



**Fourth meeting of the
Presiding Officers of the
Regional Conference on
Population and Development in
Latin America and the Caribbean**

Santiago, 9-10 October 2019

Distr.

LIMITED

LC/MDP.4/4

3 March 2020

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

20-00141

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE
REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 9–10 October 2019



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held their fourth meeting on 9 and 10 October 2019 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries in their capacity as Presiding Officers: Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay.

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

4. The following funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations were represented: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

5. Also present were representatives of non-governmental organizations and other special guests.

Chair

6. The composition of the Presiding Officers elected at the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was as follows:

Chair: Peru

Vice-Chairs: Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Suriname and Uruguay.

¹ See the full list of participants in annex 3.

B. AGENDA

7. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Presentation of reports on activities.
 - Report of the Chair
 - Report of the Secretariat
 - Report of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
 3. Report of the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.
 4. Prototype of the virtual platform to contribute to the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.
 5. Reports by governments on progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.
 6. Good practices and pending challenges in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and synergies with related agendas in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 7. Preparatory process of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 8. Other matters.
 9. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

C. PROCEEDINGS

Opening session

8. At the opening session, statements were made by Raul García-Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Gloria Montenegro Figueroa, Minister for Women's Affairs and Vulnerable Populations of Peru, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean; and Pablo Salazar, Regional Adviser on Population and Development of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

9. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of ECLAC, welcoming those present, said that the purpose of the meeting was to continue working on the commitments made by the governments in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

The region's heterogeneity had different dimensions, including demography, as reflected in differences among countries, territories and population groups. The rapid demographic changes under way posed opportunities and challenges. That was particularly true in the case of the age structure, where changes had given rise to a demographic dividend before gradually transiting away from young societies to mature and then to aged societies. Public policies must therefore take into account the possible repercussions of those trends. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (the Cairo Programme of Action) remained relevant, 25 years after its adoption, having laid the foundations for what would be the most advanced and forward-looking global agenda on population and development issues. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development was the regional follow-up to the Cairo Programme of Action.

10. The Minister for Women's Affairs and Vulnerable Populations of Peru, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, said that there was a shared vision of the Montevideo Consensus as a strategic road map for Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of population and development. The ambition was to achieve a more egalitarian society and to build a system that would guarantee greater levels of well-being for the entire population, without any exclusions. While significant progress had been made in various aspects of human development, considerable challenges remained, such as ensuring the inclusion of all citizens, especially the poorest and most excluded members of society, and addressing corruption, which prevented the peoples of the region from benefiting from development. Lastly, the central role of human rights must be reaffirmed in the sustainable development agenda that was expected to be the contribution of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean to the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25: Accelerating the promise, to be held in Nairobi from 12 to 14 November 2019.

11. The Regional Adviser on Population and Development of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNFPA said that the Cairo Programme of Action was a reflection of a shift in the focus of the international development agenda, from concern about population growth and declining fertility to an approach based on the right of all people —especially women— to make decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. That change had been spearheaded by governments, United Nations agencies, the women's movement, and defenders of sexual and reproductive health and rights. All the countries of the region had already introduced specific policies on sexual and reproductive health that covered the public procurement and delivery of modern contraceptives. However, that progress had not benefited everyone equally, as the coverage of key sexual and reproductive health services remained poor as a result of the stigma attached to them or the exclusion of and discrimination against certain groups, such as the rural population, indigenous persons, Afrodescendants, adolescents, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, older persons and persons with disabilities. Consequently, there was still much to be done in that area.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

12. The Chair submitted the provisional agenda for consideration by the Presiding Officers, who adopted it without amendment.

Presentation of reports on activities (agenda item 2)

13. The Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean reported on the activities carried out since the third session of the Regional Conference pursuant to the resolution adopted at that meeting. She said that milestones in the period following the third session of the Conference included the presentation of the *First regional report on the implementation*

of the *Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*² at the at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, held in New York from 1 to 5 April 2019. The report was the region's input to the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In conjunction with the Government of Mexico—in its capacity as coordinator of the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development—and with the technical secretariat, the working group had resumed work on the proposed content of the pending metadata for a set of selected indicators. In that connection, she summarized the working group's meeting held in Panama City on 22 and 23 July 2019, co-organized by ECLAC and UNFPA, which was attended by specialists from the countries of the region, including from civil society and academia.

14. The Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC presented the report by the technical secretariat summarizing the activities that had been carried out to support the Presiding Officers since the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima. He said key activities included the revision and updating of the *Draft first regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*, which had been presented at the third session of the Conference and incorporated countries' comments, suggestions and national reports received after the draft report had been compiled. Support had also been provided to the Chair and the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, regarding their work on pending metadata and with organization of the working group meeting in Panama City. A prototype had been developed of a virtual platform to contribute to regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus, pursuant to the mandate from the third session of the Conference. Upcoming tasks included organizing the fourth session of the Conference, to be held in 2020; monitoring implementation of the Montevideo Consensus in the framework of the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and providing support and technical assistance to the countries of the region in connection with the 2020 census round.

15. The Regional Adviser on Population and Development of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNFPA said there were close links between the follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNFPA cooperation, in keeping with the Montevideo Consensus and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, was the best means of overcoming existing inequality in the region, with a focus on the inclusion of adolescents, young people, women, indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, migrants, older persons and persons with disabilities. To improve links between the Montevideo Consensus and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNFPA was joining forces with the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, and with the working group on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. The capacities of national statistical systems must be strengthened to facilitate the timely generation of high-quality indicators, with the levels of disaggregation needed to identify and monitor inequalities at different levels and in different dimensions, at both the national and subnational levels, with an intersectional approach. In that regard, support for the 2020 census round was important and UNFPA had strengthened its partnership with CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC and with key partners in South-South cooperation.

² LC/CRPD.3/6.

