

Reseñas sobre Población y Desarrollo

2012

Agreements adopted at the meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development

The challenges in the area of population and development in the region are diverse and complex.

To address them, the countries have proposed a comprehensive set of actions.

The meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development –whose central theme was Population, territory and sustainable development– was held in Quito from 4 to 6 July 2012 and widely attended by high-level national authorities, delegates from 30 States members of ECLAC, representatives of multilateral and international organizations including UNFPA, and several non-governmental organizations. The Presiding Officers worked hard to present a comprehensive set of proposals on population, territory and sustainable development, which were integrated into one of the two agreements of the meeting, both adopted by acclamation. In agreement 1, the States members decided to rename the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, which

will henceforth be the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Agreement 2, entitled “Population, territory and sustainable development, and other priority activities” is outlined in the pages of this bulletin. It is an instrument of consensus which appeals to member States to comply with the ICPD Programme of Action, to address challenges in the area of population and to include this dimension in policies for achieving sustainable development in all territories of the region. In addition, ECLAC was requested to make strenuous efforts in these areas, in coordination with the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and with support from UNFPA.



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Latin American and Caribbean
Demographic Centre (CELADE) -
Population Division of ECLAC

Population, territory and sustainable development, and other priority activities

Agreement

The countries attending the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Quito from 4 to 6 July 2012,

Recalling the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, and the key actions for its further implementation, adopted in 1999; the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, adopted in Mexico City in May 1993, and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development of 1994; the United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000; and the 2005 World Summit Outcome; as well as resolution 60/265 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 30 June 2006,

Recalling also the commitments of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in October 1995, and the Brasilia Consensus,¹ adopted at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brasilia in July 2010,

Considering General Assembly resolution 59/174, which proclaimed the decade commencing on 1 January 2005 as the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, General Assembly resolution 61/295, which adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which was adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001,

Taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the outcome document of the Conference entitled *The future we want*,²

Taking into account also resolution 65/234 by virtue of which the General Assembly decided to extend the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further

implementation beyond 2014 and in which it also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report based on the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action to the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-seventh session,

Bearing in mind resolution 2012/1 of the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development in April 2012, in which Governments are urged to protect the human rights of adolescents and youth including the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters relating to sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination, and violence; and exhorted to provide them with a comprehensive education for human sexuality, human rights and gender equality,

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 65/1, which welcomes the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, designed to advance towards fulfilment by 2015 of the Millennium Development Goal relating to women's and children's health; the establishment of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health and the appointment of an inter-agency working group for the reduction of maternal mortality, to implement the recommendations of that Commission at the regional level,

Mindful of the agreements relating to population and development: priority activities for the period 2010-2012, adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and endorsed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolution 657(XXXIII), in which it was decided to organize a regional meeting in 2013 that would generate inputs for the activities to be conducted in 2014 on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development,³

Bearing in mind resolution 63/225 in which the General Assembly decided to hold a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development during its sixty-eighth session, in 2013 and resolution 615(XXXI) on international migration, adopted at the thirty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in March 2006,

Noting resolution 7(VI), adopted at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, from 16 to 18 November 2011

¹ LC/L.3309.

² A/CONF.216/L.1.

³ LC/G.2465(CEP.2010/6).

Drawing attention to the third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in San José from 8 to 11 May 2012, pursuant to the agreements on Population and Development: Priority Activities for the period 2010-2012 and resolution 2011/28 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council,

Deeply convinced that medium- and long-term planning can play a crucial role in closing existing production and social gaps, addressing historical and recent debts, and placing equality and environmental sustainability at the heart of the agenda of States and of the policies they design and implement,

1. **Thanks and commends** the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Government of Ecuador for organizing the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre – Population Division of ECLAC for preparing the relevant documentation, particularly the documents entitled *Population, territory and sustainable development*⁴ and *Reflections on the population and development agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014*;⁵
2. **Also thanks** the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - Population Division of ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund for the support provided to countries of the region in the implementation of the Cairo

⁴ LC/L.3474(CEP.2/3).

⁵ LC/L.3481(CEP.2/5).

