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ECLAC**

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**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF ECLAC,
2012-2013, AND THE OUTCOMES OF OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL
MEETINGS WHICH REPORT AT THE SESSION**

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INTRODUCTION

The attention of the member States is drawn herein to the issues addressed and the agreements and resolutions adopted by the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and by the major intergovernmental meetings held in 2012-2013.

**SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Summary of the
**REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE
OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN¹**

Santiago, 5-7 November 2013

¹ LC/L.3771, 30 January 2014.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of meeting

1. The seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago from 5 to 7 November 2013.

B. AGENDA

2. The Chair submitted for consideration the draft provisional agenda, which was adopted without modification.

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues.
 - (a) The post-2015 development agenda and challenges for national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (b) Development of basic economic statistics in the framework of the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008) in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (c) Progress and challenges regarding gender mainstreaming in producing statistics within national statistical systems
 - (d) Pro-quality institutional strengthening of national statistical offices and systems
3. Report on the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2012-2013.
4. Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015.
 - (a) Review and adoption of the proposed operational guidelines for the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
 - (b) Biennial programme of the working groups
 - Institution-building
 - Gender statistics
 - Environmental statistics
 - Censuses
 - National accounts
 - Information and communications technologies
 - Harmonization of statistics on income poverty and public transfers

- International classifications
- Agricultural statistics
- Labour-market indicators
- Household surveys
- Statistics on childhood and adolescence
- Statistics on public security and justice
- Programme of activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network

(c) Promoting international coordination and cooperation in the region

- Statistical challenges in quantifying South-South cooperation
- International Comparison Programme
- Regional public goods projects: “Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments” and “Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean”
- Subregional coordination initiatives

(d) Other matters

5. Adoption of agreements.
 6. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015.
 7. Closing session.
3. The Conference adopted the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION 8(VII) ADOPTED BY THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE
OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
AT ITS SEVENTH MEETING**

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its seventh meeting, held in Santiago from 5 to 7 November 2013,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000, in which the Council approved the proposal on the establishment, as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind also that the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 provides that the Executive Committee shall have the following duties: carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference; draw up, every two years, a biennial programme of activities of regional and international cooperation on statistical matters, to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Conference; follow up the

implementation of the agreements reached at the Conference and the tasks entrusted to it by the Conference, particularly the biennial programme of activities; and decide on the documentation required for its meetings,

Having reviewed the report on the implementation of the 2012-2013 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Conference,

Having reviewed also the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference for the period 2014-2015 and the reports of its working groups,

Taking into account the growing importance of and need for reliable, high-quality and timely statistics for the exercise of transparency, for the accountability of public authorities and for the assessment of the results of public policies, as key elements of democracy-building in the region,

Taking fully into consideration the agreements adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session,

Taking fully into consideration also the resolutions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fourth session,

Taking fully into consideration further the views expressed and the contributions put forward by the Governments of the States members of the Conference and by the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations represented at the meeting,

Report on the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the biennium 2012-2013

1. *Approves* the Report on the implementation of the 2012-2013 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, welcomes the progress made by the working groups created by the Conference and urges these groups to continue to pursue their fruitful efforts with a view to the complete fulfilment of their terms of reference;

Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the biennium 2014-2015

2. *Adopts* the guidelines for the functioning of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, incorporating the observations agreed at the meeting concerning use of the Knowledge Transfer Network for the dissemination of documents and reports to all countries, the availability of documents in English and Spanish and the use of a standard format for communicating the results of the reports of the working groups, requests the groups to put these guidelines into practice and urges the Executive Committee to provide them with the necessary follow-up and support in their activities in accordance with the guidelines so as to enable them to optimize their functioning and achieve their objectives;

3. *Adopts also* the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the biennium 2014-2015 and the plan of work of each of the working groups, urges the working groups to build synergies based on their common interests and requests the secretariat to incorporate the suggestions and observations put forth by the representatives and to present a definitive version to the Executive Committee of the Conference at its thirteenth meeting;
4. *Urges* the States members of the Conference, the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other international organizations to make an active contribution to the work to be carried out under the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for the biennium 2014-2015;
5. *Requests* the working groups, bearing in mind the discussion and the challenges of the post-2015 agenda, to incorporate these issues into their programmes of work for the period 2014-2015;

Institution-building

6. *Notes with satisfaction* the planned activities of the Working Group on Institution-building for the period 2014 – 2015 geared to the implementation of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and, in particular, the comprehensive assessments to be conducted in five countries of the region, and the development of South-South technical cooperation for implementation of the Code and urges all countries to make a firm commitment to take part in the different activities planned;
7. *Requests* the countries interested in participating in the comprehensive assessments or in receiving South-South cooperation in their implementation of the Code to send a formal communication to that effect to the group coordinator;
8. *Thanks* the Inter-American Development Bank for having provided financial support for these activities;
9. *Takes note with concern* of the practice of some international organizations which publish country data such as composite indices and models that do not take into account the official information produced by the national statistical offices and which hire private research firms whose studies are based on inadequate sample designs and methodologies that fail to respect the fundamental principles of official statistics, such as principles of quality and transparency in the use of methodology, sources and programming;
10. *Urges* the international agencies to use the official information produced by the national statistical offices when conducting their studies and programmes and to comply with the technical requirements contained in the fundamental principles of official statistics by applying appropriate sample designs and ensuring that their methodologies, sources and the programming used to calculate their indicators are transparent;

Promoting the training of competent human resources

11. *Thanks* the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico for the valuable role it played in creating and consolidating the Knowledge Transfer Network and in coordinating the implementation unit of the Council of the Network and expresses satisfaction at the activities

carried out by the Network since its establishment, in particular with a view to developing experience in distance training, enhancing the coordination of training activities in the region and building networks of experts and training centres for horizontal cooperation;

12. *Accepts with thanks* the offer by the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia to assume responsibility for coordination of the basic unit of the Knowledge Transfer Network for the period 2014-2015 and urges countries and international organizations to support it in its role as coordinator of the Network;
13. *Reiterates* that all members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas need to strengthen the Knowledge Transfer Network by contributing resources, boosting the stock of specialized information, introducing additional activities for knowledge transfer and expert support and updating the information in the Network's basic tool in order to improve its efficiency;

Technical capacity-building

Millennium Development Goals

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the advances in statistical reconciliation, statistical capacity-building at the national level and the dissemination of good practices for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in the countries of the region and thanks the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the support and collaboration it has provided as technical secretariat of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and for its willingness to conduct further analytical studies on the regional situation with a view to formulating regional cooperation measures;
15. *Urges* countries to redouble their efforts to produce the information needed to generate Millennium Development Goal indicators using international standards and regional and national points of reference so as to help to speed up fulfilment of the Goals by 2015, given that that target date is fast approaching;
16. *Reiterates* the need for the national statistical offices to participate actively in the production of national reports on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in order to ensure that the correct statistical information is used for monitoring advances and urges them to participate more fully in reflections on these issues and in the preparation of a monitoring framework for the United Nations post-2015 development agenda;
17. *Urges* the countries to contact the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals to put forward their suggestions and proposals for the post-2015 development agenda;

Gender statistics

18. *Welcomes* the holding of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which came to a successful conclusion in the Dominican Republic on 18 October 2013 and ratifies the agreements established in the Santo Domingo Consensus relating to the improvement of national and regional gender statistics, with a view to contributing to the discussion and the preparation of public policies to enhance the physical and economic autonomy and autonomy in decision-making of women in the region, with special reference to

paragraphs 55 and 56 of the abovementioned Consensus relating to time-use surveys and the compilation of satellite accounts on households' unpaid work;

19. *Reaffirms* the targets established in the work plan of the Working Group on Gender Statistics with a view to continuing to improve time-use statistics, the satellite account on households' unpaid work, statistics on violence against women, poverty measurement from the gender perspective and the debate on indicators to be included in the United Nations post-2015 development agenda and urges countries to redouble their efforts to generate gender statistics;
20. *Reaffirms also* the effective commitment of the national statistical institutes and offices at their highest hierarchical level to continue to work to improve the production and dissemination of gender statistics;
21. *Requests* the coordinating country and the technical secretariat of the Working Group on Gender Statistics to improve communication, to step up South-South cooperation exchanges in this area and to strengthen strategies for coordinating and disseminating activities in this field as well as mechanisms for providing training in gender statistics;

Harmonization of statistics relating to income poverty and public transfers

22. *Expresses satisfaction* at the systematization and analytical activities carried out in relation to the similarities and differences in income and poverty measurement in the region and thanks the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers for the activities it carried out during the biennium;
23. *Takes note* of the interest demonstrated by countries in redefining the terms of reference of the group, in such a way as to encompass alternative conceptual formulations for poverty-measurement with a view to the post-2015 agenda and requests the Commission, Colombia and Mexico to present a proposal in that regard to the Executive Committee;
24. *Takes note also of* the need to encourage discussion on alternative, non-traditional measures that take into account the well-being of individuals;

Censuses

25. *Commends* the countries and territories that have already conducted their population and housing censuses for the 2010 round, encourages them to facilitate access to those census data and to promote their use, analysis and dissemination as is fitting and reiterates that it is important for those countries that have not yet conducted their census to consult and, to the extent possible, incorporate into their forthcoming census exercise the lessons learned and the recommendations emerging from the discussion process and from the consensuses reached within the framework of the Conference's activities;
26. *Urges* countries to continue to systematize the experiences deriving from the exercises of the 2010 round of censuses as well as the preparatory methodological tasks for the next census round contained in the plan;
27. *Commends* the United Nations Population Fund and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of the Commission on the conduct of a new version of

the intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications between August and December 2013, calls on them to arrange other similar courses, subject to the availability of resources, and encourages other specialized agencies in the United Nations system and other international cooperation entities to support these activities;

28. *Welcomes* the holding of the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and encourages the Working Group on Censuses to continue to attend the sessions of that body and to participate in the relevant discussions and tasks;

National Accounts

29. *Takes note* of the activities proposed for 2014-2015, aimed at supporting the countries in the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 and promoting closer integration between the production of basic economic statistics and national accounts, and underscores the importance of incorporating the recommendations emanating from the Substantive Seminar on National Accounts into the activities of the Working Group on National Accounts, particularly with regard to improving basic statistics as the main input for national accounts, making the system more useful, and encouraging the implementation of the system of national accounts in the region;
30. *Requests* the working group to promote continuity in the development of new modules for the advanced course on national accounts, with support from countries, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Statistics Division, as well as in the execution of national and regional plans for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008;
31. *Calls* for redoubled efforts to support countries in the development of basic economic statistics, and to coordinate the activities of the Working Group closely with those of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics for the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting;
32. *Reiterates* the need to promote the participation of representatives from more countries, and especially representatives of central banks, in the Working Group, leading to closer collaboration with national statistical offices with a view to improving economic statistics and national accounts;
33. *Requests* the Working Group on National Accounts to prepare a development project on basic statistics and on strengthening integration of the latter with the System of National Accounts in order to mobilize resources of the member States of the international donor agencies and to present this project for discussion and approval at the annual seminar on national accounts, and exhorts the countries to draw up strategic declarations and plans of action for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 in the framework of the global strategy;

Statistics on information and communications technologies

34. *Takes note* of the challenges associated with the generation of statistics on information and communications technologies which will result, on the one hand, from the 10-year review process of the World Summit on the Information Society and the High-level Event to be held in 2014, which will take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit

and establish the agenda beyond 2015 and, on the other, from the final monitoring plan for the Plan of Action on the Information and Knowledge Society for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015);

35. *Agrees* to collaborate, through the programme of activities of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies for the period 2014-2015 by boosting the technical capacity of national statistical systems to respond to the needs for statistical data production and compilation on the basis of indicators of compliance with the Summit targets and to support also the final monitoring plan for eLAC2015, in order to review the region's advances towards the targets and to assess the gaps in access to and use of information and communications technologies;
36. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the adoption of resolution 672(XXXIV) establishing the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, which is expected to contribute to the progress of science, technology and innovation policies and activities in the countries of the region, and urges the working group to attend the meetings of that Conference and take part in its discussions and activities;
37. *Reaffirms* the agreements adopted at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean concerning the need to generate statistics relating to information and communications technologies and gender in order to establish a methodology for measuring household indicators and administrative records that reflect the gender digital divide in keeping with regional and international agreements;

Environmental statistics

38. *Notes with satisfaction* the results achieved at the workshop to launch the project "Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean", funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, and requests the Executive Committee of this project to take the measures needed to ensure its implementation;
39. *Notes* that, in the context of discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015 and the challenges that it poses for national statistical systems, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 is an international standard that provides tools for measuring the progress of countries towards achieving sustainable development;
40. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean concerning the development of a proposed regional strategy on implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012, takes note of the regional consultation that is under way, for which countries have been invited to submit their comments, and recommends that the Commission present the final results of this process to the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in 2014;
41. *Urges* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to take measures to strengthen its human, technical and coordination capacities in the field of economic environmental accounts in order to be able to proceed with the regional strategy for strengthening environmental statistics, and to respond to the growing number of requests by the countries for assistance in this matter;

International classifications

42. *Takes note of* the activities scheduled for the period 2014-2015, which will continue to be geared to analyzing, discussing, agreeing and implementing classification proposals that reflect appropriately the requirements of the countries of the region, and urges all the interested countries to participate actively in the activities listed in the work plan;
43. *Underscores* the importance of the work of the Working Group on International Classifications in formulating the project entitled “Latin American Cluster for the Promotion of Standard Information and Classification Systems”, and expresses support for the request for financing for its execution from the Inter-American Development Bank under the Regional Public Goods initiative and for the effort to secure financial resources from other international organizations that may be prepared to support the activities of the programme of work of the Working Group;

Agricultural statistics

44. *Thanks* the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico for the significant role it has fulfilled in translating and digitizing the standard reference questionnaire for evaluating the agricultural statistical system;
45. *Urges* the national statistical institutes to coordinate with their respective ministries of agriculture and to fill out thoroughly the standard reference questionnaire for evaluating the agricultural statistical system, with a view to obtaining a diagnostic assessment of the status of statistics in the countries;
46. *Urges also* the countries of the region to collaborate in implementing the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially through South-South cooperation strategies;
47. *Reiterates* the invitation extended to the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean to join the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics, since at present no country from that subregion is represented in the Group;

Labour-market indicators

48. *Takes note of* the proposed activities for the period 2014-2015 for advancing in harmonization of the measurement of labour informality and assessing the impact on the countries of the region of the new guidelines issued at the nineteenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians relating to the measurement of types of work, the labour force, and employment and underemployment of the labour force;
49. *Exhorts* the member countries of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators to continue with their commitment and the momentum towards the stated objectives and appeals to the countries that are not members to participate also in the consultations of the group and to respond to the questionnaires on practices used in compiling labour statistics in order to help to obtain a more comprehensive regional assessment;

Household surveys

50. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Working Group on Household Surveys to conclude in the period 2014-2015 its assessment of integrated household survey systems in the countries of the region and to focus future work on sampling methods and estimates from panel and cross-sectional surveys, and invites countries to participate actively in the activities under its work plan;

Statistics on childhood and adolescence

51. *Takes note* of the proposed plan of activities of the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence for the biennium 2014-2015, which reflects the challenges faced by the countries of the region in relation to developing and improving the statistics on childhood and adolescence needed to evaluate and implement policies and to drawing up programmes to meet the commitments made on the rights of the child in all countries of the region;
52. *Urges* the members of the working group to promote joint activities and the use of the results obtained by the other working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas that have analysed indicators and statistics on childhood and adolescence, in order to establish synergies between the work plans of the groups and, avoid duplication of efforts, an initiative that should be supported by the Executive Committee, which will promote the sharing of the different work plans and results achieved among the different working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

Statistics on public security and justice

53. *Endorses* the creation of the Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice, which shall comprise Mexico as the coordinating country and Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama and Peru as members and the Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the technical secretariat, and commissions it to coordinate efforts to generate, develop and standardize statistical information on crime and criminal justice in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on international and regional projects, initiatives and mandates concerning relevant statistical information in order to generate better data to support evidence-based public-policy design and decision-making targeting problems in this field;

Geospatial information

54. *Takes note of* the countries' keen interest in the development and management of geospatial information, requests Brazil and Mexico to prepare a proposal for incorporating this issue into the Conference's programme of work and invites interested countries and agencies to cooperate with these countries on this task;

Promotion of coordination and cooperation between member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and international agencies

International Comparison Programme

55. *Thanks* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean which successfully participated in the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme, welcomes the increase in the number of countries from the region participating in the 2005 round and stresses the importance of the results obtained for drawing up and monitoring public policies, as well as carrying out a comparative analysis at the international level;
56. *Reiterates* its gratitude to the World Bank and the regional and subregional organizations for the financial and technical support without which it would not have been possible to implement this major global project involving some 190 countries and coordinated at the regional level by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with support from the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community, the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank;

Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments

57. *Congratulates* the countries participating in the project of the Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments on having brought it to a successful conclusion and urges the other countries to take account of and use the results of the project in line with their needs and circumstances;
58. *Welcomes* the Compendium of technical recommendations and best practices for preparing directories of enterprises and establishments drawn up as part of the project and agrees to disseminate the Compendium and promote its use in the region;
59. *Thanks* the Inter-American Development Bank for the financial support that made the project possible and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its unwavering support in implementing all stages of the project;

Disability measurement

60. *Reiterates* the recommendations of Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) concerning the collection and dissemination of data and statistics on the status of persons with disabilities as well as the recommendations of the Expert meeting to define strategic priorities for the regional agenda regarding the status of persons with disabilities (Santiago, 14 and 15 May 2013) on the implementation of a single system of information and identification for the population with disabilities that serves to determine appropriate policy actions and services;
61. *Congratulates* the countries in the region which have conducted specific surveys on disability and those which have made progress in including questions for persons with disabilities in their censuses and calls on them to draw on the lessons learned from this experience when drafting questions for the next round of censuses;

62. *Approves* the establishment of a task force comprising representatives from Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic to coordinate the drafting of a regional report on the statistical information available in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the difficulties encountered in assessing the status of persons with disabilities, for submission at the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, in 2014;
63. *Calls* on the task force to liaise with the member countries of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization to look into avenues for collaboration and into the possibility of holding two subregional training workshops at national statistical offices in Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for the next round of censuses;

Statistical challenges for quantifying South-South cooperation

64. *Agrees* to set up a task force, made up of Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru and supported by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, charged with developing and proposing a methodological design and a road map for the measurement of South-South cooperation;

Subregional coordination

65. *Takes cognizance of* the suspension of statistical activities in the framework of the Andean Community, owing to the reengineering process now under way and the lack of clarity among the member countries of the Andean Statistical Committee, namely, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Plurinational State of Bolivia, concerning the future of this regional mechanism and expresses concern that the subregional statistical committee with the longest track record in the field of statistics should be at a standstill and cease to conduct the activities of statistical harmonization between its member countries, or the education and training plans and programmes, horizontal cooperation projects and discussion forums, workshops and seminars scheduled for the coming years;
66. *Thanks* the following subregional statistical committees for their interesting and informative presentations on their goals and on the status of their activities: the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians of the Caribbean Community, the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System, the Andean Statistical Committee of the Andean Community and the Specialized Statistical Meeting of the Southern Common Market.

Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015 (agenda item 6)

4. In keeping with the provisions of resolution 2000/7 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the Conference elected the following Executive Committee for the biennium 2014-2015:

Chair:	Ecuador
Members:	Belize
	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
	Canada
	Costa Rica
	Cuba
	Spain

Summary of the

**REPORT OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN¹**

Pucón, Chile, 24-26 April 2013

¹ LC/L.3668, 12 July 2013.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of meeting

1. The twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Pucón, Chile, from 24 to 26 April 2013.

B. AGENDA

2. The Executive Committee adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Substantive seminars.
 - (a) Seminar on early warnings and current economic indicators.
 - (b) Seminar on multidimensional poverty measurement.
 3. Review of progress in the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities 2012-2013.
 - (a) Report by the secretariat.
 - (b) Report of the working groups of the Conference.
 - (c) Reports on the progress of regional programmes and projects.
 - Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - Initiatives for the development of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - Activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network.
 - The 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme.
 4. Information regarding subregional cooperation activities.
 5. Preparations for the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
 - (a) Consideration of substantive issues for discussion at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
 - (b) Analysis of proposed areas of work for the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015.
 - (c) Consideration of the provisional agenda of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
 - (d) Selection of the place and date of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
 6. Other matters.
 7. Adoption of agreements.

Agreements (agenda item 7)

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its twelfth meeting, held in Pucón, Chile, from 24 to 26 April 2013,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000, in which the Council approved the proposal on the establishment, as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind also that the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 provides that the Executive Committee shall carry out the following functions: draw up, every two years, a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities on statistical matters, to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Conference; follow up the implementation of the agreements reached at the Conference and the tasks entrusted to it by the Conference, particularly the biennial programme of activities; and decide on the documentation required for its meetings,

Bearing in mind further resolution 7 (VI) adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its sixth meeting,

Considering the agreements adopted by the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its eleventh meeting,

Having reviewed the progress reports of the working groups and other activities contained in the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, 2012-2013,

Having reviewed also the progress report on the working groups and recommendations for improving their operations,²

Taking into consideration the agreements reached by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session,

Taking fully into consideration the views expressed and the contributions put forward by the Governments of the member States of the Conference and by the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations represented at the meeting,

Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2012-2013

Recommendations for improving the operations of the working groups

1. *Thanks* the secretariat for the progress report on the working groups and recommendations for improving their operations, adopts the recommendations contained therein and pledges to implement them;

² LC/L.3612(CE.12/3).

2. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare, at its earliest opportunity, rules of procedure for the formation and operation of the working groups and other task forces of the Conference, and present them for consideration and adoption by the Conference at its seventh meeting; the rules of procedure should take into account the contents of the progress report on the working groups and recommendations for improving their operations, as well as the experience of the international statistical community in this area;

3. *Asks* the secretariat to include in the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015, which will be presented for consideration and adoption by the Conference in November 2013, at its seventh meeting, a proposal for reorganizing the existing working groups, with a view to building on the experience acquired, targeting technical efforts and promoting existing synergies, thereby aligning the objectives and goals with the actual resource potential and capacity to contribute of the member countries and international agencies and enhancing the expected outcomes;

4. *Urges* the coordinating countries of the working groups, in connection with the proposed reorganization, to demonstrate proactive leadership and initiative and to encourage member countries to participate actively in, and contribute to, the tasks assigned to the groups;

5. *Urges also* the member countries of the different working groups to follow up without delay on their commitments and to make available the experts and staff required to meet the goals and produce the outputs to be presented at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission;

6. *Requests* the Commission, the other international agencies that act as technical secretariats and those that assist the working groups in their activities to step up their efforts in relation to technical cooperation and financing with a view to achieving the established goals;

Institution-building

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the preparation of the programme for implementing the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and the arrangements for conducting comprehensive assessments and a workshop on disseminating the Code as part of this programme, and thanks the National Administrative Department of Statistics and the Government of Colombia for the financial support provided through the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation for this purpose;

8. *Recognizes* the significant contribution made by the Statistical Office of the European Communities in the development phase of the Code of Good Practice and urges that institution to continue to provide technical support to member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas during its dissemination and implementation in the region;

Promotion of training of competent human resources

9. *Thanks* the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico for the valuable role it played in creating and consolidating the Knowledge Transfer Network and in coordinating the implementation unit of the Council of the Network;

10. *Thanks also* the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia for its offer to take responsibility for coordinating the basic unit of the Knowledge Transfer Network for the period 2014-2015, which is subject to approval by the Conference at its seventh meeting, and requests the Governments of Mexico and Colombia to take the necessary steps to ensure that the transfer of the

coordination functions from the former to the latter takes place in a timely fashion and without any disruption to the smooth functioning of the Network;

11. *Reiterates* the need to ensure that all members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas strengthen the Knowledge Transfer Network by contributing resources and by working to boost the stock of specialized information, introduce additional activities for knowledge transfer and expert support, and update the information in the Network's basic tool in order to improve its efficiency;

12. *Thanks* the World Bank for its continued financial support for the implementation of the programme of work of the Knowledge Transfer Network;

13. *Requests* the Commission to draw up, in conjunction with the advisory committee of the Knowledge Transfer Network, a draft programme for strengthening human resources training within the national statistics systems;

Technical capacity-building

Millennium Development Goals

14. *Welcomes* the progress report of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, as well as its projected outcomes in the run-up to the seventh meeting of the Conference in relation to the analysis of discrepancies between the data provided by countries and those used by international bodies in monitoring progress towards the Goals, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6, the improvement in the quality of statistical data on the Goals in the countries and the promotion of inter-agency coordination both within countries and between countries and international agencies;

15. *Thanks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its support and collaboration as the technical secretariat of the Conference in building national statistical capacities for the production of indicators of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, analysing the discrepancies between national and international data, pursuing statistical reconciliation and disseminating topics relating to the Millennium Summit on the Commission's website; and expresses the need for continued financial support to carry out the activities planned for the current biennium; this collaboration has benefited from the implementation of the Development Account project "Strengthening national statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing";

16. *Reiterates* the need for national statistical offices to participate in the production of national and subnational reports on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in order to ensure that the correct statistical information is used for monitoring advances using international standards and regional and national points of reference;

17. *Requests* the member countries, in view of the proximity of the deadline set for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, to reflect on the agenda for development, in particular on the development agenda beyond 2015, and on the corresponding statistical challenges in the short and medium term for presentation to the Statistical Conference at its seventh meeting;

Gender statistics

18. *Expresses satisfaction* with the Working Group's substantial progress towards meeting its proposed objectives for the biennium 2012-2013;

19. *Reaffirms* the priorities with respect to the production of gender statistics relating to violence against women, time use and the valuation of unpaid work and the preparation of proposed gender-sensitive indicators in the framework of the development agenda beyond 2015;

20. *Commends* the work initiated by Colombia, El Salvador and Guatemala on the economic valuation of unpaid work and the calculation of a satellite account, involving the three corresponding competent authorities, namely, the mechanism for the advancement of women, the national statistical office and the central bank;

21. *Welcomes* the announcement of the United Nations Statistics Division regarding the forthcoming publication of guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women and the work of the Working Group on Gender Statistics in that connection as it is of the utmost importance for national statistical offices to discuss and have clear criteria for data collection on the subject;

22. *Welcomes also* the plan of work 2013-2015 of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), adopted at the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 3 to 5 April 2013, and highlights the particular emphasis of that plan on generating statistics and information on the gender gap and the differentiated impacts of information and communications technologies;

Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers

23. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers, which announces a meeting to compile the poverty measurement methodologies used in the member countries of the group, to be held in Montevideo in May 2013;

24. *Requests* the Working Group to complete the updated map of the status of national experiences relating to the measurement of income poverty for presentation to the Conference at its seventh meeting;

25. *Reiterates*, in line with previous agreements of the Executive Committee, the importance of developing complementary measures based on a multidimensional approach to poverty measurement;

Censuses

26. *Commends* the countries and territories that have already conducted their population and housing census for the 2010 round and encourages them to facilitate access to that census data and promote their use, analysis and dissemination as is fitting; and reiterates that it is important for countries that have not yet conducted their census to consult and, to the extent possible, incorporate into their upcoming census exercise the recommendations emerging from the discussion process and the consensus reached in the framework of the activities of the Conference;

27. *Urges* the countries, with support from the international funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to tackle well in advance the systematization of the lessons learned from the census exercise of the 2010 round, as well as the preparatory methodological tasks of the next census round;

28. *Expresses satisfaction* at the substantial progress made towards fulfilling the goals of the Working Group on Censuses for the 2012-2013 biennium and recommends that the Group participate, in close coordination with the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - Population Division of the Commission, in the activities on census data analysis to be conducted at the workshop scheduled for October 2013;

29. *Commends* the United Nations Population Fund and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - Population Division of the Commission on their initiative in holding a new version of the intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications between August and December 2013, and calls on them to arrange other similar courses, subject to availability of resources, and encourages other specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other international cooperation entities to support these activities;

30. *Commends also* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of the Commission on the organization of the forthcoming first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and encourages the Working Group on Censuses to attend and to take part in the discussions and proceedings of the session;

National accounts

31. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on National Accounts and welcomes the advances in the preparation of the advanced course on national accounts, undertaken with support from the countries of the Andean Community;

32. *Requests* the Working Group on National Accounts to pursue the preparation of new modules of the advanced course on national accounts with support from countries and international agencies and to present the outputs to the Conference at its seventh meeting;

33. *Underscores* the importance of continued coordination between the Working Group and the Commission with respect to the annual seminar on national accounts;

International classifications

34. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in the implementation of the plan of activities of the Working Group on International Classifications and the projected outputs to be presented at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference and urges the members of the Conference to give these activities their full support;

35. *Underscores* the Working Group's efforts to obtain funding in order to implement the project on the adoption and adaptation of socioeconomic classifiers in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

36. *Welcomes* the initiative taken to develop a virtual training course on classifiers of economic activities by the group of countries involved in the project on a regional statistical framework for directories of businesses and establishments; and recommends this course to its members;

Statistics on information and communications technologies

37. *Expresses satisfaction* at the substantial progress towards the goals of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies for the biennium 2012-2013, in particular its completion of the indicators for eLAC2015; the training activities for an up-to-date module on information and communications technologies in business surveys; the updating, to 2012, of the compendium of practices, with a view to incorporating questions relating to these technologies in household and business surveys; and the launch of activities for the preparation of a module on access to and use of these technologies in the health sector;

38. *Expresses satisfaction also* at the adoption of resolution 672(XXXIV) of the Commission, establishing the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, which is expected to contribute to progress on science, technology and innovation policies and activities in the countries of the region, and affirms its unreserved willingness to support the achievement of the objectives of this Conference through the activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, especially those of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies;

39. *Welcomes* the agreement by the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean to receive support from the Working Group in coordinating and preparing the final monitoring plan for eLAC2015;

Environmental statistics

40. *Commends* the Working Group on Environmental Statistics on the regional project it has undertaken on the development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean, with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank and requests the Executive Committee of the project to ensure that the workshop to launch the project is held by the end of June 2013;

41. *Welcomes* the adoption of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework and the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics by the United Nations Statistical Commission and urges national statistical offices and Government environmental agencies to adopt these methodological recommendations for the development of their national environmental statistics programmes;

Agricultural statistics

42. *Takes note* of the activities of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics and of the preparation of the draft regional plan of action for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and requests the authorities of the national statistical offices to endorse the goals of the Global Strategy by participating in the activities of the Group;

43. *Underscores* the importance of cooperation between the national institutes of statistics and ministries of agriculture for the success of the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean;

44. *Urges* the national institutes of statistics and ministries of agriculture in the region to fill out the standard reference questionnaire for evaluating the agricultural statistical system in order to obtain an appraisal of the status of statistics in the countries;

45. *Requests* the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Inter-American Statistical Institute, the International Labour Organization and multilateral organizations to support the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics by helping to finance its activities and by providing technical and institutional assistance;

46. *Thanks* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the support and collaboration provided in building national statistical capacities to improve agricultural and rural statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Labour market indicators

47. *Expresses satisfaction* with the substantial progress achieved towards fulfilling the goals of the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators for the biennium 2012-2013, in particular through the preparation and processing of questionnaires addressed to countries on the measurement of employment, unemployment and underemployment, the preparation of a document setting out the regional position concerning the International Labour Organization's proposal on updating definitions, which will be presented in October 2013 at the nineteenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, and the participation in substantive regional and global seminars and meetings of the above-mentioned Organization;

48. *Urges* the member countries of the Conference and international organizations to provide the necessary support for completing all pending activities, particularly the holding of a face-to-face meeting in 2013 in order to agree on a means of measuring informal employment and decent work and to take steps to harmonize those indicators and incorporate them into national statistics systems;

49. *Recommends* that the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators establish the necessary coordination mechanisms with the Working Group on Household Surveys in order to identify areas of synergy and cooperation;

Household surveys

50. *Takes note* of the progress of the activities of the Working Group on Household Surveys, in particular the meeting on integrated household survey systems and other issues relating to the implementation of housing surveys, organized jointly by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Argentina and the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Ecuador, with support from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and held in Buenos Aires on 15 and 16 October 2012;

51. *Requests* the Working Group on Household Surveys to complete a status report on the development of integrated household survey systems in the region, for presentation at the seventh meeting of the Conference;

Statistics on childhood and adolescence

52. *Notes with satisfaction* the evaluation of the indicators on children and adolescents of both sexes produced by the various participating countries, with a view to reaching a consensus on which indicators should be adopted to monitor the fulfilment of commitments concerning the rights of the child, and for which an online platform will be set up on the DevInfo website;

53. *Requests* the United Nations Children's Fund, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Working Group, to resume its support functions in order to meet the objectives of the programme of activities 2012-2013;

Information on governance, public security victims of crime and administration of justice

54. *Takes note* of the report presented by the initiative committee appointed to set up a working group on public security and justice statistics, urges it to act upon the recommendations formulated following the deliberations of the twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee and requests it to submit the proposal on the establishment of the working group and its draft programme of work, with any relevant adjustments, for consideration and approval by the Conference at its seventh meeting;

55. *Notes* that a meeting of the prospective members of the working group on public security and justice statistics will be held in August 2013;

56. *Urges* countries to endorse the road map for improving crime statistics at the national and international levels, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session;

Promotion of coordination and cooperation between States members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and international agencies

57. *Reiterates* that, in preparing their reports, international agencies should use the official statistics generated by countries;

International Comparison Programme

58. *Takes note* of the progress achieved with regard to the compilation, validation and transfer to the World Bank's International Comparison Programme Global Office of the preliminary data relating to Latin America and the Caribbean and the deadlines set for publication of those data at the regional and global levels;

59. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the broad coverage in terms of the number of countries in the region participating in the Programme compared with the 2005 round and reiterates the importance of providing further technical support to member countries (especially those of the Caribbean) in order to finalize the compilation, validation and transfer of national account data and special survey results;

60. *Thanks* the World Bank and regional and subregional organizations for their financial and technical support and international and regional agencies for their financial support, without which this important global project involving approximately 170 countries and coordinated at the regional level by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with support from the Caribbean Community, would not have been feasible;

Subregional coordination

61. *Expresses its thanks* to the subregional agencies, the Central American Statistical Commission, the Andean Community and the Southern Common Market for the informative and interesting presentations outlining their objectives and activities;

Organization of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

62. *Agrees* to hold the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference in Santiago from 6 to 8 November 2013;

63. *Decides* to propose the following provisional agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues
3. Report on the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2012-2013
4. Presentation of the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2014-2015
5. Adoption of agreements
6. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2014-2015

64. *Agrees* to hold seminars on the following substantive issues at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas:

- (a) Production of basic economic statistics within the framework of the System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) in Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinated by Peru;
- (b) The development agenda beyond 2015 and challenges for national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinated by Brazil;
- (c) Advances and challenges in mainstreaming the gender perspective into the production of statistics in national statistical systems, coordinated by Mexico;
- (d) Institution-building in relation to national statistical offices and systems in order to enhance the quality and credibility of official statistics, coordinated by Colombia.

65. *Thanks* and congratulates the Government of Chile and the National Institute of Statistics and its staff, in particular the National Director, for the excellent organization of the meeting and the hospitality extended to participants.

Summary of the
**REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN¹**

Santo Domingo, 15-18 October 2013

¹ LC/L.3789, 11 March 2014.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was convened by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in compliance with ECLAC resolution 667(XXXIV) and was held in Santo Domingo, from 15 to 18 October 2013.

Election of Presiding Officers

2. The Conference elected the following Presiding Officers:

<u>Chair:</u>	Dominican Republic
<u>Vice-Chairs:</u>	Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Brazil Chile Costa Rica Cuba El Salvador Jamaica Mexico Panama Paraguay Peru Puerto Rico Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Suriname Uruguay.

Agenda

3. At its first plenary meeting, the Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Activities carried out by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the ECLAC secretariat and specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations System since the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. Presentation of the position paper *Women in the digital economy: breaking through the equality threshold*.
5. Consideration and adoption of agreements by the Conference.
6. Other matters.

Adoption of the agreements of the Conference

4. The member States represented at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Santo Domingo Consensus.

Annex 1

SANTO DOMINGO CONSENSUS

The delegations of the member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean participating at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Santo Domingo from 15 to 18 October 2013,

Reaffirming:

1. The commitments States have assumed under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo, 2000) and the protocols thereto, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
2. The agreed conclusions of the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work;
3. The valuable contribution to policies and programmes made by the regional consensus adopted at previous sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and, in particular, the continued relevance of the Brasilia Consensus adopted at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2010;

4. The commitments undertaken at the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in April 2013 with the support of the second phase of the Alliance for the Information Society programme (@LIS2);
5. The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in August 2013, and the commitment to other instruments and resolutions on gender equality, empowerment and the advancement of women;

Considering:

6. The opportunity represented by the debate that is taking place in different forums, in particular on the new development agenda beyond 2015, the search for new forms and models of development, and the strengthening of democracy and increasing acceptance of equality as an imperative, which offers new opportunities for the application of gender policies;
7. That the digital economy, innovation projects and access to and use of information and communications technologies present an array of opportunities and challenges in connection with achieving women's economic, physical and political autonomy, which compel the use of these tools to drive the processes of building equality and prevent these technologies from opening a gap that deepens the inequalities in the information and knowledge society, especially for rural, indigenous, Afro-descendent, displaced and migrant women, young women, older women, women living with HIV/AIDS and women with disabilities;
8. That women's autonomy is essential to guaranteeing the exercise of their human rights in a context of full equality and, in particular, that control over their own bodies, comprehensive health and the right to live a life free from violence (physical autonomy), access to land and the ability to generate their own income and resources (economic autonomy) and full participation in decisions that affect their lives and their community (autonomy in decision-making) constitute three mutually supportive pillars that are fundamental to achieving greater gender equality and promoting women's access to information and communications technologies;
9. That the freedom, capacity and right to take informed decisions empower women to develop their potential and participate fully in the economic and social spheres;
10. That a secular State and the implementation of participatory forms of government are guarantees for the effective exercise of human rights and the consolidation of democracy, transparency and governance;
11. The negative impact of unilateral coercive economic measures on access to new technologies by the countries targeted by such measures;
12. The impact of information and communications technologies on society and the economy;

13. The widening gap between developed and developing countries in access to information and communications technologies, and the new dimensions of the digital divide, which undermine women's autonomy and limit their full development;
14. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, 2012), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Cancun Agreements adopted at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Cancun, 2010);

Bearing in mind:

15. That every country has the sovereign right to apply the recommendations contained herein in accordance with its national laws and development priorities and in a manner consistent with internationally recognized universal human rights;
16. The imminent deadlines for implementing the main international agendas that have helped to further the advancement of women, such as the Millennium Development Goals, the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;
17. The need to assess the implementation status of these international agendas and the progress made towards achieving the goal of real and effective gender equality and women's autonomy in the region;
18. The need to include gender equality in the development agenda beyond 2015 and to define the outlook and priorities for the future, in relation to both a stand-alone goal on equality and the mainstreaming of gender across the entire set of goals to be adopted under the new sustainable development agenda with a view to ensuring a rights-based approach to development;
19. The centrality of gender equality in the development debate, which entails taking account of both productive and reproductive work and changing the division of labour, since inequities in the sphere of reproduction have created a disproportionate burden on women and structural gender inequalities that perpetuate the cycle of poverty, marginalization and inequality;
20. That the sustainable development agenda should incorporate and reaffirm the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, in general, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, in particular, as a fundamental part of that right, recognizing gender equality as a prerequisite for its fulfilment;
21. That gender equality must be the central thread running through all action taken by the State, given that it is a key factor in consolidating democracy and moving towards a more participatory and inclusive development model;
22. States' responsibility to focus efforts and make the investments needed to ensure that information and communications technologies are accessible and contribute to enhancing women's initiatives and their economic, political and physical empowerment, preventing the creation of new gaps owing to the living conditions or cultural diversity in the region;

23. That to seize the opportunities and meet the challenges offered by information and communications technologies for the advancement of women, it is necessary to overcome existing constraints and gender gaps in relation to education, health, the exercise of power, the economy and sociocultural spheres;
24. The need to facilitate access to information and communications technologies by women of all ages such that they can fully exercise their right to freedom of expression through networking, advocacy and exchange of information, educational activities and the specialized use of these technologies in economic activities;
25. That information and communications technologies have transformed information into one of the most valued and sought-after market resources;
26. That public policies must be adopted and implemented to tackle racism and ethnocentrism and their harmful consequences;
27. That rural women's access to land, natural resources and public resources in support of production —such as technical and technological assistance, education and credit— is still subject to various constraints;
28. The need to support the sustainability of women's and feminist organizations and movements, recognizing them as essential agents in transforming and mobilizing society and in informing, educating and communicating for social, economic, political and cultural change grounded in the democratic principles of autonomy, equality of rights and women's empowerment;
29. That the justice system is important for the promotion of human rights and recognizing that justice delayed is often justice denied;
30. That the adoption of a human-rights-based approach in policies and programmes calls for the detailed planning of specific actions that can bring about real changes in all stages of women's life cycle, particularly for young women, rural women, women with disabilities, indigenous women, Afro-descendent women, displaced women, migrant women, other women who live in particularly vulnerable or marginalized circumstances and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, transvestite and intersex (LGBTI) persons;

Agree to:

A. GENDER EQUALITY, EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

31. Adopt public policies aimed at resolving the problems that affect our peoples, in particular women, and use information and communications technologies as a means of implementing those policies;

32. Work together with all stakeholders to ensure that the information and knowledge society fosters the empowerment of women and their full and equal participation in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes;
33. Design measures to build a new technological, scientific and digital culture for girls and women to bring them closer to and allow them to become familiar with new technologies and integrate them in their daily lives, and facilitate the strategic use of these technologies in their different spheres of development and participation, and encourage the implementation of national projects and programmes to promote and strengthen the pursuit of scientific and technological vocations by women;
34. Strengthen the mainstreaming of gender across all areas of public policy in connection with information and communications technologies, ensuring full access to these technologies and their use by women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities on an equal and equitable basis for the social appropriation of knowledge, bearing in mind the associated regulations, costs and coverage issues and with respect for cultural and linguistic diversity;
35. Adopt public policies that include affirmative action to promote the lowering of barriers to access, a better grasp of the use of information and communications technologies and the local-language adaptation of applications and content related to these technologies, and that foster the engagement of women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women and women with disabilities in vocational training in the sciences, including mathematics, engineering, environmental technologies and information and communications technologies, and in all areas of scientific research and knowledge production;
36. Encourage the creation of networks for communication and exchange in all spheres of science, leveraging the experience gained by women in the region, as well as public policies that incentivize the use and promotion of appropriate technologies and related legislation, and open-source software as a means of achieving the democratization of knowledge, free access and autonomy;
37. Promote improvements in women's access to decent employment, redistributing care work between the State, market and society, and between men and women, facilitating training and the use of technology, self-employment and business creation in the science and technology sector, and increase the proportion of women in areas where they are underrepresented, for example, in academia and the fields of science and technology, including information and communications technologies;
38. Ensure that the education system, at all levels and with respect to all forms of teaching, provides timely information to women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities on the benefits, applications and availability of vocational training opportunities in science and technology that could contribute to their personal, economic, social and political autonomy;

39. Promote, conduct and disseminate studies and research on women in science, including mathematics, technology and engineering, as well as science fairs and congresses, in order to showcase the skills, innovation and contributions of women, girls, adolescent girls and young women in these fields;
40. Ensure that businesswomen and female entrepreneurs, including rural, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, have access to marketing mechanisms and to credit for acquiring technological equipment and instruments that enable them to innovate and expand their business opportunities and their participation in development-oriented production processes and self-managed enterprises;
41. Promote gender equity and equality in strategic and high-level managerial and decision-making positions in firms and public and private institutions, including in the information and communications technologies sector;
42. Promote also knowledge and analysis of risks for women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities in relation to cybersafety, sexual exploitation, trafficking in persons, child pornography, cyberbullying and bullying by other technological means, and define related offences and appropriate sanctions, considering their impact on the human rights of these groups, and enact corresponding legislation;
43. Give impetus to policies that encourage the proactive participation of educators of children and adolescents, both in the home and at school, in ensuring the safe use of information and communications technologies;
44. Support the generation, creation and dissemination of content and knowledge defined, produced and developed by women;
45. Strengthen e-government policies from a gender perspective, including through the production and dissemination of sex-disaggregated information, administrative records and statistics on government and public service administration, to promote a culture of accountability using technology tools and contribute to strengthening mechanisms of citizen participation;
46. Advocate legislative and educational measures by the State and the private sector to eradicate and punish sexist, stereotypical, discriminatory and racist content in the media and in software and electronic games, promote the use of positive images, appreciating women's contributions to society, and encourage, also at the State level and in the private sector, egalitarian relations and responsibilities between women and men in the field of science and technology;
47. Advocate also legislative measures and policies, by the State and the private sector, to guarantee adequate conditions of work and health and to protect women against exploitation in these areas and especially in telemarketing and informal jobs;
48. Adopt policy measures to control highly toxic electronic waste which causes serious health problems and risk of death and illness with an impact on women and children from poor families and environmental damage;

49. Take measures to ensure personal data confidentiality and protection at all stages of data collection and processing, and to avoid espionage;
50. Seek ways to bring sciences and the new technologies closer to the specific situations of women, appreciating the dimensions of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and age, with a view to helping to eradicate poverty in areas with the worst social exclusion, promote development and democratize education;
51. Eliminate sexism and gender stereotypes in education systems, books and teaching materials, and eradicate biases in teachers' perception of boys' and girls' performance in sciences, including mathematics and technology, broadening the training of educators for equality and promoting teaching practices free from prejudices and stereotypes;
52. Reaffirm and develop policies and plans of action to realize the commitments and targets of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), strengthening the working group on gender with the active participation of women's organizations;