Report of the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (agenda item 3)

16. Pursuant to paragraph 15 of resolution 3(III), adopted by the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean at its third session, the Coordinator of the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development reported on the activities carried out.

17. In his capacity as Coordinator, Raúl Cantú Hernández, Director-General for Population Programmes and International Affairs of the National Population Council (CONAPO) of Mexico, presented the report of the working group.³ He said that the main aim of the report was to relate the progress made in preparing metadata for the selected indicators, and to disseminate the methodology, results and lessons learned. Technical officers from eight countries of the region, together with representatives of international agencies, civil society organizations and academic institutions, had worked on the metadata of 22 indicators. The report's conclusions indicated that the definitions of some metadata were still rudimentary, so some adjustments would probably need to be made. Greater synergy was needed with other indicators, so that a comprehensive proposal could be formulated on the means of obtaining the data required to calculate the indicators. Indicators with pending metadata were difficult to measure in practice, and, even in cases where suitable, clear metadata could be obtained, laborious technical discussions and agreement building would still be necessary.

Prototype of the virtual platform to contribute to the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (agenda item 4)

18. Under this agenda item, the secretariat presented a prototype virtual platform to contribute to regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, pursuant to paragraph 18 of resolution 3(III) of the third session of the Regional Conference.

19. Fabiana del Popolo, Coordinator of the Demography and Population Information Area of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC presented the prototype of the virtual platform, its features and the challenges in terms of maintenance and updating. She described its five components in detail. She said that the core components were national actions and the system of indicators, while the other three components related to the institutional framework, the documents from the sessions of the Conference and the meetings of its Presiding Officers, and the national progress reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus. The platform would seek to establish synergies and two-way relationships with the other information systems developed by ECLAC, to avoid duplicating efforts in terms of the data burden. In order for the platform to function properly, it would require the commitment of all stakeholders. A protocol must also be developed for the maintenance and updating of that tool.

Reports by governments on progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (agenda item 5)

20. Under this agenda item, the government representatives presented their respective reports on the progress made at the national level in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. The following countries detailed their progress and remaining challenges: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador,

³ LC/MDP.4/3.

Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Uruguay.⁴

21. From the delegations of the Caribbean countries, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda referred to programmes in each of the priority areas. Among other matters, she mentioned the topic of disability and the activities of the national vocational and rehabilitation centre for persons with disabilities. The representative of Grenada said a pilot plan for comprehensive sexuality education was being implemented as part of efforts to address the high levels of teenage pregnancy. The representative of Guyana spoke about her country's national action plan against domestic and sexual violence. The representative of Haiti summarized progress in six priority areas related to the themes of the Montevideo Consensus, including the 2013–2016 national strategic plan for reproductive health and family planning, and the national plan to combat gender-based violence. The representative of Jamaica referred to the repercussions of ageing and the related expansion of comprehensive health care services for older persons in his country. The representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis gave an account of the housing and population census to be conducted in 2021. Lastly, the representative of Suriname said that her country was performing its first analysis of the population situation, which would serve as a baseline for the 2022–2026 national development plan.

22. From the delegations of the Latin American countries, the representative of Argentina mentioned a number of developments, including approval of the first national human rights action plan for 2017–2020 and the national plan to prevent unintended adolescent pregnancies (Plan ENIA). The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia referred to that country's bicentennial agenda to strengthen development, and to preparations for the upcoming population census, scheduled for 2022. The representative of Colombia spoke about the progress made in his country, including the 2014–2024 Colombian policy on human ageing and old age, the compact for women's equity, including its chapter on equity in diversity, and the strengthening of the national statistical system. The representative of Cuba highlighted his country's advances, including the full and universal exercise of human rights in education, health, sexual and reproductive health, work and universal access to social security, the elimination of any type of discrimination—whether based on age, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, skin colour, religion or disability—and the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis.

23. The representative of Ecuador outlined the progress made in his country, including reducing poverty, increasing the proportion of live births attended by skilled health personnel, improving the coverage of the social protection system and reducing maternal mortality. With regard to progress in El Salvador, the representative of that country mentioned improvements in access to universal health coverage, building the capacities of the institutions responsible for coordinating compliance with the Montevideo Consensus commitments and increases in the capacity to generate sociodemographic data. The representative of Guatemala said that the population census had been carried out in his country and presented some of its results; he also mentioned some actions undertaken to assist international migrants in transit to Mexico and the United States. The representative of Honduras referred to the establishment and operations of the National Population Council (CONAPO), improvements in social protection and the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the provisions of the general budget of his country, among other developments.

24. The representative of Mexico said that his country's new population policy provided a framework for the national population programme to lay the groundwork for actions to address prevailing demographic trends, focusing on sectors of the population and vulnerable groups that had historically been discriminated against, from the perspectives of human rights, gender, the life cycle and interculturalism. The representative

⁴ The countries' presentations are available on the meeting website [online] <https://crpd.cepal.org/4m/en/programme/reports-governments-progress-implementation-montevideo-consensus-population-and>.

of Panama said that her country faced challenges in terms of inequality and poverty, and that there was a need to include the most vulnerable population groups, including women, young people, Afrodescendants, indigenous peoples and older persons. The representative of Paraguay described her country's national development plan and its links with the SDGs and the Montevideo Consensus commitments.

25. The representative of Peru reaffirmed her country's commitment to the Montevideo Consensus. Among other developments, she said that Peru now had a national public institutional framework, under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, to address population and development issues, as well as a standing national governmental coordination mechanism for following up on the commitments arising from the Consensus. The representative of Uruguay said that inequality had declined in his country, as had fertility rates, particularly among adolescents. A law had also been passed in Uruguay on rights for transgender people. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela described the progress made by his country, including in the availability of sociodemographic data through the national statistical office and in the strengthening of the national geographic statistical system, the implementation of direct cash transfer programmes, such as *Sistema Patria*, and the 2019–2025 national plan for the prevention and reduction of early and adolescent pregnancy.

