



**Regional Conference  
on Social Development**  
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Brasília, 2–4 September 2025

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**REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Brasília, 2–4 September 2025



UNITED NATIONS



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## A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

### Place and date of the meeting

1. The sixth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Brasília from 2 to 4 September 2025 in conjunction with the seventeenth Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, by virtue of a joint declaration signed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in October 2014 with the aim of fostering synergies.

### Attendance<sup>1</sup>

2. Representatives of the following member States of ECLAC participated in the meeting: Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye and Uruguay.

3. Attending from the Secretariat of the United Nations were representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Resident Coordinator Office in Brazil.

4. Representatives of the following entities of the United Nations system also attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration, International Telecommunications Union, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and United Nations Population Fund.

5. Also in attendance were representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, League of Arab States, MERCOSUR, Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture.

6. Representatives of the following cooperation agencies, financial institutions and development banks were also present: Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions, Inter-American Development Bank and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

7. Panellists and members of non-governmental organizations and the academic sector also participated.

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<sup>1</sup> See the full list of participants in annex 3.

### **Election of Presiding Officers**

8. The Conference elected the following Presiding Officers:

Chair: Brazil

Vice-Chairs: Barbados, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay

### **B. AGENDA**

9. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of Presiding Officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report by the Chair on the activities carried out since the fifth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Presentation of the document *Latin America and the Caribbean 30 Years on from the World Summit for Social Development: Towards a Global Pact for Inclusive Social Development*.
5. Review of the document *Latin America and the Caribbean 30 Years on from the World Summit for Social Development: Towards a Global Pact for Inclusive Social Development*.
6. Other matters.
7. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

### **C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

#### **Opening session**

10. At the opening session, statements were made by Wellington Dias, Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil; Javiera Toro, Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile; Almudena Fernández, Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP; Silvia Rucks, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Brazil; and José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC (virtual).

11. The Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil, after submitting the provisional agenda for adoption, thanked the Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile, outgoing Chair of the Conference, and gave her the floor.

12. The Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile said that it was important to revitalize multilateralism by adopting new targets and tools to address the most pressing issues, as well as by defending rights and strengthening the backbone of democracy. Latin America and the Caribbean had the ability and the obligation to undertake those efforts at the international level. Sustainable social development, which must constitute one of the pillars of the renewed agenda, required strong, universal social protection, an area in which her country had made progress. Regional cooperation was key with regard to lessons learned, innovation and safeguarding achievements. In that connection, she highlighted the leadership of the Brazilian people, who had shown that it was possible to achieve growth while leaving no one behind and that social protection was essential not just for poverty reduction but also for strengthening the relationship between the State and citizens. She called for joint regional action and solidarity, with the conviction that a different development model was both possible and necessary.

13. The Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP said that the layered nature of the region's multiple challenges amplified their individual effects and put human and social development progress in jeopardy. Social development must guide the collective response to those challenges, as social policy and social protection systems were decisive shock absorbers in times of crisis. Indeed, an investment in universal, inclusive and sustainable social protection was an investment in stability, productivity and social cohesion. Drawing upon data and regional dialogue, she identified three priorities: adaptive social protection systems that could cultivate societal resilience; solid and coordinated institutions; and sustainable and innovative financing. The 2025 Regional Human Development Report published by UNDP also identified the need for resilient human development as the cornerstone of regional development.

14. The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Brazil referred to the importance of the session's position document and its call for an inclusive social development pact. She discussed collaboration between the United Nations and Brazilian institutions on strategic national priorities and the response to the climate emergency in Rio Grande do Sul in 2024, including the provision of United Nations advisory services in the recovery and reconstruction process, in which ECLAC damage and loss assessments had been key. Global and regional agendas could only be advanced through transformative policies with local roots. Social development was a policy issue that required decisions, broad pacts and renewed commitments among governments, civil society, the private sector and international organizations. Throughout its history, Latin America and the Caribbean had demonstrated its ingenuity and solidarity in responding to crises. Now more than ever, it was necessary to leverage those attributes in service of a joint, people-centred regional approach and to urge the global community to take up that collective commitment as well.

15. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the session offered an especially well-timed opportunity to craft the region's key messages ahead of the upcoming Second World Summit for Social Development, in Doha. It was necessary to acknowledge the reality of a new global order in which multilateral action and supporting organizations were viewed with increasing scepticism, and to analyse implications for international commitments and cooperation. In that regard, ECLAC had stressed the need to rethink strategies for economic, social and environmental transformation, in view of the multiple simultaneous crises that had deepened existing inequalities and threatened previous achievements. In particular, there were three interrelated traps hindering progress in the region: low capacity for growth; high inequality and low social mobility and cohesion; and weak institutional capacities and ineffective governance. A renewed pact for inclusive social development must be firmly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the core themes that had been addressed at the Summit of the Future, as called for in the position document *Latin America and the Caribbean 30 Years on from the First World Summit for Social Development: Towards a Global Pact for Inclusive Social Development*, which would be presented later that day.

Report by the Chair on the activities carried out since the fifth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

16. The report was presented by Javiera Toro, Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile, who referred to the achievements of the fifth session of the Conference, held in October 2023, and the special meetings and sixth regular meeting of its Presiding Officers, held in April and October 2024 and March 2025, respectively. In addition, she noted joint preparations with the Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil for the present session and for the implementation of agreements to craft the region's contribution to the Second World Summit, to be held in November 2025.

17. The Minister also referred to efforts in the areas of labour inclusion and social protection, saying that Latin American and Caribbean input to the global discussion on the adoption of an inclusive social development pact was key. Thirty years on from the first World Summit for Social Development, an opportunity to establish a new global agreement on social development lay before them. She invited attendees to reimagine a development model that recognized the strategic nature of social policy on care, funded early childhood care and provided a respite for caregivers, with a view to freeing up capacity to drive consumption and entrepreneurship. Lastly, she called upon countries to share knowledge and experiences, as progress in one country generated useful information and reduced the costs of progress for the others.

*Special statement on the road to the Second World Summit for Social Development*

18. The special statement was delivered by Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (by video), who said that the path towards the Second World Summit was rooted in decades of multilateral efforts to promote human well-being, equity and inclusion. The goals of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action adopted in 1995 had been reinforced at subsequent high-level meetings that had set the stage for renewed global commitments, from the Millennium Summit and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) to the Summit of the Future and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development. The contributions of the wider United Nations system, in particular ECLAC, were greatly appreciated in that regard. The Summit in Doha would provide an opportunity to review progress made since Copenhagen and define new strategies to address social development challenges that persisted, despite significant progress, in a context marked by global crises and rapid change. Latin America and the Caribbean, with its rich history of social innovation, had a vital role to play in aligning regional priorities with the outcomes of the Summit. He urged governments to participate at the highest level and stakeholders to present successful social development initiatives during the Solution Sessions of the Summit. He wished participants productive discussions and looked forward to the region's contributions in building a more inclusive and equitable world.

Presentation of the document *Latin America and the Caribbean 30 Years on from the World Summit for Social Development: Towards a Global Pact for Inclusive Social Development* (agenda item 4)

19. The document was presented by Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC. Statements were made by the Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile and the Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil.

20. The Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC discussed the process of drafting the region's proposal for a global pact for inclusive social development. In the 30 years since the first Summit,

the world had changed significantly. Progress had been made in social development and the fight against poverty, but structural gaps persisted alongside geopolitical, health and economic crises, demographic changes and emerging forms of violence. The Second World Summit offered a unique chance to share advances, identify opportunities and common ground, and draw attention to urgent matters. After citing the principal social development milestones reached in the region in the preceding three decades, he said that the position document proposed an inclusive social development strategy to enable a life free from poverty, hunger and inequality and a level of well-being based on high, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in order to build people's capacities and ensure the full exercise of their economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.

21. The Chief of the Division said that progress on measuring multidimensional inequality was a necessary foundation for designing policies related to housing, education, labour and disability, among other areas. Social protection systems, once structured primarily around formal jobs, had evolved into a broader set of entitlements, including income transfers and care policies, with the expansion of the non-contributory component and the integration of universalism sensitive to differences. If the current state of affairs continued, ending poverty would take half a century. Therefore, a standard level of social investment and funding for non-contributory social protection —1.5–2.5% of GDP or 5%–10% of annual public expenditure— was proposed to end poverty. Heading into the Second World Summit, there was broad consensus on the regional priorities of eradicating poverty and hunger and reducing inequality, with commitments on advancing towards inclusive and cohesive societies and on the need to link quality public policies with universal, comprehensive, sustainable and resilient social protection systems and with strengthened sectoral policies, particularly on education, labour inclusion and health.

22. The Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile said that the document was a testament to the region's leadership and potential as a substantial contributor in overcoming various challenges, as had been well established by ECLAC. Progress on anti-poverty efforts, social protection and the strengthening of related ministries was deserving of recognition, but Latin America and the Caribbean, still the most unequal region in the world, could not afford to rest on those achievements. The proposed pact must enable progress towards a new development model, and there was also the challenge of regaining people's trust in the State's role in those areas. Chile was pursuing care as the fourth pillar of social protection, which it viewed as a strategic sector for social investment, as care policies affected policies in the labour, health and education sectors, among others. In that regard, the planning function of the State must be recognized as an engine for social progress. She called for clear priorities that reflected the true needs of the people and for courage in defending positions under scrutiny.