B. GENDER EQUALITY AND THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

53. Urge States to accede to and ratify the International Labour Organization conventions relating to gender equality, such as those on decent work for female and male domestic workers;
54. Recognize the value of unpaid domestic work and adopt the necessary measures, including legislative measures, and public policies that recognize the social and economic value of domestic work;
55. Define and establish instruments for the periodic measurement of the unpaid work done by women and ensure that public budgets allocate the funds required by the machineries responsible for compiling and systematizing the information for conducting national time-use surveys in order to facilitate the design of appropriate and fair public policies;
56. Urge States to establish satellite accounts for unpaid domestic work in the countries of the region;
57. Recognize care as a right and, therefore, as a responsibility that must be shared by men and women of all sectors of society, and by families, private companies and the State, and adopt measures, policies and programmes on care and on promoting the joint responsibility of women and men in family, working and social life in order to free up women's time so that they can engage in employment, studies and politics and enjoy their autonomy to the full;
58. Achieve the consolidation of public protection and social security systems with universal, comprehensive and efficient access and coverage by means of solidary, standard, participatory financing, based on the principle of solidarity and linked to a broad spectrum of public policies that guarantee well-being, quality of life and a decent retirement and enhance the full exercise of citizenship by women, including those who have devoted their lives to productive as well as reproductive work, both paid and unpaid, female domestic workers,

rural women, female informal and contract workers and, above all, women directly or indirectly affected by illness, disability, unemployment, underemployment or widowhood at any stage in their life cycle;

59. Draft and promote legislative initiatives for reinforcing the empowerment of women in terms of their right to ownership of land and other natural resources, as well as their participation on an equal basis in managing these resources with respect to decision-making, access to and control of capital, access to good-quality services and producer goods, technology, markets and market information, inheritance and capital assets;
60. Prioritize and intensify initiatives aimed at women's economic empowerment at the community level through means such as business education and business incubators to improve their situation and thus reduce their vulnerability to violence;
61. Prioritize also the design and implementation of public policies and programmes designed to reduce poverty among women, on the basis of sustainable development, economic growth, technical and financial support for productive activities launched by women living in poverty, training and skills-building for employment, access to decent work and optimum use of information and communications technologies, from the perspective of equality;
62. Develop and implement active labour-market and productive employment policies to ensure decent work for all women, combating the precarious and informal conditions that affect mainly the female workforce and guaranteeing equal pay for work of equal value, an egalitarian participation rate, appointment without discrimination to positions of power and decision-making and the elimination of occupational segregation, with particular attention to rural women, Afro-descendent women, indigenous women, women with disabilities and young women;
63. Promote and enforce legislation on equality in employment to eliminate discrimination relating to gender, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation and other types of discrimination in access to and security in the labour market, establishing mechanisms for filing complaints to bodies clearly identified and mandated for that purpose and determining sanctions for bullying, sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women in the workplace;
64. Take measures to formalize employment, ensuring social protection and health, as well as to boost the economic and financial autonomy of women through access to working capital, including credit facilities, as well as technical advice and state-of-the-art technology, and foster entrepreneurship, cooperative movements and other forms of partnership, including self-managed enterprises;
65. Adopt measures to ensure that gender equity and equality criteria are applied in relation to the implementation of fiscal policies and that affirmative action is taken to prevent fiscal reforms from exacerbating poverty levels among women;
66. Implement measures, including legislative measures, to ensure access by women on an equal basis to formal financial services such as savings, credit, insurance and transfers, without any type of barrier based on discrimination;

- 67. Acknowledge the increase in women's participation in teleworking, promote the establishment of specific public policies on teleworking in accordance with the conventions and other provisions of the International Labour Organization, and prevent conditions in the sector from becoming more precarious;
- 68. Urge the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through the Division for Gender Affairs, to carry forward action to promote production development and women's economic autonomy by raising the profile of women engaged in production activities and designing and implementing an integrated, inter-agency and intersectoral approach for the support of women entrepreneurs, women producers and businesswomen within value chains;

C. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S SEXUAL HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- 69. Promote, protect and guarantee the complete fulfilment of the sexual rights and reproductive rights of women of all population groups throughout the life cycle by implementing laws, policies, rules, regulations and programmes incorporated into national and subnational budgets, insofar as physical autonomy is a fundamental dimension of women's empowerment and their participation in the information and knowledge society on an equal basis;
- 70. Ensure, within the framework of strengthened health systems —endowed with budgetary, monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms— universal access to expanded sexual health and reproductive health services of better quality and wider coverage, which must include information and timely, specific and comprehensive education and the provision of free contraceptives, and must be integrated into health-care services and geared particularly to women in the poorest sectors and subject to the worst forms of social exclusion and young persons and adolescents of both sexes;
- 71. Coordinate action with the private sector, civil society and other types of social organization, from a gender perspective and with due regard for the life cycle and cultural relevance, to improve access to information and education and, through greater participation of individuals and the community, increase the efficacy of sexual health and reproductive health services;
- 72. Ensure that the financial resources for HIV/AIDS prevention are allocated to specific measures grounded in scientific evidence that reflects the particular characteristics of the epidemic in each country, with special attention to geographical location, social networks and populations that are vulnerable to HIV infection, with a view to ensuring that those resources are employed as effectively as possible;
- 73. Ensure comprehensive care for persons affected by HIV/AIDS, in particular women, girls, adolescents, young persons, orphans and vulnerable children, migrants and people in humanitarian emergencies, detained women, indigenous populations, Afro-descendants and women with disabilities, as appropriate in the local context;
- 74. Implement gender-sensitive measures to guarantee access to good-quality health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, during and after disasters and in cases of emergency and for displaced persons and refugees in order to prevent mortality and

morbidity, particularly among women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women and women with disabilities in these circumstances;

75. Strengthen statistical information systems in relation to the age range for determining pregnancy rates among girls and adolescent girls and include analysis of the associated factors in order to demonstrate their impact and implement measures and public policies to reduce the incidence of pregnancy in these age groups in the region;
76. Take measures to ensure that health policies encompass information and communications technologies, in order to achieve greater efficiency and quality in health services, knowledge management (including research), follow-up of medical history, referrals and counter-referrals and related information, guaranteeing confidentiality of all data;
77. Implement comprehensive, good-quality and timely sexual and reproductive health programmes and policies for adolescents and young people, including youth-friendly, sexual health and reproductive health services with a gender, human-rights-based, intergenerational and intercultural perspective, such that they can exercise, in safe conditions, the right to take free, informed, voluntary and responsible decisions on their sexuality, sex life and sexual orientation;
78. Ensure, in cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized in national legislation, the existence of safe, good-quality abortion services for women with unwanted and unaccepted pregnancies;
79. Ensure also effective implementation and institutionalization of comprehensive education on sexuality in education systems, as a means of preventing adolescent pregnancy and maternal mortality, and to prevent unwanted pregnancies in general and guarantee women and adolescent girls the full exercise of their sexual rights and reproductive rights such that they can take free, informed and responsible decisions in relation to their sexuality, sex life and sexual orientation, including the right to motherhood of women with HIV/AIDS;

D. GENDER EQUALITY AND THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

80. Enforce national and local policies and adopt preventive, punitive, protection and care measures to eliminate all forms of violence and stigma against women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities, and include the effective use of information and communications technologies with an intercultural approach in order to achieve greater inclusion and equality for all women;
81. Enforce also national laws and policies to combat violence against women and girls in the media and in the use of information and communications technologies, considering the nature of these spheres and the risks they involve, and the greater vulnerability of women in all their diversity;

82. Ensure that women are not subject to violence during the provision of health services, in particular the type of violence inflicted during childbirth known as obstetric violence;
83. Create coordination forums to further the joint commitment of public and private institutions involved along the critical path towards preventing, addressing and punishing all forms of violence against women, girls, adolescent girls, young women and older women;
84. Adopt new strategies that guarantee effective institutional responses to bring about rapid and significant changes in the structural factors that influence violence against women and the sociocultural and symbolic norms that perpetuate it, strengthening mechanisms for prevention, prosecution, punishment and redress, and include the effective use of information and communications technologies in the protection measures afforded by the competent judicial authorities;
85. Support the development and use of information and communications technologies and social networks as resources for the empowerment of women and girls, including access to information on the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls;
86. Develop mechanisms, including legislation, and sanctions to combat the use of information and communications technologies and social networks to perpetrate violent acts against women and girls, in particular the criminal misuse of such technologies for sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, child pornography and trafficking in women and girls, and new forms of violence, such as cyberbullying and intimidation and privacy violations that compromise the safety of women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous women, Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities;
87. Guarantee effective access to justice and free, good-quality legal aid for women who are subjected to violence, and provide training and public awareness sessions on gender issues to those authorized to dispense justice, as well as the police and other security bodies;
88. Promote the reform of legal systems and the amendment of laws which cause exclusion and harm, and ensure the removal of all systemic barriers to the effective delivery of justice;
89. Ensure that public security policies include specific measures to prevent, investigate, punish, penalize and eradicate femicide/feminicide and violence against women, girls, adolescent girls young women and older women, with the goal of securing them a life free from violence, and promote the adoption of regional protocols and the removal of legal obstacles to justice and redress;
90. Adopt the necessary measures, including legislation, to prevent, punish and eradicate all forms of trafficking and human smuggling in women, adolescent girls, young women and children, for sexual or labour exploitation or any other purpose, stepping up efforts in education, training and public awareness-raising in order to discourage the demand that fosters exploitation, offering adequate protection and care for the identified victims of trafficking, including shelter, rehabilitation and social integration services, witness protection, vocational training, legal aid, confidential medical care and repatriation or assistance with the regularization of migratory status, with the informed consent of the victim, regardless of their participation in court proceedings;

91. Promote respect for the comprehensive human rights of migrant women, regardless of their migratory status, and establish cooperation agreements between countries of origin, transit and destination in order to respond to the challenges posed by undocumented migration in the region, including access to justice, and to provide measures that guarantee migrant women's access to identity and citizenship documents in order to improve their labour situation and facilitate their social inclusion, in both the country of origin and the country of destination;
92. Integrate a focus on gender-based violence into all programmes and services relating to sexual health and reproductive health, maternal and child health, family planning and services related to women living with HIV/AIDS, including treatment for opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases, in order to expand the coverage of support services in institutions and enterprises, and to guarantee the right to work and to a decent life as part of a coordinated, multisectoral response;
93. Define and develop public policies to combat discrimination and foster affirmative action on the basis of an intersectional approach that includes tackling sexism, racism, ethnocentrism, homophobia and lesbophobia;
94. Advocate the creation of integrated national and regional statistical systems on violence against women, including cybercrime, so that data on this scourge can be collected, compiled and analysed, with particular emphasis on thorough, complete and timely administrative records, with a view to designing and strengthening public policies and programmes to prevent, address and punish gender-based violence;
95. Guarantee that all victims and survivors of violence against women (including the victims' children and dependants, if any) have immediate access to comprehensive care services, psychosocial and mental health support, treatment of injuries, shelter, and care following instances of rape or sexual assault, and access to emergency contraception, prophylaxis for sexually transmitted infections and safe abortion services in cases of rape;
96. Design a model for an emergency network, based on interactions from the local level, in order to protect human life, infrastructure and the operations of security and relief services and networks, so as to contribute to the prevention of violence, the safe care and recovery of female survivors of assault, and responses to emergencies and natural or anthropogenic disasters;
97. Define policies to tackle gender vulnerability factors in addressing the risks inherent to natural and anthropogenic disasters and emergencies, and design gender-sensitive prevention and response strategies to ensure the protection of women and girls;
98. Elicit a commitment, through the creation of strategic networks, from the media and media professionals' associations, to project a positive image of women, banishing the stereotypes and the violent content that perpetuate discrimination and violence against women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous women, Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities;
99. Consolidate a proposal to eliminate structural sexist discrimination in the rural environment, ensuring economic, political and social equality between men and women, and take immediate action to fulfil the right of rural women to live a life free from violence and racism;

100. Eradicate gender violence, considering the need for an integrated approach on several fronts, ranging from education to the transformation of cultural patterns and the strengthening of women's movements, with a view to consolidating the foundations for increasing rural women's bargaining capacity in power relations;

E. GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND DECISION-MAKING

101. Ensure that women have equal access to decision-making positions in all branches of government and in local governments, through legislative and electoral initiatives and measures that guarantee parity of representation in all political spheres and a commitment to strategic agendas to achieve parity in political participation and gender parity as a State policy;
102. Strengthen women's participation on an equal footing to men, adopting and applying laws that guarantee parity in decision-making forums, promoting affirmative action to include women in political parties and other democratic institutions, in the public and the private spheres, and setting up mechanisms to punish non-compliance with such laws;
103. Recognize and support machineries for the participation and organization of the feminist and women's movements;
104. Strengthen electoral observation and monitoring mechanisms with a gender perspective as instruments that ensure respect for women's rights to political representation;
105. Enact and implement legislation to prevent, punish and eradicate political and administrative violence against or harassment of women who reach decision-making positions of all levels, via electoral means or by appointment;
106. Use specific economic and technical measures to strengthen regional gender machineries for political training and education in support of women's leadership, and promote the participation of the region's women in such mechanisms, especially young, rural, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, and LGBTTI persons;
107. Encourage the media to commit to the objectives of equality and parity between men and women, through agreements to carry out media actions linked to equality and women's rights in all spheres, including gender parity in participation in political processes and in running for office, and which cover the various forms of women's political participation and the issues that affect them;
108. Promote, motivate and arrange arenas for debate, forums, workshops and campaigns in the media in favour of women's human rights in a culture of peace, avoiding the perpetuation of stereotypes that are detrimental to women's dignity;
109. Design and promote research on the gender perspective in the mass media;

F. GENDER EQUALITY AND MECHANISMS FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

110. Harmonize national regulatory frameworks, in accordance with international agreements on gender and women's human rights, with a view to enacting legislation aimed at achieving equality and to repealing discriminatory laws that stand in the way of the full exercise of women's rights;
111. Strengthen institutions advocating public policies on gender equality, such as gender machineries and offices for women's empowerment, by means of legislation and guaranteed, non-transferrable and irreducible budgets and by setting up decision-making bodies at the highest level, and build up their capacity to provide policy guidance on gender equality and women's empowerment by endowing them with the necessary human and financial resources for a cross-cutting impact on public policies and the structure of the State with a view to devising and implementing *de jure* and *de facto* strategies for promoting women's autonomy and gender equality;
112. Ensure gender mainstreaming and a focus on rights in all plans, programmes, projects and public policies, as well as the necessary coordination between State powers and social stakeholders to achieve gender equality, thus enshrining this concept as a pillar of sustainable development;
113. Adopt budgets with gender as a cross-cutting factor in the allocation of public funds and ensure that sufficient, protected funding is provided in all policy areas to fulfil all the commitments made by States to achieve the goals of equality and social and economic justice for women;
114. Strengthen, by means of training, exchanges of experiences and awareness-raising, regional and national instruments to monitor women's empowerment, particularly gender observatories, ensuring that the information and data supplied are compiled using a common methodology for the purposes of comparison and analysis of the different variables at the regional level, thus ensuring that the results obtained serve as basic input material for public policies on equality in the region;
115. Advocate an evaluation of the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women using objective, effective tools and indicators which can ascertain the effect of the measures adopted and the actions carried out on the lives of women in the region;
116. Promote gender parity in regional integration mechanisms and in regional and national parliaments, and ensure the mainstreaming of equality as a cross-cutting consideration in regional policies and programmes;
117. Strengthen the effective implementation of systems for the production of statistical information for designing policies with a gender focus, affording particular attention to methods for collecting, classifying and processing sex-disaggregated national and regional data, including gender indicators in all areas, on the basis of a common methodology implemented by all the countries of the region, with a view to promoting women's empowerment and decision-making;

- 118. Promote the establishment, at the municipal and local level, of entities such as gender affairs bureaux or offices for the advancement of women, endowing them with sufficient human and financial resources and the specialist expertise to empower women, provide comprehensive care and prevent violence at the local level;
- 119. Strengthen regional gender machineries for women's empowerment with a view to ensuring the mainstreaming of gender equality and equity in the development agendas advocated as part of the processes of integration in the region;
- 120. Study the possibility of establishing a regional fund for gender equality and intercultural dialogue, funded by contributions from different types of donors, encouraging public-private partnerships;

G. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- 121. Urge developed countries to fulfil their commitments on official development assistance, especially with the aim of moving forward on equality and gender equity in the region and on access to and use of information and communications technologies, respecting the self-determination of countries, and encourage those developing countries that are in a position to do so to support other countries in the region through South-South and triangular cooperation, tapping the integration processes taking place in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- 122. Strengthen gender mainstreaming in the processes of integration aimed at socioeconomic development under way in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly those in which major efforts are being made to include actions to promote gender equality, with the engagement of the feminist and women's movements;
- 123. Intensify exchanges and technical, scientific and financial cooperation, including South-South cooperation, between countries of the region on gender equality matters, particularly in relation to best practices, with emphasis on those digital agendas and national strategies for information and communications technologies that originate in civil society organizations, are in keeping with the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), and apply a transformative and innovative approach in pursuit of equality;
- 124. Support the inclusion of the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment in the post-2015 development agenda;
- 125. Urge national gender machineries and offices for women's empowerment to participate in the next ministerial conference on the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- 126. Promote the endorsement of the Santo Domingo Consensus in the agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and its reflection in the follow-up processes associated with the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo+20) and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, in the preparation of the

development agenda beyond 2015 and the sustainable development objectives, in the World Summit on the Information Society and in the outcomes of major summits and conferences in general;

127. Urge the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in fulfilment of its mandate, to encourage cooperation agencies to prioritize national agendas in their cooperation efforts, taking an integrative approach and creating the necessary inter-agency coordination and strengthening national and regional machineries for the advancement of women;
128. Recognize the work carried out by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, for its contribution to training and capacity-building, to the exchange and dissemination of information and experiences and to drawing attention to the status of women in the region, and support that work and reinforce it with concrete measures, particularly with sex-disaggregated economic indicators for evaluating women's progress in the economy;
129. Recognize the contribution of the women's and feminist movements in the region to deepening democracy, building gender equality, developing an institutional structure and formulating and implementing public policies for equality;
130. Thank the United Nations, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, for the support shown to the delegations participating in the present meeting;
131. Thank also the Government, especially the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and the people of the Dominican Republic for their generous hospitality and efficient organization of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
132. Welcome the offer of the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to host the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in 2016.

Annex 2

EXPLANATION OF POSITION OF COSTA RICA

Embassy of Costa Rica in Chile

ECRCL136-13

The Embassy of Costa Rica presents its compliments to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and has the honour to inform the Commission that the Government of Costa Rica is submitting the following reservation, which it requests to have included in the relevant report, with respect to the Santo Domingo Consensus adopted at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 14 to 18 October 2013:

“Costa Rica supports the Santo Domingo Consensus in accordance with our policy of gender equality and equity and the country’s efforts to foster equality and women’s human rights. However, it maintains a reservation with respect to paragraph 95, specifically with reference to abortion following instances of rape and emergency contraception as these are not permitted under national legislation.”*

The Embassy of Costa Rica takes this opportunity to convey to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Santiago, 4 November 2013

* Translator’s note: *This corresponds to paragraph 65 in the final edited version of the Consensus.*

Annex 3

EXPLANATION OF POSITION OF GUATEMALA**Reservations presented by the delegation of Guatemala with respect to the Santo Domingo Consensus**

The representative of Guatemala submits the following written statement:

My delegation wishes to state that, for reasons of national interest, Guatemala is submitting the following declaration of reservation with respect to the Santo Domingo Consensus for inclusion in the final report on the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- (a) Guatemala has the sovereign right to apply the recommendations contained in the agreement (Santo Domingo Consensus) adopted at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 15 to 18 October 2013, subject to its Constitution and national legislation, therefore none of the provisions or recommendations of the meeting can or should be interpreted in such a way as to contravene those legal instruments. The recommendations shall be adopted or applied in accordance with the development priorities of our country and with full respect for its diverse ethical and cultural values, as well as the philosophical convictions of our multi-ethnic, multilingual and pluricultural people and in a manner consistent with universally recognized human rights;
- (b) Guatemala submits its reservations in particular with respect to the issues, terms, conditions and provisions contained in the agreement in relation to:
 - **Abortion:** chapter I, article 3, of the Constitution states that “the State guarantees and protects human life from the moment of conception”, and as such the Criminal Code sanctions those who cause abortion;
 - **Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, transvestite and intersex (LGBTI) persons:** article 4 of the Constitution states that “in Guatemala all human beings are free and equal in dignity and rights. Men and women, irrespective of their marital status, possess equal opportunities and responsibilities.”

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 18 October 2013.

Summary of the
**REPORT OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS
OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN¹**

Santiago, 7-8 November 2012

¹ LC/L.3578/Rev.1, February 2014.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held their forty-eighth meeting on 7 and 8 November 2012 in Santiago.

Chair and Rapporteur

2. The Presiding Officers, as elected at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference, were as follows:

<u>Chair:</u>	Brazil
<u>Vice-Chairs:</u>	Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Barbados Chile Costa Rica Cuba Dominican Republic Ecuador El Salvador Guatemala Jamaica Panama Paraguay Peru Spain Trinidad and Tobago Uruguay Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mexico

B. AGENDA

3. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Report on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and the thirty-fourth session of the Commission.

3. Report by the secretariat on progress in the preparation of the position paper for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Preparations for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, 14-18 October 2013).
5. Presentation of the report “La población uruguaya y el cuidado: Persistencias de un mandato de género desigual”.
6. Presentation of initiatives undertaken in the region to mainstream the gender perspective.
7. Adoption of agreements.
8. Other matters.