26. Several representatives said that their countries faced challenges regarding implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus, such as the need for more and better-quality data and analysis, larger budgets, and specific and functional institutional frameworks in countries that did not have them. Where specific institutional frameworks did exist, they required strengthening. Specific challenges included the lags in sex education, in compliance with passed laws and in certain census processes.

Good practices and pending challenges in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and synergies with related agendas in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 6)

27. Three thematic panels were organized to address this agenda item.

Good practices in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

28. The panel discussion was moderated by Juan Carlos Alfonso Fraga, Director of the Centre for Population and Development Studies (CEPDE) of the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) of Cuba. Statements were made by Raúl Cantú Hernández, Director-General for Population Programmes and International Affairs of the Secretariat of the National Population Council (CONAPO) of Mexico; Elena Ramos Tenorio, Director-General of Population, Development and Volunteerism of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Vulnerable Populations of Peru; and Pablo Álvarez, President of the Sectoral Commission on Population and Development of the Office of Planning and the Budget of Uruguay.

29. The Director of the Centre for Population and Development Studies of the National Office of Statistics and Information of Cuba said that the panel, which was aimed at sharing good practices and experiences in the region, was important.

30. The Director-General for Population Programmes and International Affairs of the Secretariat of CONAPO of Mexico said that the National Committee for the Implementation and Follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development had recently been established as a standing national inter-institutional coordination mechanism, which would meet regularly, with participation by civil society organizations, academia and local governments. Progress had been made in prevention of teenage pregnancy through implementation of the national strategy to prevent adolescent pregnancy,

which had been in place for two years and the effects of which could be seen throughout the country and at the local level, as reflected in a decline in pregnancy rates in that age group.

31. The Director-General of Population, Development and Volunteerism of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Vulnerable Populations of Peru described the experience of setting up the Standing Multisectoral Committee for Follow-up and Evaluation of the Montevideo Consensus, which had been established in 2016 pursuant to priority actions 99 and 101 of the Consensus. She said that civil society organizations played a key role in the functioning of the Committee, despite not being *ex officio* members for legal reasons. An absence of data or a lack of updated data created limitations; hence the importance of the intersectoral work being carried out to develop proxy indicators with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI). Civil society had also been involved in the working groups set up to prepare the metadata.

32. The President of the Sectoral Commission on Population and Development of the Office of Planning and the Budget of Uruguay detailed the experience of implementing the intersectoral strategy to prevent unintended adolescent pregnancy, an initiative that had been launched in response to the high adolescent fertility rates in his country compared to the world and regional averages. He said that adolescent fertility rates were an expression and consequence of social inequality and segmentation, and of rights' violations, which seriously affected the future accomplishments of that age group, while undermining their autonomy and self-sufficiency. Hence, a the need for a national strategy that, among other features, would have high-level political support and leadership, with a focus on a rights-, gender- and generations-based approach and rooted in scientific data, that would examine adolescent paternity, by studying the father figure's involvement in pregnancies with a large age differences, and would be cross-sectoral, involving the State, academia and organized civil society.

33. In the discussion that followed, the moderator and national representatives stressed the crucial nature of the topic. The moderator said that it was important for governments to show political will and for indicators to be monitored over time in order to improve them. In Cuba, sex education was available from the primary school level upward. His country also had an institutional framework to follow up on the Montevideo Consensus, in the form of a government committee at the highest level. An integrated system of care was needed, with an intergenerational vision that took into account older persons, so that the burden of care did not fall entirely on families.

34. In the ensuing discussion, representatives of civil society referred to issues including the prevalence of forced early child marriages and unions, rates of which had remained unchanged in the region in the last 25 years, compared to other regions such as Africa and Asia. In that regard, they said that more robust indicators were needed.

Opportunities and challenges of the demographic transformation for sustainable development

35. The panel was moderated by Juan Daniel Oviedo, Director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, and statements were made by Verónica Cerdas Benavides, Auditor in the Office of the Comptroller-General of the Republic of Costa Rica; Roland Pardo Saravia, Deputy Director of Social Policy of the Economic and Social Policy Analysis Unit (UDAPE) of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Nimia Torres, Director of Results-based Management of the Technical Secretariat of Planning for Economic and Social Development of Paraguay; and Andre Richards, Senior Demographer in the Population and Health Unit of the Planning Institute of Jamaica.

36. Before introducing the panellists, the Director of DANE of Colombia said that countries could draw on the methodological tool provided by the National Transfer Accounts approach, to analyse

demographic change in the framework of sustainable development, a technique which recognized the development cycle of populations and helped to promote the concept of intergenerational equity.

37. The Auditor in the Office of the Comptroller-General of the Republic of Costa Rica said that demographic change had a fiscal impact, and that demographic ageing posed challenges for her country. Higher-level audit entities, such as the one she represented, were interested in demographic change because of how it transformed demand for certain public services, especially those focused on specific age groups. Financial sustainability was vital to ensuring provision of social services. Challenges related to demographic change in Costa Rica included the impact on the health system, the pension system's sustainability and the construction of a demographic fiscal framework. That was why the demographic component needed to be incorporated into policies.

38. The Deputy Director of Social Policy of UDAPE of the Plurinational State of Bolivia referred to the opportunities and challenges demographic transition brought. He said that the National Transfer Accounts methodology was an accounting instrument that described the generational economy and analysed the capacity of each generation and age group to share resources, produce, consume and save. Consumption and production evolved differently in some stages of people's life cycles: in childhood and old age, individuals' consumption exceeded production, while in youth and adulthood the opposite was true. The accumulated result of those two stages was called the "life cycle deficit". A national study had been carried out to identify the period called the demographic dividend in his country, to calculate the degree to which demographic change contributed to economic growth and to explore its macroeconomic and social repercussions.