23. The Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil said that his country welcomed the document. The region had strengthened social policy institutions (ministries of social development or equivalent entities) in almost all countries and possessed a breadth of experience in designing strategic policies, such as income transfer and school meal programmes, and care policies. However, there was room for continued improvement, especially in care for older persons, focusing not just on those who receive care but also on caregivers —largely women— who devoted their lives to caring for others. At the Second World Summit, the region must leverage its authoritative position to advocate for an inclusive social development pact as set forth in the document, presenting a united front and coordinating the efforts of countries, the United Nations and partners.

24. The Conference then proceeded to the reading of the civil society statement contained in annex 2.

25. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Paraguay said that his country also welcomed the document, which would enable progress towards the social targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development and make it possible to proactively address future challenges. Although poverty had been reduced in recent years thanks to economic growth, women's increased labour participation and the rise in public social spending, greater public investment was needed in education and in accessible and quality health systems. After citing the social protection policies that his country had implemented to address poverty, hunger and inequality, as well as legislative reforms and increased social spending, he conveyed Paraguay's offer to host the seventh session of the Regional Conference and reaffirmed its commitment to the achievement of social inclusion, the eradication of poverty, full employment and decent work for all.

26. The representative of Spain said that the economic, social, climate and technological challenges of the present moment called for a profound renewal of the global commitment to social development. His country recognized the urgent need for progress on a global pact for inclusive social development centred on human dignity, equality and sustainability. Even in those uncertain times, his country remained committed to cooperating, through the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), with Latin America and the Caribbean. Social development must be a central dimension of the international agenda, on an equal footing with the economic, environmental, digital and security dimensions. As ever, Spain stood ready to work with the countries of the region, multilateral organizations and civil society stakeholders to build more cohesive, resilient and sustainable societies in line with the 2030 Agenda, mindful that the task at hand was not just to redress inequalities but to overhaul development models and leave no one behind.

27. The representative of Colombia reaffirmed his country's dedication to social development and said that the position document reinforced Colombia's commitment to consolidating efforts across the region to improve the well-being of all people, in particular the most disadvantaged, who were most affected by climate crises, globalization, demographic changes and emerging technologies. Strides had been made, but a clear and decisive approach was required to address the major gaps and challenges that still remained. Ending poverty, creating decent jobs and fostering social inclusion were essential for fairer and more equitable countries. He called for commitments that would ensure equal opportunities, especially for Indigenous Peoples, Afrodescendants and other historically excluded groups, and for an approach focused on the most vulnerable populations, inclusion, human rights protection and environmental justice.

28. The representative of Costa Rica said that inclusive social development was a guiding principle for policymakers in her country, where poverty had been reduced, especially among women heads of household and rural populations. Costa Rica had established four non-negotiables with respect to inclusive development: (i) the products and services offered must be useful to the people and not necessarily to institutions; (ii) decisions must be evidence-based, and the beneficiary enrolment system must be strengthened with an eye towards accountability and transparency; (iii) employment and self-employment could be generated through the concept of social promotion; and (iv) the implemented measures must be supported by inter-institutional coordination. She called upon countries to foster transparency and trust and to fully leverage resources.

29. The representative of Ecuador said that her country welcomed the document and its call for collective action against persistent poverty, hunger and inequality in the region. Ecuador supported efforts to address those challenges and considered the proposed global pact for inclusive social development to be an economic, political and ethical imperative. Inequality and poverty were not just moral problems but factors that heavily influenced social stability. She expressed her government's interest in serving as a Presiding Officer and its commitment to collaborating with member countries to pursue social development

and improve the population's quality of life. In that role, Ecuador would advance the implementation of policies and programmes for the benefit of the region as a whole.

30. The representative of the Dominican Republic said that social dialogue and cooperation were important vehicles for inclusive sustainable development progress. Her country's social development achievements included the reduction of poverty and extreme poverty, thanks to strengthened institutions, macroeconomic stability and greater social policy coordination. There was a need to continue to strengthen social dialogue at the institutional level, in the private sector and in national strategies and programmes. Work was under way on an adaptive approach to social protection, which sought to link transfers, care and resilience, in line with the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development and global commitments on combating hunger and poverty. She said that her country was also very interested in serving as a Presiding Officer with a view to advancing towards a pact for inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

31. The representative of Peru said that his country's sustained growth since its return to democracy had helped to lessen instability in its macroeconomic and legal systems and to carry out many social programmes, including on housing, water and sanitation, and to provide assistance to the most vulnerable families and persons over the age of 65, contributing to the reduction of poverty and extreme poverty. However, other challenges persisted, including gender inequality. It was important to seek out investments and cultivate relationships with the private sector. His country joined in supporting the effort to achieve a global pact for inclusive social development that would take into account Indigenous and farming communities and the native peoples of the region, as they too were a part of inclusive social development strategies.

32. The representative of UNESCO said that investing in quality education was important for reducing poverty, hunger and inequalities, closing social divides and increasing women's labour participation. Education was the most powerful tool for fortifying and transforming societies and pulling people out of poverty. For example, it was crucial in equipping young people with the critical thinking skills they needed to counter disinformation and exercise their duties and rights as citizens. However, despite its broad recognition as a fundamental pillar of inclusive social development, education was experiencing a decline in investment. Therefore, she called upon ministers and government representatives to continue to promote strategic investment in education at the national level, recognizing that progress towards a global pact for inclusive social development required complementing universal social protection systems with inclusive service provision policies.

33. The representative of UNHCR said that a solid foundation of strong and effective social institutions was important to ensure that no one was left behind, in particular populations facing forced displacement. The UNHCR report *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2024*<sup>2</sup> indicated that an annual total of 21 million people had been displaced in the Americas, and coordinated and sustainable solutions with social protection were needed in response. The inclusion of migrants in employment and education was good for the economy, businesses and communities, but their integration continued to face structural challenges. UNHCR remained committed to designing public policies that recognized migrants and refugees as rights holders.

34. The representative of FAO thanked ECLAC, UNDP and Brazil for organizing the session of the Conference and for presenting the position document. He said that social protection was especially important for vulnerable rural populations, who had the potential to contribute to food security and the

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.acnur.org/media/tendencias-globales-de-desplazamiento-forzado-en-2024>

eradication of malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean. Referring to the 2024 publication by FAO, ECLAC, IICA and the World Food Programme (WFP) entitled *Financing for food security and nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean*,<sup>3</sup> which presented a preliminary approach to estimating the financing needed to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all forms in the region, he said that FAO remained at countries' disposal to address those issues.

Review of the document *Latin America and the Caribbean 30 Years on from the World Summit for Social Development: Towards a Global Pact for Inclusive Social Development* (agenda item 5)

35. Under the agenda item, five panels were held on priority issues addressed in the position document.

*Panel 1 – Inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean: poverty, hunger and the trap of high inequality, low social mobility and weak social cohesion*

36. The panel was moderated by Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC. The panellists were Wellington Dias, Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil; Estefanía Enríquez, Acting Undersecretary of Non-contributory Insurance, Contingencies and Operations of the Ministry of Human Development of Ecuador; Bertha Zapeta, Vice-Minister for Social Development in the Ministry of Social Development of Guatemala; María Inés Esquivel, Technical Secretary of the Social Cabinet of Panama; and Almudena Fernández, Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP.

37. The Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC framed the panel in the context of preparations for the Second World Summit and against a backdrop of emerging and profound transformations, such as the climate crisis, migration flows, population ageing, technological advances and various forms of violence, which posed challenges for social policies, social protection systems and social cohesion. The panel's purpose was to share perspectives on regional opportunities and challenges for ending poverty and hunger, reducing inequalities and strengthening social cohesion as cornerstones of progress towards inclusive social development. In the first round of questions, he asked panellists to reflect on the extent to which the fight against poverty, hunger and inequality guided national social policy; the issues that countries should prioritize to make substantive progress in those areas; and the social cohesion challenges that needed addressing to that end.

38. The Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil said that implementing comprehensive development policies linked to education, health throughout the life cycle and support for small businesses was an important political decision for countries, as was allocating the necessary budgetary support to sustain such policies. Brazil had made progress in that regard, with policies on care and socioeconomic inclusion that had brought families and individuals into the economy and out of poverty. He called for engaging with other country blocs to ensure a resounding endorsement of the pact for inclusive social development at the upcoming Summit.

39. The Acting Undersecretary of Non-contributory Insurance, Contingencies and Operations of the Ministry of Human Development of Ecuador said that, faced with multiple crises, countries had recognized the insufficiency of traditional assistance programmes and the need to move towards comprehensive, universal, sustainable and resilient social protection systems. Breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty required adapting to demographic and social transitions and recognizing care as a right and a strategic policy

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<sup>3</sup> FAO, ECLAC, IICA and WFP. 2024. *Financing for food security and nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Santiago, Chile. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0527en>.

matter, as many people, especially women, spent their time on unpaid care work. To build a more equitable model, progress was urgently needed on the integration of contributory systems. Important aspects in that regard included registers for identifying the vulnerable population, service digitalization for broader coverage, and inter-institutional coordination between the education and labour sectors, among others, to ensure that transfers led to social and economic inclusion, a more skilled population and social mobility in the long run.

40. The Vice-Minister for Social Development in the Ministry of Social Development of Guatemala said that Latin American countries were resilient and that the fight against poverty was a central pillar of inclusive social development. She discussed the poor population in Guatemala, high levels of undernutrition in Indigenous children and limited access to health for Indigenous women. Administrative efforts had focused on improving the efficiency of social spending using technological tools. For example, the social register of households had been a key innovation in terms of targeting services and identifying households experiencing multidimensional poverty, and data and statistics were guiding social protection. In addition, the country had in place an inter-institutional strategy to combat malnutrition and poverty, which coordinated the actions of more than 11 institutions in the health, education and housing sectors, among others. That strategy showed that with political leadership, technical rigour, evidence-based planning and coordination mechanisms, progress towards a universal social protection policy was possible, even with limited resources.

