



2008 | Thirty-second session of ECLAC
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 9-13 June 2008

FOR PARTICIPANTS
ONLY
REFERENCE DOCUMENT
DDR/1
13 May 2008
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

**REPORT OF THE ECLAC SESSIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND RESOLUTIONS
615(XXXI) AND 616(XXXI) OF THE THIRTY-FIRST
SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ***

* Offprint of Biennial Report (3 July 2004-24 March 2006) (LC/G.2317-P).

2008-308



UNITED NATIONS



SIXTY YEARS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. The ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development met on 20 and 21 March 2006. The following countries served as presiding officers:

<u>Chairperson:</u>	Uruguay
<u>Vice-Chairpersons:</u>	Brazil
	Cuba
	United States Virgin Islands
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Honduras

2. The meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee was attended by representatives of 25 States members of ECLAC and 2 associate members, and by representatives of international organizations and nongovernmental organizations.

3. The Ad Hoc Committee adopted the following agenda without amendment:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the provisional agenda
3. Report of the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development
4. International migration, human rights and development
5. Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (Madrid, 2002)
6. Presentation of national activities relating to the follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
7. Other matters
8. Conclusions

4. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the Commission regarded the monitoring and analysis of demographic trends in Latin America and the Caribbean and their links to economic and social development as tasks of crucial importance, especially as regards the provision of better social protection to the entire population. The approach to those tasks must be productive, inclusive, participatory, and based on solidarity and human rights. Social protection was the main focus of the study that ECLAC had prepared for the session. The countries of the region were making a major effort to upgrade the social protection provided to their citizens, and to that end they needed to raise the quality and redistributive efficiency of their social programmes. That effort called for an improvement in the region's network of social institutions with a view to increasing programme transparency, assessment, continuity and coordination.

5. The United Nations considered that migration was a major engine of development, capable of making a positive contribution to countries of origin and destination. States had a duty to protect the rights of migrants within their borders and protect them from racism and xenophobia. In return, migrants

must adhere to the laws of the host countries. Migration had significant macroeconomic effects and was of benefit to everyone, although such benefits were diminished by the infringement of migrants' rights and the discrimination they suffered. Those were obstacles that must be overcome. Lastly, he reiterated the Secretary-General's appeal to all States that had not yet ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to do so as soon as possible, since such ratification would help countries to make full use of the benefits of international migration.

6. The outgoing Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee and member of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations began his presentation with a review of the activities conducted in the region to monitor the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and drew attention to the important work carried out by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC.

7. With respect to ageing, he referred to the international meetings of experts organized by CELADE in the region, in particular the important international seminars on indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants. In addition, studies had been conducted which had demonstrated the social divide existing between indigenous and non-indigenous populations. He stressed the importance of population censuses for national and local planning and said that the support activities provided by CELADE in editing census data had been of great value; he also mentioned the meetings of national statistical directors and national health directors, the training workshops, the advances achieved with the REDATAM software, the dissemination of population censuses via Internet and the creation and updating of databases. Another aspect of the Centre's work was its training activities in the areas of demographics, population and development.

8. The Director of CELADE said that the document on international migration presented at the meeting summarized the results of various research studies carried out by the Centre during the biennium. It had participated in a number of meetings of experts, national studies, training activities for researchers and civil servants of countries of the region and in the update and expansion of the Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) database. Those activities had strengthened the capacity of countries to address migration issues. The Centre was the repository of most of the census microdatabases for the countries of the region. Those microdatabases had gradually been expanded to incorporate information on ethnic groups affected by multiple inequalities, as demonstrated in the Centre's sociodemographic studies of indigenous peoples and other ethnic groups.

9. During the period under review, the Centre had provided technical assistance to various countries in formulating policies for older persons and incorporating the issue of ageing in the public agenda. Studies had also been conducted on regional and national trends in ageing and on challenges in the area of social protection, especially for women; policies and laws relating to older persons; the monitoring and assessment of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing; methodologies for construction of future scenarios on ageing; relevant indicators for the review of the status of older persons with special reference to gender inequities; and family support networks and intergenerational transfers.

10. Lastly, the Centre had conducted training and support activities relating to research into ageing and the use of census and sociodemographic data on indigenous populations.

11. Marisela Padrón, Director of the Latin America and the Caribbean Division of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said that activities had been undertaken in the area of health care, specifically reproductive health and activities for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, a field in which it was crucial to ensure professional training for health personnel and officials and others involved in monitoring progress achieved in the region in that regard. In terms of gender issues, there was need for coordination between Governments and social development institutions for the prevention of violence against women, particularly in situations of political instability and displacement. She stressed the need to enforce existing laws in that area, while recognizing that a far-reaching cultural transformation was needed to solve the problem of violence against women.

