



Second Session of the Regional  
Conference on Social Development  
in Latin America and the Caribbean  
IX Ministerial Forum for Development  
in Latin America and the Caribbean  
Montevideo, 25-27 October 2017

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

Montevideo, 25-27 October 2017



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## **A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **Place and date of the meeting**

1. The second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Montevideo, from 25 to 27 October 2017, and was convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in consultation with the Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay. The session was held in conjunction with the ninth Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, by virtue of a joint declaration signed by ECLAC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in October 2014 with the aim of fostering synergies.

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

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Turkey and Uruguay.

3. Attending from the United Nations Secretariat were representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility.

4. Also present at the Conference were representatives of the following United Nations programmes, funds and bodies: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

5. Also represented were the following specialized agencies of the United Nations: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

6. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations, cooperation agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia and other sectors also attended the session.

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<sup>1</sup> For the complete list of participants, see annex 3.

### **Election of Presiding Officers**

7. The Conference elected the following Presiding Officers:

Chair: Uruguay

Vice-Chairs: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico and Panama

### **B. AGENDA**

8. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Presentation of the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges*.
4. Review of the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges*.
5. Social achievements attuned with sustainability.
6. Other matters.
7. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

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

#### **Opening session**

9. The opening session was addressed by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Jessica Faieta, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Marina Arismendi, Minister of Social Development of Uruguay and Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay.

10. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked the Government of Uruguay for its hospitality and highlighted that country's early commitment to social development and equality; she stated that ECLAC shared Uruguay's life cycle approach as well as its vision that poverty reduction policies were not enough to achieve a more egalitarian society, and that it was necessary to build a system which could guarantee greater levels of well-being for the entire population. The Executive Secretary stressed that social issues were not played out in the social sphere alone and that a virtuous coordination with the economic, production and environmental areas was required, referring to social development as an investment that

yielded positive returns for economic growth and environmental protection: growth for equality, equality for growth. Lastly, she added that ECLAC viewed inequality as heavily conditioned by both the production matrix and the culture of privilege that characterized the region, and that it was time to leave that culture behind and transition to a culture of equality.

11. After expressing her satisfaction with the inter-agency cooperation efforts between ECLAC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in organizing the Conference, the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP referred to the achievements and remaining challenges described in the *Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean 2016* prepared by the organization. She recalled that more than a third of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean remained economically vulnerable and that the hard core of exclusion could not be solved by with economic growth alone, but rather required inclusion, non-discrimination and affirmative action policies. She referred to the support provided to countries by UNDP in the implementation of the Report's recommendations, the deepening of knowledge to continue progressing in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the creation of roadmaps to assist countries with implementation, through its Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) strategy applied on the basis of each country's development priorities.

12. The Minister of Social Development of Uruguay stated that, despite social achievements in her country, much work remained to advance equality, and highlighted the importance of safeguarding progress and avoiding setbacks. She underscored the need to strengthen social protection systems and cited the country's integrated national care system, Uruguay's main social protection pillar that engaged different sectors and ministries based on the notion of care as a right. In light of the current state of affairs in Uruguay, the region and the world in general, she described multigenerational solidarity as a necessity, together with an inter-agency approach on the part of governments, not only to care for people, but also to ensure their inclusion and the full exercise of their rights. She concluded by calling on countries to share their experiences and work together so that all members of society —today's and tomorrow's generations— in all their diversity, could have the same rights.

13. Lastly, after saying that it was an honour for Uruguay to host the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay stressed that social inclusion was a core aspect of development in the country and the region, and recalled that it was a priority established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He referred to Uruguay's efforts to reduce social gaps, by tackling poverty in a comprehensive manner and mainstreaming social policies and their sustainability. As well as its integrated national care system, Uruguay had made progress in digital inclusion and social dialogue, which engaged civil society in the government's social agenda. To conclude, he ratified Uruguay's commitment to overcoming inequality and commended the countries' efforts to participate in meetings with those goals in mind, inasmuch as cooperation and the exchange of experiences were critical for continued progress towards greater equality in the region.

Presentation of the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges* (agenda item 3)

14. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC presented the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges*.<sup>2</sup> She referred to a change of era taking place, characterized by six main elements: the decoupling of the real economy from the financial sphere, with growing financialization and concentration in financial assets; significant geopolitical changes, including

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<sup>2</sup> LC/CDS.2/3.

the situation in China, the United States and Europe; growing inequality, as illustrated by the concentration of most of global wealth in the hands of only eight individuals; the migration of 30 million people in the region, of which almost 50% were undocumented; the industrial and technological revolution, and stagnation of global and regional growth and the tendency to invest in growth “at all costs,” which signalled the need to guarantee sustainability and reverse inequality. In that framework, she explained that the document’s proposals included linking competitiveness with decent, good-quality employment, breaking up the inequality pipeline, reducing stubborn poverty and facilitating the transition from education to employment.

15. Fiorella Molinelli, Minister of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru, said that the document represented a call to address the current economic situation and that it posed interesting challenges. She highlighted the need to position equality at the centre of sustainable development and to address inequality through a multidimensional approach, with comprehensive and coordinated policies that took the social footprint of development into account. She emphasized the notion of social public spending, combined with the distribution and oversight roles of States equipped with enhanced information systems. Her Ministry had advanced in reducing both poverty and extreme poverty, and in providing equal access to basic services, paying special attention to early childhood development, with a particular focus on chronic undernutrition and anaemia. Lastly, she mentioned that Peru’s efforts were based on the maxim of “leaving no one behind” and that the country was preparing to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2021.

16. Next, the Minister of Social Development of Uruguay stated that the Government of Uruguay agreed with the document’s central thesis of putting equality at the centre of sustainable development, and stressed that progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals would be possible only through joint coordination. Considering that childhood, adolescence and youth were the age groups that suffered the greatest levels of exclusion, her Ministry considered it essential to reinforce the notion that everyone had the same rights, and that education and quality of learning were key. In closing, she referred to the need to work towards the eradication of the culture of privilege.

17. The floor was then given to the country representatives.

18. The representative of Argentina highlighted the document’s key concepts for working on social policy and its acknowledgement of what countries had achieved overall, in particular regarding multidimensional poverty. Argentina had designed social policies aimed at the provision of a minimum income, and had brought those transfers into line with formal employment in an effort to end the myth that they could discourage job-seeking. She identified two pillars of social policies in her country —equal opportunities and the focus on early childhood— as well as proposing that financial inclusion was essential for development, and that awareness was growing in economic spheres of the importance of linking their economic actions with those of the social sphere.

19. The representative of Cuba expressed the opinion that policies in Latin America and the Caribbean had not been geared towards social development, which was confirmed by the projections on the region’s vulnerability. He stressed that reducing inequality remained an essential condition for a world free of poverty, and that progress made should be safeguarded by further expanding inclusive social development policies. Cuba’s policies were people-centred, and the country continued to make progress along the path of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, despite the embargo against the country.

20. The representative of the Dominican Republic said that the document highlighted the warnings and reflections that required attention to keep development moving forward in the region.

21. The representative of Colombia stated that her country approached inclusion from a multidimensional perspective; in her opinion, regional and global agendas had to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as that would lead to more sustainable and efficient use of resources. Progress could be made by changing traditional work systems and improving monitoring and assessment mechanisms. The representative concluded by saying that the peace agreement in Colombia, aided by the experiences of other countries, offered an opportunity to overcome poverty in rural areas and to generate greater equality, and that—together with reaching the Sustainable Development Goals—convening all of society to achieve peace represented one of the country's greatest challenges.

22. The representative of Panama reflected on the use of the term "equality" instead of "equity". She drew attention to the role and approach of the private sector in her country and argued that social development would not occur as a natural consequence of economic growth and that the rationale must therefore be inverted: inclusion had to be achieved to enable growth. She pointed out that corruption was a reflection of the culture of privilege and that all sectors needed to be included in the advancement of early childhood policies.