41. The Technical Secretary of the Social Cabinet of Panama said that strengthening territorial cohesion and local institutional frameworks was a matter of priority. Emerging challenges, such as climate change, migration, the demographic transition and the inclusion of young people, women and native peoples, called for policies that could identify the capacities of each territory on the basis of up-to-date, relevant data, like the social register of households and the index of Indigenous multidimensional poverty. There was a need to transform assistance programmes into productive inclusion platforms and to ensure that social spending generated sustainable returns, interrupted intergenerational poverty cycles and fostered true social mobility. Meeting that need would require regulatory frameworks and State policies, together with budgets that were results-oriented and supported by indicators, multilevel governance with a decentralization component, public participation, and public-private partnerships to increase capacities.

42. The Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP said that the historical and structural challenges of hunger and poverty in the region were compounded by emerging challenges, such as migration, population ageing and technological transformation, and that it was important that public policies took into account their interrelated nature. While progress had been made in understanding and measuring the multiple dimensions of poverty, multidimensional policy responses were still lacking. Comprehensive policies needed to be combined with a new social contract focused on expanding the population's skills and reducing structural gaps, together with increased investment in resilience, to enable households to withstand uncertainty and shocks. Meanwhile, until the fight against poverty and inequality was guided by economic and productive policies in addition to social policy, progress would always be fragile. Social cohesion was also important, as lack of trust in people and institutions made it increasingly difficult to undertake collective action, dialogue and coalition-building in pursuit of shared goals.

43. The Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC introduced the second round of questions, inviting panellists to share their views on the main instruments and mechanisms at countries' disposal to end poverty and hunger and reduce inequality; the extent to which proposed targets translated into public and private investments involving specific actions and measurable impacts; how poverty among older persons might be addressed through programmes within non-contributory pension systems; and the role of international, triangular and South-South cooperation in achieving those objectives.

44. The Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil said that in a region greatly affected by climate change, work remained to be done to ensure food security. Many countries had their own contributory social protection systems and had increased coverage, but the main differences were always related to the budget. Social protection required investment, which carried a social cost. Brazil had invested significantly to strengthen its social network and infrastructure. Citing school meal programmes that were commonly implemented in the region, he noted that encouraging the involvement of small farmers and businesses in production was beneficial not only in terms of food security, but also income generation and overcoming poverty. By following the recommendations in the ECLAC report, the region could make progress and lead the way for others. The pact was not just a global necessity; it was the right path for Latin America and the Caribbean.

45. The Acting Undersecretary of Non-contributory Insurance, Contingencies and Operations of the Ministry of Human Development of Ecuador said that her country, under its social protection system, managed the provision of transfers and non-contributory pensions to priority groups, which reflected its commitment to a fairer society. In view of the high and rising percentage of older persons living in poverty, the country needed a robust and coordinated policy to prepare for population ageing. One project in that vein aimed to increase older persons' well-being, autonomy and quality of life; another programme had been conceived to provide transfers with a view to developing the life skills and boosting the employability and economic autonomy of young people from an intergenerational perspective. The national strategy thus sought to coordinate personal development services for young people and care services for older persons under the same social protection umbrella to foster capacities and generate synergies that would prevent future poverty, break cycles of exclusion and ensure lifetime coverage.

46. The Vice-Minister for Social Development in the Ministry of Social Development of Guatemala said that the main elements of a social protection system included solid social assistance, an equally solid subsystem for care, and a subsystem for social security and for social protection itself. Referring to the importance of dedicated budgets, she said that social protection systems needed resources to improve the population's quality of life, which was a challenge given limited fiscal space. In that regard, cooperation, especially of the South-South and multi-entity variety, was valuable in facilitating shared learning and identifying solutions. She also said that social investment and economic investment were intrinsically linked and that social protection systems must always make people their central focus.

47. The Technical Secretary of the Social Cabinet of Panama said that an analysis of the subsidies that her country offered had identified flaws in the underlying measurement, which had now been modified to include the multidimensional poverty index. In order to ensure that subsidies were informed by data, extra efforts had been made to understand the particularities of Indigenous communities, gradually resulting in changes to the subsidies and more tangible investment results. The social services offered by various institutions had been reviewed, and a more comprehensive development policy was being designed in order to lay the foundation for a territorial approach, foster the formation of institutional frameworks and improve the distribution of social spending on the basis of a more precise understanding of the country's actual social investment expenditure.

48. The Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP said that at present, increased social spending faced major hurdles in the region and the world. The question, therefore, was how to improve the quality of spending and identify synergies between investments to target multiple dimensions of poverty at once. Care systems were an example of an investment not only in social well-being but also productivity, especially for women. There was a need to link up sectoral policies, identify areas for maximum-impact investment affecting multiple aspects of development, and invest in resilience to preclude spending during crises down the line. In addition, it was important to align private investment with social

targets through different mechanisms, including through the work of the Summit, which should translate into a shared vision, resources, debt relief instruments, investments in the energy and digital transitions, and stronger regional and global cooperation.

49. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Paraguay said that he was interested in learning more about Brazil's public procurement legislation, including whether it enabled the State to purchase directly from family farmers and how oversight was carried out with subnational governments. The Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil responded that the legislation enabled the direct purchase —with Ministry funding and through the National Supply Company (CONAB)— of locally sourced food for school meal programmes, care facilities, hospitals and the armed forces. Food was purchased at market prices from family farms included in the register. The model was also being replicated in supermarkets, as well as in cooperatives for the export sector. The representative of the Dominican Republic referred to the experiences shared during the panel, which she had found interesting, and to her own country's work on emergency resilience, integrating civil and social protection and taking anticipatory measures to engage the population in necessary efforts to weather crises.

50. The Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP said that resilience must be placed at the centre of a new development agenda. The knowledge that a safety net would keep them from falling into poverty in trying times enabled people to strive for greater human development. In order to safeguard societies' human development achievements, expandable and adaptable social protection systems were needed, which would require robust institutional frameworks and investment in social registers.

51. The representative of Brazil, in her parliamentary capacity, said that integrated efforts under her country's social policies had yielded positive results for farmers at the municipal level. For example, Brazil was investing resources to take the fight against hunger to vulnerable areas, such as Rio de Janeiro, and to provide services to people living on the street, also with positive results. Stressing education's important role in social inclusion, she asked the Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC how increased resources might be secured for efforts related to social inclusion.

52. The Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC responded that financial sustainability was essential; the key was to recognize social protection as the strategic backbone of inclusive social development.

53. The representative of UNICEF said that discussing poverty necessarily meant discussing children, who in many countries experienced poverty at double the adult rate. In that regard, investment in cognitive development was especially important in early childhood, when the foundations were laid for the human capital of the future.

54. The Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC concluded the panel by saying that a life free from poverty, hunger and inequality required sustained economic growth that generated resources, ensured the financial sustainability of social investment and strengthened social protection. The Second World Summit was an opportunity to raise those issues in pursuing a pact for inclusive social development.

*Panel 2 – Social protection systems and comprehensive care policies: instruments for social and labour inclusion*

55. The panel was moderated by Claudia Robles, Social Affairs Officer of the Social Development Division of ECLAC. The panellists were Javiera Toro, Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile; Gonzalo Martín Civilá, Minister of Social Development of Uruguay; Laís Abramo, National Secretary for Care and Family of Brazil; Carlos Paris, Vice-Minister for Social Policy of Paraguay; Nicolle Mejía, Advisor in the Ministry of Social Development of Honduras; and Youssouf Abdel-Jelil, Senior Advisor to the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNICEF.

56. The Social Affairs Officer of the Social Development Division of ECLAC, in her capacity as moderator, said that strengthening social protection systems and care policies was a crucial issue for the Conference and its proposed input to the Second World Summit, in which Latin America and the Caribbean would be calling for global support for an inclusive social development pact centred on care policies. She invited panellists to discuss the region's significant progress on social protection systems in recent decades and its major challenges.

57. The Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile said that 30 years on from the first Summit, the countries continued to discuss how to further increase the population's well-being, even as they faced heightened uncertainty and the weakening of multilateralism. For Chile, social protection systems were a priority. Social protection was a strategic investment, and States should regard it as such and reaffirm their role in that area. Consideration for children, older persons, caregivers and others made it possible to reduce inequalities and strengthen societal capacities. Public policies in that regard could not be based solely on better redistribution; they also required new fiscal compacts and an improved capacity for economic growth. The State must reclaim its role as a guarantor of social justice and support a complex and diversified economy, investing in innovation, education and key sectors, like renewable energy.

58. The Minister of Social Development of Uruguay said that his country's social protection system was relatively solid and grounded in universalism, but it still had weak points. One challenge was that universal institutions often left out major sectors, with excessive targeting of responses resulting in a disparity between included sectors and excluded sectors, which constrained the Ministry in its functions and must be overcome. Social dialogue would be important in addressing social protection issues comprehensively. There were also considerable challenges related to childhood, transfer systems, care and its funding, and community capacity-building. It was important to ensure that policy design was shaped by those experiencing deprivations, in order to make collective progress and address inequality in addition to poverty.

59. The National Secretary for Care and Family of Brazil said that her country had prioritized care and rebuilding the spaces for social dialogue that had been weakened. The country had designed a policy framework and adopted a law that ensured every person the right to care, with co-responsibility among men, women and society at large and based on the principles of progressive universalism that was sensitive to differences, gender equality, anti-racism, anti-ableism and anti-ageism. She said that the challenges before them were formidable, citing how care tasks limited women's labour market access and left the potential economic benefits of their participation untapped. The message was clear: investing in care meant investing in employment, formalization and growth. Cross-cutting action and reinforced political legitimacy were needed.