C. ADOPTION OF AGREEMENTS

4. At their forty-eighth meeting, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed as follows:

1. *To congratulate* the Commission on the creation of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies and the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as new subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, whose thematic agendas are shared by the Presiding Officers and to encourage participation by the national machineries for the advancement of women in the region in the Government delegations that will be attending the sessions of those bodies;
2. *To endorse* the agreements adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its meeting in Quito in July 2012;
3. *To ensure* that a close relationship is maintained with the machineries for the advancement of women in the region and that the latter participate in the forthcoming session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;
4. *To commend* the secretariat on the plan for the position paper of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which ties in economic empowerment, gender equality and the new information and communications technologies with the three forms of autonomy for women, to recognize the progress made in preparing the paper and to request the secretariat to incorporate in the paper the observations made by the Government representatives participating in the meeting;
5. *To approve* the outline for organization of the work of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean presented by the secretariat of the Commission;
6. *To include* in the framework for the session of the Regional Conference presented by the secretariat a round table which will tie in the regional agenda with the United Nations

- development agenda beyond 2015, the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+20) and the 20-year review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo+20);
7. *To give* the secretariat a vote of confidence to enable it to draw up a programme whereby preference will be given to Government representatives in discussion panels;
 8. *To adopt* the modality of online presentation for national reports on follow-up activities to the Brasilia Consensus, on dates which the secretariat will announce in due course;
 9. *To reaffirm* agreement 15 adopted at their forty-seventh meeting to “ensure the participation of all stakeholders involved in the agenda of the Conference, specifically that of civil society and of agencies responsible for public policies relating to information and communications technologies and development and to promote the integration of these sectors”, as well as the participation of Government agencies with responsibility for public policies on youth;
 10. *To include* representatives of women’s producer associations and cooperatives in their national delegations;
 11. *To reaffirm* agreement 17 adopted at their forty-seventh meeting, in which they agreed “to suggest to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean the names of competent persons in each country who might be willing to participate in panels at the next session of the Regional Conference” and to set 31 January 2013 as the deadline for compliance;
 12. *To hold* discussions on the position paper and on the preliminary draft of the Santo Domingo consensus at a preparatory meeting in the Caribbean in the first half of 2013; at the meeting of Council of Ministers for Women’s Affairs of Central America in Costa Rica, also in the first half of 2013; and at a meeting to be held within the framework of the Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Women of MERCOSUR;
 13. *To welcome* the offer by the Government of the Dominican Republic to send a preliminary draft of the Santo Domingo consensus to launch the discussions;
 14. *To welcome* the secretariat’s proposal that the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean should meet only once in 2013, given the number of meetings already scheduled for that year which will be of interest to the machineries for the advancement of women in the region;
 15. *To welcome* the interest in conducting side events, expressed by bodies in the United Nations system, including the United Nations Population Fund, the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization;
 16. *To welcome* the invitation from the Ibero-American Secretariat to attend the fourth Ibero-American Conference on Gender within the framework of the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government;
 17. *To thank* the Dominican Republic, in its capacity as host country, for the report presented by its representative on the preparations being made for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference and to express appreciation for the advances made, in particular in appointing the

- Centre for Women's Research and Action (CIPAF) as the focal point of the civil society organizations;
18. *To work actively* with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in disseminating information on the twelfth session of the Regional Conference, which will be held in Santo Domingo, from 14 to 18 October 2013;
 19. *To underscore* the importance of including economic and social policy specialists in the delegations to the twelfth session of the Regional Conference, since only by combining economic, production, social and environmental policies will it be possible to address the challenges of equality;
 20. *To welcome* the proposal by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider the meeting on rural women which will be held in Brazil in March 2013 as a preparatory meeting for the Regional Conference;
 21. *To step up* cooperation efforts between countries in order to provide technical assistance and transmit knowledge and experience on fair policies;
 22. *To take* the necessary steps to compile economic information disaggregated by sex and ethnic origin and to strengthen capacities for analysis with a gender perspective, drawing especially on sources such as economic censuses, industry surveys, and business directories and registries, and to strengthen ties with the national statistical offices in the countries of the region; to this end, to request the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean to collaborate with the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission;
 23. *To request* the national agencies responsible for policies relating to science and information and communications technologies (ICTs) to mainstream the gender perspective into their sectoral policies and participate in the session as part of their countries' official delegations, bearing in mind the issues to be discussed in 2013 at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the need to engage the major ICT stakeholders;
 24. *To highlight* the importance of coordinating the debates on information and communications technologies with issues relating to the economic, physical and political autonomy of women and of analysing their risks and benefits, bearing in mind the special circumstances of rural women, women of Afro-descendent and first nation groups and women with disabilities;
 25. *To request* the secretariat of the Commission to consider including in the schedule of the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in 2013, a slot for presenting to the national delegations the issues and activities of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women;
 26. *To encourage* efforts to strengthen the capacity of the machineries for the advancement of women to influence institutional public-policy frameworks;
 27. *To strengthen* coordination with ministries of foreign affairs and Government representatives in international and regional forums for furthering women's rights and gender equality in economic discussion meetings on development and the environment and to promote participation by the machineries for the advancement of women in these spheres;

28. *To recognize* the fundamental role played by women's, feminist and human rights movements in fostering debate and policies on gender equality and to urge the countries to engage their organizations in preparatory debates and include them in their delegations to the conferences;
29. *To request* the Commission to appoint more women to decision-making positions, in follow-up to the process of gender-mainstreaming launched at the fortieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean by virtue of the adoption of agreement 9, by which the secretariat was requested "to convey the resolve of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to the competent organs of the United Nations to have a Division of Women and Gender within the Commission";
30. *To urge* the national machineries for the advancement of women to pursue initiatives to mark the International Day of Non-Violence and to involve social and Government actors in efforts to promote those activities and to increase the visibility of all forms of violence against women with a view to their prevention;
31. *To instruct* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to approach the Commission on the Status of Women and to urge the latter to incorporate, at its fifty-seventh session on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girl children, the agreements adopted by the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the information generated by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, and to highlight the results in the high-level panels and the conclusions reached;
32. *To congratulate* the Government of Brazil on its work in organizing the International Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and to recognize its valuable contribution to the preparation of the outcome document;
33. *To express* their appreciation to María del Rocío García Gaitán, outgoing President of the National Women's Institute and thank her for her valuable collaboration and innumerable contributions to gender equality in Mexico and across the region;
34. *To express* their solidarity with the people and women of Cuba and the Caribbean for the consequences of Hurricane Sandy and with those of Guatemala for the earthquake that struck on 7 November 2012.

Summary of the
**REPORT OF THE FORTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS
OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN¹**

Santo Domingo, 14 October 2013

¹ LC/L.3769, 30 January 2014.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held their forty-ninth meeting on 14 October 2013 in Santo Domingo.

Chair and Rapporteur

2. The composition of the Presiding Officers elected at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women was as follows:

<u>Chair:</u>	Brazil
<u>Vice-Chairs:</u>	Antigua and Barbuda
	Argentina
	Barbados
	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
	Chile
	Costa Rica
	Cuba
	Dominican Republic
	Ecuador
	El Salvador
	Guatemala
	Jamaica
	Panama
	Paraguay
	Peru
	Spain
	Trinidad and Tobago
	Uruguay
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mexico

B. AGENDA

3. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Report of the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. Review of the documentation to be presented at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Organization of work during the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Preliminary information on the composition of the incoming Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Additional information on the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. Other matters.

Summary of the
**REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION
AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN¹**

Montevideo, 12-15 August 2013

¹ LC/L.3774, 6 February 2014.

I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Montevideo, from 12 to 15 August 2013.

2. The Conference elected the following Presiding Officers:

Chair: Uruguay

Vice-Chairs: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru and Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Agenda

3. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Reports on the period 2012-2013 and outlook for 2013-2015.
4. Report on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.
5. General discussion on national experiences regarding population and development and the outlook beyond 2014.
6. Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014.
7. Priority areas in the framework of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.
8. Other matters.
9. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

Consideration and adoption of the agreements

The member States represented at the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

Annex 1

MONTEVIDEO CONSENSUS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The representatives of the countries participating in the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 12 to 15 August 2013,

PREAMBLE

Bearing in mind that the main focus of this first session has been the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014, the aim being to review the progress achieved in Latin America and the Caribbean over the past 20 years, and to identify key measures for furthering its implementation with emphasis on emerging issues at the regional level relating to population and development, human well-being and dignity, and to their sustainability,

Reaffirming the relevance of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted in Cairo in September 1994,

Reaffirming also the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-first special session, which was held in New York from 30 June to 2 July 1999,

Recalling 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, adopted in 1994 by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in resolution 536(XXV),

Taking into account resolution 65/234, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 22 December 2010, in which it decided to extend the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and called for an operational review of its implementation in order to respond to the important new challenges that are relevant to population and development and to strengthen the integration of population and development issues in global development processes,

Taking into account also its decision in that resolution that the Commission on Population and Development, should convene an interactive discussion during its forty-seventh session on the assessment of the status of implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action as well as its decision in resolution 67/250 of 2013 to hold the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development on 22 September 2014 in New York,

Reiterating the earlier agreements of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular the agreements adopted at its last meeting, held in Quito from 4 to 6 July 2012, which were ratified at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission,

Bearing in mind resolution 60/265, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 30 June 2006, wherein Member States are urged to achieve the goal of universal access to reproductive health by 2015, established at the International Conference on Population and Development,

Keeping in mind 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, the Quito Consensus, adopted at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito in August 2007, the Brasilia Consensus, adopted at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brasilia in July 2010, and the conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, agreed in 2013 at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Bearing in mind also the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two optional protocols and resolution 2012/1, adopted by the Commission on Population and Development in April 2012 at its forty-fifth session, in which Governments are urged to protect the human rights of boys, girls, adolescents and youth,

Bearing in mind further 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, held in 2012 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing of 2002,

Recognizing the progress achieved by the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and welcoming resolution 67/139 of the United Nations General Assembly establishing that the Group shall, as part of its mandate and starting from its fourth session, to be held in 2013, consider proposals for an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons,

Considering the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, resolution 615(XXXI) on international migration, adopted at the thirty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Montevideo in March 2006, and General Assembly resolution 67/219 of 21 December 2012 on international migration and development, which acknowledges the important and complex interrelationship between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination,

Underscoring the importance of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which will be held in September 2013 in New York, and in particular the need for Governments to negotiate and adopt a document for presentation at that meeting,

Taking into account resolution 61/295 of 10 December 2007, wherein the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, article 42 of which states that the United Nations and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and shall follow up on its effectiveness,

Keeping in mind the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which was adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001, and resolution 67/155, in which the General Assembly decided to launch a preparatory process with a view to the proclamation in 2013 of the International Decade for People of African Descent,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as the reports of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Bearing in mind also the important contribution of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in incorporating disability-related issues as an integral part of national sustainable development strategies, from a human rights perspective, with equality and without discrimination,

Keeping in mind resolution 2012/1 adopted in April 2012 by the United Nations Commission on Population and Development at its forty-fifth session and the Bali Declaration adopted in December 2012 by the Global Youth Forum, in which Governments are urged to protect the human rights of adolescents and youth to enable them to take control of their sexual health and reproductive health and decide freely and responsibly on such matters, free from coercion, discrimination or violence and to provide them with comprehensive education on sexuality, human rights and gender equality,

Highlighting the integrated approach to development that has marked the thinking of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean since its inception, and the promotion, at the recent sessions of the Commission, of equality as the overarching normative ethical principle and the ultimate objective of development, and recognizing the work of the United Nations Population Fund with respect to adolescents, young people and gender equity,

Having considered the documentation prepared by the secretariat, with support from the United Nations Population Fund, for the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and, in particular, the lessons drawn from the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the region over the past 20 years,¹

Noting that, notwithstanding the progress towards fulfilment of the targets and goals of the Cairo Programme of Action, considerable deficiencies persist in its execution many of which are linked to the structural inequality characteristic of the Latin American and Caribbean region,

Taking note of the recommendations from the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development contained in “The Road Map for Population, Migration and Development beyond 2014”, which was endorsed by the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its sixteenth meeting, held in Georgetown on 11 July 2013,

Taking into account the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, established by resolution 47/189 of the United Nations General Assembly, and reaffirming the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which reinforced the principles of sustainable development and the relevant commitments embodied in Agenda 21, and recalling the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Mauritius in 2005, pursuant to resolution 57/262 of the United Nations General Assembly, and which served as the culmination of a

¹ LC/L.3640(CRPD.1/3).

ten year comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action, and looking forward to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Samoa in 2014,

Stressing the fact that this agreement reaffirms, complements and expands on the Cairo Programme of Action and the earlier agreements adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing the important linkages existing between the Cairo Programme of Action, human rights, the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda,

Considering resolution 66/288 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 11 September 2012, which endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and reaffirming the relevance of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in respect of all issues pertaining to sustainable development, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities,

Considering also the Final Declaration of the International Forum on Afro-descendent Youth, which contains recommendations on policies for young people in the areas of health, education, decent work, rights, sexuality and social participation,

Underscoring the findings, conclusions and lessons learned at the global and regional levels from the operational review of the Cairo Programme of Action and the Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014,

Recognizing the region’s progress in designing policies and programmes, establishing institutional structures and allocating the resources necessary and the budgets required for the full implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation and their contribution to the Millennium Development Goals in terms of promoting health and protecting human rights,

Emphasizing that, notwithstanding the progress towards the fulfilment of the targets and goals of the Cairo Programme of Action and of the Millennium Development Goals, significant gaps persist in the policies and programmes and institutional and financial capacity in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and in the attainment of the Goals, in particular Goal 5, and that these gaps must be taken into account in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and in the post-2015 development agenda,

Underscoring the important contributions made by civil society, other non-governmental stakeholders, women’s and youth organizations, and social movements to the implementation and follow-up of the Cairo Programme of Action,

Recognizing that, notwithstanding the significant advances achieved in the region in promoting, protecting and guaranteeing human rights over the past 20 years, these advances have not reached the entire population and that, while economic and social inclusion policies have enhanced opportunities and well-being, many people still live in extreme poverty and face inequalities as a result of historically entrenched patterns and new forms of discrimination, and, as such, are unable to exercise their rights fully,

Underscoring the fact that the inclusion of alternative and participatory development models and approaches in the region, such as “good living”, reconciles economic development with human

development, human rights and respect for the environment and that these are enriched by the energy, dynamism and creativity of those persons who traditionally were discriminated against,

Recognizing that the Earth and its ecosystems are important for achieving a proper balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations,

Affirming that freedom, capacities and the right to take informed decisions, empower persons to develop their potential and participate fully in the economic and social spheres; that the realization of human potential and innovation depend on guaranteed human rights, physical integrity and protection against violence and that the right to health, education, housing and a livelihood ensures full empowerment and inclusion of all,

Reaffirming that the promotion and protection of sexual rights and reproductive rights are essential for the achievement of social justice and the national, regional and global commitments to the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental,

Recognizing that population dynamics —growth and decline, changes in the age structure, urbanization, migration and changing household and family structures— influence the opportunities for human development, are shaped by the decisions that people take and are essential for planning economic and social growth as well as for the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental,

Reaffirming that poverty, in all its manifestations, is essentially a denial of rights and that poverty eradication is a moral imperative for the region which Governments must address,

Underscoring that the preparation of public statistics by State agencies must be consistent with an inclusive approach which encompasses the broad range of rights under public policy and that the information generated on Afro-descendent populations, indigenous populations, persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, gender, social inequalities and gaps, ageing and other issues constitutes a basic input for public policy formulation and is vital for monitoring the objectives established in national and regional agendas.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Reaffirming the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

Reaffirming also the principles of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development,

Reaffirming further that every country has the sovereign right to decide whether or not to apply the recommendations contained in the Cairo Programme of Action and in the present document, subject to its national laws and development priorities and in a manner consistent with universally agreed international human rights;

Decide, by virtue of these general principles, to:

Reaffirm that the agreements contained herein, the outcome of a series of discussions over time since the International Conference on Population and Development, are an essential point of reference for each country's resolutions;

Highlight the need for a cross-cutting, universal, comprehensive, inclusive and equitable approach, based on equality, solidarity, and respect for dignity and human rights in order to address the needs of all vulnerable groups and related issues in connection with health, education, community, governance and sustainability for the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action at the regional level and key actions for its further implementation and follow-up beyond 2014;

Reaffirm that a secular State is one of the elements fundamental to the full exercise of human rights, the deepening of democracy and the elimination of all forms of discrimination;

Reaffirm also the importance of strengthening participatory forms of government as a guarantee for the effective exercise of democracy;

Strengthen the role of the State and enhance its capacity for strategic management from a long-term and national development perspective;

Recognize that enabling the voices and interests of all men and women is essential in order to advance towards sustainable development and that responsible governance and robust institutions are fundamental for social and economic inclusion and sustainability;

Recognize also that population and development issues are closely linked to the economic, social and environmental realities and that, in order to address them, steps must be taken to strengthen international cooperation and forge global, regional and subregional partnerships and to establish agreements between countries as well as innovative approaches, including private initiatives;

Reaffirm the importance of international cooperation, including South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, for the implementation of the Programme of Action on Population and Development beyond 2014 and of a future regional agenda on population and development;

Recognize the importance of including issues relating to population in the sustainable development goals and in the post-2015 development agenda;

Reaffirm the political will and commitment to adopt immediate measures in response to the expectations of the populations of the region and eliminate existing inequalities, with emphasis on vulnerable groups and those that are subject to discrimination;

Recognize that a favourable economic environment where peace and governance prevail at all levels is indispensable for solving population and development problems;

Recognize also the adverse impact of unilateral coercive economic measures on the development of countries targeted by such measures and on their populations;

Recognize further that effective governance is based on accountability, broad-based participation, transparency and the enforcement of the rule of law, and that strengthening national and local governments is key for achieving the objectives of development, peace and security;

Ensure that the support of the United Nations system reflects the priorities contained in the present document and that these are embodied in the strategic plans of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and in the agreements to be adopted by these bodies through their respective executive boards and governing bodies for the period 2014-2017, in particular concerning the presence of these entities in the countries of the region.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

Decide to adopt the following priority actions identified in the Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014² in order to reinforce the application and further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and its follow-up,

A. FULL INTEGRATION OF POPULATION DYNAMICS INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITH EQUALITY AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Recognizing that advances have been made in the region towards integrating population issues into public policies and programmes on a basis of respect for human rights, but that, at the same time, many challenges remain pending in terms of their formulation and implementation,

Agree to:

1. Reinforce the public policies and actions needed to eradicate poverty and break the cycles of exclusion and inequality as a condition for achieving development in the region;
2. Apply a human rights approach with a gender and intercultural perspective in addressing population and development issues, and step up efforts to recognize, promote and uphold relevant goals in order to eliminate inequalities and foster social inclusion;
3. Build and strengthen national and subnational public institutions with responsibility for population and development issues, and ensure that they function in an integral and sustainable manner with the active participation of non-governmental stakeholders;
4. Ensure full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development planning, sectoral policies and public policies and programmes in general—in particular in development and land-use planning—at national and subnational levels, drawing on sociodemographic knowledge and information and harnessing technological advances;
5. Pursue sustainable development as a means of securing now and in the future human well-being for all peoples on an equitable basis, and ensuring that the linkages between population, resources, the environment and development are fully recognized, appropriately administered and maintained in a harmonious and dynamic balance with a thriving biodiversity and healthy ecosystems;

² LC/L.3641(CRPD.1/4).

6. Guarantee sustainable production and consumption patterns and avoid exacerbating the undesirable climate change phenomena brought about by human activity.

B. RIGHTS, NEEDS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF GIRLS, BOYS, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

Recognizing that boys, girls, adolescents and young people are rights-holders and stakeholders in development,

Noting that childhood, adolescence and youth are key phases in the lives and development of individuals and that government action taken from a human rights perspective to address these phases has been limited and that the current demographic situation in the region opens up opportunities for increasing social investment in these age groups,

Noting also that early childhood, including the perinatal period and care for mothers and infants, is crucial, since poverty or vulnerability experienced at this stage of life can cause chronic diseases in adulthood,

Considering that the 15-29 age group in the region now numbers some 160 million persons—in other words, young people account for one quarter of the population—and that the demographic dividend offers a unique opportunity for social investment in adolescence and youth, based on intergenerational solidarity, an investment which is essential for the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental,

Reiterating the objective of addressing the specific needs of adolescents and youth, and concerned at the high and unequal levels of adolescent pregnancy in the region, which, especially in the case of girls under the age of 15, is usually associated with forced marriage, abuse or sexual violence,

Expressing concern for the high levels of violence experienced by boys, girls, adolescents and young people in the region, in particular violence by organized groups that perpetrate criminal acts,

Agree to:

7. Guarantee for all boys, girls, adolescents and young people, without any form of discrimination, the chance to live a life free from poverty and violence, and to enjoy protection and exercise of their human rights, a range of opportunities and access to health, education and social protection;
8. Guarantee also the existence of mechanisms for the effective participation, without any form of discrimination, of adolescents and young people in public debate, in decision-making and in all policy and programme phases, in particular on matters that affect them directly, and strengthen institutional mechanisms for youth;
9. Invest in youth, through specific public policies and differentiated access, especially through the provision, without discrimination, of universal, free, public, secular, high-quality, intercultural education in order to ensure that this stage of life is full and satisfactory, to enable them to develop as autonomous individuals with a sense of responsibility and solidarity and with the ability to tackle creatively the challenges of the twenty-first century;

10. Promote and invest in labour and employment policies and special training programmes for youth to boost personal and collective capabilities and initiative and to enable them to reconcile studies and work activities, without precarious working conditions and guaranteeing equal opportunities and treatment;
11. Ensure the effective implementation from early childhood of comprehensive sexuality education programmes, recognizing the emotional dimension of human relationships, with respect for the evolving capacity of boys and girls and the informed decisions of adolescents and young people regarding their sexuality, from a participatory, intercultural, gender-sensitive, and human rights perspective;
12. Implement comprehensive, timely, good-quality sexual health and reproductive health programmes for adolescents and young people, including youth-friendly sexual health and reproductive health services with a gender, human rights, intergenerational and intercultural perspective, which guarantee access to safe and effective modern contraceptive methods, respecting the principles of confidentiality and privacy, to enable adolescents and young people to exercise their sexual rights and reproductive rights, to have a responsible, pleasurable and healthy sex life, avoid early and unwanted pregnancies, the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and to take free, informed and responsible decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive life and the exercise of their sexual orientation;
13. Introduce or strengthen policies and programmes to prevent pregnant adolescents and young mothers from dropping out of school;
14. Prioritize the prevention of pregnancy among adolescents and eliminate unsafe abortion through comprehensive education on emotional development and sexuality, and timely and confidential access to good-quality information, counselling, technologies and services, including emergency oral contraception without a prescription and male and female condoms;
15. Design intersectoral strategies to help young women avoid subsequent pregnancies, including antenatal, childbirth and postpartum care, access to contraceptive methods, protection, support and justice;
16. Guarantee for boys, girls, adolescents and young people the opportunities and the basis for harmonious coexistence and a life free from violence, through intersectoral strategies to address the factors that disrupt harmony in the community and foment violence, to provide education from early childhood that promotes tolerance, an appreciation for diversity, mutual respect and respect for human rights, conflict resolution and peace, and to ensure protection, timely access to justice and compensation for victims;
17. Guarantee also reliable statistical data, disaggregated by sex, age, migration status, race and ethnicity, cultural variables and geographical location, with regard to education, health, in particular sexual health and reproductive health, employment and the participation of adolescents and young people.