39. The Director of Results-based Management of the Technical Secretariat of Planning for Economic and Social Development of Paraguay described the process of preparing National Transfer Accounts in her country. She said that the Technical Secretariat of Planning was responsible for formulating and following up the 2030 National Development Plan, which contained a national agreement on long-term priority objectives, foreseen as a reference for the government's medium-term planning. Key actions that had been carried out included the regional seminar held in September 2019, entitled "Demographic transition: opportunities and challenges to achieve the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean", organized by CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, and the creation of an inter-institutional technical committee and progress meetings on the process of preparing National Transfer Accounts.

40. The Senior Demographer in the Population and Health Unit of the Planning Institute of Jamaica spoke about demographic changes and their implications in his country. He said that the policy implications of such change related to productivity, social protection, health and infrastructure. With regard to the application of the National Transfer Accounts methodology in Jamaica, the process had recently been resumed and a government-led team had been set up, which included academics among its members. In that regard, in June 2019, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC had facilitated a training session in Jamaica and had also assigned a consultant to advise on production of National Transfer Account estimates.

41. In the ensuing discussion, representatives said that the issue of population ageing would be very high on the region's agenda for the coming decades. Participants also drew attention to informal employment and the global labour crisis, and noted the value of National Transfer Accounts as a tool to raise awareness of the importance of evidence-based policy decision-making.

Synergies with other subsidiary bodies of ECLAC in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

42. The panel was moderated by Fabiana del Popolo, Coordinator of the Demography and Population Information Area of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, and statements were made by Mario Castillo, Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC; Laís Abramo, Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC, and Xavier Mancero, Chief of the Social Statistics Unit of the Statistics Division of ECLAC.

43. The Coordinator of the Demography and Population Information Area of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC said that it was important to follow up the SDGs and that the synergies between follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development must be strengthened.

44. The Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC referred to women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios, and summarized the road map for the run-up to the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. He said that financial globalization, the digital revolution, demographic changes and climate change were the four dimensions of changing economic scenarios, which posed major challenges to gender equality in the region and created structural obstacles. Those structural obstacles were: socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty in the framework of exclusionary growth; discriminatory and violent cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege; the sexual division of labour and unfair social organization of care; and the concentration of power and hierarchical relationships in the public sphere.

45. The Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC referred to the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development and its synergies with the activities of other subsidiary bodies of ECLAC in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that regard, she summarized the progress made by the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean since its creation in 2014 and said that the overall objective of the Regional Agenda was to support implementation of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda, especially in areas linked to the mandates of the ministries of social development and equivalent entities, taking into account the achievements, opportunities and critical obstacles related to inclusive social development in the region. The axes and lines of action of the Regional Agenda were based on, among other things, the concept of inclusive social development, the critical structural and emerging obstacles in the region, the mandates of the ministries of social development and the agreements adopted in regional and subregional intergovernmental forums.

46. The Chief of the Social Statistics Unit of the Statistics Division of ECLAC spoke about the follow-up to the SDGs by the Statistical Conference of the Americas and its synergies with the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. He said that contributions to the regional follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development included the creation of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean to coordinate the process of preparing and implementing regional indicators and to build relevant capacities. In that regard, SDG indicators had been prioritized in order to define a core set of priority indicators that would take regional specificities into account while complementing the global indicator framework, and that would serve to demonstrate the progress made by the countries of the region towards achieving the SDG targets.

47. In the discussion that followed, the moderator noted the progress made by the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC in setting a common agenda for the region and establishing synergies to advance towards attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Participants highlighted women's physical autonomy as another important issue, and an example of a convergence of agendas with the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. They also made reference to the need for national statistical

systems to incorporate a differential and intersectional approach, in order to raise awareness of the role played by demographic change in the socioeconomic trends of the countries of the region.

Preparatory process of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 7)

48. Under this agenda item, the Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC outlined the upcoming activities planned in preparation for the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2020. He said it was important that the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development continue its activities, in order to refine the pending metadata for indicators. The secretariat must also continue to work on the virtual platform to contribute to the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development to ensure that it would be operational in time for the fourth session of the Regional Conference. Furthermore, the secretariat had been tasked with helping the Chair to prepare a proposed timetable for the submission of national reports and of the regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus.

Other matters (agenda item 8)

49. The Regional Adviser on Population and Development of the UNFPA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean gave a presentation on the “Nairobi Summit on ICPD25: Accelerating the promise”, to be held in November 2019. He said that the Summit had been convened jointly under the auspices of the Governments of Kenya and Denmark and UNFPA to accelerate efforts to achieve the goals agreed upon in 1994 at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which were crucial to attaining the SDGs by 2030. The Summit would focus on five themes: universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights as a part of universal health coverage; financing required to complete the Cairo Programme of Action, and to sustain the gains made; drawing on demographic diversity to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development; ending gender-based violence and harmful practices; and upholding the right to sexual and reproductive health care even in humanitarian and fragile contexts.

50. Emiliano Fernández Franco, Director-General for Planning and Evaluation of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare of Paraguay, in his capacity as Chair of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, reported on some of the activities carried out by the countries of the region to support public policy formulation. He said that it was in the interest of the presiding officers of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference—comprising Paraguay as Chair, and Argentina, Costa Rica, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Peru and Uruguay as Vice-Chairs—to continue to strengthen collaborative and coordinated work, in order to ensure that no one was left behind among the region’s older people. In that regard, he called on countries to report on other activities and actions they had undertaken in that framework in order to complete the report of the Chair of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference.

51. Jorge Martínez Pizarro, researcher with CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, presented the publication *Migración y desarrollo sostenible: la centralidad de los derechos humanos. Textos seleccionados 2008-2019*⁵ (available in Spanish only). He said that the volume contained a selection of key texts in which ECLAC reflected on the multiple and complex interrelations between international migration and sustainable development, with human rights as a cross-cutting theme. The document set out the challenges posed by the regional migration agenda in terms of the inclusion of migrants, the institutional and

⁵ LC/M.2019/4.

regulatory frameworks for their protection, the promotion of their rights and efforts to address the factors that exacerbated situations of vulnerability and the needs of specific groups, among other crucial concerns.