12. Indigenous organizations should be supported with a view to involving them in the discussions. In terms of the use of demographic data, UNFPA continued to provide support for the holding of censuses, especially in the Caribbean. The census data would contribute to enhancing the rationality and transparency of planning and should therefore be made available to decision-makers and decentralized authorities.

13. With respect to migration, remittance flows exceeded foreign direct investment and could be used productively and rationally to promote development. Furthermore, a new social protection covenant was needed in order to ensure inclusiveness and overcome inequalities, since this would contribute to viable and sustained development; in addition, the mobilization of grass-roots organizations contributed significantly to the empowerment of the population and citizenship-building.

14. Presenting the working paper on international migration, human rights and development, the CELADE representative said that the issue of the human rights of migrants and their families called for a cross-cutting approach. He reviewed the background to migratory flows, trends and patterns, stating that the migratory processes observed in the region reflected a variety of patterns. He discussed the problems and potential for development that Latin American and Caribbean migration presented from three points of view: remittances, gender and skilled migration. On the subject of the human rights of migrants and their families, he underscored the numerous risks to which they were exposed. Lastly, he identified guidelines for the governance of migration, pointing to the shared responsibility of countries and the role of the United Nations, intergovernmental forums and international law.

15. Various delegations stressed the need to reduce remittance costs and to take measures to promote the integration of migrants in host societies; attention was also drawn to the negative aspects of migration, such as the brain drain and the gender imbalance in communities, in addition to the risk of infringement of migrants' rights.

16. One delegation said that dual nationality should be recognized for migrants and that migrant communities should be organized in host countries, and urged the Committee to study the latter issue in greater depth. Several delegations agreed that it was necessary to take various measures to ensure the legal integration of migrants into destination societies and to avoid the infringement of their human rights; such infringements showed up mainly in acts of discrimination and xenophobia.

17. The Officer-in-Charge of the Area of Population and Development of CELADE reported on the review and appraisal of the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and summed up the agreements and resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission for Social Development and ECLAC relating to the monitoring and assessment of those instruments. He said that the participatory approach was one of the main aspects of that process, and underscored the need for the countries to identify the areas that they were interested in evaluating through that approach. The regional commissions and in particular ECLAC had an important role to play in coordinating relevant regional events and he concluded by proposing a working agenda for 2006-2008 which included national and regional activities.

18. The delegations that took the floor highlighted the need to establish and apply regulations for protecting the rights of older persons, especially with respect to elder abuse and discrimination, as well as the need to create opportunities for training in the area of ageing.

19. The conclusions of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee are reflected in resolution 616(XXXI) entitled "Population and development: priority activities for the period 2006-2008".

RESOLUTION 615(XXXI) INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reiterating the fundamental principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in that declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic position, birth or other status,

Reaffirming the provisions concerning migrants approved by the World Conference on Human Rights of 1993,¹ the International Conference on Population and Development of 1994,² the World Summit for Social Development of 1995 and its Programme of Action,³ and the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in 1995,⁴

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, in particular resolutions 57/270 B, 58/190 and 58/208, paragraphs 61, 62 and 63 of resolution 60/1, and resolutions 60/206 and 60/227, which provide for a high-level dialogue to be held during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly in order to examine the multiple interrelationships existing between international migration and development with a view to determining appropriate means for taking the fullest possible advantage of the benefits afforded by migration in terms of development,

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1981,⁵ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1969,⁶ the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women of 1993,⁷ the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1990,⁸ and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1989,⁹

Bearing in mind the highly important nature of the central proposals and guidelines contained in the Millennium Declaration¹⁰ for an understanding of the close ties between international migration and the integral development of human beings,

Considering the explicit guidelines concerning international migration contained in the Plan of Action adopted at the fourth Summit of the Americas and the provisions contained in the Declaration of Salamanca, adopted at the fifteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, which expresses the readiness of the Ibero-American countries' Heads of State and Government to take steps to ensure respect and protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families, including primarily

¹ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chapter III.

² Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No: E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

³ Report of the World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁴ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁶ Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

⁷ Resolution 48/104.

⁸ Resolution 44/25, annex.