23. The representative of Costa Rica stated that the report was both a portrait and a challenge for the region's countries and that efforts had to be redoubled for progress to continue. She reiterated that social issues were not played out in the social sphere alone and that work in isolation was no longer an option: efforts must be coordinated. In her opinion, the qualitative leap would occur when policies centred on people, not on numbers. Lastly, she expressed the urgent need to eliminate the culture of privilege.

24. The representative of Brazil expressed concern over the low level of productivity and the persistent investment in unsustainable growth, when the priority should be eradicating poverty and inequality. She regretted that—despite all of the countries implementing similar programmes—work and education inclusion had yet to be guaranteed for younger generations.

25. The representative of Ecuador identified with the document's content and approach and said that his country had developed a model of care—the *Toda una Vida* plan—which covered the entire life cycle. He insisted that social programmes required the adoption of redistributive fiscal policies, and that innovations were needed to build on previous achievements and avoid setbacks.

26. The representative of Mexico stressed that the gaps identified clearly reflected rigidities in the labour market and in the economic policies of recent decades. Inclusive development was linked to regional dynamics; thus, it was necessary to reflect on developments in regions that had become part of broader value chains, and by doing so had developed their capacities and improved their income and job opportunities. Accordingly, skills certification was essential to involve more of the population in progress and galvanize the economy. Lastly, he referred to the need for policies in response to earthquakes and hurricanes, whose impacts tended to be worst in poorer areas.

27. The representative of Haiti recalled the destructive and socially adverse impact of natural and climate-related disasters in her country; the assistance received to repair damages accounted for only 15% of requirements and work was being executed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which limited the government's scope of action. She regretted the loss that the mass emigration of young people represented for the Dominican Republic, and stressed the urgent need for incentives to encourage that age group to stay in the country or return. She listed a number of actions her country had undertaken in relation to social challenges, which included reviewing disaster protocols within the civil protection system—based on other countries' experiences—, creating a database of persons in vulnerable situations (the poorest 40% of the population), and expanding the coverage of programmes and initiatives to stimulate the local economy and combat



malnutrition. Lastly, she stressed the need to coordinate the actions of NGOs to avoid duplication of efforts and direct social assistance to those in need more efficiently.

28. The representative of Honduras highlighted three aspects: the importance of generating opportunities to share experiences, especially involving governments, the private sector and civil society; his interest in learning from the experiences and progress of other countries, ranging from basic social protection to social and production inclusion; and the importance of improving metrics in preparation for decision-making.

29. Overall, the delegations agreed with the document's approach, concurring that reducing inequality and increasing inclusion were indispensable conditions for a new development model to boost growth in the region, and emphasizing the importance of early childhood, education and work. Several delegations underscored the need to improve the monitoring and assessment of programmes, as well as the coordination between all sectors. Lastly, several countries referred to the consequences of natural disasters in the region.

Review of the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges* (item 4 of the agenda)

30. Four panels were held under this agenda item, addressing priority issues for social development as identified in the document presented under agenda item 3.<sup>3</sup>

31. Panel 1 on “Social policies with a rights-based approach throughout the life cycle”, was chaired by Cristina Lustemberg, Vice-Minister of Public Health of Uruguay, and moderated by Daniela Bas, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. The speakers in the panel were: Maria do Carmo Brant de Carvalho, National Secretary for Social Assistance of Brazil; Ana Josefina Güell, Vice-Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica; William Díaz, Director of the International Economic Agencies Department of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba; Michelle Muschett, Vice-Minister for Social Development of Panama; Héctor Medina, Deputy Director of the Progress with Solidarity programme of the Office of the Vice-President of the Dominican Republic and Laura Gianecchini, Institutional Development Coordinator of the Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education (CLADE).

32. The National Secretary for Social Assistance of Brazil remarked that since 2004 social policies in her country were focused on a life cycle strategy, placing families at the centre and using a territorial approach. She also referred to a single register (*cadastro único*), a tool for identifying families in situations of poverty and vulnerability, as well as to the country's integrated system of benefits and services based on a multisectoral design. Among other policies, she cited employment programmes for young people and others for surrogate and foster families.

33. The Vice-Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica stated that her country's social policy was based on a human-rights approach that was sensitive to the particularities of different territories. She referred to the use of the multidimensional poverty index and to the fact that her country's change in paradigm in the fight against poverty was reflected, for example, in the use of technological tools for georeferencing purposes (“social maps”). She also highlighted the creation of a “single window” for care to enable a coordinated, interdisciplinary, comprehensive and interministerial social policy, and the establishment of technical discussion circles, to agree upon commitments. The

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<sup>3</sup> The statements and presentations given at the session may be accessed at the meeting website [online]: <http://crds.cepal.org/en>.



country's life cycle approach was illustrated by its national network for childhood, and its adolescence and youth policies, but she pointed out that they lacked coordination. Finally, she referred to the need to maintain fiscal discipline and avoid social policies being designed and run with political or party interests in mind. Instead they should be centred on people and the Sustainable Development Goals.

34. The Director of the International Economic Agencies Department of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba remarked that social policy was front and centre of his country's priorities. He underscored the existence of universal access to health services as a constitutional right, as well as the advances in education, health and nutrition, but also referred to his country's challenges to improve professional teacher training —especially as regards persons with special needs— and regretted the low level of families' engagement in their children's learning.

35. The Deputy Minister for Social Development of Panama began by underscoring the long-term vision of the State —centred on territoriality and the life cycle— and referred to the imminent launch of an integrated childhood protection system in her country. She highlighted the implementation of a methodology for the measurement of the multidimensional poverty index (MPI), as well as a specific metric of childhood poverty developed with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and UNDP. She referred to remaining challenges in sexual education and adolescent pregnancy, quality of education and awareness of changing family structures.

36. The Deputy Director of the Progress with Solidarity Programme of the Office of the Vice-President of the Dominican Republic referred to that programme —part of the government's social protection network— which offered family-income support and provided vocational training for young people and adults, childcare programmes for under-fives and incentives for school attendance and completion, as well as programmes aimed at closing the digital gap and the inclusion of persons with disabilities. He pointed to the lack of quality jobs for young people and skilled adults as remaining challenges for his country.

37. Lastly, the Institutional Development Coordinator of CLADE remarked that the right to education crystallized all other human rights and that avoiding greater inequality required a transformative form of education centred on justice and non-discrimination. She highlighted the system developed by CLADE for monitoring financing for the human right to education, which the Campaign made available through an online platform.

38. In concluding, the moderator emphasized that peace and rights, including social rights, were the key building blocks for the full development of children and young people. The Vice-Minister for Social Development of Panama remarked that the challenge was to act in a coordinated and intersectoral manner. The Vice-Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica suggested that coordinating policies throughout the life cycle required raising awareness and bringing together initiatives around concrete topics, reinforcing participation, infrastructure and technology. The representative of the Uruguayan Institute for Children and Adolescents (INAU) mentioned that her country faced the challenge of eliminating poverty gaps between children and adolescents and other age groups, and asked participants in the panel to share specific experiences in that regard.

39. Panel 2 on “The double challenge of social and economic inclusion”, was chaired by Pablo Ferreri, Vice-Minister of Economy and Finance of Uruguay, and moderated by José Manuel Salazar, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The speakers on the panel were: Ernesto Murro, Minister of Labour and Social Security of Uruguay; Elías Jaua, Vice-President for the Social Area and Minister of the People's Power for Education of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Stéphanie Auguste, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour of Haiti; Marcos Barraza Gómez, Minister of Social

Development of Chile; Catalina Parra, Deputy Director for Poverty Reduction of Social Prosperity of Colombia; Oliver Arroyo Ramón, Director General of Evaluation and Monitoring of Social Programmes of the Secretariat of Social Development of Mexico; María Soledad Cisternas, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Disability and Accessibility; and Alejandra Angriman, Leader of the Argentine Workers' Central Union (CTA) and member of the Working Women's Committee of the Americas (CMTA) of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (CSA).