60. The Vice-Minister for Social Policy of Paraguay said that his government's main focus was the social dimension, as evidenced by its increased social spending, especially on the implementation of its

flagship Zero Hunger programme in all public schools, as well as on health, old age pensions and conditional cash transfers. Coverage had been expanded thanks to the increase in social investment. In addition, the government had restructured its social cabinet to bring together all ministers involved in social development matters. One obstacle to progress was persistent labour informality, which was closely linked to care duties and affected women and rural workers in particular. More creative action was needed to prevent another 30 years from passing before figures improved.

61. The Advisor in the Ministry of Social Development of Honduras said that the Ministry had been created with two programmes, targeting the vulnerable population and the population living in extreme poverty. Its comprehensive approach to social protection aimed to ensure rights and basic services. The Ministry had proposed a social development policy that would create subsystems for health, education, care and social protection, among other areas. The country was also making progress towards ending poverty, but its advances, though significant, were insufficient. It was important to establish a social protection floor, ensure universal health and education and provide job opportunities, as well as to revitalize the economy and, above all, reduce inequalities, which especially affected young people and women.

62. The Senior Advisor to the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNICEF said that almost all the countries of the region had key programmes dedicated to children. Non-contributory social protection was vital for the most vulnerable children, and conditional transfer programmes had been an important complementary pillar for poverty reduction and access to health and education. However, childhood coverage was insufficient: a large proportion of children received no entitlements, the percentage of GDP dedicated to childhood spending was very small, and the value of transfers was low relative to the cost of the basic basket. In general, programmes were not protected by national law and lacked fixed funding sources. UNICEF proposed prioritizing the most vulnerable groups in moving towards universal coverage, as well as strengthening the non-contributory pillar and inter-institutional coordination for improved coverage and consolidation. A paradigm shift was needed, moving away from a fragmented model that treated social protection as an afterthought and towards a rights-based system, which required political will and agreements to enable a collective response.

63. In the second round of panellists' remarks, the Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile said that care must be at the centre of any social protection approach. She referred to social dialogue and other organizational efforts, citing the process of establishing the *Chile Cuida* programme, which had involved a high degree of participation from both individuals and institutions. She also referred to the Tlatelolco Commitment, which recognized the need for progress towards regulatory frameworks and funding for care. That regional vision was based on the belief that care systems, which affected the economy and entrepreneurship, among other areas, represented a strategic investment not just in the care sector but in civilization itself.

64. The Minister of Social Development of Uruguay said that his country had begun to approach care not as a mere system but as a vehicle for the advancement of civilization and the construction of societies. The risk of using care policies to fill in where other policies fell short must be avoided. The challenge was to ensure that coordination with pre-existing policies was baked into the design of any care policy. While care was a State responsibility, the valuable efforts of other sectors of society should also be harnessed.

65. The National Secretary for Care and Family of Brazil, referring to the role of international cooperation and multilateralism in building her country's national care policy, said that United Nations system support and regional forums had been key; for Brazil, which had taken up the care agenda belatedly,

in 2023, neighbouring countries' experience had been vital. Several United Nations entities had participated in working groups tasked with drafting the conceptual framework for the policy and legislation, and Latin America's leadership on the issue of care had strengthened Brazil's care policies.

66. The Vice-Minister for Social Policy of Paraguay said that digital advances had yet to reach all of society, and many opportunities to implement better solutions through the use of digital tools had been passed up as a result. Cooperation, social dialogue and interaction between sectors were necessary, and multilateralism and non-governmental initiatives presented valuable opportunities to further strengthen social protection systems.

67. The Advisor in the Ministry of Social Development of Honduras said that an investment in care systems was an investment in productivity and collective development. In her country, a bill on the creation of a national care system was on its way to Congress. The management and strengthening of care programmes for children, older persons and persons with disabilities had historically fallen to organizations but should be a State responsibility. Now, for the first time, the State was taking up that mantle and including care in the public agenda.

68. The Senior Advisor to the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNICEF said that in moving towards a vision of care as a State responsibility, there was a unique opportunity to renew the social contract in a region characterized by inequality and informality. Childcare should be prioritized, given the severe developmental impact that participation in care tasks had on girls. He called for ensuring the rights of caregivers through social protection; integrating related data systems with national statistics and monitoring tools, including time-use surveys; and fostering cross-sectoral coordination and planning among ministries of health, women's affairs and social development.

69. In the comments that followed, the representative of UN-Women, welcomed the recognition of care as a fourth pillar of social protection, a concept that had its origins in women's movements. She noted that the increasing regional and global importance of the care society was evidenced by the recent adoption of the Sevilla Commitment that included increased funding for care policies and the recognition of care as a public good. The representative of the Dominican Republic said that Uruguay's experience could be a useful model for other countries to follow, and that her country was working on developing a care system. Challenges in that process included inter-institutional coordination, budgetary issues and the government's eventual approach to implementation. The representative of Uruguay said that, as funding from general revenues was insufficient, other sources were being evaluated, and that multi-stakeholder participation was crucial in that regard. Other issues under consideration were the provision of care services and the participation of non-State actors.

70. The moderator, in her concluding remarks, took note of the initiatives and proposals that had been presented during the panel discussion, and highlighted the importance of forums like the Conference for integration and knowledge-sharing.

*Panel 3 – Social protection systems and exercise of rights to health and education*

71. The panel was moderated by Daniela Trucco, Senior Social Affairs Officer of the Social Development Division of ECLAC. The panellists were Javiera Toro, Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile; Irma Yolanda Núñez, Social Affairs Coordinator, Presidential Commission for Operations and Cabinet of El Salvador; Hugo Bai, Coordinator, Executive Committee on Social Dialogue

in the Office of Planning and Budget of Uruguay; Cristian Morales, Representative of PAHO; and Marta Encinas-Martín, Ambassador for Gender in Education and senior adviser on Latin America in the Global Relations and Cooperation Directorate of OECD.

72. The Senior Social Affairs Officer of ECLAC said that strengthening the social protection system was a cornerstone of progress towards an inclusive social development pact. The panel on that topic would focus on access to health and education, two fundamental rights which, when exercised, contributed to reducing inequalities and enabled the exercise of all other rights. The aim was to share experiences regarding national strategies to ensure those rights, with an emphasis on the importance of cross-sectoral coordination and the adoption of a comprehensive approach.

73. The Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs of Chile said that health and education were pillars of social development and should not be viewed in isolation. However, after decades of commercialization, access to those systems had come to be determined by factors like birthplace, employment type or purchasing power. The challenge, therefore, was to develop solid public systems that ensured those social rights, alongside equity, quality and financial stability. It was inefficient not to coordinate between social programmes and services to which people required comprehensive access. That was the reason behind Chile's Single Social Window, a one-stop shop for social, health and other entitlements, which consolidated administrative records, streamlined administrative processes, enabled users to access all the information they might need regarding the entitlements and services offered by the different institutions, and generated reports and metrics for measuring outcomes.

74. The Social Affairs Coordinator of the Presidential Commission for Operations and Cabinet of El Salvador said that the problem of malnutrition affected not just health but also education and employment. El Salvador's school meals initiative was one of its longest-running social protection programmes, consisting of a universally covered slate of services, which included school supplies; cooking and dining equipment and infrastructure; purchasing of healthy, fresh foods from small-scale local farmers; and education on healthy eating and nutrition. Key elements of the programme were inter-institutional coordination, local government participation and social participation. The country also offered conditional cash transfers to prevent school dropout, which in the poorest municipalities had led to higher educational attainment and lower probability of multidimensional poverty.

75. The Coordinator of the Executive Committee on Social Dialogue in the Office of Planning and Budget of Uruguay said that his country considered it necessary to transform the model to fit the current context, specifically by renewing the social protection pact to incorporate a medium-term perspective. To that end, social dialogue had been undertaken to reach agreements with the broadest possible base of social and political support with a view to bolstering the legitimacy and continuity of transformations. The Executive Committee would prepare a final document incorporating all the inputs and proposals, which would be presented to the President in order to inform the drafting of future bills. Social dialogue was a strategic tool for strengthening the design and implementation of cross-sectoral social policies, generating essential mechanisms for coordination across sectors and institutions in order to address complex multisectoral problems.

76. The representative of PAHO said that Brazil had implemented a primary healthcare model, through the development of its Unified Healthcare System, which ensured universal coverage of publicly funded quality services. One of the system's unique characteristics was its three levels of governance (federal, state and municipal). It was also notable for its incorporation of social participation, with more than 5,000 health

councils at all levels ensuring that communities' voices were heard. Challenges included high out-of-pocket expenditures, government underfunding of the system (below the PAHO-recommended 6% of GDP) and a model that financed the system through parliamentary amendments, which made for a disorderly approach to public spending. However, another crucial feature of the system was the capacity of its industrial technology hub to produce medications and medical supplies and equipment, which strengthened productive sovereignty in the region.

77. The Ambassador for Gender in Education and senior adviser on Latin America in the Global Relations and Cooperation Directorate of OECD, after discussing some regional cross-sectoral experiences in education policy, said that programme effectiveness needed to be evaluated. For example, depending on the country in which they lived, children with writing difficulties faced very different futures, owing to disparities in detecting and addressing such difficulties in the education system. The most important thing was to make significant quality investments in education, but it was also important to adjust planning in accordance with available budget resources and to learn from other countries' experiences. The Republic of Korea and Singapore, for example, had improved proficiency levels among young people despite relatively limited budgets.