52. In the discussion that followed, the representatives of Mexico and Uruguay referred to the Puebla commitments for the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, which were the outcome of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Nairobi Summit, held in Puebla, Mexico, on 26 September 2019,⁶ and which had been distributed to delegations for their information. In that regard, the two representatives expressed their hope that countries would consider the Puebla commitments as the guiding document for the regional position at the upcoming Nairobi Summit.

Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item 9)

53. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the agreements contained in annex 1.

Closing session

54. At the closing session, statements were made by the Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, the Chair of the Presiding Officers and a representative of civil society organizations.

55. The Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC said that the meeting had been positive, and highlighted the report of the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the usefulness of the panels for sharing good practices and guiding the secretariat in its search for synergies with other subsidiary bodies of ECLAC and with United Nations agencies.

56. The representative of civil society expressed thanks for the space provided by the meeting, welcomed the initiative to support the Puebla commitments and called for accelerated implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, which was the most advanced document in the area of population and development, and was a road map for the region which should be translated into laws, policies and resources that benefited the most vulnerable populations, to ensure that no one was left behind.

57. The Chair of the Presiding Officers said that the meeting had provided an opportunity to learn more about what countries were doing to implement the Montevideo Consensus and had provided insight into good practices in that regard. Important agreements had been reached that would be fundamental for the integration of population dynamics into sustainable development, with equality and a rights-based approach. In that connection, she hoped that the countries of the region would be able to leave their mark on the Nairobi Summit. She also drew attention to the role of civil society organizations in each of the countries and thanked them for their efforts, as they had made key contributions to moving forward with the integration of population dynamics into sustainable development with equality and a rights-based approach, among other things. Lastly, she said that a new, inclusive vision of social development was needed, with interdisciplinary work that encompassed areas such as education, employment and health. It was also essential to work with local, district and municipal governments to effectively disseminate both the Montevideo Consensus and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

⁶ See annex 2.

Annex 1

AGREEMENTS

At their fourth meeting, held on 9 and 10 October 2019 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to:

1. *Commend* the countries of the region upon the progress made in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and call for redoubled efforts to address the remaining challenges to its full implementation;
2. *Recognize* the contribution of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development to global follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014;
3. *Also recognize* the contribution of the Montevideo Consensus to the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in accordance with resolution 723(XXXVII), adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-seventh session, and invite member States to foster its implementation as a mechanism for accelerating the implementation of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda;
4. *Acknowledge with appreciation* the work carried out by the member countries of the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, under the coordination of Mexico, and urge them to strengthen their joint work with Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean;
5. *Welcome* the document *Report of the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*,¹ submitted to the Presiding Officers at this fourth meeting, and appreciate the progress made by the working group in the definition of pending metadata;
6. *Extend* the mandate of the working group for an indefinite period, until the Presiding Officers decide to dismantle it, in order to continue progressing with the preparation of pending metadata and to act as a forum for experience-sharing and cooperation among countries regarding the measurement of indicators for follow-up to the Montevideo Consensus;
7. *Request* the working group, with the support of the member countries of the group and the technical secretariat, to prepare, by 31 December 2019, a proposal of ongoing activities to define the pending metadata, including mechanisms and possible resources to ensure their implementation, and to report on the progress of these activities at the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

¹ LC/MDP.4/3.

8. *Welcome* the prototype of the virtual platform to contribute to the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and request that the secretariat, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, present the website of the platform based on this prototype, including a detailed proposal for updating its content, at the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development;

9. *Ask* the Chair of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of the secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund, to prepare a proposed timeline for the submission of national reports and of the regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, in line with global cycle of review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, and with the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Request* the secretariat to prepare a technical study on international migration in the region in the framework of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, to be presented at the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

11. *Also requests* the secretariat, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, to continue to help strengthen capacities in the countries of the region to conduct the 2020 round of population and housing censuses and to produce, disseminate and analyse sociodemographic and economic information, by providing technical assistance, promoting experience-sharing and South-South cooperation, and drafting technical recommendations in these matters;

12. *Invite* the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas, to strengthen synergies and broaden instances for cooperation in areas relating to the themes of the Montevideo Consensus, with the participation of civil society;

13. *Request* the Chair of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to report on the progress of the activities of the Conference at the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development and the thirtieth-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2020;

14. *Express gratitude* for the work done by the countries serving as Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular by Peru in its capacity as Chair;

15. *Thank* the secretariat for the support provided to the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in organizing their fourth meeting and preparing the corresponding documentation;

16. *Also thank* the United Nations Population Fund for its collaboration in national and regional activities carried out to implement and follow up the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and congratulate the Fund on its fiftieth anniversary;

17. *Appreciate* the participation of civil society organizations and academia in the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and their contributions to it, as well as their unfailing commitment to the dissemination, implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development;

18. *Acknowledge* and appreciate the significance of the high-level conference to advance implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, convened by the United Nations Population Fund and the Governments of Kenya and Denmark from 12 to 14 November 2019 in Nairobi, and ratify the commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean to continue to implement the Montevideo Consensus as a road map for the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development 25 years after its adoption;

19. *Takes note* of the distribution in the meeting of the document “Unfinished business: the pursuit of rights and choices for all. Puebla Commitments”, the outcome of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Nairobi Summit, held in Puebla, Mexico, on 26 September 2019;

20. *Welcome* the interest expressed by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in hosting the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in the second half of 2020;

21. *Urge* the countries to make every effort to send high-level, inclusive, diverse and pluralistic official delegations to the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, including representatives from ministries and national offices involved in the population and development agenda, and representatives of civil society and academic organizations that support the Montevideo Consensus process.

