



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

Santiago, 3–5 October 2023

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

Santiago, 3–5 October 2023

### RESOLUTION 5(V)

*At its fifth session, held in Santiago from 3 to 5 October 2023, 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 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, where appropriate, the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons,

*Acknowledging* the urgent threat that climate change represents for equitable access to social development, poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities, as recognized in the 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 various climate hazards or shocks, as well as the potential devastating impacts of climate change,

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

*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,

*Bearing in mind* General Assembly resolution 77/188 of 15 December 2022, by which it notes the proposal contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda” to convene a world social summit in 2025, to be discussed and agreed upon by Member States, including its modalities, title, objectives, scope and possible outcomes, and emphasizing that the possible summit’s outcome should have a social development approach and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

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

*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 the structural inequalities that persist in their multiple dimensions (class, gender, ethnicity and race, territory and age) in our societies, 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 and triangular cooperation mechanisms for development, inclusion and social protection, thereby helping to strengthen multilateralism in the social sphere,

*Recalling* the importance accorded by member countries of the Regional Conference on Social Development, at its fourth session, to 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,

*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*,<sup>1</sup> 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 reviewed* the document *Institutional Frameworks for Social Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Central Element in Advancing towards Inclusive Social Development*,<sup>2</sup>

1. *Welcomes* the document *Institutional Frameworks for Social Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Central Element in Advancing towards Inclusive Social Development* prepared by the secretariat, and requests the secretariat to disseminate it widely and encourage its discussion and analysis;
2. *Recognizes* the importance of institutional frameworks for social policy and governance of decision-making in social policies, which enable the implementation of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, with a view to achieving the objectives of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;
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;
4. *Also reaffirms* the importance of putting people and their rights at the heart of development, safeguarding the progress the region has achieved regarding inclusive social development as a result of appropriate social investment to finance policies and strengthen social protection systems consistent with the changes in the structure of risks to which individuals are exposed, and preventing setbacks as a result of the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cascading crises affecting the region and the world;

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<sup>1</sup> LC/MDS.4/3.

<sup>2</sup> LC/CDS.5/3.

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 Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, and their commitment to eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities in their multiple dimensions and addressing gaps in access to well-being in the region;

7. *Requests* that Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean provide technical assistance for the formation of working groups endorsed by the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean or its Presiding Officers and to existing working groups, on specific issues and in specific policy areas identified by the countries, in order to advance transformative recovery and make further progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as in their localization and ongoing monitoring and the implementation of measures to accelerate the achievement of the Goals, promoting experience-sharing, the construction of common agendas, the participation of and dialogue with civil society organizations, including those of women, young people, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, the Afrodescendent population, and persons with disabilities, as well as the private sector, trade union organizations and academia;

8. *Requests* the Chair of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to promote the establishment of a regional working group on social registers under the aegis of the Presiding Officers of the Conference, to enable the sharing of good practices regarding levels of coverage, interoperability and governance of data, skills training in the area, and quality and use of information, in collaboration with other relevant international organizations;

9. *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;

10. *Stresses* the importance of taking determined steps to strengthen the four dimensions of the institutional framework for social policy—legal and regulatory, organizational, technical and operational, and financial—in order to have high-quality public policies that are effective, efficient, transparent and sustainable, and calls on the countries to work decisively and collaboratively to that end;

11. *Requests* the secretariat to undertake a more in-depth analysis of and identify policy alternatives and financing standards to develop a strong institutional framework for social policy and effective governance of decision-making in social policies, and to strengthen social protection systems by making progress regarding the universality, comprehensiveness, sustainability and resilience thereof in the region;

12. *Also requests* the secretariat to prepare a draft road map and a document to be considered at the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in 2024, which will allow the region's voice to be heard at the World Social Summit to be held in 2025;

13. *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;

14. *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, and in particular, recognizes the value of the analyses and information consolidated in the Institutional Framework Database for Social Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Database of Non-contributory Social Protection Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean;

15. *Also thanks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its Social Development Division, as well as the United Nations Development Programme, for the joint organization of the fifth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the XV Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and requests the Commission to convene the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2024;

16. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Barbados to host the XVI Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the United Nations Development Programme, and the sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

17. *Also welcomes* the offer of the Government of Brazil to host the sixth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2025;

18. *Commends* the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for its contribution to the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in its capacity as Chair of the Conference;

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