



Regional Conference
on Social Development
in Latin America and the Caribbean
Virtual meeting, 26–28 October 2021

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

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RESOLUTION 4(IV)

At its fourth session, held in virtual format from 26 to 28 October 2021, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, under the chairship of Antigua and Barbuda,

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 varying 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 endorsement by a number of Latin American and Caribbean countries of 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,

Acknowledging the urgent threat that climate change represents for equitable access to social development, 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 the SIDs Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Caribbean region to a diversity of climate hazards or shocks, as well as the potential devastating impacts of climate change,

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

Considering General Assembly resolutions 74/270 of 2 April 2020 on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), 74/274 of 20 April 2020 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19, 74/306 of 11 September 2020 on the comprehensive and coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 74/307 of 11 September 2020, on the united response against global health threats: combating COVID-19, 75/156 of 23 December 2020 on strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls, and 75/157 of 23 December 2020 on women and girls and the response to COVID-19,

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,

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 XII Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Commitments for Social Development adopted at the fourth 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,

Bearing in mind that resolution 2(II) adopted at the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in October 2017, 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, and urged States to actively incorporate civil society in the preparation and discussion of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, in line with the multi-stakeholder approach enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in accordance with their normative and institutional frameworks,

Bearing in mind also that by resolution 3(III) adopted at the third session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City in October 2019, the Regional Conference adopted and endorsed the proposals set forth in the regional agenda for inclusive social development, as a technical and political instrument that will enable progress towards the implementation of the social dimension of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the countries of the region, requested that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean provide technical assistance for the formation of working groups on issues and in policy areas identified by the countries, in order to promote experience-sharing, the construction of common

agendas, the participation of and dialogue with civil society organizations, as well as the private sector, trade union organizations and academia, and urged the ministries of social development and equivalent entities in the countries to strengthen South-South cooperation mechanisms and triangulate development, inclusion and social protection, thereby helping to strengthen multilateralism in the social sphere,

Considering that the countries serving as Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, at their fourth meeting, held virtually, adopted the *Draft plan of work for implementation of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development*,¹ and agreed to strengthen the development of the working groups regarding social inclusion and promote collaborative work and active participation by all the member countries of the Conference in the challenge of addressing the social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Having examined the document *Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean*,²

1. *Welcomes* the document *Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean*, prepared by the secretariat, and requests the secretariat to disseminate it widely and encourage its discussion and analysis;

2. *Highlights* the importance of coordinating social protection systems with disaster risk management policies to strengthen the capacity for mitigation, prevention, response and adaptation and to advance in synergies that will improve the efficiency and resilience of institutions and the population;

3. *Reaffirms* its conviction that the sustained creation of productive employment and decent work, together with comprehensive, universal, sustainable and resilient social protection systems that make it possible to ensure access to quality education and health, housing and basic services, and care policies that ensure co-responsibility between the State and society and between women and men, are indispensable for a transformative recovery in the region;

4. *Also reaffirms* the importance of putting people and their rights at the heart of development, safeguarding the progress the region has achieved regarding social development and preventing setbacks as a result of the economic and social impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

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

6. *Acknowledges* the collaborative work and active participation of the member countries of the Conference in the implementation of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, and their commitment to eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities, addressing gaps in access to well-being and confronting the social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

¹ LC/MDS.4/3.

² LC/CDS.4/3.

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

8. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to provide technical assistance to the working groups on specific issues and policy areas, in order to advance transformative recovery and further the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, through the exchange of experiences, the development of common agendas, and participation and dialogue with institutions, local government authorities and civil society organizations;

9. *Highlights* the importance of addressing, as a matter of priority, the multidimensional crisis facing Caribbean small island developing States as a result of the recurrence, scope and intensity of disasters and the problems of indebtedness and financing they face;

10. *Reiterates* that States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

11. *Requests* the secretariat to analyse in greater depth the challenges and public policy alternatives in terms of making progress regarding the universality, comprehensiveness, sustainability and resilience of social protection systems, particularly in relation to the vulnerability of the middle-income sectors, labour informality and the new challenges in the labour market;

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

13. *Thanks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for disseminating the Social Development Observatory and requests it to maintain and systematically update its analyses and databases on the basis of official data provided by the countries;

14. *Also thanks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for organizing the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Social Development Division for preparing the corresponding documentation and the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean for its support in organizing the session;

15. *Thanks* the United Nations Development Programme for the joint organization of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the XIII Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

16. *Extends special recognition* to the Government of Mexico for its leadership as Chair of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America for the period 2019-2020 and its valuable contribution to its work;

17. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to convene the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2022;

18. *Conveys its thanks* to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for the excellent organization of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.