Annex 2

Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Nairobi Summit

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: THE PURSUIT OF RIGHTS AND CHOICES FOR ALL

PUEBLA COMMITMENTS

Mexico, September 26 2019

Introduction

25 years ago, the Cairo Programme of Action was adopted, and in 2010 the United Nations General Assembly extended its mandate indefinitely, considering its commitments, measures and objectives were still valid and crucial development challenges still existed, and crucial outstanding challenges to development still existed. In April 2019, at the 52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development, the importance of this Programme as a guiding principle for policies in the field was ratified, and both Member States and UN Agencies made a commitment to undertake new actions to ensure and accelerate its full and effective implementation.

In 2013, Latin America and the Caribbean reaffirmed their support for the Cairo Agenda and reached the world's most progressive agreement in the field –the Montevideo Consensus. A broad and consistent agenda that focuses on people and includes priority measures in 9 strategic areas of development, in addition to specific frameworks for action for their implementation. By prioritizing and giving visibility to all persons by placing them at the center of the development agenda, this Consensus is also a key accelerator to fulfill the 2030 Agenda and ensure the fulfillment of the binding commitments established in various instruments and recommendations of international and regional human rights organizations subscribed and adopted by countries in the region.¹

As a result of a 2014 decision of the United Nations General Assembly, intergovernmental regional agreements are now an integral part of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agenda in the corresponding regions. In 2015, at ECLAC's 2nd Regional Conference on Population and Development (RCPD), countries approved an Operational Guide for its implementation and follow-up, and at the 3rd RCPD meeting, they approved a set of indicators to monitor its implementation. In addition, in the context of the celebration of the 25 years of the Cairo Programme of Action and the preparation of the Nairobi Summit, these commitments are being expanded and enriched through regional forums and initiatives hosted by UNFPA and other partners, such as *"165 million reasons: a call to invest in adolescents and youth"*, the high-level forum and meeting *"Accelerating global action for the fulfillment of the rights of people of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean"*. On the other hand, the *"Dialogue with Caribbean youth, civil society partners and parliamentarians"* (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, August 27-29 2019), and the *Youth Now! Regional Camp* (Puebla, Mexico, September 21-23 2019) have made their own commitments.

¹ Areas of Consensus: A. Full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights; B. Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth, C. Aging, social protection and socioeconomic challenges, D. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, E. Gender equality, F. International migration and protection of the human rights of all migrants, G. Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability, H. Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights; I. Afro-descendants: rights and the fight against racism and racial discrimination. The Consensus also includes measures related to frameworks for the implementation of the future regional agenda on population and development (Chapter J).

The Montevideo Consensus (MC) is a comprehensive agenda based on solid principles such as those of democracy, secularism, inclusion, portability of rights and integrality. Its measures focus on the needs of adolescents and young people, children, Afro-descendants, indigenous people, rural women, persons with disabilities, migrants, elderly people, female sexual workers and the LGBTIQ+ population, recognizing their full rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, and setting high standards in the areas of population and development. In this context of solid agreements and clear aspirations, from the city of Puebla and with a broad set of commitments already made by institutions, organizations, networks and individuals, and with the Montevideo Consensus as a compass, Latin America and the Caribbean joins the commemoration of the 25 years of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the global imperative of delivering the promises of the Cairo agenda, so that no one is left behind. Fulfilling these commitments also requires an urgent call to address the environmental crisis and the differential impact it has on women and young people.

We are aware that the region and the world are going through a moment of cultural change characterized, on one hand, by the strength of youth, women's and feminist movements and other social actors that are defending the rights they have already conquered and protesting against criminalization of abortion, sexual harassment, sexual violence, femicide and hate crimes, among others, and in favor of the rights of LGBTIQ+ populations, gender parity in political participation and changing the sexual division of labor. This strength is backed by major achievements in policies and normative frameworks in the region related to many of the main themes of the Montevideo Consensus, as well as achievements in the areas of indicators and legitimacy in particular. On the other hand, this moment of cultural change is characterized by the intense counter-mobilization of fundamentalist, conservative and anti-rights groups seeking to cause setbacks or stall the movement for equality and rights, as well as policies on equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, comprehensive sexuality education or abortion, by promoting messages and actions to incite hatred, fear, discrimination or violence, including institutional violence, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia.

The leadership of Latin America and the Caribbean has been, and is, key to the defense of the Cairo Programme of Action worldwide. It is crucial for the international community to look back and prioritize work in this region to strengthen civil society organizations and other stakeholders committed to this agenda to ensure the full implementation of the Montevideo Consensus.

In this context, gathered in the city of Puebla in preparation for the Nairobi Summit, those of us who, in Latin America and the Caribbean, from different places in society, advocate the full implementation of the Montevideo Consensus and the Cairo Programme of Action, as well as other agreements focusing on human rights, such as the Beijing Platform of Action, encourage all individuals, governments, parliamentarians, social movements (women, feminists, children, adolescents and young people, Afro-descendant, indigenous, rural and LGBTIQ+ persons, elderly people, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV, female sex workers and migrants), the media, the private sector, academia and international organizations, to adopt the following "Puebla Commitments".

1. **Address inequality and strengthen the rule of law and democracy.** To this end, it is essential to address social determinants, in their different forms, for the full achievement of the agenda of the Cairo Programme of Action and its regional expression, the Montevideo Consensus, in close connection with the 2030 Agenda. Today, despite the many achievements made, challenges in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights and population are concentrated in certain groups, especially those of women, girls and adolescents, Afro-descendant youth, indigenous people, migrants, LGBTIQ+ persons, persons with disabilities., persons living with HIV, rural and

peasant women, and female sex workers, which means there is an urgent and unavoidable need to work with a focus on their needs and rights and an intersectional approach. In this regard, it is necessary to guarantee the rule of law and consolidate democracy through civic participation, transparency and accountability mechanisms.