Programme of Action, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and the contributions made in the recent biennium on issues relating to international migration, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations and the other priority areas identified in the agreements of this Committee in 2010;

3. **Congratulates** the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - Population Division of ECLAC for its initiative in conducting in 2012 a new version of the Regional intensive course on demographic analysis designed to strengthen the technical capacities of the countries of the region in the follow-up of the commitments adopted at United Nations conferences and summits; and requests the Division, in conjunction with the United Nations Population, to make arrangements for the organization of similar courses, subject to the availability of resources;
4. **Welcomes** the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at the Third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean, and thanks the secretariat for its technical contribution in organizing that meeting as well as in preparing the relevant substantive documentation; thanks also the Government of Costa Rica and the United Nations Population Fund for organizing the Conference;



The Presiding Officers of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development worked hard to present a comprehensive set of proposals on population, territory and sustainable development.

5. **Thanks also** the United Nations Population Fund and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the launch, within the framework of the current meeting, of the report entitled Investing in Youth: Regional Population Report in Latin America and the Caribbean 2011;
6. **Appeals** to member States to uphold, and build on, the achievements of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those relating to the following: guaranteeing reproductive rights and universal access to sexual and reproductive health, with emphasis on preventing adolescent pregnancies, through comprehensive sex education and information and access to these services; protection against sexual abuse, in particular in the case of adolescents; prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS; and the universal provision of comprehensive maternal health services; and urges them to step up their efforts to reduce the disparities that persist in the fulfilment of these objectives by assigning specific resources to those populations that suffer the most from social exclusion;
7. **Appeals** also to member States to ensure that all persons have access to comprehensive sex education, the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and are able to make timely use of quality, culturally relevant, sexual and reproductive health care services, including information on and availability of contraceptive devices; and, in the case of adolescents, to, confidential, user-friendly services; and that all women receive skilled obstetric care during labour, safe abortion services where permitted by the respective national legislation, and optimum health services during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium;
8. **Urges** member States to include among the comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services measures to prevent, or treat cases of, unsafe abortion, including pre- and post-abortion counselling in accordance with national legislation;
9. **Calls** for the promotion and implementation of measures to ensure that men become involved in considering their own sexual and reproductive health and that of their partners, including access to quality sexual and reproductive health services which provide for their specific needs;
10. **Urges** member States to redouble their efforts to ensure accountability in terms of the effective implementation of policies, programmes and national investment geared to fulfilling the Millennium Development Goal relating to women's and children's health;
11. **Reaffirms** the importance of international cooperation for the effective implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and exhorts member States and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations to mobilize sufficient resources at the national and international levels in order to speed up implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action;
12. **Underscores** the importance of ensuring that the Governments of Latin American and Caribbean countries consider the progress made and obstacles faced at the national level in their efforts to implement the Cairo Programme of Action, on the basis of the analysis of timely and accurate information and with the participation of civil society;
13. **Reaffirms** the agreements set forth in resolution 615(XXXI), adopted at the thirty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, invites the Governments that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and invites those Governments that have already signed the instrument to guarantee its full implementation;
14. **Reiterates** the call for member States to participate actively in the preparations for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which will be organized by the General Assembly in 2013 during its sixty-eighth session;
15. **Reaffirms** that the eradication of poverty is a precondition for the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social, environmental and their interlinkages – and urges member States to improve their sustainable development policies, foster energy efficiency and address the impacts of climate change, bearing in mind the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), with a view to facilitating its implementation;
16. **Exhorts** member States to advance towards the consolidation of planning systems that help to build equitable societies, free of social exclusion, by designing public policies geared to reducing gaps in the quality of life and in the exercise of the rights of all persons, with emphasis on the living conditions of human beings and their relationship with the territory where they live;
17. **Recognizes** the importance of strengthening State structures and the strategic role played by machineries for the advancement of women as well as the need to endow these machineries with autonomy and with the necessary human and financial resources to enable them to have a cross-cutting impact on the structure of the State with a view to building strategies for promoting women's autonomy and gender equality;
18. **Reaffirms** the commitment to design and strengthen universal care policies and services, based on recognition



The opening ceremony was attended by Rafael Correa, President of Ecuador, and other prominent figures, including the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, and the Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Division of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Marcela Suazo.

of the need for care and the notion of sharing the provision of care between the State, the private sector, civil society and households, as well as between men and women, and of strengthening dialogue and coordination between all stakeholders;

19. Exhorts member States to implement fully the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Brasilia Consensus of 2010 and to step up their efforts to achieve gender equality, with emphasis on the physical autonomy of women, the eradication of all forms of violence and discrimination against them, access by women to stable jobs within the labour market, regulation and enforcement of laws enacted on gender equality and the guarantee of the sexual and reproductive rights of women, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care services;