40. Introducing the panel —after the presentation by the Vice-Minister of Economy and Finance of Uruguay, who underscored the importance of leaving no one behind— the moderator emphasized the importance of the concept of double inclusion in a framework of sustained growth, with a broad and diversified base of economic sectors and the creation of decent work. The concepts proposed in the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges* were, in his opinion, closely aligned with those agreed upon by ILO, the Government of Uruguay, employers and workers, and a virtuous circle had to be created between the social and production spheres.

41. The Minister of Labour and Social Security of Uruguay began by highlighting the notion of social protection in his country, which was based on coordination among systems, greater levels of spending in the area and a strong State. He insisted on the importance of dialogue and social participation, and on the central role of collective bargaining, adding that it was essential to carry out tax reforms, add value to export products, renew the appeal of democracy and advance with international integration systems (trade agreements, and social and labour protection of migrants).

42. The Vice-President for the Social Area and Minister of the People's Power for Education of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela indicated that readings of the inequality index in his country had improved as a result of the State's increased social spending, a process which included citizen participation. He referred to progress in free access to education, reduction of unemployment and mass access to health care, and stressed that despite the drop in oil prices and threats from violent flashpoints, public expenditure had not shrunk, and that some social policies —such as those related to housing— had driven the economy forward.

43. The Minister of Social Affairs and Labour of Haiti drew attention to several programmes in her country —supported by cooperation agencies and international organizations— aimed at addressing access to decent work, drinking water and sanitation, the inclusion of persons with disabilities and older adults, young people, gender quotas, support for early childhood (vaccines and primary education), and programmes for Haitians in the Dominican Republic.

44. The Minister of Social Development of Chile underlined the relationship between social protection, inclusion and productivity. He argued against the notion of middle-income countries, insofar as averages could hide major inequalities, as in the case of Chile. Therefore, development had to be approached from a multidimensional perspective and with a territorial dimension in mind. He described how Chile's reforms in education and labour were leading to a virtuous relationship between social and economic inclusion, but acknowledged that constitutional change was still needed. Achieving double inclusion required a combination of economic policies with social and labour policies, as well as models for intervention in vocational training.

45. The Deputy Director for Poverty Reduction of the Administrative Department of Social Prosperity of Colombia commented that the multidimensional measurement of poverty carried out in her country since 2010 had allowed it to make policy decisions based on an improved identification of needs (for example, in early childhood, education and health). She stressed that efforts were under way to achieve double

inclusion —recognizing that progress in social inclusion had not been matched in the production sphere— and insisted on the need to improve information systems to optimize the use of resources and avoid duplication. Measures that had been effective in Colombia included a network to bring public services closer to the poorest families and production inclusion projects for indigenous and Afrodescendent populations.

46. The Director General of Evaluation and Monitoring of Social Programmes of the Secretariat of Social Development of Mexico remarked that 60% of his country's population worked in the informal sector and therefore lacked social security. He highlighted the need to recognize the particular characteristics of territories and life stages to improve the social and production inclusion of those populations. He also referred to efforts aimed at universal access to health and education services, and the need to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local level to allow central government measures to flourish. In closing, he underscored the need to flexibilize the labour market and attract foreign investment.

47. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Disability and Accessibility stated that accessibility and support services for persons with disabilities were key aspects in the fulfilment of rights in the spheres of political participation, education, health and family life. She suggested a change to the following sentence on page 70 of the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges*: “In addition, the possibilities for inclusion in education are largely dependent on the type and severity of the disability in question”, as inclusion in education could not be dependent on the degree of disability. She concluded by saying that States needed to be fully aware of their responsibilities in matters of inclusion.

48. The leader of CTA and member of the Working Women's Committee of the Americas of CSA, as well as highlighting the work of the Platform for the Development of the Americas (PLADA) developed by CSA, stressed that all stakeholders should be convened to the discussion and that it was difficult to discuss social policies without questioning the current economic model, underscoring the importance of collective bargaining and the existence of a care system.

49. The representative of the Argentine delegation recalled that, after the crisis of 2001, her country had established the Social Policy Council as a forum to coordinate interministerial actions related to social policy. She reaffirmed the importance of discussing the sustainability and territorial rationale of social policies, as well as the importance of reflecting on the world of work and its future in the global context.

50. In closing, the moderator of the panel indicated that policy continuity and giving due consideration to the middle classes were both essential. The Chair indicated that the changes in the economic and technological context demanded adaptive responses through solid institutions, ensuring universal access to high-quality services, and providing formal, decent and well-paid jobs, productive investment, fiscal policies, and public goods and services. In combating inequality, he highlighted the importance of achieving sustained growth and of efficient State action.

51. Panel 3, entitled “Road map for developing public policies on social and economic inclusion”, was chaired by Edith Moraes, Acting Minister of Education and Culture of Uruguay, and moderated by the Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC. The speakers on the panel were: Julio Bango, Secretary of the Integrated National Care System of Uruguay; Gabriela Agosto, Executive Secretary of the National Council for Social Policy Coordination of Argentina; Adrián Augusto Barrera, Secretary for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation and Presidential Adviser for the Social Sector Council of Ecuador; Carlos Sáenz, Director-General of Coordination of Government and International

Cooperation of the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Office of the President of El Salvador; Vicenta Camusso, Coordinator of the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women; and Andrés Morales, Social and Human Sciences Specialist for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

52. The moderator opened the panel discussion by stating that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals required responding to a series of challenges: deepening labour inclusion, strengthening institutions (coordinating public policies, metrics and financing) and working towards political and fiscal feasibility (reaching consensus, participation and compacts).

53. The Secretary of the Integrated National Care System of Uruguay stated that double inclusion would be possible only if other inequalities, aside from that of income, were addressed. He remarked that poverty and inequality in his country had been reduced through social investment and, among other things, the commitment to a national system of care that included children, persons with disabilities and older persons. That fourth pillar of social protection allowed those who wanted to work to do so, thus generating the necessary resources to distribute social wealth and to allow children to fully develop and reach the productivity levels needed for the future.

54. The Executive Secretary of the National Council for Social Policy Coordination of Argentina stated that labour inclusion no longer guaranteed overcoming vulnerability and poverty, insofar as the labour market was being shaped by new demands and technological changes. She referred to a development and technology investment fund in her country that sought to increase business productivity and create quality jobs, as well as promoting new capacities and an inclusive form of development. She also highlighted the importance of strengthening institutions through an intersectoral approach, achieving vertical and horizontal integration, and taking advantage of available information to monitor and define strategies around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She concluded by saying that regional cooperation was critical to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

55. The Secretary for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation and Presidential Adviser for the Social Sector Council of Ecuador stated that his country had expanded coverage through a development plan that placed the economy at the service of society, with a vision of more society and less State, greater levels of participation, and an intersectoral and interdisciplinary perspective which supported the *Toda una Vida* Plan, centred on the entire life cycle (early childhood, young and older persons: nutrition, support, housing) and on territories. All that implied challenges in intersectoral coordination, financing and achieving a smarter bureaucracy. In closing, he underscored the importance of capacity-building, not only in technical areas but also in the socioemotional sphere.