2. **Guarantee financial resources.** Ensure that all policies and normative protection frameworks achieved in the region have sufficient, incremental and sustained resources in international financing, international cooperation and national and local budgets to advance their implementation. Also, explore new financing structures and instruments aligned with such protection frameworks, in order to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action.
3. **Consolidate information systems.** Work to ensure official information and data collection systems, without any additional promises, incorporate the disaggregated variables necessary to follow up on the implementation of the multiple agreements of the Cairo agenda in the region - including those of the international human rights framework- with the aim of identifying new challenges and needs and ensure all policy initiatives are based on evidence, promoting inclusion, social participation and accountability.
4. **Fight impunity.** Effectively address impunity in cases involving violence for gender, sexual orientation or gender identity reasons, in addition to violations of sexual and reproductive rights, so they are eliminated in our societies, including in situations of emergency, conflict or disaster, effectively condemned by justice and rejected by society; protect due diligence to ensure effective access to justice, as well as protection, sanctions and redress, through justice administration protocols with a gender and intercultural perspective. This response must include the eradication of biases and stereotypes that deny sexual and gender diversity in all the branches of the State - including the judiciary- to ensure justice free of stigma and discrimination.
5. **Eliminate restrictive normative frameworks.** As a region, we must work to eliminate all laws that limit access to sexual and reproductive health information and services or the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights. No country in the region should continue to lag behind with respect of the international human rights commitments of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development or other international and regional human rights instruments periodically followed up through diverse monitoring mechanisms and bodies, including their periodic recommendations to the States.
6. **Protect equality as an asset of mankind.** We express our firm commitment to gender equality as an asset of mankind and, as leaders of this agenda, which promotes partnerships, we will address -with arguments and reliable information- the threats and setbacks promoted by fundamentalist, conservative and anti-rights movements against policies, individuals and their rights.
7. **Defend the diversity and plurality of our societies.** To this end, we commit to advocating an equal, diverse and plural society where all the different forms of families and all cultural, ethnic, sexual and gender identities that make us a particular and diverse continent can coexist in a safe manner. To fulfill the unfinished business of the Cairo agenda, these advocacy efforts involve protecting and guaranteeing all rights for all persons, and strengthening those civil society organizations and movements advocating and promoting its implementation, so they can work

freely in a safe environment, guaranteeing participation mechanisms and ending the criminalization of different social struggles, including the protection of human rights advocates.

8. **Advocate the secular nature of States.** We also advocate the secular nature of the State as a democratic principle and an essential condition for the protection and respect of individual freedoms and the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, free of stereotypes –including those associated to gender–, religious constraints and all forms of discrimination and hatred.
9. **Respect, protect and guarantee human rights.** For all persons, without discrimination for reasons of sexual orientation, gender identity or sexual characteristics.
10. **Guarantee the inclusion of all persons in statistical data.** In this regard, we bring attention to the need to: produce information, at the highest level of detail possible, in each country, and build capacities to address development and population dynamics; count every person as part of the principle of leaving no one behind, eliminating their invisibility; facilitating the participation of populations through consultations in order to have reliable, timely and quality statistical information, with a gender perspective and disaggregated territorially and by sex, age, ethnicity and socioeconomic condition, for purposes of decision making and the formulation, follow-up, and evaluation of development policies and programmes; and incorporate population dynamics to understand the different interrelationships with the social, cultural, economic and environmental dimensions of development.
11. **Address migration in a comprehensive fashion.** Promote conditions for safe, regular and orderly migration, recognizing the different contexts that define the particular situation of each migrant person. Ensure the full integration of the migrant population, regardless of their immigration status and situation, as well as that of refuge or asylum seekers, to ensure the full respect and exercise of their human rights in equal conditions as those of people living in the territories they arrive in; and ensure States in the region assume the full protection of the rights of their fellow countrymen and women living abroad. Strengthen bonds and bridges of solidarity, protection, and comprehensive and differentiated support for migrants in transit to guarantee their right to free transit and mobility in countries in the region, and promote the design and implementation of policies for reintegration of the population of return migrants in their countries and places of origin. Finally, ensure humanitarian protection for migrant and displaced populations, with a focus on unaccompanied migrant children.
12. **Invest in adolescents and youth.** Prioritize investments in adolescents and youth, within a human rights framework that guarantees social protection, access to formal and informal public, universal, secular, intercultural, free of discrimination, free and quality education, to comprehensive health (including sexual and reproductive health), work and employment in decent conditions, and to meaningful youth participation in the whole process of public policies. All of this must take place in an environment free of violence and without criminalizing or stigmatizing youth, and taking into account the specific needs of those living in urban, peripheral or rural areas. Along the same lines, it is the responsibility of States to create enabling contexts to generate empowerment and participation opportunities and spaces so young people can realize their full potential.
13. **Promote the development of comprehensive development and environmental public policies.** These policies must address the relationship between population dynamics and environmental

sustainability as a key aspect of sustainable development, as well as the implementation of strategies to prevent and mitigate both the adverse impact of human activities on the environment, and the effects of climate change, disasters and environmental changes on human populations.