C. AGEING, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHALLENGES

Considering that older persons are rights-holders who have contributed and continue to play an active role in the many areas of development, and that countries should recognize them as key stakeholders in the formulation of public policies,

Considering also that older persons, by virtue of their age and vulnerability, continue to be subjected to discrimination, abuse and ill-treatment, which ultimately impairs the enjoyment and exercise of their rights,

Concerned that the violence suffered by older persons, in both the public and private spheres, undermines their human rights,

Deeply convinced of the importance of medium- and long-term planning in anticipating the major economic and social transformations that will be generated by the demographic changes taking place in the region, in particular with respect to the age structure of the population,

Considering that most countries are now transiting through the demographic dividend, in which the relative increase in the number of working-age persons provides an opportunity to boost growth and development and to advance with or consolidate reforms in terms of social protection,

Bearing in mind that the change in the age structure of the population will impact on lifestyles, human relationships, patterns of consumption, investment, savings and sectoral demands, mainly due to the significant increase in the proportion of older persons over the coming decades,

Considering that the epidemiological profile of Latin America and the Caribbean is characterized by overlapping stages, with the increasing prevalence of chronic and non-communicable diseases, declining fertility and a growing older population, but that levels of communicable diseases remain significant, as do external causes of disability and death,

Considering also that the increase in the older population is expected to be accompanied by a significant rise in the demand for health care and that a gap has emerged between this demand and the available institutional frameworks to address it, so that States are passing on the responsibility to households, causing situations of greater vulnerability and adding significantly to the burden traditionally borne by women,

Bearing in mind that the feminization of ageing calls for the development of specific policies to address the particular needs of older women,

Reaffirming the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in 2012,

Reaffirming also that in every decision the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean demonstrate the political will and determination to guarantee the full exercise of human rights, by empowering individuals to be agents of change, and that all older persons should thus be enabled, through the elimination of the barriers to equality between men and women, to have full decision-making power over issues that affect them,

Recognizing that the empowerment of older persons is a key element in enforcing their human rights and in ensuring their full participation in a development model that cannot be sustainable unless it is inclusive,

Considering the significant contribution that older persons can make to society in terms of their acquired knowledge, *savoir-vivre* and emotional capacity,

Agree to:

18. Formulate policies with a gender perspective to ensure a good quality of life in old age, not only for urban dwellers, but also for those who live in rural and forest areas;
19. Design and implement public policies, plans and programmes —at all political and administrative levels— that take into account changes in the age structure, in particular population ageing, and the opportunities and challenges associated with these changes over the medium and long term;
20. Design policies at the national, federal and local levels to guarantee quality of life, the development of potential and the full participation of older persons, taking account of the need for intellectual, emotional and physical interaction and the different situation of men and women, with emphasis on the groups that are most susceptible to discrimination, such as older persons with disabilities, those without economic resources or pension coverage, or those who live alone or lack a support network;
21. Ensure the inclusion and equitable participation of older persons in the design and application of policies, plans and programmes that concern them;
22. Eradicate the multiple forms of discrimination that affect older persons, including all forms of violence against older women and men, taking into account the obligations of States with respect to ageing with dignity and rights;
23. Establish or consolidate human rights programmes to tackle and eliminate violence against older persons in the public and private spheres;
24. Give the highest priority to older persons in plans for disaster prevention, mitigation and relief, including disaster preparedness, relief worker training on emergency prevention and response and the availability of goods and services;
25. Formulate policies to take advantage of the unique opportunity provided by the demographic dividend and that include coordinated investments in education and health and the creation of decent work on the basis of intergenerational solidarity;
26. Bring health policies into line with the challenges of the varied and changing epidemiological profile arising from ageing and the epidemiological transition, reinforcing the fight to eradicate communicable diseases and implementing actions for the prevention and treatment of chronic, diseases traditionally referred to as non-communicable, but now known to be strongly influenced by conditions of social and economic vulnerability in the early years of life, and ensure that these policies take into account gender, age, regional, ethnic and socioeconomic specificities;

27. Include older persons as a priority focus of public policy and as fundamental stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of policies aiming to improve the quality of life of older persons;
28. Foster policies to encourage individuals to save during their active, productive life so that in the long run they can enjoy a decent old age;
29. Foster the development of and access to palliative care, to ensure a dignified, painless death;
30. Promote the development of allowances and services relating to social security, health and education in the social protection systems targeting older persons to improve their quality of life, economic security and social justice;
31. Include care in social protection systems, through allowances, social and health-care services and economic benefits that maximize autonomy, in particular for older persons, and guarantee the rights, dignity and well-being of families and older persons, including the right to a dignified death with proper care, without any form of discrimination or violence;
32. Extend social protection and social security systems, with a gender perspective, to include those women who have devoted their lives to productive work, whether as domestic workers, women in rural areas or informal workers.

D. UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

Considering that sexual rights and reproductive rights are embraced by human rights and that their exercise is essential for the enjoyment of other fundamental rights and for achieving the international development targets and poverty eradication,

Taking into account the fact that progress towards achieving the target of universal access to sexual and reproductive health has been insufficient and uneven, and that education and the quality of health care are fundamental factors for achieving the ultimate objective of improving sexual and reproductive health,

Reaffirming that maternal mortality is an affront to human rights and recognizing that the overwhelming majority of maternal deaths are preventable,

Concerned at the high rates of maternal mortality, due largely to difficulties in obtaining access to proper sexual health and reproductive health services or due to unsafe abortions, and aware that some experiences in the region have demonstrated that the penalization of abortion leads to higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity and does not reduce the number of abortions, and that this holds the region back in its efforts to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that, although antiretroviral treatment is available and vertical HIV transmission has been reduced, challenges persist in terms of increasing awareness of and preventing HIV/AIDS, encouraging timely, voluntary detection, providing care for persons with HIV/AIDS and eliminating the stigma and discrimination, which continue to be widespread, especially towards lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender persons, sex workers, women living with HIV/AIDS, drug users and other key groups,

Considering that health gaps are still wide in the region and that average statistics usually mask the high levels of maternal mortality, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS infection and the unmet need for contraception among the population living in poverty and in rural areas, among indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants and vulnerable groups, such as women, adolescents and young people and persons with disabilities,

Agree to:

33. Promote, protect and guarantee sexual health and rights and reproductive rights in order to contribute to the fulfilment of persons and to social justice in a society free from all forms of discrimination and violence;
34. Promote policies that enable persons to exercise their sexual rights, which embrace the right to a safe and full sex life, as well as the right to take free, informed, voluntary and responsible decisions on their sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identity, without coercion, discrimination or violence, and that guarantee the right to information and the means necessary for their sexual health and reproductive health;
35. Review legislation, standards and practices that restrict access to sexual and reproductive health services, including the provision of comprehensive user-friendly services for adolescents and youth, and guarantee access to full information on all of the service options available to all persons, without any form of discrimination, in order to ensure that the highest international standards of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are met in the region;
36. Design policies and programmes to eradicate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the exercise of sexual rights and the manifestations thereof;
37. Guarantee universal access to good-quality sexual health and reproductive health services, bearing in mind the specific needs of men and women, adolescents and young people, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, older persons and persons with disabilities, with special attention to vulnerable persons, persons living in rural and remote areas and to the promotion of citizen participation in the follow-up to commitments;
38. Promote the prevention and timely detection of and guarantee universal access to comprehensive treatment for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections and eliminate the stigma and discrimination to which persons living with the virus are often subjected;
39. Strengthen measures for detection of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections in pregnant women and for prevention of the vertical transmission of the virus;
40. Eliminate preventable cases of maternal morbidity and mortality, including, within the set of integrated benefits of sexual health and reproductive health services, measures for preventing and avoiding unsafe abortion, including sexual health and reproductive health education, access to modern and effective contraceptive methods, counselling and comprehensive care in cases of unwanted and unaccepted pregnancy, as well as comprehensive post-abortion care, where necessary, on the basis of a risk- and harm-reduction strategy;
41. Promote prevention and self-care programmes for the sexual health and reproductive health of men;

42. Ensure, in those cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized under the relevant national legislation, the availability of safe, good-quality abortion services for women with unwanted and unaccepted pregnancies, and urge all other States to consider amending their laws, regulations, strategies and public policies relating to the voluntary termination of pregnancy in order to protect the lives and health of women and adolescent girls, improve their quality of life, and reduce the number of abortions;
43. Ensure that all women have effective access to comprehensive health care during the reproductive process and specifically to skilled, institutional, compassionate obstetric care and to the best possible maternal health services during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium, as well as to services that include the termination of pregnancy in those cases where the law provides for such services, and guarantee universal access to assisted fertility treatments;
44. Guarantee effective access to a wide range of culturally relevant, scientifically sound, modern contraceptive methods, including emergency oral contraception;
45. Formulate plans for strengthening mechanisms for detecting problems during pregnancy, including at the preconception stage, improve the quality of antenatal care to include an intercultural perspective, guarantee the provision of a safe supply of blood for care during pregnancy, childbirth and the post-partum and puerperium period, and enhance compassionate care during delivery and birth and comprehensive perinatal care, bearing in mind the needs of women, boys, girls and families;
46. Guarantee sufficient financial, human and technological resources in order to provide universal access to sexual health care and reproductive health care for all women, men, adolescents, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities without any form of discrimination.

E. GENDER EQUALITY

Reaffirming the validity of the Quito Consensus of 2007 and the Brasilia Consensus of 2010 and the continuing relevance of the commitments contained therein, in particular those relating to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, the eradication of gender discrimination and multiple forms of discrimination, the elimination of violence, and the building of State structures for promoting the advancement of women and gender equality,

Reaffirming the commitment to ratification and implementation of International Labour Organization conventions 100, 102, 111, 156 and 189,

Reiterating that protecting the rights and autonomy of women, promoting the full exercise of their sexual rights and reproductive rights, gender equality and the elimination of the multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including gender-based forms of such acts, are fundamental to Governments' commitment to advance towards development with equality,

Recognizing that, in the region, the sexual division of labour, poverty in all its manifestations and unequal access to resources continue to be obstacles to the promotion and protection of all the human rights of women and that the elimination of political, economic, social and cultural inequalities must therefore figure among the principal sustainable development goals,

Bearing in mind that violence against girls, women and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, in particular sexual violence, is a critical indicator of marginalization, inequality, exclusion and gender discrimination against women and affects their autonomy, self-determination, individual and collective health and the exercise of human rights,

Considering that discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity places lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in a vulnerable position, preventing their access to equality and to the full exercise of citizenship,

Conscious of the persistently unequal distribution of unpaid domestic and care work between men and women, of the scant recognition and lack of appreciation for the role of women in fulfilling these tasks and of the fact that demographic changes will have an impact on the need for care services,

Bearing in mind that parity is aimed at achieving equality in the exercise of power, in decision-making, in mechanisms for participation and social and political representation and in family, social, economic, political and cultural relationships and that there is still a notable underrepresentation of women in decision-making spheres,

Agree to:

47. Fulfil the commitment to strengthen institutional machineries in order to build development policies with equality that will guarantee the autonomy of women and gender equality, and give these machineries the autonomy and the necessary human and financial resources to enable them to have a cross-cutting impact on the structure of the State, recognizing the strategic role that they play and establishing them at the highest level;
48. Fulfil the commitment to increase and enhance opportunities for the equal participation of women in adopting and implementing policies in all spheres of public authority and in high-level decision-making;
49. Take steps to promote and strengthen the preparation, implementation and accountability of gender-sensitive budgets, in order to achieve equal spending in the public sector, the inclusion of the principles of gender equality in the different stages of planning, budgeting and meeting the specific social needs of women and men;
50. Fulfil the commitment to promote and ensure gender mainstreaming and its intersection with perspectives on race, ethnicity, age, social class and disability status in all public policies, especially in economic and cultural policies, and coordination between branches of government and social stakeholders, including organizations of young, Afro-descendent or indigenous women, to ensure gender equality;
51. Promote parity and other mechanisms to ensure access to power in electoral systems as a precondition for democracy and a target for eradicating the structural exclusion of women in society, which affects mainly those in vulnerable situations, by training women leaders;
52. Adopt legislative measures and institutional reforms to prevent, punish and eradicate political and administrative harassment of women who reach decision-making positions through electoral means or by appointment at national and local levels, as well as in political parties and movements;

53. Develop and strengthen policies and universal care services based on the highest human rights standards, from a gender equality and intergenerational perspective, in order to share the delivery of services between the State, the private sector, civil society, families and households and between men and women and facilitate dialogue and coordination between all the parties involved;
54. Promote legislation and design and strengthen public policies on equality in the labour market in order to eliminate gender discrimination and asymmetries in relation to access to decent employment, job security, wages and decision-making on labour issues, as well as to recognize the productive value of unpaid domestic work and care work;
55. Strengthen the participation of women in high-level and decision-making positions in companies and support the training of men and women during hours that are compatible with their family life, and encourage businesswomen to adopt leadership roles;
56. Establish mechanisms for preventing sexual and other forms of harassment and violence against women and men, especially in the workplace and educational settings, as well as for filing relevant complaints and punishing such practices;
57. Enforce existing policies and adopt, on the one hand, preventative and punitive measures, and on the other measures for protecting and caring for women in order to eradicate all forms of violence, including forced sterilization and stigma against women in public and private spheres and especially the gender-motivated violent murder of girls and women, and ensure effective and universal access to fundamental services for all victims and survivors of gender-based violence, with special attention to women in high-risk situations, such as older women, pregnant women, women with disabilities, culturally diverse groups, sex workers, women living with HIV/AIDS, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, Afro-descendent, indigenous and migrant women, women living in border areas, asylum-seekers and victims of trafficking;
58. Reaffirm the commitment and political will of Latin America and the Caribbean, at the highest level, to combat and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including domestic violence and femicide/feminicide, and actively promote awareness-raising regarding gender mainstreaming among law enforcement personnel;
59. Broaden the access available to men, including boys, adolescents and young men, to sexual and reproductive health-related information, counselling and services and promote the equal participation of men in care work through programmes for raising men's awareness of gender equality, and foster the development of new masculinities.
60. Develop and strengthen plans and programmes for addressing disparities in the representation and performance of boys and young men in the education system, especially in the English-speaking Caribbean;
61. Ensure the sharing of responsibility between the State, the private sector, the community, families, women and men for unpaid domestic and care work, incorporating care into social protection systems through allowances, services and benefits that maximize women's autonomy and guarantee their rights, dignity, well-being and enjoyment of free time;

62. Improve statistical systems, official indicators and administrative records, mainstreaming the gender perspective and advancing towards the full recognition of women's economic and social contribution to the development of society;
63. Strengthen the capacity of countries to prepare and disseminate the gender statistics needed for the formulation of public policies on gender equality and the empowerment of women;
64. Consider measuring the care economy using specialized accounts and the creation of satellite accounts on unpaid work, and the incorporation of such accounts in the system of national accounts;
65. Implement, with the support of available technologies, multisectoral, comprehensive, integrated, coordinated, interdisciplinary and accessible services, programmes and actions targeting women that are sustainable at all levels, include specialized and confidential care in cases of violence, have sufficient resources available and that bring together sectors such as the police, the judiciary, medical and psychological services and evaluation, including sexual and reproductive health services, as well as opportunities for training and generating earnings, with a view to promoting women's autonomy in all its forms.

F. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANTS

Bearing in mind that the human rights of migrants are a priority in all initiatives relating to cooperation on migration and that concerns about the protection of migrants are shared by the international community and should be included in all cooperation agendas,

Bearing in mind also that the migrant population in the region is significantly high, currently amounting to approximately 30 million persons, and that migrants make substantial contributions to their home countries as well as to their countries of destination,

Concerned at the impact of the economic crisis on the living conditions of migrants, the increasing complexity involved in migration, with regard to migrants' journeys and integration as well as during transit and return migration,

Expressing concern at the evident and systematic human rights violations suffered by migrants as a result of racism, xenophobia and homophobia, as well as the lack of guarantee of due process and specific problems that affect different groups, especially women, girls, boys and adolescents, in terms of discrimination, abuse, trafficking in persons, exploitation and violence,

Considering that the full exercise by migrants of their human rights and access by them to basic public services, in particular education and health, including sexual health and reproductive health, should not depend on their migration status,

Bearing in mind that the global economic development process breeds inequalities and asymmetries which, in turn, generate an available workforce that is willing to work for minimum wages and in precarious conditions, and creates demand for highly flexible conditions that seek to extract the productive strength from these workers without respect for their human rights, in particular in the case of persons from less developed economies or living in dire poverty,

Recognizing the consensus adopted by the Regional Conference on Migration and the South American Conference on Migration, as well as at the first meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States concerning management of international migration, and at other subregional forums and entities which assume approaches associated with the protection of the human rights of migrants, the comprehensive treatment of migratory processes and special attention for the victims of trafficking,

Reaffirming the commitment to redouble their efforts to face the challenges and opportunities posed by migration for countries of origin, transit and destination, from the perspective of human rights, promotion of development and shared responsibility,

Considering that the important role that migrants play in economic growth has not been sufficiently appreciated or matched by any increase in the recognition of their human rights, including their labour rights or the rights of their family members,

Agree to:

66. Ensure that international migration issues, including migration regularization policies are fully incorporated into global, regional and national post-2015 development agendas and strategies;
67. Provide assistance and protection to migrants regardless of their migration status, especially vulnerable groups, with full respect for their rights and in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and those of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, highlighting the need to afford them comprehensive attention in countries of transit and destination;
68. Prepare comprehensive global and regional strategies to prevent infringement of the human rights of migrants, as well as to take advantage of the benefits and face the challenges arising from migration, including those relating to remittances and skilled migration in high-demand sectors, as well as the differential participation of men and women and the transnationalization of care;
69. Promote the signing of bilateral and multilateral social security conventions to enable migrant workers to accumulate years of service;
70. Incorporate principles of consistency and reciprocity in dealing with the various situations faced by emigrants from the countries in the region, at all stages of the migration process, whether at the intraregional level or outside the region;
71. Achieve concrete results through dialogue and international cooperation relating to migration, human rights and development in regional forums as well as in forums linked to other regions of the world, in particular North America and the European Union, with a view to reducing existing asymmetries in this area and asserting the interests of Latin American and Caribbean countries;
72. Protect decisively the human rights of all migrants, avoiding any form of criminalization of migration, and guarantee migrants access to basic social services in education and health, including sexual health and reproductive health, where appropriate, regardless of their migration status, with special attention to highly vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied minors, displaced persons in an irregular situation, women who are victims of violence, victims of trafficking, returnees and forcibly displaced asylum-seekers;

73. Give priority, in each country, to strengthening coordination channels between sectors and between countries, to reinforcing intergovernmental cooperation mechanisms in order to guarantee the exercise of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, from a gender-based perspective;
74. Strengthen cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination to address the causes and challenges of irregular migration, so as to generate safe, orderly, humane migration conditions through bilateral arrangements for labour force mobility and ensure protection of the human rights of migrants;
75. Ensure that the Second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be held in New York on 3 and 4 October 2013, leads to the adoption of a consensual outcome document and, in that regard, to submit for consideration the question of whether it would be appropriate to propose the contents and guidelines of an international convention on migration.

G. TERRITORIAL INEQUALITY, SPATIAL MOBILITY AND VULNERABILITY

Keeping in mind the importance of agreement 2 relating to population, territory and sustainable development, adopted in Quito in 2012 by the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular the appeal to member States to consider territory as a key element in sustainable development and human coexistence, and to reduce territorial inequalities since these exacerbate economic, social and environmental inequities, at the subnational level and between countries,

Bearing in mind that in agreement 2 referred to above, the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America called on member States to advance towards the consolidation of planning systems that will help to build societies that are equitable and 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,

Taking into account the particular challenges facing the countries of the region owing to conditions of poverty, structural processes such as globalization, specialization in extractive production and climate change, and the relationships between these processes and population mobility, spatial distribution, settlement and vulnerability of the poor population,

Taking into consideration the special characteristics of the spatial distribution of the population in the region, such as high rates of urbanization with the attendant opportunities and risks, the persistent rural exodus, the trend towards concentration of population and activities in a few dynamic centres, the limited options for development in rural areas and small population centres and the segregation and vulnerability facing poor people by virtue of their geographical location,

Appreciating the advances achieved and the region's experience in decentralization, development planning and territorial planning processes at the national and disaggregated levels and, especially, the successful experiences arising from the incorporation of population features and trends in development and territorial planning exercises,

Concerned at the high cost in human life, infrastructure, persons affected and economic losses caused by natural and socioenvironmental disasters in the region in recent years, which expose the human settlements of the poorest populations to the highest levels of vulnerability,

Agree to:

76. Develop more closely coordinated, integrated and cohesive territories by designing and executing territorial and urban management plans, policies and instruments, administered in a participatory manner and based on a people-centred approach with a gender and human rights perspective and a vision of sustainability and environmental risk management;
77. Promote the development and well-being of people in all territories without any form of discrimination, and provide full access to basic social services and equal opportunities for populations whether they live in urban or rural areas, in small, intermediate or large cities or in isolated areas or small rural settlements;
78. Expand and improve the processes of decentralization, deconcentration and participatory planning at the subnational and local levels, with emphasis on availability, accessibility and the quality of basic services, education and health, including sexual health and reproductive health and the prevention of violence against girls, adolescents and women;
79. Design programmes to promote peaceful coexistence, continuing education, creative leisure pursuits, mental health and citizen security for the population in their territories in order to prevent the current social problems associated with issues such as poverty, social exclusion, the abusive use and trafficking of drugs, and gender-based violence;
80. Formulate development strategies for city systems to encompass territorial planning and environmental sustainability, promoting energy transition and sustainable production and consumption processes, taking into consideration social and environmental externalities, within a human rights framework, in order to promote sustainable and inclusive urban development, and strengthen all segments of such systems, including intermediate and small cities;
81. Plan and manage territorial and urban development, from a human rights and gender perspective, by formulating mobility, population settlement and activity location policies that contemplate, among their objectives, avoiding the use of vulnerable and protected areas and preventing and mitigating the impact of socioenvironmental disasters and combating the environmental vulnerability of those living in poverty and ethnic and racial groups who are subject to discrimination, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation;
82. Formulate and implement strategies and policies that respond fully to situations of vulnerability to natural disasters, with a multidimensional protection focus before, during and after such events;
83. Promote inclusive development of natural resources, avoiding the social and environmental damage that this may cause;
84. Promote the use of georeferenced, sociodemographic analysis, disaggregated by sex, race and ethnicity, to improve territorial planning and environmental risk management.

H. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: INTERCULTURALISM AND RIGHTS

Considering that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes and reaffirms that indigenous individuals are entitled, without discrimination, to all human rights enshrined in international law, and that indigenous peoples possess collective rights which are indispensable for their existence, well-being and integral development as peoples,

Reaffirming the contribution that the indigenous peoples of the region make to development and to the conservation of the planet and that all peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the common heritage of humanity,

Concerned at the sharp inequality that affects indigenous peoples and individuals as a result of historical injustices and structural discrimination, which are expressed in higher levels of material poverty, exclusion and marginalization, as well as to their more limited participation in decision-making in power structures and in citizens' representation mechanisms, which undermines their human rights,

Conscious of the urgent need to respect and promote the territorial rights of indigenous peoples, as a prerequisite for the development of their identity and autonomy as peoples and for the challenges that this implies in the context of globalization, especially given the increase in the exploitation of natural resources and the pressure on the territories of indigenous peoples, including the peoples living in voluntary isolation,

Concerned at the high levels of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality among indigenous peoples, particularly among women, girls and adolescents living in rural areas,

Recognizing the need to protect and respect the collective rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the need for greater protection for their development and against the forms of violence to which indigenous boys, girls, adolescents, young people, women and older persons are subjected,

Highlighting the importance of the high-level plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2014, pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/198 of 21 December 2010,

Agree to:

85. Respect and implement the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization on indigenous and tribal peoples—and call on those countries that have not already done so to sign it and ratify it— adapting legal frameworks and formulating the policies necessary for their implementation, with the full participation of these peoples, including indigenous peoples that live in cities;
86. Consider the special demographic dynamic of indigenous peoples in public policy design, with special emphasis on indigenous peoples threatened with extinction, those who have no contact with the outside world, those living in voluntary isolation or that are in a phase of initial contact, and respect their right to self-determination;

87. Guarantee indigenous peoples' right to health, including sexual rights and reproductive rights, and their right to their own traditional medicines and health practices, especially as regards reducing maternal and child mortality considering their socio-territorial and cultural specificities as well as the structural factors that hinder the exercise of this right;
88. Respect and guarantee the territorial rights of indigenous peoples, including those of peoples living in voluntary isolation and those in the initial phase of contact, with special attention to the challenges presented by extractive industries and other major global investments, mobility and forced displacements, and design policies that facilitate free, prior and informed consultation on matters that affect these peoples, pursuant to the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
89. Adopt, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, the measures needed to ensure that indigenous women, boys, girls, adolescents and young people enjoy protection from and full guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination, and take measures to ensure the restitution of rights;
90. Guarantee indigenous peoples' right to communication and information, ensuring that national statistics respect the principle of self-identification, as well as the generation of knowledge and reliable and timely information on indigenous peoples through participatory processes, with reference to their requirements and international recommendations relating to these issues;
91. Participate actively and at the highest possible level, with provision for the inclusion of indigenous peoples in national delegations, in the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting entitled the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in September 2014, as well as in other relevant international forums.