56. The Director-General of Coordination of Government and International Cooperation of the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Office of the President of El Salvador remarked that his country had made substantial efforts to recover the State, for and with the citizenship. He stated that, thanks to the support of ECLAC and international cooperation, his country had unified its regulatory system (the Universal Social Protection Act) under the coordinating role of the Technical and Planning Secretariat, and went on to inform that management mechanisms to follow up and monitor programmes had been strengthened, covering public safety, teacher training, early education and school retention, as well as a programme to overcome poverty, with an emphasis on productive inclusion. He expressed the importance of delivering quality services, building a new fiscal framework to guarantee sustainability, and securing the commitment of business owners, citizens and ministries. Adding that El Salvador had established a single registry of participants, he stressed the need to acknowledge changes to the social landscape resulting from migration and violence, and that both should be taken into account when designing policies.

57. The Coordinator of the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women focused on the lack of data on Afrodescendants. She stated that poverty in the region was of a certain colour, and that racial variables had not been clearly incorporated into the Sustainable Development Goals, thus making it difficult to follow up on those matters. Lastly, she expressed the importance of reflecting on the tools, strategies and actions that would allow progress towards a form of universalism sensitive to difference and inequality.

58. The Social and Human Sciences Specialist for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNESCO referred to the challenges of coordinating and designing public policies as described in the document and stressed the contributions of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme, which makes public policy recommendations based on an intersectoral and interdisciplinary perspective so as to improve and strengthen the interaction mechanisms between stakeholders, communication channels, and national and international information flows.

59. During the time set aside for comments, the representative of Costa Rica drew attention to her country's digital development strategy —linked to its social inclusion efforts— and to the importance of adopting a risk management approach to face natural disasters. The representative of Argentina agreed that cultural aspects and Afrodescendent affairs should be highlighted in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Chair referred to the importance of accessing information provided through new technologies in order to design systems to identify, locate and characterize populations, and to design and monitor the policies implemented. Closing, she said that in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals inequality could be seen as the point of departure, equality as the point of arrival, and equity as the strategy.

#### Social achievements attuned with sustainability (agenda item 5)

60. Panel 4 on “Social achievements attuned with sustainability”, was chaired by Guillermo Moncecchi, Acting Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay, and moderated by George Gray Molina, Chief Economist, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP. Panel participants were: Santiago Soto, Deputy Director of the Office of Planning and the Budget of Uruguay; Miguel Ángel Moir, Secretary for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President of Guatemala (SEGEPLAN) of Guatemala; Oliver Arroyo Ramón, Director General of Evaluation and Monitoring of Social Programmes of the Secretariat of Social Development of Mexico; Héctor Medina, Deputy Director of the Progress with Solidarity Programme of the Office of the Vice-President of the Dominican Republic; Emiliano R. Fernández, Vice-Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Development of the Technical Secretariat of Planning for Economic and Social Development of Paraguay; and Elsa Servellón, Director of the National Social Sector Information Centre (CENISS) of Honduras.

61. Introducing the panel, the Acting Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay stressed his government's interest in unifying the social and productive agendas. The moderator contextualized the discussion highlighting that, at a time of economic slowdown and in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, public policy should adopt a territorial approach, build a fiscal agenda based on long-term political compacts and develop georeferenced and real-time data. He opened the floor proposing that Latin America's challenge was to accept the invitation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to implement structural transformations in the social, economic and environmental spheres.

62. The Deputy Director of the Office of Planning and Budget of Uruguay recalled that reducing poverty and inequality in his country had required structural transformations, a doubling of output, the



introduction of a universal healthcare system and a system for transfers to poor families, as well as a tax reform. He said that all that was the result of decisions made during an economic upturn, but there was still work to be done to standardize those results across the whole country and to consolidate the fiscal position in order to withstand a long downturn and meet the institutional challenge of improving intersectoral coordination.

63. The Secretary for Planning and Programming of SEGEPLAN of Guatemala spoke about the three mechanisms implemented in his country: a strategy to coordinate the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; a national system of social and economic development councils to consolidate the intersectoral approach and carry out improved planning and information management exercises; and, the development by the Ministry of Public Finances of fiscal microsimulation exercises in areas such as food security and public safety.

64. The Director General of Evaluation and Monitoring of Social Programmes of the Secretariat of Social Development of Mexico presented the “Inclusive Mexico” strategy —part of the National Development Plan— and spoke of other advances, including the creation of formal jobs, the implementation of productive projects and initiatives to combat nutritional deficiencies, certify skills and coordinate social programmes with employment exchange services, and other initiatives to provide care and support to older persons. He also stressed the importance of actions that were relevant to the country and of the need for a protocol to be followed by all relevant institutions in the event of a natural disaster in order to provide more appropriate care.

65. The Deputy Director of the Progress with Solidarity Programme of the Office of the Vice-President of the Dominican Republic said that his country had set up a High-level Inter-Agency Commission for Sustainable Development, which among other things had established a follow-up system for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals using technologies that had allowed information to be gathered from 80% of the population. That data had been used to develop indicators to improve the planning and follow-up of implemented policies. Indices on quality of life and vulnerability to environmental shocks had been developed, the latter was important for facing the challenges of natural disasters.

66. The Vice-Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Development of the Technical Secretariat of Planning for Economic and Social Development of Paraguay said that, in terms of sustainability, the market had played a fundamental role together with public policies in his country’s development strategy. A number of programmes, based on georeferenced information, had been developed to promote inclusion, including the *Tekoporã*, the food assistance for older adults and *Sembrando Oportunidades* programmes, and the *Familia por Familia* initiative.

67. The Director of CENISS of Honduras shared details of the institution she represented and spoke about the Unified Registry of Participants (RUP), which gathered social information and household descriptions that could be validated and monitored to respond to families’ needs. Both RUP and the Institutional Supply Registry (ROI) were examples of georeferenced information tools that helped to identify gaps in the areas of health, education and work, and to monitor programme compliance. To analyse families’ needs and guide decision-making in that regard, solid statistical systems were needed that incorporated disaggregated socio-spatial data.

68. In the ensuing discussions, the moderator referred to the many innovative initiatives mentioned and said that, in all likelihood, the region would develop a series of mechanisms linking the short and long term, rather than a grand development plan. Accordingly, the region needed a narrative to communicate how the Goals would be achieved by 2030, through joint efforts to address gaps that would bring about changes in power relationships, institutions and culture. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean

of UNDP said that the meaning of the ideas of multidimensionality, territoriality, reformulation of institutions and interconnectivity, among others, must be clarified, since the presentations by the vast majority of the countries had touched on some of those concepts. She added that it was crucial to invest in young people, educational quality and employability.

69. Lastly, the Acting Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay said that the countries' presentations demonstrated their willingness to move forward in a sustainable manner. In such rapidly changing times countries must assess their realities, adjust their decisions and review the relevance of tools used in the light of a commonly-agreed long-term goal. In his view, the Sustainable Development Goals guided each policy action within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, which was the long-term strategy.

#### Other matters (agenda item 6)

70. In a special statement, the President of the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations for Development (ANONG) and a representative of the Good Shepherd organization in Nicaragua read a declaration by civil society, which is included in annex 2 to this report.

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

71. The member States of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the resolution, which appears in annex 1 to this report.

### **Closing session**

72. In the closing session, statements were made by Laís Abramo, Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC; Jessica Faieta, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNPD; and Marina Arismendi, Minister of Social Development of Uruguay.

73. The Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC said that the Conference had been organized in conjunction with the Government of Uruguay, UNDP and other United Nations agencies. She welcomed the meeting organized by civil society and noted the interest in continuing efforts to build up a regional network to work on the issues discussed. She said that the document presented was intended to be a contribution to the discussion on the challenges faced by the countries of the region to achieve double inclusion and, thus, consolidate progress and avoid backsliding with regard to poverty and inequality. The culture of privilege must be broken down and steps taken towards creating a culture of equality, taking into account the inequality matrix and systematically generating data, statistics and indicators. She expressed concern about the impact that technological changes, complex global value chains, environmental challenges and demographic trends (such as migration and population ageing) were having on the world of work. Lastly, she said that the impact of social policies was not confined to the social sphere, the effects were also felt in the areas of the economy, production and the environment, those policies must therefore be linked.

74. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP thanked the Government of Uruguay for its hospitality and the countries for generously sharing their experiences. She welcomed the contribution of civil society to the meeting and said that the event had been a valuable learning experience, not only for the countries, but also for the organizations that had come to lend their support. She called on all those present to participate in the next joint meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Conference and the



tenth Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which would be organized by UNDP in Panama.

75. In closing, the Minister of Social Development of Uruguay commended the joint efforts undertaken to organize the event. She noted the institutional lessons learned and welcomed the consolidation of the Conference as a social forum. She congratulated ECLAC on the document presented and referred to the creation of forums for coordinating the efforts of different ministries in her country, in the framework of both the Conference and the round table discussions. She confirmed that the Government of Uruguay would honour its commitments to take steps to define a regional agenda for inclusive social development, as stated in paragraph 11 of the resolution.

## Annex 1

**RESOLUTION 2(II)**

*At its second session, held in Montevideo from 25 to 27 October 2017, 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,

*Reaffirming* the commitment of the States to the complete fulfilment of human rights in the region, including the economic, social and cultural rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), and in the conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (2013), the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons (2015), the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1988), the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) and the considerations established for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017),

*Sharing* fully the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, certain of the relevance of multilateralism and convinced that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will forge a global consensus for the pursuit of a new development paradigm that will serve to strengthen peace, eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, combat inequality and protect human rights, ensuring no one is left behind,

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

*Recognizing also* the negative effects of unilateral coercive economic measures on the economic and social development of the countries subjected to such measures,

*Bearing in mind* that resolution 1(I) adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima in November 2015, urged the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to deepen the integrated analysis of the multiple dimensions of social inequality, poverty and vulnerability, as well as of the relationship between economic, production and social policies and policies on employment protection and decent work,

*Recalling* that, at their first meeting, held in Santo Domingo in November 2016, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean welcomed the analytical progress enshrined in the document *The social inequality matrix in Latin America*,<sup>1</sup> and urged the countries to deepen research and knowledge and incorporate the elements analysed in that document into the design of public policies for social development,

*Recalling also* the firm commitment expressed by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequality in all its forms, and the importance of building agreements, compacts and consensuses to consolidate the culture of equality and overcome the culture of privilege in the region,

1. *Welcomes* the document *Linkages between the social and production spheres: gaps, pillars and challenges*<sup>2</sup> prepared by the secretariat, and urges the secretariat to disseminate it broadly and to foster its discussion and analysis in the region, in particular within civil society and in the academic sphere, promoting national dialogues on the main topics addressed and taking national specificities into consideration in every case, and requests the secretariat to explore in greater depth the link between the social and productive spheres;

2. *Recognizes* that reducing the social footprint of the current development model and achieving inclusive social development are essential for sustainable development and for the fulfilment of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and require the coordination of productive inclusion and social inclusion policies, especially in the current context of change accelerated by technological innovation at the global level;

3. *Also recognizes* that the region has structural inequalities that intersect and concatenate throughout the life cycle, affecting with particular intensity children and adolescents, older persons, young people, women, indigenous peoples, the Afrodescendent population, persons with disabilities, migrants, those living in disadvantaged areas and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of treating territory as a vector for guiding the design and implementation of social policies to promote equality and inclusive social development;

5. *Reaffirms* that sustainable development cannot be achieved without equality of rights, capacities, means, outcomes and the commitment of Governments and civil society to consolidate social development and close access gaps within and between countries;

6. *Appreciates* the advances achieved by the region over the past 15 years in reducing poverty and inequality and improving citizens' living conditions, and reiterates its commitment to eradicating poverty and inequality in all their forms and dimensions through social policies that are inclusive and difference-aware, and have a gender, ethnicity, race, intersectoral, intercultural and human- rights perspective;

7. *Observes with particular concern* the trend towards the reduction of social development budgets in the region, the possible weakening of social protection systems that this could cause and the possibility that it could impede the expansion of universal social services and the maintenance and improvement of policies and programmes aimed at ending poverty, protecting employment and promoting equality;

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<sup>1</sup> LC/G.2690(MDS.1/2).

<sup>2</sup> LC/CDS.2/3.

8. *Emphasizes*, therefore, the need to safeguard, promote and ensure the efficiency of social investment and continue working to make the tax burden more progressive, in order to consolidate the progress achieved and avoid setbacks that would carry high costs for individuals and national economies;

9. *Reaffirms* its conviction that the sustained creation of productive employment and decent work is a prerequisite for consolidating and deepening the region's progress in reducing poverty and inequality, as is guaranteeing access to quality education and health care and to universal social protection systems founded on a rights-based approach, including care policies to ensure coresponsibility between the State and society and between women and men, with an emphasis on gender, generational and human-rights approaches;

10. *Urges* the countries to generate national consensus, compacts and agreements, in accordance with their capacities and in line with their individual situations, for strengthening a culture of equality and overcoming the culture of privilege, safeguarding social investment and the role of social policies and the institutional framework in sustainable development;

11. *Undertakes* to foster the building of a regional agenda for inclusive social development based on public policies that address the region's structural inequalities and the new challenges arising from technological change and the necessary transition to an environmentally sustainable economy, with a focus based on rights, gender equality and the life cycle and an approach of universalism that is sensitive to differences, within the general framework of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

12. *Calls upon* States, as part of that agenda, to address the situation of particular inequality, discrimination and social and economic exclusion that affects children and adolescents, older persons, young people, women, indigenous peoples, the Afrodescendent population, persons with disabilities, those living in disadvantaged areas and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, together with migrants, populations affected by disasters and climate change and those displaced from their territories by conflicts;

13. *Urges* States, in the preparation and discussion of that agenda, to actively engage civil society, academia and the private sector, in line with the multi-stakeholder approach enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in accordance with their normative and institutional frameworks;

14. *Asks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to provide technical assistance for that agenda's construction within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, continuing to analyse in-depth the axes that structure social inequality in the region, promoting the guarantee of the population's social, economic and cultural rights, with particular emphasis on policies for contributory and non-contributory social protection, health and education, food security and nutrition, care, the promotion of productive employment and decent work of high quality, and the social institutional framework and financing of social policies, and fostering South-South cooperation for exchanging experiences and lessons learned among countries;

15. *Agrees* to report to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, through the Chair of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and with the support of the secretariat, on the progress made in building that agenda and on the main advances achieved in implementing the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the region;

16. *Urges* the Commission to further its analysis of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of how it interconnects with the economic and environmental dimensions, how it applies to the region's social policies and how it is to adapt to the challenges arising from changes in the world of work;

17. *Also urges* the Commission to further its analysis of the challenges related to the sustainability of the financing needed to close gaps in access to comprehensive social protection systems and universal social services;

18. *Reiterates* the request that the Commission support the countries of the region in their efforts to strengthen their social policy evaluation systems;

19. *Also reiterates* 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 with an approach that is centred on the social dimension and promotes South-South cooperation;

20. *Takes note* of the declaration by civil society and asks that it be included as an annex to the report;

21. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue organizing, maintaining, updating and regularly publishing, on digital platforms or other media, databases which are organized by the Commission on the basis of official data presented by the countries, including the social investment database, the database of non-contributory social protection programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, the database on youth and social inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean and the database on social institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, thereby setting up an observatory on social development to support public policymaking and assist in monitoring trends, while aiming towards the development of other thematic pillars such as food and nutrition security, policies on care and coresponsibility, gender, ethnicity and race;

22. *Decides* that the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will comprise Uruguay as Chair and Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Panama and Mexico as Vice-Chairs;

23. *Asks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to convene the second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama in 2018, jointly with the tenth Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by the United Nations Development Programme;

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

## Annex 2

**DECLARATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Declaración pública de las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil – OSC en el Foro Social**  
***“Rol de las OSC en los procesos de desarrollo para la inclusión social y económica”***

**En el marco de la Segunda Conferencia Regional sobre Desarrollo Social de América Latina y el Caribe, convocada por CEPAL**

Las OSC participantes de este Foro Social expresamos:

Teniendo como marco el surgimiento del paradigma de desarrollo económico y social, expresado en los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, hoy vigente como compromiso a nivel planetario, **NO DEJAR A NADIE ATRÁS**, reafirmamos la vigencia de los Derechos Humanos, la Equidad, la Justicia y la Solidaridad Social como principios rectores.