14. **Promote the mainstreaming of the gender perspective and non-discrimination in all the structures of the State.** The aim of this mainstreaming should be the empowerment and autonomy of women, girls, adolescents and youth in all their diversity. This includes respect for, and the protection of, their personal integrity, guaranteeing non-discrimination or coercion, and providing information based on scientific evidence to make decisions regarding reproduction and sexuality. It also requires promoting a gender, non-discrimination and non-violence culture in the media and the education system at all levels.
15. **Eliminate all forms of gender-based violence.** Particular attention should be paid to violence against women in all their diversity and throughout their life cycle, including sexual violence, hate crimes, violence against trans persons, migrant smuggling, human trafficking for sexual and labor exploitation, cyber harassment, obstetric violence, sexual orientation "conversion therapies", and violence linked to organized crime. To this end, we expect to see the implementation of effective prevention, protection, support, sanction and redress strategies.
16. **End harmful practices.** Address, in a comprehensive fashion, the issues of child, early and forced marriages and unions, with laws and policies focusing on strengthening autonomy and the cultural change of social gender norms that perpetuate discrimination and the invisibility of girls and adolescent girls as subjects of rights. These harmful practices include the elimination of female genital mutilation and arbitrary interventions targeted at intersex children.
17. **Eradicate child pregnancy.** This assumes the existence of comprehensive prevention, support, assistance and redress intersectoral policies and actions, recognizing forced child pregnancy as a form of torture.
18. **Promote the reconfiguration of the sexual division of labor.** Increase commitments and the consolidation of pacts between the State, the market and families to reduce women's total working time, improve their access to quality employment, increase their free time, provide child care spaces at the workplace and distribute unpaid work in the household. This also includes the creation and implementation by States of care, support and social protection systems, in addition to achieving a balance between work and family life, and changing the sexual division of labor in the household and the excessive work load for women, as well as joint family responsibilities. Particular attention should be paid to the full rights of children, persons with disabilities and elderly persons, seeking their well-being and increasing their autonomy.
19. **Respect and guarantee of reproductive self-determination.** We expect all the people in the region to exercise their sexual and reproductive self-determination based on reliable and timely information, as well as their own free will and conscience.
20. **Guarantee access to, and universal coverage of, comprehensive SRH services.** Comprehensive quality services based on the best scientific evidence possible should be provided, including safe abortion services and accessible information. These comprehensive services require building institutional capacities, including strengthening the role of health care providers and not only

those of the medical area, with an intercultural perspective and relevance, and an intersectional approach.^{2,3}

21. **Reduce access, coverage and quality of care gaps.** Provide comprehensive care for all persons without discrimination, with a particular focus on those who concentrate the biggest disadvantages and worse indicators –indigenous, Afro-descendant and rural women, female sex workers, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV, girls, adolescents and youth, and rural, migrant and LGBTIQ+ populations.
22. **Ensure the effective implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programmes.** These programmes should promote universal, secular, intercultural, free of discrimination, free, accessible and quality CSE since early childhood, with respect for the progressive autonomy of children and adolescents and young people's informed decisions regarding their sexuality, with a participatory, intercultural, gender and human rights approach in formal and informal education settings.
23. **Achieve zero preventable maternal deaths and unmet demand for contraception.** With a focus on reducing inequalities, achieve zero preventable maternal and perinatal deaths and zero unmet demand for modern contraceptives for all persons, guaranteeing the availability of a wide range of methods in primary level of care services, ensuring free and informed choices. Also, eliminate the vertical transmission of HIV, obstetric violence in all practices related to sexuality and reproduction, and overmedicalization of childbirth.
24. **Ensure access to timely, safe and quality abortion services.** Where abortion is legal or has been decriminalized, ensure access to services, prevent and avoid unsafe abortion, and promote amendments to penal codes to eliminate the category of illegal abortion, as well as creating laws, public policies and public budgets sufficient to ensure access to voluntary termination of pregnancy
25. **Eradicate unintended adolescent pregnancy and forced pregnancy among girls and adolescents.** Implement evidence-based interventions to eliminate the legal barriers to access by this population to services, by improving SRH services, CSE, counseling and the provision of modern contraceptives, as well as access to legal termination of pregnancy, under the current normative framework, and preventing and avoiding unsafe abortion; and promote a comprehensive and intersectoral approach to sexual abuse, inclusive education and social protection.

² Observe the SRH definition of the LANCET-Guttmacher Commission: <https://www.guttmacher.org/guttmacher-lancet-commission>.

³ This commitment is consistent with the PAHO/WHC concept of Access and Universal Coverage.

Annex 3

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- Emilio Arcia Gil, Ministro Consejero, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Chile, email: emilioarcia@gmail.com

**B. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies**

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

- Laura González, Especialista Regional en Evaluación, email: laura.gonzalez@unwomen.org

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Sayo Aoki, Representante Adjunta, Chile, email: saoki@unicef.org

Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Pablo Salazar Canelos, Asesor Regional en Población y Desarrollo, Panamá, email: salazarcanelos@unfpa.org
- Seth Broekman, Deputy Director, Subregional Office for the Caribbean, Jamaica, email: broekman@unfpa.org
- Juan José Calvo, Representante Nacional, Uruguay, email: calvo@unfpa.org
- Judicael Elidge, Deputy Representative, Haití, email: elidje@unfpa.org

**C. Organismos especializados
Specialized agencies**

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Maya Takagi, Líder Regional de Programas de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, email: maya.takagi@fao.org

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)/International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- José Estay, Chile, email: jestay@iom.int

**D. Organizaciones intergubernamentales
Intergovernmental organizations**

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

- Sebastián Miller, Economista, Chile, email: smiller@iadb.org

Comunidad Andina (CAN)

- Patricia Oblitas Villegas, Funcionaria Internacional, Secretaría General, Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, email: patricia_blas@outlook.com

Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (OEI)/Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI)

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**E. Panelistas y moderadores
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- Myrna Flores, Gerente, Programa Género y Derechos Sexuales y Derechos Reproductivos, email: mlflores@profamilia.org.do

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Centro de la Mujer Peruana “Flora Tristán”

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CIES Salud Sexual-Salud Reproductiva

- Pahola Peñaranda, Responsable Nacional de Educación, Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, email: capahola1@hotmail.com

Federación Internacional de Planificación Familiar-Región del Hemisferio Occidental (IPPF/RHO)/International Planned Parenthood Federation-Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR)

- Ricardo Baruch Domínguez, Regional Advocacy Officer, México, email: rbaruch@ippfwhr.org
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