⁹ Resolution 39/46, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution 55/2.

human rights, promote international cooperation in assisting refugees and ensuring their safe return, with dignity, to their countries of origin,

Welcoming the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2003¹¹ and of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in 2003¹² and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air in 2004,¹³ both of which supplement the Convention, and urging all countries to consider ratifying or acceding to these instruments,

Acknowledging the entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families in 2003¹⁴ and observing with satisfaction the continuous addition of further ratifications or accessions thereto,

Valuing the recent efforts and commitments made within the framework of the United Nations system and of other intergovernmental organizations with respect to international migration and development, as well as the consolidation of multilateral initiatives addressing these matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the Regional Conference on Migration and the South American Conference on Migration,

Aware of the benefits that international migration may afford in terms of development, migrants themselves, their families, their host societies, their societies of origin and the enhancement of gender equity, as well as the asymmetries of benefits reaped by countries of origin and destination societies, with the latter being favoured by this process, given such factors as the beneficial effects that skilled migration has on their societies and economies,

Aware also that the great economic and social inequalities existing between and within countries, the marginalization of some nations from the world economy and high poverty rates help to generate large-scale migratory movements that increase the magnitude of the complex phenomenon of international migration,

Recognizing that initiatives for improving the position of migrants should include measures aimed at overcoming the poverty affecting millions of people in numerous countries and ensuring their access to education, health, food, work and social protection in accordance with the legal framework of each country,

Observing that many Latin Americans and Caribbeans and their families are faced with a situation of vulnerability with regard to the exercise of their rights,

Concerned by the increase in the trafficking of persons in all its forms, in particular for purposes of exploitation and sexual abuse and tourism,

Bearing in mind that the central theme of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development will be international migration and development,¹⁵

¹¹ Resolution 55/25, annex I.

¹² Ibid., annex II.

¹³ Ibid., annex III.

¹⁴ Resolution 45/158, annex.

¹⁵ Decision 2004/1, United Nations Commission on Population and Development, thirty-seventh session (E/2004/25).

1. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the report presented by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - Population Division of the Commission to the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development at its meeting held during the thirty-first session of the Commission,¹⁶ and recommends the publication of the material on which that report is based so that it will be available for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that is to take place when the United Nations General Assembly meets in September 2006;

2. *Is gratified* by the efforts of national Governments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to highlight the benefits afforded by international migration in terms of the development of societies of origin and of destination, and reiterates the need to recognize that respect for human rights of migrants should be at the core of any initiative aimed at taking advantage of those benefits;

3. *Urges* the Governments that have not yet done so to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying the legal instruments of the United Nations whose object is to promote and protect migrants' human rights as a mechanism for full social integration, and also invites Governments that have signed these instruments to ensure their full enforcement;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to define the trafficking of persons in any form as an offence, bearing in mind the growing frequency of trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation and tourism, and to condemn and sanction all those responsible for this wrongful act, while providing protection to victims and making sure that the latter are not punished or prosecuted for entering or residing in the country illicitly;¹⁷

5. *Encourages* Governments to consider the possibility of engaging in international dialogues on migration and invites them to incorporate migration, particularly proposals for improving the situation of migrant workers, in bilateral accords and regional agreements;

6. *Calls upon* United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and upon other international, intergovernmental, regional, subregional and national organizations to continue, within the framework of their respective mandates, to concern themselves with international migration and development while devoting special attention to the various aspects of migration, including the gender perspective, cultural diversity and unrestricted respect for human rights;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to form an inter-agency group to be in charge of follow-up to issues relating to international migration and development in the region and of fostering coordination and coherence among the activities carried out in this field by specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration and other intergovernmental institutions;

8. *Urges* the Governments and international, intergovernmental and academic institutions to redouble their efforts to improve information and knowledge about the multiple aspects of international migration and notes that, in this context, the Commission should foster research on migration issues in areas in which more detailed data are required and that in-depth studies are useful in the case of recent Latin American migration to alternative destinations such as Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and border regions within the continent and regarding the growing new wave of migration to Latin America by Europeans who choose to live at least part of the year in the region, which leads to new employment opportunities, investment and transport infrastructure;

¹⁶ LC/G.2303(SES.31/11).

¹⁷ Resolution 59/166.

9. *Encourages* States to further, in cooperation with international, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, information campaigns designed to explain the opportunities, limitations and rights entailed by migration so that migrants, particularly women migrants, may take informed decisions and avoid human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants;

10. *Reaffirms* the need to adopt measures aimed at reducing the costs for migrants of sending remittances and promoting safe means of transferring those funds and welcomes any progress in this regard;

11. *Requests* that Governments and stakeholders promote international, bilateral and multilateral agreements to ensure social protection for migrants and facilitate the transfer of pensions from one country to another in order to ensure adequate living conditions for them when they return to their countries of origin;

12. *Urges* States to incorporate the goal of family reunification into their laws in view of its positive effects in terms of immigrants' integration;

13. *Welcomes* commitments regarding international migration contained in the Declaration of Salamanca, adopted at the fifteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, and the organization of an Ibero-American meeting on migration, to be held in July 2006 in Madrid, for their follow-up, and asks the Executive Secretary of the Commission to inform the Ibero-American Secretariat of the special interest of all its member countries in participating in that meeting and of the choice of migration for shared development as the central theme of the sixteenth Ibero-American Summit, to be held in October 2006 in Montevideo;

14. *Instructs* the Chairperson of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development to bring this resolution to the attention of the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-ninth session, whose central theme is to be international migration and development;

15. *Requests* that the topic of international migration be again included in the next meeting of the Committee so that it may debate the events that have transpired up to that time and follow up on these issues.