*Panel 4 – Social protection systems and resilience*

78. The panel was moderated by Almudena Fernández, Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP; and Luis Henrique da Silva de Paiva, Social Protection Specialist of UNDP. The panellists were Georges Wilbert Franck, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour of Haiti; André Quintão, National Secretary for Social Assistance in the Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil; Alexander Dicunta, Coordinator, Public Policy Unit of the Ministry of Social Development of Honduras; and Elkin Velásquez Monsalve, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UN-Habitat.

79. The Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP said that the objective of the panel was to consider how social protection systems could cultivate more resilient societies while mitigating the impact of shocks. It was necessary to continue to reduce poverty and serve the most vulnerable people, especially amid heightened uncertainty and the intermingling of traditional risks and new threats related to societal fragmentation, climate change and technological advances. A segment of the region's population was not covered by poverty reduction programmes and lacked access to social protection through formal employment, which raised their risk of poverty. Public policy instruments, institutions and infrastructure needed to maintain focus on resilience. She said that social protection systems must be agile and flexible to adapt to multiple threats, noting that there had been progress in that area, and that systems must be supported by solid data and predictable funding.

80. The Minister of Social Affairs and Labour of Haiti said that hunger and poverty were the product of a set of practices, measures and actions, and indeed a process, that led to deprivation. In Haiti, a large segment of the population lived in conditions of severe food insecurity, extreme poverty and vulnerability. Historically, the country had fought against social exclusion, but now it faced the challenge of unprecedented deprivation that was devastating the population. The most pronounced symptom of that challenge was the violent armed conflict gripping Haiti. Given the current state of affairs, it was necessary to establish a social protection system to preserve the population's resilience to shocks both natural and manmade. The services provided by such a system must function well in emergencies and effectively reach all people in need of protection. Haiti called for all countries to join forces and leverage their experience to

establish good social protection systems with a view to ensuring that mechanisms to combat poverty, extreme poverty and social injustice were in place throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

81. The National Secretary for Social Assistance in the Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil said that non-contributory social protection policies formed the strategic pillars of a social protection system geared towards guaranteeing income, fostering social inclusion and boosting local economies. Key policies in his country included *Bolsa Familia*, the Continuous Benefit Programme, the Rural Pension and the *Acredita no Primerio Passo* programme. Those policies should be understood not as an expenditure but as a public investment to stimulate economic growth, reduce inequality, strengthen household consumption—especially of essential goods—and improve education trajectories and well-being. It was important to secure sustainable funding and ensure that entitlements met a basic sufficiency standard. Challenges included strengthening linkages with social assistance, health and care services in the territories and more refined targeting of other dimensions of vulnerability in addition to income.

82. The Coordinator of the Public Policy Unit of the Ministry of Social Development of Honduras, referring to the emergencies that his country had faced, said that national efforts were aimed at creating spaces for dialogue to learn about realities, resilience and adaptation in the communities. A joint programme had been implemented with UNDP to sustain a minimum level of well-being during crises among the families most affected by climate change. Complementary programmes had also been designed to provide comprehensive services for the vulnerable population and to register the most-affected individuals in a unified information system established for that purpose. The registration system had been strengthened by risk management committees to enable those registered to access social services. In addition, the country's risk management law established a governance mechanism to ensure that public institutions coordinated their strategies and resources. There was a need to create stronger ties with the communities and to prioritize social cohesion, public participation and the power of the people, with a view to bringing the public into the social policy design process.

83. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UN-Habitat said that integrated initiatives at the territorial level improved quality of life in communities and produced more rapid results. Resilience was not built through traditional humanitarian responses alone; it also required the development and strengthening of social protection systems. As the majority of the region's population lived in urban areas and informal settlements, there was a need to implement social, housing and urban policies and carry out integrated territorial initiatives with the participation of subnational governments and the State. That territorial integration methodology involving all stakeholders had made it possible to identify families not included in official registers who lacked access to services and government social policies, contributing to the aim of leaving no one behind. He said that social housing was the highest-impact dimension of social policy, and he proposed incorporating territorial integration into the resilient human development approach, in light of the territorial nature of poverty and needs.

84. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Peru, returning to the concept of territorial integration, said that connectivity was essential for achieving a version of inclusive social development that encompassed agricultural communities and Indigenous Peoples. The representative of Ecuador asked whether the unified information system for targeting beneficiaries was generated by the institutions or through self-registration, noting the possibility of errors of inclusion or exclusion. The Coordinator of the Public Policy Unit of the Ministry of Social Development of Honduras responded that self-registration had

not worked in his country; institutions must take the initiative to reach out to the people and facilitate their access to social services.

85. The National Secretary for Social Assistance in the Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil also commented on property registers and unified systems for social programmes, as well as programme-specific registers. The representative of Costa Rica said that resilience was not just an environmental matter but an economic and social one too, and that institutions and States must work together to pursue that approach.

86. The moderator concluded the panel by taking note of the valuable solutions that had emerged from a variety of contexts.

*Panel 5 – Emerging challenges for inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean: labour inclusion and climate, demographic and technological change*

87. The panel was moderated by Rodrigo Martínez, Senior Social Affairs Officer of the Social Development Division of ECLAC. The panellists were Kirk Humphrey, Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs of Barbados; Yorleni León, Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica; Bertha Zapeta, Vice-Minister for Social Development in the Ministry of Social Development of Guatemala; Gloria Reyes, General Director of the Social Development Directorate of the *Supérate* programme of the Dominican Republic; and Vinicius Pinheiro, Regional Director, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of ILO.

88. The Senior Social Affairs Officer of ECLAC said that the purpose of the position document for the session had been to draw attention to emerging challenges, their implications for social protection systems and the role of social development ministries. Both opportunities and challenges should be taken into account, including climate change and emerging technologies, their effect on labour inclusion, and how they might be harnessed to drive progress on the proposed goals of a global pact for inclusive social development. The panel would be structured in two rounds of questions and statements. In the first round, the moderator asked the panellists to share country priorities relating to emerging social development challenges, in particular social protection, and what measures were being taken to address them.

89. The Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs of Barbados said that social protection must not be viewed in a vacuum but rather within a broader framework. Despite its vulnerabilities, the country had expanded investment in health and education, though social protection had remained comparatively underfunded. Institutional reforms were under way to create modern, interoperable and fit for purpose systems, differentiating welfare from empowerment strategies to better support vulnerable groups. To that end, the Social Empowerment Agency had been established. The country had also recognized the need for global leadership, addressing a number of social protection issues with a regional perspective. On the matter of social and labour inclusion policies, he said that the risk-averse Caribbean — which had a highly educated population— must shift from being consumers to creators of technology. Loyalty to old systems made it difficult to fit into the new world. He said that labour force training and upskilling and an overhaul of education were necessary, and he referred to initiatives such as a decent work programme, a digital job platform and the Caribbean as a hub for new technology. It was vital to deconstruct and reconstruct systems to face emerging challenges.

90. The Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica said that her country's priorities were population ageing, with a focus on care systems and their effects on economic growth;

climate change, in view of the volume of losses and setbacks due to its impacts, with an approach that prioritized resilience as a mitigation mechanism and key area of work; and social promotion, as social protection was not enough to enable households to break out of the cycle of poverty. On that point, education was the best engine for social mobility, and accessible financing —such as deposits, guarantees and interest rates that would enable households to get their productive projects off the ground— was an essential component of any social promotion programme. It was also important to have an institutional framework that was strong, intelligent, integrated with the rest of the country's sectors, sensitive to differences and capable of adapting services to distinct realities.

91. The Vice-Minister for Social Development in the Ministry of Social Development of Guatemala said that the country, in the midst of its demographic dividend, was paying increased attention to demographic change and its relationship to labour inclusion and had before it an opportunity for investment in human capital and social protection. Effective policies were needed to avoid high rates of youth unemployment, informality and migration, and investment in education and health systems must be a long-term undertaking. Social spending was not enough unless accompanied by initiatives to boost economic growth and job creation. Challenges related to technological and climate change were also a concern, as Guatemala was vulnerable to disasters affecting key sectors, such as agriculture. In view of those challenges, the country's priorities were to design an inclusive, rights-based, universal and culturally relevant social protection system that could adapt in response to emergencies, and an inter-institutional coordination strategy for reducing poverty and malnutrition.

92. The General Director of the Social Development Directorate of the *Supérate* programme of the Dominican Republic said that spending on social protection had to stop being treated as an afterthought and start being treated as a strategic investment to ensure rights, social cohesion and resilience to crises. Structural and fiscal challenges in the region required firm policy decisions that prioritized social protection as a pillar of development. With regard to the minimum standard of social investment and solid institutional frameworks advocated by ECLAC, she said that the Dominican Republic had adopted a comprehensive approach to advance towards more inclusive and sustainable social development, with measures including an emergency income transfer that had benefited more than 40,000 families and strengthened coordination between social and civil protection. The country was also undertaking anticipatory actions, with technological tools and vulnerability maps, and a national economic inclusion strategy that was sensitive to local contexts, which sought to build trust in institutions and offer young people in extreme poverty renewed hope for the future.

93. The Regional Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of ILO said that a more sustainable digital future depended on the actions taken in the present, with people-centred public policy decisions. While it had positive effects, the digital transformation also increased inequality. He highlighted three impacts: the substitution and transformation of jobs; the “platformization” contributing to precarious employment, which underscored the importance of regulations; and working conditions, particularly with regard to surveillance of workers, raising the issue of protection of personal and biometric data. Referring to the energy transition, he said that the shift from fossil fuels had a clear destructive impact on jobs, but it was offset by the positive socioeconomic effects of clean energies, which were more labour intensive, with an employment density five times that of fossil fuels. Lastly, he noted that climate change affected working conditions in terms of the health effects of thermal stress, as higher temperatures increased the risk of heart attacks and other problems.