I. AFRO-DESCENDANTS: RIGHTS AND COMBATING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Reaffirming that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, provide a comprehensive human rights framework for the well-being and development of Afro-descendent persons and a solid foundation for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Convinced that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance occur on the grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin and that victims can suffer multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination based on other related grounds, such as gender identity, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, economic status, birth or other situation,

Underscoring the contribution that Afro-descendent populations make to the development and well-being of humanity as a whole and that cultural diversity should be valued, enjoyed, genuinely accepted and embraced as a permanent feature which enriches societies,

Deeply concerned at the disadvantaged position of Afro-descendent persons and communities in the areas of education, employment, health, housing, child mortality and life expectancy, in particular when the inequality is due to racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance,

Agree to:

92. Respect and implement the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, by adapting the legal frameworks and formulating the policies necessary for their implementation, with the full participation of Afro-descendent persons;
93. Address gender, racial, ethnic and intergenerational inequalities, bearing in mind the way these dimensions overlap in situations of discrimination affecting women, especially young Afro-descendent women;
94. Consider the special demographic and sociocultural dynamics of Afro-descendent populations in the design and implementation of public policies, ensuring their full participation and the development of disaggregated statistics;
95. Ensure that Afro-descendent persons, in particular Afro-descendent girls, adolescents and women, can exercise the right to health, especially the right to sexual health and reproductive health, taking into account the specific socioterritorial and cultural features and the structural factors, such as racism, that hinder the exercise of their rights;
96. Promote the development of Afro-descendent populations by implementing public policies, establishing standards and creating institutions to guide and carry forward affirmative action policies, plans and programmes at the sectoral level, whereby the principles of equality and non-discrimination can be incorporated into all levels of government, with organized civil society participating throughout the process of design, implementation and evaluation of those instruments;
97. Ensure that policies and programmes are in place to raise the living standards of Afro-descendent women, by fully enforcing their rights, in particular their sexual rights and reproductive rights;
98. Generate knowledge and reliable and timely information with a gender perspective and disaggregated by sex, age and socioeconomic status, among other variables, on Afro-descendent populations through participatory processes, paying attention to the international requirements and recommendations relating to the issue.

J. FRAMEWORKS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUTURE REGIONAL AGENDA ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Reaffirming the strategic role that the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is called upon to play in the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in the definition of priorities for its implementation beyond 2014,

Underscoring the need for operational instruments, monitoring systems and resources for action in the area of population and development in the region to address the emerging challenges in this sphere,

Agree to:

99. Reiterate the appeal to establish or strengthen a national coordinating mechanism, with the participation of civil society organizations, to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and to act as a permanent liaison with the Regional Conference;
100. Adopt a regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean fully respecting the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014;
101. Generate regional and national machineries to oversee the fulfilment of this regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014 and ensure its accountability;
102. Improve data sources, particularly population censuses, administrative records, vital statistics and specialized surveys, promoting the full independence of national statistical systems and ensuring, by means of legal and institutional frameworks, that users and producers apply the fundamental principles of official statistics at both the national and international levels as well as harmonized methodologies to ensure comparability between countries;
103. Ensure sufficient financial and human resources to develop integrated systems that provide reliable, timely, good-quality, gender-sensitive information, disaggregated by territory, sex, age, race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status, to facilitate decision-making and the formulation, follow-up and appraisal of development policies and programmes;
104. Promote cooperation between national statistical offices and the relevant bodies in the field of statistics to aid in the production and improvement of those statistics, as well as in the use of health-sector administrative records for statistical purposes;
105. Ensure sufficient financial resources and the mobilization of international cooperation resources for Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to expedite the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and the measures agreed upon herein, putting in place at the same time clear and effective transparency and accountability mechanisms;
106. Design and implement training strategies in the area of population and development that cover the various issues, territorial levels and course formats, using the academic establishments in the region and available technological advances, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations system;
107. Guarantee the effective participation of civil society and social movements in the implementation, oversight and appraisal of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014, incorporating the measures agreed upon herein;
108. Submit a proposal to the Statistical Conference of the Americas, at its next meeting, on the harmonization of health indicators, in particular sexual health and reproductive health, for the region, including small island developing States, in order to facilitate the comparison and analysis of regional trends.

FOLLOW-UP RECOMMENDATIONS

109. *Resolve* that these agreements represent the input of Latin America and the Caribbean for the report reviewing the status of implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action which the Secretary-General will present to the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-seventh session, to be held from 7 to 11 April 2014, and for the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, to be held on 22 September 2014 in New York;
110. *Request* the secretariat, within the framework of the existing links between population and development, to continue to give priority to the following issues from a gender perspective: determinants and consequences of demographic trends; sociodemographic inequities; maternal and child mortality; sexual health 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;
111. *Request also* the secretariat to continue providing support for countries in affording statistical visibility to the indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations of Latin America and the Caribbean by seeking to develop specific and innovative indicators, including the exchange of best practices, and providing accessible training opportunities for national personnel, and to continue to monitor regionally the issues relating to these population groups in Latin America and the Caribbean;
112. *Commission* the secretariat to provide all necessary support for the implementation of the regional activities to be held in preparation for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, which will take place on 22 and 23 September 2014;
113. *Also commission* the secretariat to provide technical assistance for the activities relating to the preparatory process of the International Decade for People of African Descent;
114. *Further commission* the secretariat, through the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of ECLAC, to continue to head cooperation efforts to assist the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the area of international migration, in particular in generating information and knowledge, preparing regulations and formulating and assessing policies using a human-rights-based approach, respecting the commitments established in resolution 615(XXXI) on international migration, which was adopted at the thirty-first session of the Commission;
115. *Request* the secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund to continue generating information and knowledge and to provide technical assistance to the countries for following up implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as for other activities aimed at protecting the human rights of older persons within the purview of the United Nations;
116. *Encourage* the secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund to continue, through 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 urge it to promote and expand South-South, triangular and extraregional cooperation and sharing of best practices;

117. *Resolve* that the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with support from the secretariat, shall hold a meeting in 2014 in preparation for the second session of the Regional Conference;
118. *Invite* member States to propose the creation of working groups on issues agreed upon herein to the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, for adoption at the second session of the Conference, which will be held in 2015;
119. *Requests* the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Population Fund, to include in their strategic plans for 2014-2017 the priority areas of the Cairo Programme of Action adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to allocate funds according to the indicators of need as required in each of the priority issues proposed by this Conference;
120. *Further request* the secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund to strengthen scientific and technical cooperation activities, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and reiterate the importance of developing human resources through training, the exchange of experiences and specialized knowledge, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which entails strengthening institutional capacities, including planning, management, follow-up and evaluation capabilities;
121. *Ask* the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to lend technical assistance, through its Division for Gender Affairs, in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to provide technical support to State machineries and regional forums for the advancement of women in the management of cooperation and technical assistance resources with a view to enabling the implementation and follow-up of the Cairo Programme of Action and these agreements;
122. *Also ask* the United Nations Population Fund to strengthen cooperation activities with the Governments of the region in the framework of their commitment to strengthen investment in youth and, in particular, to intensify efforts to coordinate actions relating to access to quality education, including comprehensive sexuality education, gender equality, decent work for youth and their access to quality health care, including sexual health and reproductive health services, in conjunction with other cooperation agencies and other bodies in the United Nations system;
123. *Further ask* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Population Fund, in consultation with the Governments and in coordination with the relevant organizations in the United Nations system, to foster South-South cooperation in order to continue to advance towards the goals and objectives of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014;
124. *Thank* the United Nations Population Fund for its technical assistance and financial support for the operational review of implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/234, as well as for its support for the organization and holding of

the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which has facilitated the formulation of the agreements adopted herein;

125. *Ask* the secretariat to report to the Regional Conference on Population and Development, at its second session, on activities carried out in the substantive areas referred to in the foregoing paragraphs;
126. *Thank and congratulate* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay for organizing the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC for preparing the corresponding documentation, particularly the reports “Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Review of the period 2009-2013 and lessons learned. Summary and overview” and “Proposed regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014”; and thank the United Nations Population Fund for its collaboration;
127. *Thank also* the Commission for the support provided to the countries of the region, through the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of ECLAC, in the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Cairo Programme of Action and for the activities carried out between July 2012 and July 2013, which are described in the document “Report on the activities conducted by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC during the period 2012-2013”;³ and thank the United Nations Population Fund for its collaboration;
128. *Express appreciation* to the civil society organizations and social movements for monitoring implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action, in particular for their contributions to the first session of the Regional Conference;
129. *Thanks* the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay for hosting the first meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and for providing all the support needed for the event;
130. *Welcomes* the kind offer of the Government of Mexico to host the second meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

³ LC/L.3643/Rev.1.

Annex 2

Reservation presented by the delegation of Guatemala

The delegation of Guatemala presents the following written statement:

My delegation wishes to state that, for reasons of interest to our country, Guatemala issues the following reservations and requests that they be incorporated in the final report of the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- (a) Guatemala has the sovereign right to implement the recommendations contained in the Agreement issued at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 12 to 15 August 2013, subject to the provisions of our Political Constitution and national laws, and those of the international treaties and conventions to which it is a party, wherefore none of the provisions or recommendations emanating from this session may or should be interpreted in a manner inconsistent with those legal instruments. Moreover, the decision of whether to implement these recommendations will be adopted in the light of our country's development priorities and with full respect for the various ethical and cultural values and the philosophical conviction of our multi-ethnic, multilingual and pluricultural people and in a manner consistent with universally recognized human rights;
- (b) The reservations of Guatemala relate in particular to the issues, terms, conditions and provisions contained in the present agreement with reference to the following:
 - Unqualified respect for the right to life from the moment of conception, as well as unqualified respect and the right that parents have to choose the education to be provided to their underage sons and daughters. It ratifies and guarantees social, economic and legal protection for the family on the basis of the legality of matrimony, equality in the right of persons to decide freely on the number and spacing of their children and the dignity of motherhood; in accordance with the ethical, moral, legal, cultural and natural criteria espoused by the Guatemalan people.
 - The concept of gender, which is interpreted as meaning only the female gender and male gender in reference to women and men, and reservations are expressed as regards the interpretation of the expression "sexually diverse groups", "sexual orientation" and "sexual diversity and gender identity".

The reservation entered by this delegation is based mainly on the following:

Paragraph 1.15 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which states that it "**does not create any new international human rights**", but "affirms the application of universally recognized human rights standards to all aspects of population programmes."

"The Programme of Action will require the establishment of common ground, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds. The impact of this Conference will be measured by the strength of the specific commitments made here and the consequent actions to fulfil them, as part of a new global partnership among all the world's countries and peoples, based on a sense of shared but differentiated responsibility for each other and for our planetary home."

As regards the issue of youth, three objectives were established and there is no reference to their reproductive rights:

6.7. The objectives are:

- (a) To promote to the fullest extent the health, well-being and potential of all children, adolescents and youth as representing the world's future human resources, in line with the commitments made in this respect at the World Summit for Children and in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- (b) To meet the special needs of adolescents and youth, especially young women, with due regard for their own creative capabilities, for social, family and community support, employment opportunities, participation in the political process, and access to education, health, counselling and high-quality reproductive health services;
- (c) To encourage children, adolescents and youth, particularly young women, to continue their education in order to equip them for a better life, to increase their human potential, to help prevent early marriages and high-risk child-bearing and to reduce associated mortality and morbidity.

Summary of the
**DRAFT REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

New York, 28-29 May 2013

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of meeting

1. The twenty-seventh session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 28 to 29 May 2013.

Election of Presiding Officers

2. The Presiding Officers of the twenty-seventh session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC was constituted as follows:

Chair:	El Salvador
Vice-Chairs:	Brazil, Guyana and Peru
Rapporteur:	Chile

B. AGENDA

3. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Economic and social overview of Latin America and the Caribbean and outlook for 2013.
3. Strategic focus of ECLAC and impact on the programme of work 2014-2015.
4. Report on the activities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, 2012- 2013.
5. Presentation of the document *Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Follow-up to the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and to Rio+20*.
6. Other matters.

No agreements or resolutions were adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Committee of the Whole.

Summary of the

**REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE
OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE¹**

Georgetown, Guyana, 11 July 2013

¹ LC/CAR/L.417, 15 October 2013.

Place and date

1. The sixteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC took place in Georgetown, Guyana on 11 July 2013.

Officers

2. In accordance with the elections at the twenty-fourth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, the officers of the Monitoring Committee were as follows:

Chairperson: Guyana

Vice-Chairpersons: Antigua and Barbuda
Jamaica
Trinidad and Tobago

Rapporteur: Saint Kitts and Nevis

3. The meeting adopted the agenda of the meeting (document Moncom/16/1).
 1. Opening of the meeting;
 2. Adoption of the agenda;
 3. Consideration of the road map on population, migration and development for the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean;
 4. Consideration of the outcome of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States;
 5. Medium-term challenges and the shaping of a post-2015 development agenda in the Caribbean;
 6. Report of progress in implementation of the 2012-2013 programme of work for the Caribbean;
 7. Strategic engagement with associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
 8. Date and venue of the twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee;
 9. Other matters;
 10. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) adopted by acclamation the conclusions and recommendations below, which are based on the statement made by Saint Kitts and Nevis as Rapporteur of the meeting, appended ad verbatim as annex IV of this report.
2. The Monitoring Committee considered the Road Map on Population, Migration and Development for the further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean, which will inform preparations for the regional meeting on population and development. National action plans and the creation of a regional initiative were promoted as important to the subregion for addressing gender imbalances, data needs and reinforcement of decent work, and working with youth. The Committee adopted the recommendations of the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development.
3. The Monitoring Committee also considered the outcome of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Committee concluded that the implementation framework should be strengthened in the areas of financial resources, financing for development, multilateral environmental agreements, statistics and data gathering, sustainable agriculture and rural development, and the institutional frameworks within the United Nations system.
4. Within the context of medium-term challenges and the shaping of a post-2015 agenda in the Caribbean, the Monitoring Committee took note of the Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR) as a forum to promote policies for growth in the Caribbean subregion. The Committee considered the desirability of a geographic strategy focused on identifying and leveraging areas of competitive and comparative advantage. The Committee agreed that South-South and SIDS-SIDS cooperation should be promoted, particularly in seeking new markets. The Monitoring Committee also endorsed the recommendation that the impact of migration be underscored within the context of population dynamics in the Caribbean.
5. The Committee took note of other development challenges facing the Caribbean subregion. In that regard, the Committee called for the HIV agenda to remain prominent in the development landscape. The Monitoring Committee also agreed that it would be useful to move towards a knowledge-based economy that promotes an agenda that includes climate change and the use of solar energy, youth and ageing, and the use of the resources of the Caribbean Sea.
6. Taking into consideration the role of economic growth for development and social support, the Monitoring Committee agreed that more fiscal space can be created with financial assistance from the international donor community. The Committee also agreed that within the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), some countries still needed special treatment in order to improve their economic performance.
7. The Monitoring Committee was informed of the progress made on the implementation of the 2012-2013 biennium programme of work and of the substantial and useful work being carried out by both the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and the wider Commission, in support of the development of the subregion.

8. The Monitoring Committee took note that in accordance with the established practice of rotation by country in English alphabetical order, Haiti is the next in line for the Chairmanship of the CDCC. However, given that Haiti had yet to confirm its intention to assume the position, the secretariat would continue its consultations with a view to finalizing the date and venue for the twenty-fifth session of the CDCC.

9. The Monitoring Committee concluded that the region continues to face many challenges, and that collaboration on finding solutions was essential. The meeting reiterated that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) remained an integral partner in this search for solutions.

Summary of the

**REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR
PLANNING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE
FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING (ILPES)¹**

Brasilia, 22 November 2013

¹ LC/L.3782, 21 February 2014.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The fourteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) was held on 22 November 2013 in Brasilia.

2. The Presiding Officers, as elected at the thirteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning in 2007, were as follows:

Chair: Brazil

Members: Colombia (first Vice-Chair)
Chile
Cuba
Dominican Republic (second Vice-Chair)
Guatemala
Paraguay
Spain
Trinidad and Tobago

Rapporteur: Uruguay

B. AGENDA

3. The Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the fourteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning.
2. Report on the activities carried out by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) since the thirteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning.
3. Review of the medium-term strategic proposal for ILPES cooperation with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Contributions to the reflection on the activities of ILPES.
5. Consideration and adoption of resolutions.
6. Election of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of ILPES for the period 2014-2017.

Annex 1

RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION CRP/XIV/01**

The Regional Council for Planning,

Recalling resolution CRP/XIII/01, adopted by the Regional Council for Planning at its thirteenth meeting (Brasilia, 2007), on the activities of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), in which it endorsed the programme of work 2008-2010,

Bearing in mind resolution 635(XXXII) adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-second session, in which the Commission endorsed the programme of work of ILPES for the 2010-2011 biennium,

Bearing in mind also resolution 648(XXXIII) adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-third session, in which the Commission endorsed the programme of work of ILPES for the 2012-2013 biennium,

Bearing in mind further resolution 671(XXXIV) adopted by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session, in which it commended the work of the Institute, requested the Chief of the Institute to engage in a process of dialogue with a view to identifying national, subregional and regional priorities in the area of development planning, and decided to convene the fourteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning during the second half of 2013,

Having examined, at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning, the regional priorities with respect to development planning on the basis of the documents prepared by ILPES, in particular the summary of the public administration overview entitled *Panorama de Gestión Pública 2013*² and the summary of the report *Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Back to the Future*,³ which sets forth the conclusions of the Ministerial Planning Dialogues,

1. *Endorses* the report on the activities of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), 2008-2013;⁴

2. *Underscores* that development planning is undergoing a renaissance in Latin America and the Caribbean and emphasizes the importance of coordination, evaluation and prospective analysis in driving structural change for equality;

3. *Acknowledges* the importance of development planning as a tool for carrying forward the post-2015 development agenda and, in this regard, requests the Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning to promote applied research, technical cooperation, advisory services and

² DDR/2.

³ DDR/1.

⁴ (LC/L.3688(CRP.14/3)).

training in subjects related to the regional dimension of development, public and private investment, infrastructure, prospective analysis and the role of the State in the various spheres of development;

4. *Takes note of* the medium-term strategic proposal for the Institute's cooperation with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which includes:

- (a) The creation of a repository of development plans, for the purpose of: (i) serving as a forum for planning agencies; (ii) promoting the exchange of development experiences, plans, programmes and projects, legislation and planning organization; (iii) utilizing available ICT tools to enable greater sharing of resources and experiences; (iv) analysing, on an ongoing basis, the progress of planning in the region and the obstacles it faces; (v) promoting joint programming efforts at the level of the region and subregions, as well as among groups of countries, to strengthen the Latin American and Caribbean integration process; (vi) identifying joint actions for inclusion in national development plans and programmes; (vii) promoting exchanges of technical staff between planning bodies; and (viii) promoting the exchange of information and joint actions;
- (b) The promotion of a new culture of integration by strengthening the regional perspective in development planning and public administration;
- (c) Capacity-building for strengthening planning;
- (d) Extending the Institute's training activities to other key development stakeholders, such as the workforce and the trade unions;
- (e) Improved focus and cooperation with the countries of the Caribbean subregion.

5. *Expresses* its conviction that State policies should be guided by long-term aims and devote increasing attention to building visions of the future, centred on reducing inequalities in all their dimensions;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of multilevel government coordination and requests the Chief of ILPES to facilitate the creation and promotion of intergovernmental cooperation networks and the exchange of these experiences between countries of the region;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of training for strengthening public administration and planning in Latin America and the Caribbean and welcomes with gratitude the courses offered by the Institute for 2014-2015;

8. *Underlines* the importance of the Institute's collaboration with other regional and subregional planning networks, such as the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Development Planning (REDEPLAN) and the Council of Planning Ministers of the countries of the Central American Integration System (CONPLAN-SICA), so as to capitalize on the synergies achieved by working together;

9. *Thanks* the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its various divisions, national offices and subregional headquarters for the support provided to the Institute in carrying out its programme of activities.

RESOLUTION CRP/XIV/02

The Regional Council for Planning,

Recalling resolution CRP/XIII/02, adopted by the Regional Council for Planning at its thirteenth meeting (Brasilia, 2007), in which it reiterated that the Regular System of Government Financing was crucial for the Institute's continuing operation as an institution,

Recalling also resolution 671(XXXIV) adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fourth session, in which the Commission reiterated its recognition to the Governments of the States members of the Regional Council for Planning and its Presiding Officers for the valuable support they provided to the Institute in terms of both guidance and regular financing,

Having examined the document Inputs for reflection on the activities of ILPES: Background on financing and resource management. Note by the secretariat,⁵ which offers a very useful perspective for the discussion on the Institute's financial resources,

1. *Reiterates* that the Regular System of Government Financing is crucial for the Institute's continuing operation as an institution;

2. *Expresses* its gratitude to those Governments that pay their contributions to the Institute on a regular and timely basis;

3. *Recommends* that a working group be created in the framework of the Regional Council for Planning to analyse the system of financing of the Institute and propose concrete measures to modernize the Regular System of Government Financing, to be submitted for the consideration of the member countries at the next meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Council, which will be held in 2014;

4. *Urges* member States, meanwhile, to bring up to date and maintain their contributions to the Institute;

5. *Entrusts* the Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning with the task of obtaining financing for new projects to be conducted by the Institute at the request of interested countries.

⁵ (LC/L.3693(CRP.14/5)).

RESOLUTION CRP/XIV/03

The Regional Council for Planning,

Recalling resolution CRP/XIII/03, adopted by the Regional Council for Planning at its thirteenth meeting (Brasilia, 2007), in which it expressed its satisfaction on the election of Presiding Officers to serve on the Regional Council for Planning for the period 2007-2010,

Expressing its disappointment that the Presiding Officers have not met regularly in the period 2007-2010,

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* on the election of the Presiding Officers from the following member States to serve on the Regional Council for Planning for the period 2014-2017, and instructs the Institute to hold regular meetings of the Presiding Officers: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador (Co-Chair), Guatemala (Co-Chair), Jamaica, Paraguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Trinidad and Tobago;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Brazil for the excellent organization of the meeting and for the hospitality extended to delegations;

3. *Convenes* the new Presiding Officers of the Council to a meeting in the city of Guatemala during the first half of 2014;

4. *Decides* that the fourteenth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean and the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Institute will be held in Quito, on 23 and 24 November 2015.

Summary of the
**REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION¹**

Lima, 27 November 2012

¹ LC/L.3573, 13 February 2013.