**RESOLUTION 616(XXXI) POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: PRIORITY
ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 2006-2008**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development adopted in Mexico City in May 1993; the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994; the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development of 1994; the document entitled “Latin America and the Caribbean: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”;¹ the report of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly entitled “Overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly entitled “Key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”; the United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000; the report of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing;² resolution 604(XXX) entitled “Population and development: priority activities for 2004-2006”, adopted by the Commission at its thirtieth session, held in July 2004 in San Juan, Puerto Rico; and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,³ in particular paragraph 57 and subparagraphs thereof,

Recalling also that April 2007 will mark the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and bearing in mind that, in resolution 604(XXX), the Commission welcomed the Regional Strategy on the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and adopted the recommendation that it should take charge of monitoring the Strategy’s implementation in the region,

Considering the report of the Meeting of Experts on Ageing - Second Central American and Caribbean Forum on Policies for Older Persons,⁴ held in San Salvador from 10 to 12 November 2004; the report of the Caribbean Symposium on Population Ageing,⁵ held in Port of Spain from 8 to 10 November 2004; and the conclusions of the Meeting of Governments and Experts on Ageing of the countries of South America, held in Buenos Aires from 14 to 16 November 2005,

Taking into account that on 17 February 2006 the United Nations Commission for Social Development adopted resolution 44/1, entitled “Modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing”,

Bearing in mind that 2007 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Thanks* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for organizing the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee and preparing the substantive documentation, the United Nations Population Fund for the

¹ LC/DEM/G.184(1999).

² LC/L.2079.

³ Resolution 60/1.

⁴ LC/L.2347.

⁵ LC/CAR/L.41.

support it has provided, and both organizations for the support given to the countries of the region in implementing the Programme of Action adopted in Cairo at the International Conference on Population and Development, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

2. *Reiterates* the importance of improving data sources, in particular population censuses and vital statistics, for the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the United Nations Second World Assembly on Ageing and the Millennium Declaration, as well as the importance of developing reliable, timely and high-quality national statistical information systems for decision-making and for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and development programmes;

3. *Calls upon* the countries of the region to make all necessary efforts to provide the requisite resources in order to continue to implement the key measures of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development with special reference to the agreements contained in resolution 604(XXX) adopted at the thirtieth session of the Commission and the Madrid International Plan of Action and its Regional Strategy, particularly within the framework of policies aimed at reducing social and ethnic inequalities, overcoming gender inequity and eradicating poverty, and urges the international community to increase their technical and financial cooperation for the fulfillment of these objectives;

4. *Requests* the secretariat, in coordination with the Presiding Officers of the Ad Hoc Committee and with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, to continue to give priority to addressing the following issues from a gender perspective: the status, determinants and implications of demographic trends; demographic dynamics; equity and poverty; ageing; indigenous and Afrodescendant populations; international and internal migration; human resource training in the fields of demography and population and development; and the 2010 round of population and housing censuses and vital statistics;

5. *Also requests* that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the activities carried out in the areas mentioned in paragraph 4;

6. *Urges* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre – Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Women and Development Unit of the Commission and the United Nations Population Fund to provide support for the preparation of the plans of action that the countries will need to prepare during 2006 in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, as agreed at the 2005 World Summit;

7. *Exhorts* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre – Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Population Fund to support the countries, to the extent that they are able, in the follow-up of the agreements of the 2006 follow-up meeting on the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

8. *Asks* the secretariat, in coordination with the organizations of the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing and the competent institutions of the host country, to organize a regional intergovernmental conference in 2007 to review and assess the advances made by the countries of the region in the application of the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and to prepare the relevant substantive documentation;

9. *Also asks* the secretariat to undertake joint activities with the organizations belonging to the Inter-Agency Group, with governmental networks such as the Ibero-American Technical Cooperation Network, and with civil society networks to support countries in the follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

10. *Asks further* that the secretariat support activities for building the countries' technical capacity for the effective application of the "bottom-up approach" in the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, as adopted by the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fourth session in 2006;

11. *Deems* it fitting and important that the secretariat should organize a special regional event to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre during the second half of 2007 and requests the countries and the international community to provide substantive and financial support for this activity;

12. *Recommends* that, at its next regular meeting in 2008, the Ad Hoc Committee should analyse the issue of demographic changes from a gender perspective and their influence on development, as well as their impact on poverty and inequality, and asks the secretariat of the Ad Hoc Committee, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, to prepare the relevant substantive documents.