94. The Senior Social Affairs Officer of ECLAC posed a second round of questions to panellists regarding the challenges to be addressed in securing a better future, countries' planned commitments and the messages that each country would convey to the region and the world with a view to fostering opportunities, managing risks and pursuing inclusive social development.

95. The Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs of Barbados said that in his country, the broad social partnership between the private sector, civil society, trade unions and government was the compass in difficult times and he encouraged each society to find their anchor that guided decision-making and found meaning. He highlighted the need to decentralize social protection and embed it at community level; embrace technology and digital governance to reduce fragmentation of systems; and view the world through an equity lens to ensure that efforts to reduce intergenerational poverty, fill gaps and help the most vulnerable were sufficient and effective. Social protection must be ring-fenced from political cycles; that required proper systems, for which strong institutions were a must. Youth unemployment must be addressed by increasing investment in and participation of young people at all levels. Lastly, social ministries must take clear, bold and urgent action, with practical solutions to address the inevitable challenges that lay ahead.

96. The Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica said that overcoming the challenges at hand was no easy feat, but neither was it impossible. Speaking in a personal capacity, she said that common sense, conversation, commitment, transparency, efficiency and leveraging technology to the fullest had always served her well. Her key message was to not allow day-to-day noise and confusion to dim the country's focus on its priorities, which should be kept exceedingly clear. Lastly, she raised the matter of support for initiatives to end hunger and poverty and said that there was a lot that countries could do to put those issues on national, regional and global agendas.

97. The Vice-Minister for Social Development in the Ministry of Social Development of Guatemala said that global discussions were urgently needed on social development, which was just as relevant to the present as it was to the future. Social protection must be viewed as a right, not an expenditure or a handout, and it must be people centred. It was necessary to invest more in social protection in each country and to ensure the sustainability of social protection efforts. Institutions should focus on innovation and governance in order to fulfil their necessary function and lead the charge in addressing global needs. She said that it was also important to create safety nets to protect against the ongoing technology shock, citing insufficient prior preparation. Lastly, she stressed the considerable regional importance of the pact for inclusive social development.

98. The General Director of the Social Development Directorate of the *Supérate* programme of the Dominican Republic said that the country was addressing challenges related to technological transformation and employment through three distinct avenues: training for the digital economy, the development of labour inclusion platforms, and partnerships with the technology sector. There were also market-informed skills-building efforts, with related initiatives that included increasing the use of digital banking services for beneficiary families and conducting studies on labour supply and demand. Additional efforts included a partnership aimed at training 80,000 young people in high-growth areas every year, and a joint project with the World Bank that used digital tools, such as artificial intelligence, and mentorships to connect young people with formal jobs. Her Directorate coordinated social protection, training, economic inclusion and care under a single strategy supported by improved data and a more effective methodology for targeting services. The country was prioritizing innovation, regional cooperation and institutional strengthening so that no vulnerable family would be left behind.

99. The Regional Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of ILO referred to the nexus between sustainable growth and decent employment and highlighted six points that were essential for a people-centred future. Respect for fundamental labour rights was essential in a region that faced twentieth century opportunities but had yet to fully address challenges of the past. There was a need for regulation of the platform economy regarding issues such as social protection, minimum wages and maximum hours of work. Capacity-building and upskilling were also vital, as ILO estimated that 5% of jobs in the region were at risk of complete substitution by automation. Similarly, it was important to implement mediation and reconversion policies, for example targeting sectors affected by the energy transition and climate change. A universal social protection system —combining policies best suited to each country— was needed more than ever before. Lastly, social dialogue was key, especially on issues such as the social and labour impacts of technology, which should serve to improve well-being. Those issues would be discussed at an upcoming ILO meeting in the region.

100. The moderator, in closing, summarized the panellists' main points, in particular that social dialogue was key in distilling diverse perspectives and needs in order to move forward on the inclusive social development pact.

101. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Peru said that his country was committed to social inclusion and to progress on social spending, poverty reduction and improved employment. Programmes had been implemented for vulnerable families, children, young people and persons with disabilities, including food assistance and comprehensive health insurance, which also covered more than one million Venezuelans. Peru was also engaged in energy transition efforts aimed at combating climate change.

#### Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item 7)

102. The member States of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the resolution contained in annex 1 to the present report.

#### **Closing session**

103. The Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil, in a pre-recorded video, reaffirmed Brazil's commitment to strengthening Latin American and Caribbean unity in pursuit of inclusive social development.

104. The Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil, who also spoke on behalf of the Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family Affairs and the Fight against Hunger of Brazil, thanked the authorities and international organizations in attendance for their participation in the sixth session of the Conference and reiterated that they could count on Brazil in the implementation of adopted agreements. The region would present a strong and unified voice in Doha. The wealth of experiences shared during the session spoke to the keen leadership of Latin America and the Caribbean in effective social policymaking, which was its legacy and a source of global inspiration and, as such, should continue to be strengthened. He thanked ECLAC for its technical and policy support and for its partnership in organizing the session, where the Conference had identified the following clear next steps: maintain political momentum to strengthen commitments and advance towards a common objective, and accelerate progress on social protection in the region.

105. The Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP said that there were three strong takeaways emerging from the session. First, inclusive social development was not optional but rather essential for the future of Latin America and the Caribbean, and social inclusion must be the development model's North Star. Second, to prioritize care was to prioritize fairer and more resilient societies, and care had to be recognized as a pillar of well-being, social cohesion and productivity. Third, resilience was a strategic capacity for social policy, given the need for resilient and adaptive systems capable of protecting people during crises and facilitating recovery after the fact. There was no safer bet than investing in inclusive social development, as it reduced poverty and inequality, strengthened the social fabric, stimulated economic growth and gave young people hope. The road to inclusion was paved not with isolation but with cooperation.

106. The Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC said that some well-worn topics —such as evidence-based decision-making; prioritizing social spending; developing broad and inclusive social dialogue; the universality, comprehensiveness, sustainability and resilience of social protection systems; and investing in education as an engine for social mobility— had taken on renewed urgency in a context of insufficient progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with disinformation casting new doubt on its relevance. The Second World Summit for Social Development was a singular opportunity to communicate the position and key messages of the region to a global audience and to achieve a pact for inclusive social development that Latin America and the Caribbean had helped to build. The World Summit for Social Development had put the concept of social protection on the map. It was hoped that the declaration emerging from the Second World Summit would do the same for inclusive social development, as proposed by the region.

## Annex 1

**RESOLUTION 6(VI)**

*At its sixth session, held in Brasília from 2 to 4 September 2025, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Recalling* resolution 682(XXXV) adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in May 2014, in which the member States approved the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission, as well as resolution 2014/32 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, by virtue of which the Council endorsed the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

*Bearing in mind* the commitments made by the States of Latin America and the Caribbean concerning the complete fulfilment of human rights in the region, including the economic, social and cultural rights recognized globally in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the Millennium Declaration, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and in the conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization, and in other regional instruments, such as the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance, the Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons,

*Acknowledging* the urgent threat that climate change represents for equitable access to social development, poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities —as recognized in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity—, and the vulnerability of the Caribbean subregion to various climate hazards or shocks, as well as the potential devastating impacts of climate change,

*Noting* that the heavy indebtedness and high debt servicing costs faced by Caribbean States compromise their financial capacity to invest meaningfully in inclusive social development initiatives,

*Bearing in mind* General Assembly resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024, by which it adopted the Pact for the Future and its annexes, and in which it was decided to secure an ambitious outcome at the World Social Summit entitled “Second World Summit for Social Development” in 2025 and to invest in the social and economic development of children and young people so that they can reach their full potential,<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/79/1> action 6, para. 25 (a) and action 34.

*Highlighting* that the Sevilla Commitment, adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development held in Sevilla, Spain, from 30 June to 3 July 2025, included a call on the international community to support developing countries in ensuring predictable, adequate and uninterrupted funding on appropriate terms of social protection and other essential social spending during shocks and crises, a pledge to expand policy dialogues on mechanisms to protect people's well-being during shocks and an endorsement of efforts to strengthen the consideration of social protection and social spending in International Monetary Fund-supported macroeconomic adjustment programmes,<sup>2</sup>

*Recognizing* the centrality of social development in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its interdependence and linkages with economic and environmental development, and concurring that multilateralism and cooperation are central to the urgent common pursuit of a new model of development that will eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and significantly reduce inequalities between and within countries, leaving no one behind, as reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets,

*Reiterating* the role played by the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a follow-up mechanism for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region and for establishing agreements on inclusive social development as a pillar of sustainable development,

*Bearing in mind* that resolution 2(II) adopted at the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in October 2017, reiterated that the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is the ideal forum for combining efforts and building synergies between the different actors working on sustainable development for the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with an approach that is centred on the social dimension and promotes South-South cooperation,

*Bearing in mind also* that by resolution 3(III) adopted at the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City in October 2019, the Regional Conference adopted and endorsed the proposals set forth in the regional agenda for inclusive social development,<sup>3</sup> as a technical and political instrument that will enable progress towards the implementation of the social dimension of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the countries of the region, requested that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean provide technical assistance for the formation of working groups on specific issues and in specific policy areas identified by the countries, in order to promote experience-sharing, the construction of common agendas, the participation of and dialogue with civil society organizations, as well as the private sector, trade union organizations and academia, and urged the ministries of social development and equivalent entities in the countries to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation mechanisms for development, inclusion and social protection, thereby helping to strengthen multilateralism in the social sphere,

*Recalling* that by resolution 4(IV) adopted at the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held virtually under the chairship of Antigua and Barbuda in October 2021, the countries highlighted the importance of coordinating social protection systems with disaster risk management policies to strengthen the capacity for mitigation, prevention, response and adaptation and to advance in synergies that will improve the efficiency and resilience of institutions and the population,

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<sup>2</sup> <https://docs.un.org/en/A/CONF.227/2025/L.1>, para. 54(h)

<sup>3</sup> LC/CDS.3/5.