Reconocemos la importancia de los compromisos firmados por nuestros gobiernos para alcanzar estos Objetivos, y considerando que son los Estados los responsables de generar y garantizar las condiciones para ello, como OSC reafirmamos nuestro compromiso de trabajar para que en cada uno de nuestros países, se llegue a hacer el máximo esfuerzo para lograrlo.

En las últimas décadas, observamos algunos progresos a nivel de indicadores socio-económicos, que ubican a algunos de nuestros países en rangos de desarrollo medio y alto. No obstante subrayamos que el desarrollo económico y social de América Latina y el Caribe, continúa manteniendo en el presente los rasgos históricos de explotación de los recursos naturales y de seres humanos, que genera marginalizaciones, exclusiones, migraciones, y condiciones de trabajo y de vida reñidos con la dignidad y la decencia mínima. Aun reconociendo ciertos logros y avances económicos y sociales en algunos países, estamos lejos de una integración de los sectores de la población histórica y socialmente relegados, por la persistente vulneración de sus derechos y falta de oportunidades. La mayor producción y generación de riquezas de nuestras economías, de las últimas décadas, sigue siendo en mayor beneficio de los grandes centros económicos internacionales y algunas minorías nacionales, que alcanza escasamente a los hogares más pobres del continente. Las mejorías relativas en sus ingresos, se canaliza por un aumento del consumo de productos, pero impacta escasamente en las condiciones de vida de las familias. Seguimos siendo el territorio con mayores desigualdades económicas, lo cual acentúa las brechas, sexo-genéricas, generacionales y étnico raciales en el planeta.

Observamos la expansión de un modelo cultural globalizante, que ha instalado un conjunto de valores y prácticas acordes con el modelo económico y el modelo político, que profundiza la brecha entre países, entre sociedades y ciudadanas y ciudadanos empobrecidos y enriquecidos, incluidos y excluidos, con o sin oportunidades para trabajar y vivir en dignidad. Un modelo en el que prima la producción y el consumo de bienes y mercancías; y se invisibiliza y precariza la diversidad cultural, la reproducción social de la vida, sin reconocer que sin ésta, es imposible la producción económica.



La concentración territorial de la riqueza y de la pobreza se expresa también en los cambios en el diseño urbano, socavando la integración social y la democratización de los espacios públicos.

En el mundo de hoy tenemos más personas en situación de pobreza, principalmente con rostros de niñas, niños adolescentes, mujeres, personas con discapacidad y minorías étnico-raciales; donde la brecha de acceso al conocimiento se amplifica, la segmentación territorial se acentúa y la segregación educativa aumenta las desigualdades. Vivimos una época de cambios culturales profundos y globales, empujados por una economía de mercado que impone sus reglas en todas las actividades humanas, incluida la cultura, y la educación, donde los Estados han sido poco efectivos en nuevas políticas, que generen transformaciones al status quo existente. Subrayamos que las OSC hemos contribuido históricamente a disminuir estas inequidades.

La educación, respondiendo con miradas reduccionistas de la calidad, no dialoga con las demandas de los y las estudiantes, excluyéndoles de los sistemas educativos. Las pruebas estandarizadas son incapaces de evaluar la calidad de los sistemas y no llevan en cuenta las diversidades y contextos locales. La educación que queremos y necesitamos debe ser emancipadora y transformadora, responder al respeto de la dignidad humana, a la superación de las múltiples formas de discriminación y violencia y promover el pleno ejercicio de todos los derechos humanos.

A su vez, amplios territorios son excluidos de servicios, con graves problemas sanitarios y ecológicos, con carencias de infraestructuras básicas, que también precarizan los lazos con el mundo del trabajo y debilitan las interrelaciones sociales que dan valor, pertenencia, protección y acceso a las riquezas culturales y espirituales de la sociedad. No es posible pensar en procesos de desarrollo territorial autogenerados, con prescindencia de las condiciones objetivas que se definen fuera del territorio e ignorando la realidad local.

La exclusión social no es una cuestión de las personas relegadas de estos sistemas; por el contrario, ésta interpela a toda la sociedad; y no solo en el plano económico, sino que pone en cuestión la necesidad ético-política de la inclusión social de amplios sectores de la población latinoamericana.

La situación de pobreza y la ausencia del Estado en zonas rurales y periféricas en muchos países de la Región, vulnera los derechos de las personas que son víctimas de explotación laboral y de trata con fines sexuales y para tráfico de drogas.

La persistencia de las luchas feministas y del movimiento de las mujeres ha generado importantes logros en lo laboral, en lo social, en lo simbólico y cultural, en la vida cotidiana de los hogares y las relaciones de género. La amplitud y diversidad de este movimiento quedó expresada en la movilización ciudadana de este 8 de marzo en numerosas ciudades y pueblos de la región y en las manifestaciones contra la violencia de género siendo clave el esfuerzo de las organizaciones para la legislación contra el femicidio y el avance de los derechos sexuales y los derechos reproductivos de todos y todas.



Así mismo, la construcción del individuo, en su integridad en tanto sujeto de derechos, ser social, político, histórico, implica un complejo proceso de autonomización, sobre todo en las personas con discapacidad. Sus capacidades de incidencia en tanto individuos implicados en su tiempo y realidad histórico-social, conlleva a un continuo fortalecimiento para ejercer y defender sus derechos, incluido el poder de decisión, sobre los recursos materiales y el ejercicio de la participación social y política, sin exclusiones.

En todos los países del mundo, emergen antiguos y nuevos discursos de prácticas xenófobas, androcentristas, patriarcales, racistas, que impactan directamente en las comunidades nativas, afrodescendientes, mestizas, inmigrantes, quienes siguen sufriendo discriminaciones y violaciones de los derechos fundamentales.

Resulta imprescindible incluir en la agenda de políticas de desarrollo social y económico las situaciones de desigualdad y exclusión que siguen viviendo los pueblos originarios y afrodescendientes de todo el continente.

En nuestra región, pese a los avances democráticos en términos sociales y políticos, los escasos mecanismos de transparencia y rendición de cuentas, de control y de gobernanza democrática, siguen abonando terreno para prácticas de corrupción en las instituciones y empresas estatales. Asimismo, la evasión fiscal y el trabajo informal, las insuficientes políticas que responden a las necesidades laborales, alimentarias, educativas, sanitarias y habitacionales de la población, aún son características en nuestras sociedades e impactan directamente en las economías populares.

Por nuestra vocación y nuestro compromiso con el desarrollo humano, las personas y organizaciones participantes en este Foro Social, reafirmamos la legitimidad de la sociedad civil organizada como interlocutor en los procesos de política pública y reclamamos mayores espacios de participación, con independencia.

Exigimos a los gobiernos de nuestra región:

- La vigencia plena de los Derechos Humanos en todas nuestras sociedades, expresadas en Políticas de Estado, para todas las personas.
- Políticas económico-financieras que sean congruentes con los Derechos Humanos, desde lógicas de inclusión, complementariedad, cooperación, integración productiva y económica, redistribución social de ganancias, con seguimiento, transparencia y reporte público.
- Un modelo de desarrollo sustentable y sostenible, donde prime la justicia, la equidad y la solidaridad, donde los seres humanos seamos el centro, viviendo en armonía con la naturaleza, siguiendo la propuesta del Buen Vivir de los pueblos originarios.