Place and date of meeting

1. The first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Lima on 27 November 2012.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries, which had been appointed to serve as Presiding Officers: Brazil, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Peru and Uruguay.

Chair and Rapporteur

3. The countries listed below had been elected at the thirty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), held in San Salvador in August 2012, to serve as Presiding Officers of the Committee:

Chair: El Salvador

Vice-Chairs: Barbados
Brazil
Chile
Cuba
Peru

Rapporteur: Uruguay

AGENDA

4. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Follow-up to resolution 675(XXXIV), adopted at the thirty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
 3. Adoption of agreements.
 4. Other matters.

AGREEMENTS ADOPTED

5. At their meeting in Lima on 27 November 2012, the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation adopted the following agreements:

1. *To request* the secretariat of the Commission to send to the member countries of the Committee on South-South Cooperation a letter including a copy of its resolution 675(XXXIV), adopted at its thirty-fourth session, and reiterating the Commission's willingness to conduct national studies on structural gaps in those countries that may require it;
2. *To request* the secretariat to prepare a report including a time, cost and methodological analysis of measurement of structural gaps for presentation at the next meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation;
3. *To request* the secretariat to present at the next meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation a proposal for a general quantitative and qualitative assessment of South South-cooperation, based on the activities listed in the Ibero-American Secretariat's *Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America 2012*, encompassing the Latin American countries and including data on the Caribbean, the outcome of which should be an indication of the economic value of all the activities reported on in the above-mentioned document; to note that Uruguay will take the initiative of resuming discussion on the generation of statistics under the Ibero-American Programme to Strengthen South-South cooperation;
4. *To request* the Government of Uruguay to prepare and distribute by the end of the year a schedule of international activities for 2013 including provision for discussions on South-South cooperation within the framework of Ibero-American activities;
5. *To request* the Government of Chile, in its capacity as Chair pro tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and with support from the Government of Cuba (in its capacity as the incoming Chair pro tempore), to send notes-verbales to Latin American and Caribbean regional and subregional integration mechanisms and organizations,¹ as well as to the organizations within the United Nations system, inviting them to advise the Commission of the activities or meetings on South-South cooperation scheduled for 2013; to ask the Commission to incorporate the information sent in by the countries in a calendar that can be used as a tool for coordinating the participation of those responsible for cooperation in these forums;

¹ The following list of institutions has been compiled in accordance with a decision by CELAC: The Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), Pacific Alliance, Andean Community (CAN), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), Central American Integration System (SICA), Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), Development Bank of Latin America of the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), Latin American Economic System (SELA) and Meso-American Integration and Development Project (Meso-America Project).

6. *To request* the Government of Uruguay, with support from the other countries, to promote inclusion of a chapter on gender within the *Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America 2012* within the Ibero-American Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation;
7. *To request* the Commission to report to the next meeting of the Presiding Officers on the advances in implementing paragraph 5 of resolution 675(XXXIV) on South-South cooperation within the context of the Quito Consensus;
8. *To hold* the next meeting of the Presiding Officers during the first half of 2013 at a place and on a date to be decided.

Summary of the
**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**¹⁹

San Salvador, 1 June 2013

¹⁹ LC/L.3657, 1 August 2013.

Place and date of the meeting

1. The second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in San Salvador on 1 June 2013.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries, which had been appointed to serve as Presiding Officers: Brazil, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Peru and Uruguay.

Chair and Rapporteur

3. The countries listed below had been elected at the thirty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), to serve as Presiding Officers of the Committee:

Chair: El Salvador

Vice-Chairs: Barbados
Brazil
Chile
Cuba
Peru

Rapporteur: Uruguay

AGENDA

4. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Follow-up to the agreements adopted at the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation.
 3. Adoption of agreements.
 4. Other matters.

AGREEMENTS ADOPTED

5. At their meeting in San Salvador on 1 June 2013, the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation adopted the following agreements:

1. *To request* the secretariat of the Commission to send to the member countries of the Committee on South-South Cooperation a technical note on the methodology for calculating structural gaps and its schedule for working with the countries in the period 2013-2014;
2. *To request* the secretariat of the Commission to submit a technical note to the members of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, on the basis of the information available, on the feasibility of constructing indicators on South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean;
3. *To request* El Salvador, as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, to discuss with the Chair pro tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) the possibility of presenting the technical note referred to in agreement 2 at the first meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation of CELAC, to be held in September 2013 in Buenos Aires;
4. *To request* Uruguay, with support from El Salvador, to draw up and distribute during the month of June 2013 a schedule of international activities for the period 2013-2014 addressing the subject of South-South cooperation, within the framework of Ibero-American activities;
5. *To request* Cuba, as Chair pro tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), to send notes to the regional and subregional integration mechanisms and bodies in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as to the agencies of the United Nations system, requesting them to report on the activities or meetings they have planned in relation to South-South cooperation in 2013 and 2014;
6. *To request* Uruguay to report to the Presiding Officers in June 2013 on whether *the Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America*, prepared under the Ibero-American Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation, will contain a chapter on gender;
7. *To request* the secretariat of the Commission to prepare a road map on South-South cooperation in relation to gender and present it for discussion at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Santo Domingo from 14 to 18 October 2013;
8. *To review*, at the third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, to be held in the framework of the first meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), scheduled for September 2013 in Buenos Aires, the fulfilment of these mandates and to agree on the agenda for the meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation to be held within the framework of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, to be held in Lima in April 2014.

Summary of the
**REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION¹**

Buenos Aires, 13 September 2013

¹ LC/L.3772, 30 January 2014.

Place and date of the meeting

1. The third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Buenos Aires on 13 September 2013.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries, which had been appointed to serve as Presiding Officers: Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Peru and Uruguay.

Chair and Rapporteur

3. At the thirty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the countries listed below had been elected to serve as Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean:

Chair: El Salvador

Vice-Chairs: Barbados
Brazil
Chile
Cuba
Peru

Rapporteur: Uruguay

AGENDA

4. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Follow-up to the agreements adopted at the second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation.
3. Adoption of agreements.
4. Other matters.

AGREEMENTS ADOPTED

At their meeting in Buenos Aires on 13 September 2013, the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation agreed as follows:

1. *To request* that El Salvador, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, steer the work of the Presiding Officers with due account of the outcome of the first meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in September 2013, in Buenos Aires;
2. *To request* that El Salvador, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation disseminate the invitation to the Seminar/workshop on a methodology for calculating structural gaps, to be held on Monday, 30 September 2013, at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago;
3. *To request* that the secretariat of the Commission include an item on the agenda of the Seminar/workshop on a methodology for calculating structural gaps concerning work with the countries to identify bilateral South-South cooperation programmes available for the individual studies needed to set a methodology for designing indicators of South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean;
4. *To request* that the secretariat of the Commission hold a meeting of the Presiding Officers by videoconference between October 2013 and January 2014 to report on progress in scheduling work on calculating structural gaps and establishing indicators of South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean;
5. *To request* that the secretariat of the Commission report, at the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, on the outcome of discussions on the road map on South-South cooperation in relation to gender, presented at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Santo Domingo from 14 to 18 October 2013;
6. *To review*, at the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation—to be held in the framework of the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Havana in January 2014—compliance with these undertakings and to agree on the agenda of the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers, to be held in Lima in May 2014 in the framework of the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

Summary of the
**REPORT OF THE FOURTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE INFORMATION
SOCIETY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN¹**

Montevideo, 3-5 April 2013

¹ LC/L.3667, 21 August 2013.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Place and date of the meeting

1. The fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 3 to 5 April 2013, was convened by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), pursuant to the Lima Declaration, adopted at the third Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean held in 2010.

Election of officers and adoption of the agenda

2. The fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean was chaired by Uruguay.

3. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Presentation and review of the document on digital economy for structural change and equality.
4. Other matters.
5. Consideration and adoption of the Montevideo Declaration.

Consideration and adoption of the Montevideo Declaration (agenda item 5)

Annex I

MONTEVIDEO DECLARATION

We, the representatives of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean meeting in the city of Montevideo from 3 to 5 April 2013 at the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reiterating the principles and objectives agreed upon during the first and second phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in December 2003 and in Tunis in November 2005, with a view to channelling the potential of information and communications technologies to promote the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the Bávaro Declaration adopted in the Dominican Republic in January 2003, the Rio de Janeiro Commitment and Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2007) adopted in Brazil in June 2005, the San Salvador Commitment and Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2010) adopted in San Salvador in February 2008, and the Lima Declaration and the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) adopted in Lima in November 2010,

Recognizing that the global objectives of the Geneva Plan of Action are to be met by 2015 and that implementation of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) represents an important contribution to the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming our common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society based on human rights and on the principles of peace, solidarity, inclusion, freedom, democracy, sustainable development and cooperation,

Renewing our commitment to involve civil society, the private sector and the scientific and technical communities in an open, participatory and multisectoral dialogue in accordance with the principles laid down at the World Summit on the Information Society,

Mindful that, pursuant to resolution 60/252, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to conduct an overall review in 2015 of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Mindful also that 2013 marks a major milestone in the follow-up to and evaluation of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), and thus to reviewing the progress made towards meeting the targets of the World Summit on the Information Society for 2015,

Mindful further that information and communications technologies are a useful tool for promoting human development, social inclusion and economic growth,

Recognizing the important contribution that information and communications technologies can make to improving the coverage and quality of social services in connection with education, health and safety, and to promoting respect for gender equity, diversity and fundamental rights in the digital environment,

Emphasizing the importance of fast-tracking growth of the digital economy as the key to changing production patterns, generating quality employment, creating value added at the local level and enhancing the region's competitiveness and integration into global markets, and the need for further policies on structural change that foster more knowledge- and innovation-intensive production activities and that promote sustainable growth with social equality,

Recognizing that the use of information and communications technologies can contribute to the protection of the environment, efforts to combat climate change, the sustainable use of natural resources and the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters,

Stressing the importance of regional participation in the various forums for discussion on Internet governance, with a view to fostering the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet as a fundamental part of the infrastructure of the information society,

Aware that requests have been submitted to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to register the generic top-level domain (gTLD) names “.amazon” and “.patagonia” in several languages,

Recognizing that, with a view to defending sovereignty and human rights, it is necessary to protect the present and future rights of the countries and peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean in the information society and to prevent circumstances from arising that would limit their opportunities for legitimate advancement and development in the digital environment,

Recognizing also the positive trends and opportunities arising from technological convergence and global connectivity, and in particular the development of high-speed networks, the use of cloud computing, big data analytics, open government and the development of digital content and applications,

Recognizing further that several countries in the region face conditions and limitations which place them on an unequal footing in relation to the pursuit of development and the enjoyment of the benefits of the information society,

Renewing our commitment to design and implement policies and regulation on the information society which are based on respect for and compliance with the Declaration of Human Rights,

Declare

Our commitment to continue making progress towards meeting the goals identified in the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) and carrying out the activities of the various working groups,

Our firm determination to enhance regional collaboration on the information society, undertaking joint efforts to highlight the progress made in Latin America and the Caribbean in the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes and to participate actively and in a coordinated manner in the discussions that will guide the agenda beyond 2015,

Our resolve to reject any unilateral measure at variance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the countries of the region and runs contrary to the well-being of its citizens,

Our commitment to promote access to telecommunications services by means of initiatives that help to expand infrastructure, reduce the costs and improve the quality of service access, promote international connectivity, and encourage the efficient use of networks,

Our determination to promote research, technological development and innovation in information and communications technologies, as the basis for the information and knowledge society.

We resolve to

1. *Adopt* the plan of work 2013-2015 to enhance progress towards the commitments established in the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015);

2. *Endorse* the new composition of the eLAC2015 follow-up mechanism;

3. *Work* to find financial mechanisms to support all stakeholders in the region in the forging of synergies for the activities envisaged in the plan of work 2013-2015 for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015);

4. *Continue* to strengthen existing cooperation with stakeholders outside the region and seek out new opportunities for collaboration;

5. *Recognize* the work of governmental and non-governmental entities and agencies in the region, invite them to play an active part in the implementation of Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), and request the technical secretariat to coordinate with these stakeholders in order to avoid the duplication of efforts, maximize resources and pool experience;

6. *Reaffirm* the commitment of the countries of the region with respect to the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes (WSIS+10), scheduled for review at high-level meetings in 2014 and 2015, at which the future agenda will also be defined;

7. *Strengthen* the coordination of the countries of the region and other relevant stakeholders and their participation in forums on Internet governance;

8. *Recognize* the work carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in its role as technical secretariat of eLAC and the vital importance of those efforts for the continuity of the process;

9. *Recognize also* the importance of the support provided by the European Commission to eLAC since its inception, foster the consolidation of achievements and the operation of successful regional organizations, including the Latin American Telecommunications Regulators Forum (REGULATEL) and RedCLARA, and invite the European Commission to continue cooperating at the policy and strategic levels, given that emerging trends raise common challenges on which cooperation would benefit both regions;

10. *Reject* any attempt to appropriate, without the consent of the respective countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, the denominations “amazon” and “patagonia” in any language, or any other generic top-level domain (gTLD) names referring to geographical areas or historical, cultural or natural features, which should be preserved as part of the heritage and cultural identity of the countries of the region;

11. *Express our gratitude* to the people and the Government of Uruguay for the outstanding organization of the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean;

12. *Thank* the Governments of Costa Rica and Mexico for their kind offer to provide continuity to the eLAC process by hosting the forthcoming ministerial meetings on the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2014 and 2015, respectively, and accept with gratitude.

Annex II

**PLAN OF WORK 2013-2015 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION
FOR THE INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN (eLAC2015)**

I. INTRODUCTION

The third Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held from 21 to 23 November 2010, culminated with the adoption of the Lima Declaration, which initiated the third phase of the Plan of Action on the Information and Knowledge Society for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015).

eLAC2015 was developed by means of a participatory process with a public consultation involving stakeholders from the public, private and academic sectors and civil society. The Plan identifies 6 priorities, 10 lines of action and 26 goals for 2010-2015. It also outlines eight key areas for the development of the information and knowledge society in the region: (i) access, (ii) e-government, (iii) the environment, (iv) social security, (v) production development and innovation, (vi) enabling environment, (vii) education, and (viii) institutional structure for a policy of State.

Fourteen working groups were also created in the following areas: access and infrastructure; e-governance and interoperability; technological waste; ICT, health and social security; innovation and appropriation of ICTs by microenterprises and SMEs; digital contents; software and information technology services; telework; legal framework for the information and knowledge society, e-business, Internet governance, gender, financing, and digital development for education.

The eLAC2015 follow-up mechanism has three levels of coordination and cooperation: the ministerial follow-up conference, the Presiding Officers and national focal points. Three observers will be invited to participate in meetings of the Presiding Officers as representatives of civil society, the private sector and the region's community of Internet experts, respectively. In 2010, the Presiding Officers comprised representatives of Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

eLAC2015 has successfully brought the governments of the region together in a political commitment to prioritize the universalization of broadband, achieve a transactional and participatory e-government, use information and communication technology (ICT) to ensure access, security and continuity of health care for users of health services, achieve access to ICT for all microenterprises and SMEs, promote the use of ICT for regional integration and provide universal access to ICTs for education and expand their use in this field.

The discussions which took place at the Preparatory Meeting for the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito in October 2012, confirmed the validity and relevance of the goals set out in the Plan of Action, as well as the importance of continuing the activities of the various working groups. They also highlighted the advisability of identifying the main political and institutional challenges for 2013-2015. Accordingly, this document, which was prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in its capacity as technical secretariat of eLAC2015, proposes the thematic areas upon which efforts should be focused under the Plan of Action to 2015 and sets forth a plan of work appropriate for tackling these challenges. It goes on to

identify a set of emerging issues and describe the challenges relating to the sustainability of eLAC2015 activities. Lastly, it reviews the activities conducted in 2010-2012 (see annex 1) and specifies the renewed composition of the follow-up mechanism (see annex 2).

II. CHALLENGES FOR 2013-2015

In view of the institutional challenges facing eLAC2015 in the context of the political discussions and dialogue approaching in the region and worldwide, and given the need to advance the roll-out of the digital economy in order to promote the development of inclusive and innovative information societies in Latin America and the Caribbean, there follows an outline of the priorities that should guide the activities of the regional platform for 2013-2015, strengthening the lines of action set forth in the existing plan of action.

A. INTEGRATING THE REGION INTO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY REVIEW PROCESS (WSIS+10)

eLAC arose as the region's response to the WSIS process and as a shared vision in the approach to 2015. It therefore represented ratification in the region of the principles agreed upon at the Summit and in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Pursuant to resolution 60/252, the United Nations General Assembly decided to conduct an overall review of the implementation of the Summit outcomes in 2015. As part of this process, in April 2012, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination held an open consultation process on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes (WSIS+10) prior to a high-level meeting in 2014, during which a review of WSIS will be carried out and the agenda beyond 2015 will be laid down.

The region must be actively involved in this process, for two reasons. First, to evaluate progress towards the WSIS objectives and thereby clearly establish how much headway has been made and, second, to develop a regional perspective on the prospects and future challenges of the information society.

B. ENCOURAGING DEBATE ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The Plan of Action recognizes the importance of Internet governance in the implementation of policies that facilitate the development on the information society at the international level, and states that it "must be multilateral, transparent, democratic and development-oriented with Governments participating fully on an equal footing. It must also engage the private sector, civil society, the community of Internet experts and international organizations. Net neutrality must be promoted, and discussions fostered at the relevant regional and subregional levels" (eLAC2015, F.2). This is in line with the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), in which Internet governance is considered a core issue of the information society agenda (Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, 2005, paragraph 29).

The full, coordinated and effective participation of developing countries, particularly those in the region, in institutional bodies and discussions on Internet governance is crucial for defending and guaranteeing the above-mentioned principles in regional and international forums. Yet, the region's governments have participated little in such deliberations to date. The challenge, then, is to promote greater participation in and coordination with forums on Internet governance by Latin American and

Caribbean governments, through capacity-building and the construction of appropriate analytical frameworks, as well as convergence with civil society organizations, the private sector and the technical community involved in these discussions.

C. FAST-TRACKING GROWTH OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY: ICTS FOR PRODUCTION CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Over the past 10 years, most of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean experienced their fastest growth period since the 1960s, outpacing both the global average and the advanced economies. Not only was major headway made in reducing unemployment, poverty and indigence, but also for the first time in several decades, the countries achieved positive results in terms of income distribution.

However, during that same period, some of the problems which had dogged the region's production structure for decades —such as natural-resource-intensive production and exports— worsened. The production structure also remains highly heterogeneous, with large productivity gaps between sectors and business segments. Employment is largely concentrated at the lowest level of productivity and therefore contributes little to economic growth (low-productivity sectors in the region represent 10.6% of GDP, but 50.2% of employment). As a result, labour productivity in the region has been virtually stagnant for more than 30 years.²

The region must therefore tackle the challenge of devising structural reform policies capable of redefining its economies' pattern of specialization —and consequently their position in the world economy— and their pattern of job creation. What is at stake is the ability of the region's societies to sustain high growth in production activity and employment, particularly quality employment.

In light of these considerations, it is necessary, among other things, to restructure industrial development and innovation policies to place particular emphasis on generating and embedding knowledge in production activities, creating higher value added, increasing skilled labour and training human resources. Structural change is driven by innovation based on new technologies and knowledge generation. The diffusion and incorporation of ICTs into the production sector and the development of ICT products and services sectors are essential to this effort.

The effective development of the digital economy is now crucial for production change, competitiveness and social and digital inclusion. A radical shift has occurred in the world's production, trade and consumption habits over the past few years. The growing use and production of digital applications and content by individuals and businesses, in addition to the increasing use of ICTs in different production and management processes, the rise in e-business as a channel for transactions between economic stakeholders and the emergence of new sectors associated with the production and delivery of these services, completely alter the organizational pattern and dynamic of the business fabric and can underpin large productivity rises.

However, in the region, policies geared towards redressing the digital economy's underdevelopment are very unambitious, where they exist at all. Industrial and innovation policies are, on the whole, weak and not particularly aimed at modernizing ICTs in the production sectors or coordinated with specific efforts to do so.

² See ECLAC, “Structural heterogeneity, labour market segmentation and social inequality”, *Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development* (LC/G.2524 (SES34/3)), Santiago, Chile, 2012.

Although these issues are present in the stated goals of the Plan of Action and the composition of the relevant working groups, the activities associated with them have not yet received due attention. The challenge is therefore to focus particularly on eLAC2015 activities which are linked to these issues, for example, by developing policies which promote the ICT sector (promoting the software and digital content industry and training of human resources) and increasing the incorporation of ICTs into users' sectors (digitalization of production, trade, services, management and logistical processes).

D. STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE ROLL-OUT

The roll-out of infrastructure in the region poses a tremendous challenge, given the need to close the connectivity divide and bearing in mind the rapid growth in Internet users, the growing demand for data, the falling costs of access devices and convergence in services. Regional coordination mechanisms should therefore be strengthened in an effort to afford equitable and appropriate access to ICTs, in the interests of human and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Steps must also be taken to increase the roll-out, interoperability and interconnection of networks within the region and between the region and the rest of the world, promoting greater local traffic and local storage of international content and expanding crucial infrastructure and the development of content and interactive and interoperable applications.

In view of the imminent increase in data traffic, it is essential to create the conditions to coordinate regional harmonization of the radio-electric spectrum, bearing in mind that mobile networks will dominate access to ICT services.

The massive roll-out of Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) is yet another significant challenge in the short term for promoting the sustainable deployment of infrastructure. Countries can contribute significantly to this objective by promoting the adoption of IPv6 at the State level and coordinating with technical organizations and the private sector.

Another area of effort within the framework of eLAC2015 is to coordinate work by the region's countries and stakeholders on issues of network security and stability.

Lastly, work is needed to ensure the sustainability, development and use of academic and scientific networks in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to enhancing cooperation on education and research.

III. PLAN OF WORK FOR 2013-2015

A cross-cutting plan, in addition to the actions already undertaken by the working groups, is needed to address the lines of action and existing challenges in the framework of eLAC2015. Accordingly, the following plan of work is proposed, defining the urgent, priority objectives and activities for 2013-2015. The group of countries that commit to this plan will be responsible for implementing the activities described below.

- (i) Promote opportunities for exchanging experiences and political dialogue on the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean (led by Mexico and Costa Rica).
 - Hold ministerial follow-up conferences and preparatory meetings.
 - Monitor the development of the information and knowledge society in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- (ii) Ensure the region is involved in the World Summit on the Information Society review process (WSIS+10) (led by Uruguay).
 - Ensure eLAC2015 is represented at the WSIS Forum.
 - Disseminate and implement WSIS+10 process inventory and self-evaluation mechanisms (preparation of national reports).
 - Ensure eLAC2015 is represented at the high-level meeting on WSIS.
- (iii) Increase and coordinate the participation of Latin America and the Caribbean in regional and international debates on Internet governance (led by Brazil, with the collaboration of the Association for the Progress of Communications (APC)).
 - Ensure participation in all multilateral forums, international organizations, forums and opportunities for discussion on Internet governance, especially the Commission on Science and Technology for Development of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
 - Ensure participation in the organizing committee of the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum and in the Internet Governance Forum.
 - Ensure participation in meetings of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).
- (iv) Fast-track the expansion of the digital economy: ICTs for production change and sustainable development (led by ECLAC, with the collaboration of Peru).