*Recalling also* that by resolution 5(V) adopted at the fifth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago in October 2023, the Regional Conference stressed the importance of taking determined steps to strengthen the four dimensions of the institutional framework for social policy —legal and regulatory, organizational, technical and operational, and financial— in order to have high-quality public policies that are effective, efficient, transparent and sustainable, and called on the countries to work decisively and collaboratively to that end, and requested the secretariat to undertake a more in-depth analysis of and identify policy alternatives and financing standards to develop a strong institutional framework for social policy and effective governance of decision-making in social policies, and to strengthen social protection systems by making progress regarding the universality, comprehensiveness, sustainability and resilience thereof in the region, as well as to prepare a draft road map and a document to be considered at the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will allow the region's voice to be heard at the Second World Summit for Social Development to be held in 2025,

*Considering* that, 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, the countries welcomed the Report of the Chair on progress in the implementation of resolution 5(V) of the fifth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and requested the secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Chair of the Conference, a document that will constitute the region's contribution to the Second World Summit for Social Development,<sup>4</sup>

*Considering also* that the countries serving as Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, at their special meeting held virtually on 24 March 2025, welcomed the document *Latin America and the Caribbean Looking Ahead to the Second World Summit for Social Development: Proposals for Inclusive Social Development*<sup>5</sup> prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in coordination with the Governments of Chile and Brazil, in their capacity as outgoing and incoming Chairs of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,<sup>6</sup>

*Having reviewed* the document *Latin America and the Caribbean 30 Years on from the World Summit for Social Development: Towards a Global Pact for Inclusive Social Development*,<sup>7</sup>

1. *Welcomes* the document *Latin America and the Caribbean 30 Years on from the World Summit for Social Development: Towards a Global Pact for Inclusive Social Development* prepared by the secretariat, and requests the secretariat to disseminate it widely and encourage its discussion and analysis;

2. *Requests* the Government of Brazil to disseminate, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the messages from the region contained in the document *Latin America and the Caribbean 30 Years on from the World Summit for Social Development: Towards a Global Pact for Inclusive Social Development* in the activities of the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held from 4 to 6 November 2025 in Doha;

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<sup>4</sup> See the *Report of the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/MDS.6/4).

<sup>5</sup> LC/MDS.E-2025/3.

<sup>6</sup> LC/MDS.E-2025/5.

<sup>7</sup> LC/CDS.6/3.

3. *Highlights* the importance of eradicating poverty and hunger and significantly reducing the inequalities that persist in Latin America and the Caribbean, and calls for greater regional coordination and cooperation to strengthen efforts to address those issues effectively, efficiently and sustainably, with policies that are tailored to new challenges;

4. *Welcomes* the launch of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, underlines the importance of concerted global efforts to address the shared challenges of food security, nutrition and social development, highlights the relevance of the Alliance as a space for cooperation to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals related to the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 1 (No poverty) and Goal 2 (Zero hunger), and invites regional United Nations system entities to support the countries of the region in its implementation;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of putting people and their rights at the heart of development, safeguarding the progress the region has achieved regarding inclusive social development as a result of appropriate social investment to finance policies and strengthen social protection systems consistent with the changes in the structure of risks to which individuals are exposed, by incorporating non-contributory policies aimed at universal coverage, such as comprehensive care policies;

6. *Underscores* the strategic importance of maintaining public investment in non-contributory social protection policies at levels equivalent to at least 1.5%–2.5% of gross domestic product or 5%–10% of annual public spending, with a view to advancing poverty eradication in a sustainable manner;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare, under the leadership of the Chair of the Presiding Officers, a regional strategy for the implementation and follow-up of the agreements emerging from the Second World Summit for Social Development, as well as for the promotion of cooperation in this area, and to present a first progress report at the seventh session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2027;

8. *Also requests* the secretariat to continue coordinating the working groups of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to make effective progress in implementing measures related to the lines of action of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development;

9. *Underlines* the importance of labour inclusion policies, non-contributory pension systems, comprehensive care policies, social information systems and social registries in strengthening and expanding social protection systems to address the challenges of inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and requests support from the secretariat to ensure that these issues are addressed in working groups and spaces for regional exchange in the framework of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

10. *Urges* the ministries of social development and equivalent entities in the countries to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation mechanisms for development, inclusion and social protection, thereby helping to strengthen multilateralism in the social sphere, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in keeping with the axes and lines of action of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development;

11. *Reiterates* its conviction that multilateralism and cooperation are essential to making headway in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, including its social dimension, and that the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development contributes significantly to this process, leaving no one behind;

12. *Thanks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for disseminating the Observatory on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and requests it to maintain and systematically update its analyses and databases on the basis of official data provided by the countries, and in particular, recognizes the value of the analyses and information consolidated in the Institutional Framework Database for Social Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Non-contributory Social Protection Programmes Database - Latin America and the Caribbean;

13. *Also thanks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its Social Development Division, as well as the United Nations Development Programme, for the joint organization of the sixth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the XVII Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and requests the Commission to convene the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2026;

14. *Emphasizes* the contribution of civil society and other stakeholders to the process of discussing the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development and encourages their active participation in supporting its implementation and the monitoring of its progress in the countries and territories;

15. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Paraguay to host the XIX Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the United Nations Development Programme, and the seventh session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2027;

16. *Commends* the Government of Chile for its contribution to the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in its capacity as Chair of the Conference for the period 2023–2025;

17. *Conveys its thanks* to the Government and people of Brazil for the excellent organization of the sixth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Annex 2

**CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT**

**Declaration of Civil Society Organizations and Social Movements of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development – 2025**

*For Social, Economic, and Climate Justice, Participatory Democracy, and Sustainable Development for the People of Latin America and the Caribbean*

1. At the VI Seminar for Social, Economic, and Climate Justice, Participatory Democracy, and Sustainable Development for the Population of Latin America and the Caribbean, held within the framework of the VI Regional Conference on Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by ECLAC, we, peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathering leaders of social movements and civil society organizations, councils, forums, trade unions, activists, researchers, teachers, educators, and students.
2. We emphasize that the following groups must be considered priority publics for social development policies, taking into account markers of race, class, gender, and ethnicity in their intersectionalities: women and girls, children, adolescents, youth, older persons, people of African descent, LGBTQIAPN+, persons with disabilities, with rare diseases, in street situations, Indigenous peoples, traditional communities, rural, water and forest peoples, family farmers, quilombolas, riverside communities, urban workers, sex workers, migrants, refugees, stateless persons, Roma, orphans, victims of violence, incarcerated persons, former prisoners, people affected by dams and infrastructure projects, waste pickers, among others who are made vulnerable by markers of difference and their diversities. We reaffirm our commitment to building more just, inclusive, equal, and sustainable societies as a condition for development.
3. Once again, as in the previous edition of this summit, we reaffirm the centrality of public, integral, and universal social protection systems.

### **I. For Social and Economic Justice**

4. As civil society, we reaffirm our commitment to democracy, sovereignty, and human rights in the face of extreme inequality that persists as the 2030 Agenda deadline approaches.
5. Oxfam (2025) points out that 3.7 billion people live in poverty, while the wealthiest 1% accumulated US\$33.9 trillion since 2015. In the midst of a crisis, new billionaires emerge, and the world heads toward its first trillionaires, with US\$6.5 trillion concentrated in just 3,000 people—more than the total needed to achieve all the SDGs.
6. In the region, inequality grows with the advance of private wealth and the weakening of public wealth. Today, 172 million people live without basic needs met, and 66 million face



severe hunger. Austerity and budget cuts in social protection expand exclusion, while, according to ECLAC (2024), in 2023 interest payments consumed up to 86% of priority spending. Meanwhile, wealthy countries increase military spending and reduce international cooperation. Therefore, we advocate for taxing large fortunes, with revenues directed toward overcoming social inequalities and promoting greater tax justice.

7. Despite some progress, challenges in education remain significant: about 6 million children are still out of school, and one-third of young people have not completed secondary education. Educational inequalities deepen among historically marginalized populations. In addition, there is an estimated deficit of 3.2 million teachers, who often leave the profession due to low salaries, work overload, and lack of infrastructure (UNESCO, 2025). These conditions also have a direct impact on mental health, with educators among the most affected. The eradication of all forms of illiteracy among youth and adults remains an urgent and inescapable task, essential to ensuring the right to quality lifelong education and to reducing social inequalities.

8. We recognize that discrimination in all its forms is a serious obstacle to economic and social development. There can be no development without a public state guarantee of non-contributory and distributive social protection for historically marginalized populations under social risks and exclusions. Therefore, we call on States to intensify efforts to embrace diversity and combat all abominable and contemporary forms of discrimination, oppression, and violence (Seville Commitments, Paragraph 12).

9. We will continue strengthening efforts to collect, analyze, and disseminate relevant and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, and other relevant characteristics in national contexts, including for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (Seville Commitments, Paragraph 63a).