- Mecanismos de superación de las evasiones fiscales y de justicia tributaria que permitan financiar adecuadamente las políticas sociales, particularmente la educación disminuyendo las desigualdades.
- El monitoreo, verificación y reporte público, a tiempo y con la claridad necesaria de todos los niveles de gobierno, ante decisiones de índole económica donde el uso de los recursos naturales estén en juego.
- Generar las condiciones para la efectiva ~~la~~ corresponsabilidad y redistribución de los esfuerzos que la reproducción social de la vida requiere, incluidos los trabajos domésticos y de cuidados y el conjunto de costos de tiempo, recursos monetarios, naturales y humanos, para que ésta deje de recaer mayoritariamente en las mujeres.
- La construcción y accesibilidad de servicios de calidad en salud pública y educación laica, gratuita e inclusiva, alimentación, vivienda, cultura, para todas las personas que habitan nuestras sociedades, y en particular, atiendan adecuadamente a los sectores más vulnerables y con menores recursos.
- Que la inversión en infancia y adolescencia sea una prioridad insoslayable si pensamos en una sociedad que se construye de manera sostenible.
- Que garantice el trabajo e ingresos decentes y dignificantes para todos y todas, igualdad de derechos, responsabilidades y condiciones laborales sin discriminaciones de ningún tipo (situación de discapacidades, étnicas, nacionalidades, orientación sexual e identidad de género y edad).
- Que establezcan un piso de protección social como instrumento clave para alcanzar la igualdad, meta primordial del desarrollo global.
- Promover la cultura de la gobernanza democrática y participativa, en todos los niveles institucionales y sociales, exigiendo a las instituciones y servicios estatales que funcionen con transparencia, igualdad de derechos y servicios para todas y todos, rindiendo cuentas de su gestión.
- Consideramos posible y necesaria una educación para una vida digna basada en la confianza y el compromiso ético entre los actores involucrados. Que brinde oportunidades para desarrollar y potenciar en las personas la capacidad de resolver problemas concretos, que valore las vivencias cotidianas, la creatividad y la innovación, la alegría y el buen humor. Una educación que reconozca en cada ser humano un ser integral, único y complejo, capaz de cultivar los planos físico, emocional, mental y espiritual, que aprende a vivir en libertad, practicar la tolerancia, la solidaridad, la justicia, la no violencia, la ayuda mutua; en suma, vivir los derechos humanos en su integralidad.

- Respalda el desarrollo y visibilidad de la economía social y solidaria, en todas sus expresiones de cooperativismo, asociativismo y autogestión, como formas alternativas de producción y distribución, de finanzas y consumo responsable; aportando una opción de desarrollo frente a los problemas sociales, económicos y ambientales actuales, además de contribuir en la seguridad alimentaria y la alimentación saludable, la igualdad de género y el cuidado del medio ambiente.
- Respalda el desarrollo y visibilidad de la economía social y solidaria, en todas sus formas, cooperativismo, asociativismo, autogestión, etc. como formas alternativas de producción, distribución, finanzas y consumo responsable, aportando una opción de desarrollo frente a los problemas sociales, económicos y ambientales actuales, además de contribuir en la seguridad alimentaria y la alimentación saludable, la igualdad de género y el cuidado del medio ambiente.
- Que aprueben los gobiernos que aún no lo han hecho, la “Convención Interamericana sobre la Protección de los Derechos Humanos de las Personas Mayores”.

Desde la Sociedad Civil reclamamos a los Gobiernos y Estados de América Latina y El Caribe, el compromiso y la construcción colectiva de:

- Reconocer el derecho a la participación, a la libertad de asociación y expresión que incluya a niñas, niños, adolescentes y jóvenes, superando las crecientes tendencias de criminalización de activistas, movimientos sociales, defensores de derecho estudiantes y docentes.
- Considerar a las OSC como actores relevantes en la construcción colectiva de nuestras sociedades, habilitando su participación legítima, responsable, necesaria y pertinente en la implementación de las políticas públicas. En base a acuerdos con reglas claras y leyes justas y equitativas.
- Fortalecimiento de las OSC en sus capacidades de incidencia, vigilancia y exigibilidad para con el Estado, para la incorporación en las políticas sociales de la perspectiva de Derechos Humanos, Género, Generaciones, Étnico-Racial, Discapacidad, Diversidad Sexual y Personas Mayores, especialmente los sectores que no son escuchados y más lo necesitan.
- Fortalecer y desarrollar la trama de organizaciones que forman parte del universo asociativo, con recursos específicos que lo viabilicen y sostengan, potenciando capacidades de creatividad e innovación. Esto implica la disponibilidad, el acceso y ampliación de los recursos orientados al desarrollo y al fortalecimiento institucional de las organizaciones sociales. Supone atender el desarrollo de los recursos humanos, la investigación, la generación de conocimiento, el fortalecimiento de gestión, la

transparencia institucional, sus capacidades de denuncia, comunicación e incidencia, el mejoramiento de los marcos normativos que regulan y fomentan la acción de las organizaciones.

Las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil estamos comprometidas desde nuestro enfoque y nuestro rol proactivo y constructivo, en contribuir y exigir el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y sus metas propuestas. Aseguramos nuestra participación en todas las Conferencias Internacionales que se organicen, y por ello reclamamos que todos los Estados de América Latina y El Caribe se comprometan en forma efectiva, garantizando la existencia de estos espacios y los recursos necesarios, organizando las convocatorias en tiempos razonables y sin exclusiones de ningún tipo.

**Convocamos al compromiso de los gobiernos, de los Estados, de las organizaciones y movimientos de la sociedad civil y de las agencias internacionales, con la plena vigencia de las libertades de pensamiento, de opinión y de expresión; el derecho a la información y a la comunicación democrática, transparente, en nuestros países. Somos promotores del diálogo y la construcción colectiva.**

#### **NO DEJAR A NADIE ATRAS**

Montevideo, Uruguay, 25 de octubre de 2017

*[Translation by the secretariat]*

**Public statement by civil society organizations at the Conference  
“Role of civil society organizations in development processes for social and economic inclusion”**

**In the framework of the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by ECLAC**

The civil society organizations participating in this Conference state the following:

In the framework of the emergence of the economic and social development paradigm expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals, which is currently a global commitment to leave no one behind, we reaffirm the importance of human rights, fairness, justice and social solidarity as guiding principles.

We recognize the importance of the commitments signed by our governments to achieve these Goals, and considering that the States are responsible for creating and guaranteeing the conditions needed, as civil society organizations we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that the maximum efforts are made in each of our countries to achieve them.

In recent decades, we have seen some progress in socioeconomic indicators, which have led some of our countries to be classified as medium- or high-income developing countries. However, we underscore the fact that economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean continues to reflect the historical exploitation of natural resources and human beings, which leads to marginalization, exclusion, migration, and working and living conditions at odds with dignity and basic decency. While some economic and social achievements and advances have been made in some countries, there is still much to be done to integrate those population groups that, historically and socially, have been left behind, owing to the persistent violation of their rights and the lack of opportunities. Greater output and wealth creation in our economies in recent decades continues to benefit mainly large global economic centres and some small groups within countries, and scarcely reaches the poorest households in the region. The relative improvement in the income of these households has led to higher consumption of products, but has had little impact on families' living conditions. Our region still has the highest levels of economic inequality, which means that global gender, generational and ethnic and racial gaps become wider.