20. Appeals to members States to ensure that, in the formulation and implementation of development plans, policies and programmes at all political and administrative levels, account is taken of population dynamics, including changes in the age structure of the population, the spatial distribution thereof, and the medium- and long-term sectoral consequences of demographic change, bearing in mind the specific implications of such dynamics at the territorial level;

21. Urges member States to participate actively in the next meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, to be held in Brasilia in November 2012, in order to incorporate population factors more fully in the long-term vision and strategic planning for development;

22. Urges also member States to continue their efforts to implement fully the Cairo Programme of Action, with

special attention to urbanization, mobility and migration, and territorial development;

23. Calls on member States to bear in mind the importance of territory as the key element in sustainable development and to reduce territorial inequalities since these exacerbate economic, social and environmental inequities, between subnational divisions as well as between countries;

24. Encourages member States to build more closely coordinated, integrated and cohesive territories by adopting active territorial policies, inspired by a vision of sustainable development and designed to reduce asymmetries between urban and rural areas, between small, intermediate and large cities and between isolated populations and those that live in small rural settlements;

25. Exhorts member States to step up their efforts towards deconcentration and decentralization and to strive to bring fundamental basic services such as quality education and health care closer to and within access of the entire population;

26. Calls on member States to consider effectively involving the community in decisions relating to decentralization that affect them and effectively allocating resources and technical capacities to subnational governments in order to reduce the inequalities that have existed in the past between the different territories;

27. Urges Governments to formulate strategies for developing a city system that encompasses territorial planning and environmental sustainability in order to promote orderly and sustainable urban growth and strengthen all the segments of this system, including intermediate and small cities;

- 28. Invites** Governments to consider border areas as areas of interaction and integration between countries, and recommends that steps be taken to improve the quality of life in these areas, and to promote decent treatment for migrants, bearing in mind their specific cultural traits and particular needs in terms of sexual and reproductive health;
- 29. Exhorts** member States to promote respect for and full implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with the legal framework of each State, and to ensure that these rights are upheld, taking into consideration the revival of alternative approaches and development proposals, such as “good living” or “the good way of living” (sumak kawsay);
- 30. Urges** member States to strengthen comprehensive and inclusive mechanisms and policies on youth in order to advance towards the recognition and guarantee of the rights of adolescents and young people, including the right to comprehensive education on human sexuality, while respecting the informed decisions that adolescents may make concerning their sexuality; to provide access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services; and to ensure continuing education for pregnant girls and young mothers;
- 31. Also urges** member States to put into practice the agreements established in resolution 2012/1 on adolescents and youth, adopted by the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-fifth session;
- 32. Appeals** to member States to guarantee sufficient financial, human and technological resources in order to increase the provision of quality public services for comprehensive health care for women, and to promote conditions conducive to the exercise of the sexual and reproductive rights of women and adolescent girls in all their diversity, throughout their life cycle and for all the different population groups, without discrimination of any kind, subject to the relevant national legislation;
- 33. Encourages** the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to address the specific population and development challenges they face by means of policies on climate change, international migration, environmental vulnerability, the HIV epidemic, adolescent pregnancies, maternal mortality and gender-based violence in particular in populations with increased vulnerability; to guarantee universal access to education, information and sexual and reproductive health services, with emphasis on the adolescent and young population; and to allocate resources for improving sociodemographic and health information systems;
- 34. Urges** member States to bring their statistical work and the design of information systems in line with the programme objectives that are part of their development proposals;
- 35. Reiterates** that it is important for member States to improve data sources, particularly population censuses, vital statistics and specialized surveys, and to allocate sufficient financial and human resources for this purpose; and stresses the importance of developing systems that provide reliable, timely, quality, georeferenced, national statistical information, disaggregated by sex and age group, to facilitate decision-making and the formulation, follow-up and appraisal of development policies and programmes, including the appropriate follow-up of United Nations summits and conferences;
- 36. Recommends** that member States build or strengthen institutions for addressing population and development issues at the national and subnational levels;
- 37. Requests** that the secretariat, in coordination with the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and with support from the United Nations Population Fund, continue, with due regard to the links between population and development, to give priority to the following issues from a gender perspective: determinants and consequences of demographic trends; sociodemographic inequities; maternal and child mortality; sexual and reproductive health; youth; ageing and older persons; indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations in Latin America and the Caribbean; international and internal migration; sources of sociodemographic information (population censuses and vital statistics), and human resources training in the fields of demography and population and development;
- 38. Requests** the secretariat to support Governments in adopting an accountability framework and implementing the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women’s and Children’s Health, with a view to advancing towards the health targets for women and children established under the Millennium Development Goals;
- 39. Also requests** the secretariat, through the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre –Population Division of ECLAC, to continue to provide technical assistance to the Working Group on Censuses of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in order to assist countries with the generation, analysis and dissemination of up-to-date census information that is of economic, social and environmental relevance;
- 40. Encourages** the secretariat to continue, through its interaction with the inter-agency groups, to coordinate efforts with other international and multilateral agencies in order to implement priority activities relating to population and development for the benefit of member States; and urges it to promote and expand South-South cooperation and sharing of best practices;