10. The Fourth Conference on Financing for Development brought progress, such as the inclusion of the care economy and commitments to allocate resources to cooperation for social protection policies, but failed to create structural mechanisms on debt and tax cooperation. Without these tools, countries in the region remain constrained by debt and fiscal losses that compromise fundamental rights and sustainable development.

11. The 2025 High-Level Political Forum highlighted the weakening of multilateralism and the risks to social and sustainable development agendas. The low participation of civil society and difficulties in adopting the Ministerial Declaration underscore the importance of the Second World Social Summit to reinforce commitments and advance the Pact for the Future and the 2030 Agenda.

**Therefore, we once again demand that States:**



12. Implement and strengthen public, free, universal, integrated, sustainable, and equitable social protection systems;

13. Support the creation of a binding multilateral mechanism for sovereign debt restructuring and establish a regional pact against tax evasion, illicit flows, and tax havens, with common goals of tax justice and progressive taxation. Such measures strengthen State capacity to finance public policies and invest in strategic bodies responsible for collection, regulation, oversight, and certification, ensuring quality, safety, participation, and social control in economic policy. A fairer tax system increases resources available for technical institutions to fulfill their role of protecting consumers, promoting industrial competitiveness, and supporting the region in achieving the 2030 Agenda goals;

14. Strengthen the role of the State in the free provision of public goods and services, ensuring inclusive, anti-racist, anti-ableist, non-sexist, secular education from early childhood through postgraduate levels and throughout life. Adequate access and retention must be guaranteed. This commitment must also include the effective promotion of formal education in the prison system and for people in street situations, through public policies on work and income that promote decent work and transform the reality of these populations, repairing harms and reducing recidivism. Likewise, full and comprehensive health coverage must be guaranteed equitably, encompassing physical, mental, and social dimensions to ensure well-being and dignity for all people. Adequate housing, transportation, and food must also be guaranteed in a dignified, accessible, and affordable way.

15. Invest more in education with dignified and adequate standards per student, ensuring intersectoral coordination. Quality education must be central to regional development, with social dialogue and political will at all levels (ECLAC/UNESCO 2025). It is essential to invest in national systems of higher education and Science, Technology, and Innovation, capable of producing knowledge essential for sustainable development and reducing social inequalities.

## II. For Participatory Democracy, Inclusive Governance, and Regional Cooperation

16. Crises of the neoliberal capitalist system, intertwined with colonial, extractivist, and patriarchal legacies, create subjectivities and mechanisms that deepen the precarization of life and the exploitation of nature, particularly affecting historically marginalized populations marked by race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, disability, age, territory, and nationality.

17. In this context, we denounce the rise of authoritarian regimes and far-right fundamentalist movements, corporate capture of States, and their lack of accountability in guaranteeing human rights. Through the spread of hate speech, the criminalization of human rights defenders and organizations, and the growing restriction of civic spaces in the region, these phenomena intensify violence and inequalities both in physical and digital environments.



18. We defend a redistributive and participatory democracy that values and recognizes the intersectional diversity of movements and social groups, combating multiple forms of oppression.

**Thus, we call on the leaders of countries in the region to:**

19. Guarantee the right to active and representative participation of all people in the formulation, monitoring, evaluation, and adequate financing of public policies and budgets. It is essential to create plural, flexible, deliberative, permanent, and transparent spaces of participation, such as public policy councils, conferences, and ombuds offices, and allocate public resources to ensure this participation.

20. Commit to greater transparency by creating and strengthening mechanisms for access to information and simplified, disaggregated data to facilitate citizen oversight of public policies and budgets.

21. Establish concrete mechanisms of solidarity-based and humanitarian international cooperation for populations suffering extreme violence in the context of severe challenges to multilateralism, with increasing wars, armed conflicts, and human rights violations. In particular, concerning gender-based violence, violence against children and adolescents, older persons, and the ongoing Palestinian genocide, as well as attacks on Iran, and conflicts in Ukraine, Congo, Haiti, Yemen, Sudan, and Myanmar. Urgent, concrete, and coordinated actions are needed for a just and lasting peace in these regions and for the recognition of Palestine as a sovereign State.

### **III. Sustainable Development with Climate, Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Justice**

22. The climate crisis, aggravated by an extractivist model, reinforces social injustices, environmental racism, and ethnic discrimination, unequally affecting bodies, territories, and populations in their intersectionalities, especially girls and women. It also deepens forced displacement and structural inequalities, which create ongoing effects and impact environmental and mental health, particularly of historically marginalized populations.

23. Therefore, just transitions are urgent, including in the energy transition and agricultural model, for buen vivir, placing decent work, the eradication of child labor, in line with ILO instruments, human rights, and the commons at the center of development.

24. It is likewise indispensable to ensure universal access to safe, quality drinking water and to implement a plan with urgent targets for the universalization of basic sanitation, an essential condition for improving quality of life, preventing diseases, and promoting public health.



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25. Climate, gender, racial-ethnic, and generational justice further requires guaranteeing the right to sexual and reproductive health, with full, comprehensive, free, safe, intercultural, and non-discriminatory access, along with the promotion of comprehensive sexuality education.

26. We reaffirm that mental health is a transversal and indispensable component for achieving social and climate justice. It must be recognized as a fundamental human right and a condition for the full exercise of citizenship, explicitly included as a priority axis of action, with adequate investments and mainstreaming across public policies.

27. We reaffirm the urgency of a regional commitment to a new climate diplomacy, with concrete actions focused on just transitions and public climate financing, including the reduction of public financing that drives environmental degradation and biodiversity loss (GBF, Target 18), popular participation in decisions regarding NDCs, adaptation, and intersectional climate justice.

28. We defend the strengthening of public goods, local economies, and the role of the State in guaranteeing the common good and popular sovereignty. In this sense, investing in technical-scientific institutions is fundamental to ensuring that goods and services available to the population meet standards of quality, safety, and sustainability.

**Therefore, we demand:**

29. Just transitions, with energy sovereignty and protagonism of social actors in the territories;

30. Public investments in socio-bioeconomy, agroecology, care economy, and solidarity economy, with an intersectional approach;

31. Implementation of food sovereignty policies and hunger eradication, with protagonism of historically marginalized populations;

32. Recognition and historical reparation of racial and gender inequalities;

33. Regional adoption of SDG 18 (Ethnic-Racial Equity) and support for proposals to create other SDGs, such as those on culture, Indigenous peoples, and people in street situations, as concrete commitments of the 2030 Agenda;

34. Promotion (in line with ILO standards) of decent work—urban and rural—as a pillar of sustainable development, guaranteeing freedom of association and unionization, collective bargaining, eradication of child labor, as well as universal social protection;

35. Promotion of climate change policies specifically for children, in light of the principles of human dignity, environmental justice, and intergenerational equity;



36. Promotion of sustainable development built on solidarity-based, associative, and cooperative foundations, ecological, feminist, anti-racist, centered on decent work, mental health promotion, social justice, and overcoming structural inequalities;

37. Adherence to the commitments established in the UNDRIP and UNDROP declarations, recognizing and strengthening the knowledge, practices, and resistance of peoples who live in and care for the territories, with active participation in defining and implementing the policies that affect them.

#### IV. Recommended Government Commitments

38. At this VI Seminar, we renew our alliances among the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, and we reiterate our expectation that governments of the region assume clear, measurable, and binding commitments in preparation for the World Social Summit.

Therefore, we propose:

39. **Establish national targets for the participation and representation of civil society and social movements** in public policies, with budget allocation, equity, and transparency;

40. **Place all human rights and the rights of nature at the center of development**, recognizing their indivisibility and interdependence;

41. **Recognize the human right to migration**, with reception and integration policies for people displaced by conflicts, climate change, emergencies, or economic crises;

42. **Establish intersectional action plans**, with class, race, gender, territory, age, and disability perspectives, for the eradication of extreme poverty, including the participation of children, adolescents, and youth in the drafting of such documents;

43. **Create, institutionalize, and strengthen specific commissions** for historically marginalized populations mentioned above, including people in street situations, as a way to ensure their effective participation, recognition of their rights, and promotion of equity in decision-making spaces;

44. **Social justice, equity, and sustainability are urgent**. Concentrated wealth, racism, patriarchy, and environmental destruction threaten the present and the future. We reaffirm: **without the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, there is no 2030 Agenda**.

We call on States, the United Nations system, and the international community to listen to the cries of the territories and turn promises into concrete action. **We will continue collectively, in networks, in resistance, and in hope!**

## Annex 3

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS<sup>1</sup>****A. Estados miembros de la Comisión/  
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- Kirk Humphrey, Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs (with responsibility for Crime Prevention), email: kirkhumphrey7@gmail.com;

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

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**BOLIVIA (ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE)/BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)**Representante/Representative:

- Álvaro Eduardo Pardo Garvizu, Encargado de Negocios a. i., Embajada del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia en el Brasil, email: colivian-santiago@consuladodebolivia.cl;

**BRASIL/BRAZIL**Representante/Representative:

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<sup>1</sup> Los datos de esta lista son los suministrados por los participantes en el registro correspondiente que se habilitó para la reunión. / The information contained in this list is as supplied by the participants themselves, in the register provided for the meeting.

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## ETIOPÍA/ETHIOPIA

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**D. Sistema de las Naciones Unidas/United Nations system**

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

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- Silvia Rucks, Coordinadora Residente de las Naciones Unidas en el Brasil
- Li Junhua, Secretario General Adjunto de Asuntos Económicos y Sociales de las Naciones Unidas (por video)
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- Yorleni León, Ministra de Desarrollo Humano e Inclusión Social de Costa Rica
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