We are witnessing the expansion of a globalizing cultural model that has established a set of values and practices in line with the existing economic and political models, and that is widening the gaps between countries, societies and citizens in situations of poverty or wealth, inclusion or exclusion, and with or without opportunities to work and live in dignity. This model prioritizes the production and consumption of goods, and obscures and endangers cultural diversity and social reproduction, failing to recognize that without the latter, economic production is impossible.

The territorial concentration of wealth and of poverty is also expressed in changes in urban design, undermining social integration and the democratization of public spaces.

There are more people living in poverty today, mainly children, adolescents, women, persons with disabilities and ethnic and racial minority groups. The gap in access to knowledge is widening, territorial segmentation is worsening and educational segregation is exacerbating inequalities. We live in a time of profound global cultural change, driven by a market economy that imposes its rules on all human activities,

including culture and education, in which States have not been very successful in implementing new policies to change the status quo. We emphasize the historical contribution of civil society organizations to reducing these inequalities.

Education, which is shaped by a narrow view of quality, does not address the demands of students, and thus excludes them from education systems. Standardized tests are unable to evaluate the quality of systems and fail to take into account local diversity and contexts. The education that we want and need should be emancipatory and transformative, respect human dignity, overcome the multiple forms of discrimination and violence, and promote the full exercise of all human rights.

Large areas lack services, resulting in serious health and ecological problems, and basic infrastructure, which undermines links with the world of work and weakens social interactions that provide value, a sense of belonging, protection and access to society's cultural and spiritual riches. It is impossible to consider self-generated territorial development processes without taking into account the objective conditions defined outside the territory and ignoring the local reality.

Social exclusion is not only a problem for persons left behind by these systems; on the contrary, it concerns society as a whole, not just economically, but also in terms of the ethical and political need for social inclusion of broad sectors of the Latin American population.

The conditions of poverty and absence of the State in rural and peripheral areas in many of the region's countries violate the rights of people who are victims of labour exploitation and trafficking for the sex and drug trades.

The persistence of the feminist struggle and women's movements has led to significant achievements, both symbolic and cultural, on the work and social fronts, as well as in daily life in households and in gender relations. The size and diversity of this movement was reflected in the citizen mobilization on 8 March in a number of cities and towns in the region and in protests against gender-based violence, with organizations focusing on efforts to secure legislation to combat femicide and violence against women and to advance sexual and reproductive rights for all.

The development of the personal integrity of the individual as a rights-holder and a social, political and historical being is a complex process of achieving autonomy, especially for persons with disabilities. As individuals concerned about their future and social and historical reality, their ability to make an impact must be constantly strengthened in order to exercise and defend their rights, including the power to make decisions, control material resources and participate socially and politically, with no exceptions.

Countries around the world are experiencing an emergence of old and new xenophobic, androcentric, patriarchal and racist rhetoric and practices that directly affect native, Afrodescendent, mestizo and immigrant communities, who continue to suffer from discrimination and violation of their fundamental rights.

The situations of inequality and exclusion that continue to affect indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples all over the continent must be included in the agenda of social and economic development policies.

In our region, despite the democratic progress made socially and politically, the lack of mechanisms for transparency and accountability, oversight and democratic governance, continues to pave the way for corrupt practices in State institutions and public companies. Tax evasion, informal work and insufficient policies to address the labour, food, education, health and housing needs of the population, still characterize our societies and directly affect national economies.

Because of our vocation and commitment to human development and to the people and organizations participating in this Conference, we reaffirm the legitimacy of organized civil society as an interlocutor in public policy processes and we call for greater opportunities to participate freely.

We demand of the governments of our region:

- Full enjoyment of human rights in all our societies, affirmed in State policies, for all people.
- Economic and financial policies consistent with human rights, in terms of inclusion, complementarity, cooperation, productive and economic integration, social redistribution of earnings, with follow-up, transparency and public reporting.
- A sustainable development model which prioritizes justice, fairness and solidarity, in which human beings are the central concern, live in harmony with nature, and follow the concept of living well of indigenous peoples.
- Mechanisms to overcome tax evasion and for tax justice that provide sufficient financing for social policies, particularly education, in order to reduce inequalities.
- Monitoring, inspection and public reporting which is timely and reflects the necessary clarity at all levels of government, in light of economic decisions involving the use of natural resources.
- The creation of conditions for shared responsibility and redistribution of efforts required for social reproduction, including domestic and care work and the cost of time and of monetary, natural and human resources, so that the workload is no longer shouldered primarily by women.
- The creation and accessibility of good-quality services in public health, secular, free and inclusive education, food, housing and culture, for all persons living in our societies, and in particular, that provide adequate care for the groups that are most vulnerable and have the least resources.
- Investment in childhood and adolescence as an unavoidable priority for a sustainably built society.
- The guarantee of decent and dignifying work and income for all, equal rights, labour responsibilities and conditions without discrimination (on the basis of disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation and gender identity, and age).
- The establishment of a social protection floor as a key instrument to achieve equality, a fundamental target of global development.
- Promotion of a culture of democratic and participatory governance, at all institutional and social levels, by requiring State institutions and services to operate in accordance with the principles of transparency, equal rights and services for all, and management accountability.
- We consider an education for a decent life based on trust and ethical commitment among stakeholders possible and necessary. This education should provide opportunities to develop and optimize people's ability to solve specific problems, and value everyday experiences, creativity and innovation, happiness and cheerfulness. It should recognize in each person a complete, unique and complex being, able to cultivate his or her physical, emotional, mental and spiritual sides, and who learns to live freely and practice tolerance, solidarity, justice, non-violence and mutual assistance, in short, someone who enjoys their human rights fully.



- Support for the development and visibility of the social and solidarity economy, in all its cooperative, associative and self-managing aspects, as an alternative form of production and distribution, responsible financing and consumption; this economy should provide development solutions to existing social, economic and environmental problems, in addition to contributing to food security and healthy diets, gender equality and care for the environment.
- Adoption, by the governments that have not already done so, of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

As civil society organizations we call on the governments and States of Latin America and the Caribbean to show their commitment and collective efforts to:

- Recognize the right to participation, freedom of association and expression, including of children, adolescents and young people, overcoming the growing tendency to criminalize activists, social movements, human rights defenders, students and teachers.
- Consider civil society organizations as relevant actors in the collective building of our societies, enabling their legitimate, responsible, necessary and relevant participation in the implementation of public policies, on the basis of agreements with clear rules and fair and equitable laws.
- Strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations to influence, monitor and demand accountability from the State, in order to mainstream human rights, gender, generational, ethnicity and race, disability, sexual diversity and older persons perspectives into social policies, in particular the perspectives of groups that are not heard and need it most.
- Strengthen and develop the network of organizations that make up the associative universe, with specific resources that make it viable and sustainable, building creative and innovative capacities. This means that resources must be available, accessible and bolstered, and should be focused on the development and institutional strengthening of social organizations. Similarly, they should address human resource development; research; knowledge creation; management strengthening; institutional transparency; capacity for reporting, communication and advocacy; and the improvement of regulatory frameworks that regulate and promote organizations' activities.

Our approach and proactive and constructive role means that civil society organizations are committed to contributing to and demanding the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and their proposed targets. We will participate in all international conferences, and urge all Latin American and Caribbean States to commit to ensuring that these spaces and the necessary resources are available, and to organizing meetings at reasonable times and with no exclusions.

We call on governments, States, civil society organizations and movements and international agencies to commit—with full freedom of thought, opinion and expression—to uphold the right to information and democratic and transparent communication in our countries. We are promoters of dialogue and collective advancement.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Montevideo, Uruguay, 25 October 2017

## Annex 3

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

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**Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)**

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**Banco Mundial/World Bank**

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### **Asociación Uruguaya de Animadores y Auxiliares Gerontológicos (AUDAAG)**

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**El Paso**

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**El Tejano**

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**Federación Internacional de Planificación de la Familia (IPPF)/****International Planned Parenthood Federation**

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