Ministro de Vivienda, Tierras y Mantenimiento de Barbados;
- Macarena Sánchez, Directora de Medio e Impacto de Patagonia Chile, Perú y Ecuador;
- Daniel Seidel, Coordinador de la Red Eclesial de Justicia y Paz en la Patria Grande;
- Laura Moreno Rodríguez, Embajadora de México en Chile;
- María-Noel Vaeza, Directora Regional para las Américas y el Caribe de la Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres);
- Virginia Albert-Poyotte, Ministra de Servicios Públicos, Interior, Trabajo y Asuntos de Género de Santa Lucía (virtual);

- Virginia Vargas, Cofundadora del Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán del Perú e integrante de la Articulación Feminista Marcosur y coordinadora de las ONG de América Latina y el Caribe hacia la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial de la Mujer en Beijing,
- Noemi Espinoza Madrid, Secretaria General de la Asociación de Estados del Caribe (AEC)
- Gloria de la Fuente, Ministra Subrogante de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile;
- Hugo Francisco Rivera, Viceministro para Asuntos Económicos y Cooperación Internacional de la República Dominicana;
- Inga Rhonda King, Representante Permanente de San Vicente y las Granadinas ante las Naciones Unidas, en su calidad de cofacilitadora de la declaración del foro político de alto nivel de 2025 (virtual);
- Themba Kalua, Director para la Aplicación del Pacto para el Futuro de la Oficina Ejecutiva del Secretario General (virtual);
- Philipp Schönrock, Director del Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (CEPEI);
- Rolando Pelicot Ruiz, Emprendedor social y activista por la paz, la educación y la acción climática y miembro de The Resolution Project;
- Rosario Díaz Garavito, Cofacilitadora de la coalición de impacto de América y el Caribe por el Pacto para el Futuro;
- Marcela Browne, Coordinadora de Educación de la Fundación SES de la Argentina;
- Mario Lubetkin, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores del Uruguay (por video);
- Paul Chet Greene, Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores, Comercio Internacional e Inmigración de Antigua y Barbuda;
- Pauline Antoine-Prospere, Secretaría Parlamentaria del Ministerio de Educación, Desarrollo Sostenible, Innovación, Ciencia, Tecnología y Formación Profesional de Santa Lucía;
- Kennethia Douglas, Gerente Sénior de Proyectos de Desarrollo Sostenible y Punto Focal Nacional de Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo del Ministerio de Planificación y Desarrollo de Trinidad y Tabago;
- Nahuel Arenas, Jefe de la Oficina Regional para las Américas y el Caribe de la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres (UNDRR);
- Benito Wheatley, Enviado Especial del Primer Ministro de las Islas Vírgenes Británicas;
- Miosotis Rivas Peña, Directora General de la Oficina Nacional de Estadística de la República Dominicana, miembro del Grupo de Alto Nivel para la Asociación, Coordinación y Creación de Capacidades en Estadísticas para la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y Presidenta de la Conferencia Estadística de las Américas de la CEPAL;
- Freddy Rodríguez, Gerente Regional para América Latina y el Caribe de la Alianza Mundial para los Datos sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible y ex Coordinador de Regulación Estadística en el Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE) de Colombia;
- Abraham Muñoz, Director de Educación para Compartir de México;
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- Denise Silva, Vicepresidenta del Comité Ejecutivo del Instituto Internacional de Estadística;
- Susana Sottoli, Directora Regional para América Latina y el Caribe del Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas;
- Ximena Aguilera, Ministra de Salud de Chile;
- Pilar Torres, Jefa de la Oficina Asesora de Planeación y Estudios Sectoriales del Ministerio de Salud y Protección Social de Colombia;
- Regina Guzmán, Directora a. i. del Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales y Cooperación y encargada de Gobierno Electrónico y Sistemas de la Información del Ministerio de Salud Pública del Uruguay;
- Luisa Cabal, Directora del Equipo Regional de Apoyo del Programa Conjunto de las Naciones Unidas sobre el VIH/Sida (ONUSIDA);

- Giovanni Escalante, Representante en Chile de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS);
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- Estefanía Mirpuri Merino, Directora de la Fundación ONCE para América Latina (FOAL);
- Fernando Flores Fernández, Presidente Municipal de Metepec, Estado de México (virtual);
- Ana Güzemes, Directora de la División de Asuntos de Género de la CEPAL;
- June Soomer, Presidenta del Foro Permanente sobre los Afrodescendientes;
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- Pamela Martín García, representante de Vecinas Feministas;
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- William Díaz Menéndez, Director General de la Dirección General de Cooperación Internacional del Ministerio del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera de Cuba;
- Amalia Dolores García Medina, Senadora y Presidenta de la Comisión Especial de Seguimiento de la Agenda 2030 de México
- Olivier Najjar, Economista Regional de la Agencia Francesa de Desarrollo (AFD);
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