



Third session of the Conference  
on Social Development  
in Latin America and the Caribbean  
XI Ministerial Forum for Development  
in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Third session of the Regional Conference  
on Social Development  
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Mexico City, 1–3 October 2019

### RESOLUTION 3(III)

*At its third session, held in Mexico City from 1 to 3 October 2019, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,*

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

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



*Bearing in mind also* the urgent threat that climate change represents for equitable access to social development and for poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities, as recognized in the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and General Assembly resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014, which endorsed the SIDs Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, as well as the need to promote resilience and disaster risk reduction,

*Acknowledging* the vulnerability of the Caribbean region to a diversity of climate hazards or shocks, as well as the potential devastating impacts of climate change, and bearing in mind the urgent threat that these represent for equitable access to social development and for poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities, as recognized in the Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Programming Framework 2014–2024, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement and General Assembly resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014, which endorsed the SIDs Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,

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

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

*Recognizing also* the importance of the means of implementation in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the key importance of heightening synergies between the different policies and dimensions through intersectoral strategies and actions, as well as the need for firm political commitment to seeking initiatives to finance sustainable development, as agreed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

*Bearing in mind* the commitments undertaken in the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in 2016, to strengthen the human rights approach, promoting equitable access to the benefits of urbanization,

*Confirming* the regional commitments of the States of Latin America and the Caribbean with respect to the principles of universality, equality, transversality, comprehensiveness, inclusion, solidarity, equity and dignity, and the human rights of all population groups enshrined in Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, as well as the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030,

*Drawing attention* to the adoption and opening for signature at United Nations Headquarters of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), as a contribution to sustainable development,

*Reaffirming* the instruments and agreements adopted at different intergovernmental forums on social development held in the region that emphasize the importance of promoting universal social protection, combating inequalities and eradicating poverty, including the resolution of the X Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Commitments for Social Development adopted at the third meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development of the Organization of American States and the Plan of Action of Guatemala 2019 adopted at their fourth meeting, the Intersectoral Regional Agenda on Social Protection and Productive Inclusion with Equity 2018–2030 of the Central American Social Integration Secretariat, and the Southern Common Market Strategic Plan for Social Action,

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

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

*Bearing in mind* that, in its resolution 2(II), the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean undertook to foster the building of a regional agenda for inclusive social development based on public policies that would 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, urged the active incorporation of civil society in the preparation and discussion of this agenda and requested the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to provide technical assistance for its preparation,

*Considering* that the countries serving as Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean discussed the bases for the preparation of the regional agenda for inclusive social development at their second meeting, held in Panama City in September 2018, and endorsed, in general terms, the initial proposal of the regional agenda for inclusive social development presented at their third meeting, held in Santiago in April 2019, welcoming the objectives, principles, axes and action lines set forth in that proposal,

*Having examined* the documents *Critical obstacles to inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean: background for a regional agenda*<sup>1</sup> and *Proposed regional agenda for inclusive social development*,<sup>2</sup> and recognizing the importance of redistributive policies both in the social sphere and for the sustainability of economic growth,

1. *Welcomes* the document *Critical obstacles to inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean: background for a regional agenda*, prepared by the secretariat, and requests the secretariat to disseminate it widely and to foster its discussion and analysis, with a particular focus on structural and emerging challenges to inclusive social development;

2. *Adopts and endorses* the proposals set forth in the regional agenda for inclusive social development, as a technical and political instrument that will enable progress towards the implementation of the social dimension of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

3. *Requests* that Chair of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the secretariat, prepare a draft plan of work to support the implementation of the regional agenda for inclusive social development and to present it to the Presiding Officers of the Conference at their fourth meeting;

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<sup>1</sup> LC/CDS.3/3.

<sup>2</sup> LC/CDS.3/4.

4. *Also requests* the technical assistance of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to support the ministries of social development and equivalent entities in the countries in identifying key policy areas that can be strengthened in accordance with the four priority axes and lines of action identified in the regional agenda for inclusive social development, in keeping with national and subnational realities and with a view to the factors that hinder poverty eradication and perpetuate social inequality in the region;

5. *Urges* the ministries of social development and equivalent entities in the countries to strengthen South-South cooperation mechanisms and triangulate development, inclusion and social protection, thereby helping to strengthen multilateralism in the social sphere, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in keeping with the axes and lines of action of the regional agenda for inclusive social development;

6. *Requests* that Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean provide technical assistance for the formation of working groups on specific issues and in specific policy areas identified by the countries, in order to promote experience-sharing, the construction of common agendas, the participation of and dialogue with civil society organizations, including those of women, young people, indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, and persons with disabilities, as well as the private sector, trade union organizations and academia;

7. *Recognizes* the contribution of civil society and other stakeholders to the process of discussing the regional agenda for inclusive social development and encourages their active participation in supporting its implementation and the monitoring of its progress in the countries and territories;

8. *Agrees* to report on the regional agenda for inclusive social development and the measures promoted in this context at the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as well as at other intergovernmental forums on social issues;

9. *Emphasizes* that the regional agenda for inclusive social development will enable the identification of good practices for cooperation between the countries in the social sphere, so that they may engage with the tasks and activities being conducted by the network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean;

10. *Requests* that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean disseminate the regional agenda for inclusive social development widely in the countries of the region, involving in these efforts the various relevant sectors, including the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, civil society, trade union organizations, the private sector and academia, in accordance with the multi-stakeholder participation principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

11. *Invites* other forums and spaces for integration and intergovernmental cooperation at the regional and subregional levels to contribute to the dissemination and implementation the regional agenda for inclusive social development;

12. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean upon the launch of the Observatory on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, a regional public good for supporting the design and implementation of public policies and monitoring their trends;

13. *Requests* that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean organize, maintain and systematically update the Observatory on Social Development, as well as its online databases on regional and subregional social development commitments and on non-contributory social protection programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, and its web portals on social investment in Latin America

and the Caribbean, on the social institutional framework for Latin America and the Caribbean, and on youth and social inclusion, on the basis of official data provided by the countries;

14. *Thanks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for organizing the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Social Development Division for preparing the corresponding documentation;

15. *Also thanks* the United Nations Development Programme for the joint organization of the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the XI Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

16. *Extends special recognition* to the Government of Uruguay for its active and excellent chairship and contribution to the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

17. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to convene the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2020;

18. *Conveys its thanks* to the Government and people of Mexico for their hospitality and the excellent organization of the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.