- 41. Requests** the secretariat to maintain its support for countries in providing statistical visibility to indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations of Latin America and the Caribbean by seeking to develop specific and innovative indicators, to continue to monitor at the regional level the issues relating to these population groups in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- 42. Urges** the secretariat to provide technical support to countries in the implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, with special reference to training, information, public policies and financing, research and human rights; in addition requests the secretariat to support the organization of meetings for the dissemination and follow-up of the Charter;
- 43. Requests** the secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, to provide the necessary technical support to countries in the operational 20-year review of the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action, to prepare a regional report on the achievements, pending issues and emerging challenges for the future and, in the light of the outcome of this study to update the proposed regional agenda on population and development post-2014, for presentation and discussion at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the second half of 2013;
- 44. Agrees** that the outcome of the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the central theme of which will be the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, will serve as an input for the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development and the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;
- 45. Requests** the secretariat to report, at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, on the activities conducted in the substantive areas mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs.

First session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in the second half of 2013

At the conclusion of the discussions, the representatives adopted an agreement through which the **ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development** will be renamed the **Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**. The new Regional Conference will take over all the functions of the Committee and follow up on its mandates.

It was also decided that the Regional Conference may create working groups on priority issues in the field of population and development.

This agreement will afford new **Regional Conference** greater autonomy, and all its decisions will be presented at the sessions of **ECLAC** (the main intergovernmental meeting of this regional commission of the United Nations) and at the sessions of the Economic and Social Council.

Lastly, it was also decided that the first meeting of the **Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean** will be held in Uruguay in the second half of 2013. The central theme of the meeting will be the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. The outcomes of the meeting will serve as an input for the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development and the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.



In the opening session of the meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Alicia Bárcena, stated that "territory matters. . . a lot. We have to prepare for an increasingly urbanized future." She added, "This is the opportunity to make the leap to environmental sustainability and equality." These were the main topics addressed at the meeting, which set planning at the heart of the public agenda.



Population, territory and sustainable development

The report, prepared by CELADE, provides an overview of current trends, contexts and issues and examines their public policy implications. Three themes run through the report: patterns of location and spatial mobility of the Latin American population, focusing on certain kinds of territory; the linkages between these patterns and sustainable development in different kinds of territory in Latin America and the Caribbean; and policy proposals for fostering a consistent, synergistic relationship between population location and spatial mobility, on the one hand, and sustainable development, on the other, in the kinds of territory studied.

San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

This Charter is a commitment adopted by the Latin American and Caribbean countries at the Third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean, held on 12 May 2012 in San José. It proposes to identify the key actions relating to the human rights and social protection of older persons in the region. In the Charter, government representatives urge consideration of the feasibility of an international convention and an Inter-American convention on the rights of older persons, and request the appointment of a special rapporteur to oversee the protection of this age group.



Child poverty in indigenous and Afro-descendent communities in Latin America

The report, prepared (Spanish only) by CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC in the framework of a joint project by ECLAC and UNICEF, proposes to raise the visibility of inequality suffered by indigenous and Afro-descendent children in the region. It provides data disaggregated by ethnicity for 17 Latin American countries, covering demographic characteristics and the magnitude of indigenous and Afro-descendent child poverty in terms of education, information, housing, and access to drinking water and sanitation facilities. In addition to investigating inequalities stemming from ethnicity-related factors, the report also explores inequalities at the territorial level.

International migration from a regional and interregional perspective

This report summarizes the main outcomes of the project “Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration: Maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impact,” carried out by the regional commissions and the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, under the coordination of ECLAC.



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Chief: Dirk Jaspers_Fajier
Production: Sandra Huenchuan and
Jorge Rodriguez, with assistance from
Fernanda Stang and Claudia Guerrero
Design: Alejandro Vicuña Leyton

Contact:
celade@cepal.org
<http://www.cepal.org/celade>

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