Conduct comparative analyses on technical and regulatory matters and leverage capacity-building and exchange of experiences to strengthen policies on:

 - Fostering the development of the ICT sector (for example, by promoting the software and digital content industry, training human resources).
 - Encouraging the introduction of ICTs into users' sectors (digitalization of production, trade, logistics, services and management processes).
 - Encouraging cross-border e-business (training SMEs and creating a master plan to strengthen the regional e-business ecosystem).
 - Facilitating the creation of more and better opportunities for decent work through telework and by taking advantage of the impact of ICTs on employment.
- (v) Increase investment in and the roll-out of connectivity infrastructure that will help to narrow intraregional and interregional gaps and to lower access costs and improve service quality (led by the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC)).

- Generate multisectoral forums —complementing existing regional initiatives— to exchange experiences with a view to analysing the situational factors that drive up the costs of rolling out infrastructure or that discourage investment; and to propose solutions and promote the construction of telecommunications infrastructure to connect the region with the rest of the world through several a variety of competing channels.
- Encourage efficiency and transparency in the allocation and use of the electromagnetic spectrum as an essential condition for the development of telecommunication services and for leveraging their social and economic impact, within a multisectoral setting.
- Promote the efficient use of telecommunications infrastructure with due consideration for rights of way and land use.
- Create an attractive environment and incentives for internet exchange points (IXP) and content providers in the region, as well as for the establishment of regional content providers and the deployment of root server copies.
- Accelerate the adoption of IPv6 and set up forums for dialogue with operators on deploying IPv6 in services, applications, and networks.

IV. RELEVANT AND EMERGING ISSUES

Efforts carried out under eLAC2015 have contributed to the progress observed with regard to the information society in the region. These advances are reflected in, among other things, the level of mobile telephony coverage, Internet access, investment in broadband infrastructure, rising mobile broadband penetration, ICT programmes for education and e-government policies. However, ICTs are evolving constantly and throwing up new challenges in terms of penetration. Accordingly, a set of emerging issues which are deemed important for digital development in the region, and which should therefore inspire regional cooperation initiatives in the framework of eLAC2015, are set forth below.

- Promoting action to raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities associated with the use of new technologies.
- Promoting action to ensure the exercise of human rights in the digital environment.
- Promoting policies on open government data as part of e-government initiatives.
- Encouraging the use of new technologies for public security.
- Recognizing that digital television represents an opportunity for the information society because it increases efficiency, interactivity and technological convergence.
- Taking steps to mainstream the gender perspective across all policies designed to close the digital divide and promote the generation of statistics and information on the gender gap and the differentiated impacts of ICTs.
- Encouraging the use of ICTs to contribute to environmental protection, efforts to combat climate change, the sustainable use of natural resources and the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters.

- Promoting dialogue and the adoption of regional measures with a view to improving the transparency, quality and costs of cross-border and international roaming services in order to benefit users.
- Enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity and protection of critical infrastructure in order to ensure sustainability and user protection.
- Promote ICT mainstreaming in education as a tool for achieving inclusion and improving quality, encouraging the development of public policies in the region and experience-sharing in this connection.
- Promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the ICT ecosystem.
- Fostering universal digital literacy, affording priority to rural and vulnerable areas.
- Strengthening initiatives on mainstreaming ICTs in the health sector.

V. SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES

The technical secretariat of the Plan of Action has supported most of the institutional activities until now through the ECLAC@LIS2 project, with increasing assistance from the countries, particularly in terms of working group activities. With the conclusion of the project in 2013, it is necessary to ensure the sustainability of activities, not only those relating to the platform and follow-up mechanism, but also the cross-sectoral and priority initiatives which arise in this document.

Although ECLAC will continue to act as technical secretariat (see annex 2), it is proposed that the countries provide broader support for the activities of the Plan of Action, as outlined below:

- The member countries and organizations must finance their own participation in all activities, meetings and conferences organized within the eLAC2015 framework.
- The forthcoming preparatory meeting and ministerial conference should be financed by the host countries.
- The chairs of the working groups should ensure financing for the activities set forth in their plans of work with the support, where possible, of the member countries and organizations.
- The countries should ensure that the projects and activities included in the plan of work are carried out. Such projects and activities should be financed by the countries interested in leading them and, where possible, with the support of other organizations or international cooperation.
- The countries should contribute, to the extent possible, to financing for eLAC2015 activities.
- The countries should make efforts to involve regional financing mechanisms in the promotion of eLAC2015.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

eLAC2015 has proven to be a successful, multisectoral platform for political dialogue and cooperation between the various countries, by promoting the exchange of experiences, capacity-building, the production of statistics, the preparation of analysis documents and the creation of opportunities for debate and discussion on ICT policies in the region.

eLAC2010 identified education as a priority and eLAC2015 focused efforts on the massification of broadband. Setting aside the varying degrees of progress made in these two areas at the national level, both are firmly on the public agenda of the region's countries and no government today is unaware of the need to advance in this direction. It is also widely recognized that national strategies must be prepared to promote the information society.

The progress outlined represents an incentive to improve and expand policies which leverage the deployment of ICTs at the national and regional levels. However, this progress must not be allowed to mask the challenges which lie ahead. Although the region has bridged, to a certain extent, some of the gaps with more advanced countries in terms of ICT penetration (such as in mobile telephony), the population's access to broadband services —the basic infrastructure for the development of the information society and an essential service for driving the economy and increasing competitiveness— is still significantly more limited than in more developed countries. At the same time, within the region the roll-out and uptake of ICTs shows large asymmetries between and within countries, by geographical area and level of income.

Challenges remain in terms of significantly increasing capacities to use and develop applications and content in the region. The same is true of mainstreaming ICTs into government, education, health, the environment and the development of an enabling environment, among others. Overall, clear progress has been made in these fields, but efforts must still be broadened and intensified.

Although the goals in the Plan of Action remain valid, new emerging areas must be addressed, such as the rights and obligations in the digital era, open government data policies, the promotion of telework strategies, the use of new technologies in public safety, efficient allocation and use of the electromagnetic spectrum, digital television and the inclusion of women in the ICT ecosystem. Priority must also be given to enhancing regional cooperation on urgent or strategic matters, such as the digital economy, active participation in international forums on Internet governance and regional participation in WSIS review processes and in the discussions on the agenda beyond 2015.

Annex 1

MAIN ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2010-2012

The main activities carried out within the framework of the Plan of Action between 2010 and 2012 are described below.

Between 2010 and 2012, the Presiding Officers, as the executive body of the follow-up mechanism, held nine meetings to follow up and review the Plan of Action: seven were virtual meetings and two were face-to-face.

The working groups of eLAC2015 promoted networking and the creation of interdisciplinary teams of specialists in different research areas relating to the information society. These networks fostered regional cooperation and collaboration on policy analysis, capacity-building, the exchange of good practices and the implementation of programmes and projects on ICTs, by organizing workshops and seminars and producing documents and reports. There were initially 330 participants in the working groups representing government (64%), the private sector (12%), civil society (13%), academia (9%) and international organizations (2%). Ten groups have presented plans of work to date.

A meeting for the coordinators (chairs and vice-chairs) of the eLAC2015 working groups was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago on 6 March 2012. On that occasion they discussed the lines of action and guidelines for management of the groups and evaluated a summary of the objectives, results and expected working methods. Thirteen representatives also held an open discussion on the challenges regarding the integration and functioning of the working groups.

The working groups carried out the following main activities:

- The working group on technological waste helped to organize a regional platform to address the environmentally sound management of waste in the region, which involved 14 countries. The group met twice, first at the Seminar on environmentally sound management of waste electrical and electronic equipment, from 30 November to 2 December 2011 at ECLAC headquarters, and second on 11 October 2012 in Quito. The group's main activities included launching a website (see [online] <http://www.gtdtelac2015.mintel.gob.ec/>), and organizing a photographic competition on technological waste as part of an awareness campaign. The group is also preparing a regional document on recycling electronic equipment, which will provide information specific to the countries of the region on this issue and will be used later for proposing specific actions for each country and for continuing with the implementation of electronic recycling plans, projects and programmes.
- The working group on telework, comprising seven countries, identified best practices and distributed them in the region in the form of a manual. It has also disseminated information on the Tripartite telework observatory and the certificate of teleworkers' competence in the region. In addition, the group monitored the bill on telework in Argentina, telework regulation in Colombia and development of the bill in Costa Rica on the promotion, regulation and implementation of telework. The group met on two occasions: on 11 August 2011 at ECLAC headquarters and on 26 and 27 July 2012 in Bogota, in the framework of the First International Telework Fair.

- The working group on ICTs, health and social security, comprising ten countries, has developed an agenda around regional challenges relating to electronic health, and has established partnerships with several institutions. The group has addressed issues such as alternatives for training human resources in ICTs and health, competency-based curricula, electronic health records and interoperability standards. The group organized the second Regional Seminar on e-Health and Telemedicine in Latin America and the Caribbean, jointly with the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), on 26 and 27 July 2011 in Caracas. The group's first meeting was held in collaboration with ISALUD University on 22 June 2012, during which the plan of work was discussed and regional and international experiences in the area of ICTs and health were exchanged.
- The working group on gender, in which four countries participated, lobbied for the issue of gender and ICTs to be included in the agenda of the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brasilia in 2010. Partly thanks to these efforts, the theme for the next session of the Regional Conference, which will take place in 2013, is "Gender equality, empowerment of women and ICTs". The group also provided support for the production of a document on mapping digital agendas, digital inclusion plans and gender inclusion in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to analysing digital agendas in the region from a gender perspective and identifying guidelines for developing policies to encourage women's appropriation of the digital paradigm and to close gender gaps in the use of ICTs. The preliminary results of this study were presented during the panel entitled "Gender perspectives in digital agendas", which was organized by the working group during the seminar on the eLAC2015 regional plan and the progress of digital policies in the region, which took place in October 2012 in the framework of the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The working group on access and infrastructure, involving eight countries, organized research into experiences and social connectivity models in the region aimed at improving the quality and coverage of public services in education, health and electronic government, among others. The findings were presented during the panel entitled "Connectivity models in public networks", which the working group organized during the seminar on the eLAC2015 regional plan and the progress of digital policies in the region.
- The working group on digital content provided support for the study "Panorama de la comunicación y de las telecomunicaciones de Brasil" —for the publication *Conteúdos em Multiplataformas*— prepared by the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA), the Federal Government of Brazil and the Brazilian Federation of Scientific and Academic Associations on Communication. It also supported the mapping of digital media in Ecuador carried out by the International Centre of Advanced Communication Studies for Latin America (CIESPAL). In addition, the chair participated in various regional events, such as the Latin American Federation of Communication Schools (FELAFACS), held in 2012, and provided support for the management of training activities at different universities in the region.
- The working group on digital development for education presented its plan of work, which was focused on four areas: (i) dialogue on the use of social networks in education, (ii) characterization of good practices in initial training in ICTs for teachers, (iii) training of education portal technical teams in the production of multimedia content, and (iv) dialogue on teaching models associated with policies of mass equipment supply (1-to-1 models).

- The working group on Internet governance prepared a report on issues of concern, which were addressed at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Internet Governance Forum (LACIGF), held in Bogota, from 24 to 26 September 2012. The group also held a meeting in the framework of LACIGF, coordinated by the Office of the President of Peru and attended by representatives of the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and organizations such as the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC), the Internet Society (ISOC) and the Latin American and Caribbean Top-Level Domain Association (LACTLD).
- The working group on financing met on 11 October in Quito during the Preparatory Meeting of the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society, with a view to identifying sustainable alternatives for eLAC2015 activities. The working group also organized the panel entitled “Opportunities and cooperation perspectives for digital development in the region” during the seminar on the eLAC2015 regional plan and the progress of digital policies in the region, which was carried out in the framework of the Quito meeting.
- The working group on software and information technology services held a meeting in the framework of SummIT Paraguay 2012, on 14 June in Asunción, in order to prepare a work agenda for the group. The Secretariat on Policies for Informatics of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Brazil attended the meeting in its capacity as vice-chair of the group, and the meeting was supported by the Paraguayan Chamber of Software Industry (CISOFT), the Chamber of Informatics Wholesalers of Asunción (CADMI) and the Federation of Latin American, Caribbean and Spanish Information Technology Entities (ALETI).
- Continuing work carried out in the framework of eLAC2010, the working group on the enabling environment, chaired by Peru, presented an updated analysis of the regulatory situation in the region in terms of personal data protection.

By coordinating national statistical offices and the ministries responsible for promoting ICT policies, and with assistance provided by the working group on ICTs of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (SCA-ECLAC) and the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC), the eLAC2015 Indicators Commission prepared a list of indicators for eLAC2015. This list contains a frame of statistical reference for evaluating and monitoring the goals set forth in the Plan of Action. The document was prepared during the workshop of the eLAC2015 Indicators Commission, held in Santo Domingo on 21 and 22 November 2011. The Commission comprises representatives of Argentina, Brazil, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay.

As part of cross-sectoral initiatives of the Plan of Action and under the theme “Dialogues for Inclusive and Innovative Digital Agendas in Latin America and the Caribbean”, the technical secretariat helped to organize meetings during which regional and international experiences were exchanged on the design, institutional framework and implementation of digital agendas, and issues were discussed relating to the regulatory environment, capacities and sustainability strategy models, among others. The meetings are described below:

- The first meeting was organized to support the development of the Bolivarian Digital Agenda (ADB). It took place on 8 and 9 August 2011 in La Paz and was organized in coordination with the Agency for the Development of the Information Society in Bolivia (ADSIB), which

reports to the Office of the Vice President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Authorities and experts from Live Digital Plan of Colombia, the Agency of Electronic Government and Information Society of Uruguay (AGESIC), and the Avanza Plan of Spain participated in the event, sharing their experience and knowledge to help establish a frame of reference for action and steps to follow towards building ADB.

- The seminar entitled *Estrategia Ecu@dor Digital 2.0* took place on 15 and 16 November 2011 in Quito and was organized in coordination with the Ministry of Telecommunications and the Information Society of Ecuador (MINTEL). Representatives of AGESIC, the Avanza Plan of Spain, the National Office of e-Government and Information Technology (ONGEI) of Peru and the National Broadband Plan of Brazil, among others, participated in the event. It was an opportunity to exchange experiences with authorities from the telecommunications sector, academics and suppliers of telecommunications services, with a view to contributing to the digital agenda implementation process in Ecuador.
- The second Digital Dialogue workday was held in Santiago on 20 March 2012, with a view to supporting the preparation of the Digital Development Strategy 2013-2020 of Chile. It was organized by the Executive Secretariat of Digital Development Chile and the ECLAC@LIS2 project and was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry and Employment of France, and Google, among others.
- The Digital Agenda Forum: Towards the implementation of a Participatory, Inclusive and Innovative e-Paraguay Platform was held on 27 April 2012 in Asunción. The event was organized jointly by the Paraguay ICT Master Plan, the Cabinet of the Office of the President of the Republic and the ECLAC@LIS2 project. Experts from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay participated in the meeting, at which the creation of the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communication of Paraguay (SETIC) was officially announced.
- The seminar on the eLAC2015 regional plan and progress of digital policies in the region was organized on 10 October 2012 in Quito, on the eve of the Preparatory Meeting of the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event was an opportunity to put forward different experiences and discuss current issues relating to digital strategies in the region. The meeting was organized jointly by the ECLAC@LIS2 project and the Ministry of Telecommunications and the Information Society of Ecuador (MINTEL).

Annex 2

COMPOSITION OF THE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM, WORKING GROUPS AND SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

In 2010, it was decided that the follow-up mechanism would have three levels of coordination and cooperation: the ministerial follow-up conference, the Presiding Officers and the focal points. One representative each of civil society, the private sector and the region's community of Internet experts participate in the follow-up mechanism as observers.

(i) Ministerial follow-up conference

This Conference is the body which manages and oversees the general conduct of eLAC2015. It is responsible for assessing fulfilment of the lines of action, priorities and goals agreed upon and for making any adjustments and changes considered necessary within the institutional structure of the plan. Meetings of the Conference are organized with the support of the technical secretariat, but are financed by the host country. Member countries are responsible for their own participation in the meetings of the Conference.

The next ministerial conference will take place in Mexico in 2015. The preparatory meeting for the ministerial conference will take place in Costa Rica in 2014.

(ii) The Presiding Officers

The Presiding Officers constitute the executive body of the Plan of Action and comprise two representatives of each of the following subregions: the Andean countries, the Southern Cone, the Caribbean, and Mexico and Central America. They serve until the following ministerial follow-up conference.

The main roles of the Presiding Officers are to: (i) supervise activities carried out in the framework of eLAC2015, (ii) ensure that the commitments made at the ministerial conference are fulfilled, (iii) represent and appoint representatives of eLAC2015 at other forums and international organizations, (iv) organize and hold regular coordination meetings, (v) make adjustments and changes to the plan of work, as required, and (vi) report to the wider eLAC membership on the meetings held, the activities carried out and the decisions taken.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS

Region	Country	
Andean countries	Ecuador	Colombia
Mexico and Central America	Mexico	El Salvador
Southern Cone	Uruguay (chair)	Argentina
The Caribbean	Cuba	[pending]

The following agencies are invited to participate as observers at meetings of the Presiding Officers:

- (i) The Association for the Progress of Communications (APC) as the representative designated by civil society organizations.
- (ii) The Ibero-American Association of Research Centers and Telecommunication Enterprises (ACHIET) and the Federation of Latin American, Caribbean and Spanish Information Technology Entities (ALETI) as the representatives designated by private-sector associations.
- (iii) The Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC) as the representative designated by the region's community of technical experts.

Each Presiding Officer will have the same weight in decision-making processes and, where possible, agreements will be reached by consensus. Face-to-face meetings shall be self-financed by the member countries and institutions.

(iii) Focal points

The focal points act as national-level liaisons for the eLAC2015 follow-up mechanism. Each country will appoint or ratify an entity as a focal point by 30 April 2013.

The main functions of the focal points are to: (i) organize, coordinate and promote the country's participation in the process, (ii) ensure the necessary means for the country to be represented at preparatory meetings and the ministerial follow-up conference, and (iii) identify the institutions that will serve as the chair and vice-chairs of the working groups.

(iv) Working groups

The working groups are forums for dialogue and cooperation between the stakeholders—government, civil society, the private sector and the technical community—in the eLAC2015 process. The basic principle for joining and participating in the working groups is openness. Any organization which expresses an interest in participating in a working group may do so.

- Main functions: (i) encourage networking and the development of collaboration mechanisms, (ii) support the exchange of experiences and good practices, (iii) foster capacity-building, (iv) promote dialogue and scientific exchange, and (v) help to create institutional links with other forums and organizations.
- Coordinators: one country is appointed to serve as the chair and another as the vice-chair of each group. Coordinators must be sure to attend the ministerial follow-up conference and the meetings organized by the Presiding Officers.
- Desired activities: (i) organize seminars, workshops and training courses, (ii) propose studies, guides and manuals, (iii) maintain collaborative platforms to promote the flow of information, (iv) organize information and awareness-raising campaigns on the issues concerned, and (v) create projects which support public policies, among others.
- Plan of work: the chair of the group must prepare the plan of work for 2013-2015, which must be presented to the Presiding Officers by 31 May 2013. The members of the group are responsible for formulating and agreeing upon the plan.
- Financing: the chair of each group should ensure—where possible with the cooperation of the member organizations—financing for the activities set forth in the group's plan of work. The chair is also encouraged to seek alternative sources of financing.
- Operating guidelines: the technical secretariat will prepare a procedures manual to guide the activities of the working groups, with a view to encouraging the participation of all stakeholders, enhancing transparency and ensuring fulfilment of the objectives set forth in the plan of work. It is also suggested that regional agencies which share the working groups' objectives be invited to provide technical or secretarial support for their work.
- Periodic reports: the working groups shall submit periodic reports on their activities to the wider eLAC membership.

WORKING GROUPS

Area	Working groups	Chair	Vice-Chair
A. Access	Access and infrastructure	Chile	Mexico
C. Environment and ICTs	Technological waste	Peru	Guatemala
D. ICTs and social security	ICTs, health and social security	Argentina	Cuba
E. ICTs and production development and innovation	Digital content	Brazil	Peru
	IT industry	Colombia	Argentina
F. Enabling environment	Cybersecurity	Uruguay	Argentina
	Telework	Argentina	Costa Rica
	Legal framework for the information and knowledge society	Peru	Paraguay
	Electronic trade	Paraguay	[pending]
	Consumer protection	Brazil	Uruguay
	Internet governance	Brazil	Argentina
	Gender	Costa Rica	[pending]
G. Education	Digital development for education	Argentina	Peru

(v) Technical secretariat

ECLAC shall continue to carry out the following duties as technical secretariat:

- Coordinate the follow-up mechanism, in particular by providing support to the Presiding Officers and the chair, and coordinating the working groups.
- Maintain the eLAC2015 virtual platform.
- Produce studies and substantive information, and coordinate and prepare the final eLAC2015 follow-up, in coordination with the Working Group on Measurement of Information and Communications Technologies of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
- Provide technical support for the organization of the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean and its preparatory meeting.
- Seek alternative sources of finance to better support eLAC2015 activities.
- Provide technical support for the implementation of the plan of work described in section III.

Annex III
NOTES SENT BY THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA



República Bolivariana de Venezuela
Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación
Despacho del Ministro

Caracas, 06 MAY 2013

DMI  0180

Señor
Mario Cimoli
 Director de la División de Desarrollo Productivo y
 Empresarial, CEPAL, Naciones Unidas
 Presente.-

Reciba un fraternal saludo en la oportunidad de transmitirle el interés y la voluntad de nuestro gobierno de adherirse a la "Declaración Montevideo", consensuada como resultado de los debates sostenidos desde el 3 hasta el 5 de abril del presente año, en el marco de la realización en la capital uruguaya de la IV Conferencia Ministerial sobre la Sociedad de la Información de América Latina y el Caribe (eLAC 2015), evento al cual lamentablemente no pudimos asistir, sin embargo, ratificamos nuestro compromiso con los esfuerzos conjuntos para ejecutar acciones coordinadas dirigidas a favorecer el acceso a los servicios de telecomunicaciones a partir de iniciativas que promuevan la expansión de las infraestructuras, la reducción de costos y el aumento de la calidad de acceso a los servicios, la conectividad internacional y el uso eficiente de las redes.

Asimismo, reiteramos nuestra disposición a seguir trabajando conjuntamente con el propósito de concertar y posibilitar acciones de cooperación multilateral que estimulen el acceso y uso de las Tecnologías de la Información y Comunicación como base de la sociedad de la información y del conocimiento en la región, impulsando el desarrollo económico sustentable y la inclusión social, con el fin de reducir las inequidades al interior de nuestras sociedades.

Sin otro asunto al cual hacer referencia y reiterándole nuestra disposición de apoyo mutuo para mantener una dinámica y provechosa relación de colaboración, hago propicia la ocasión para expresarle nuestra alta estima y distinguida consideración.

Atentamente,

MANUEL A. FERNÁNDEZ M.

Ministro del Poder Popular para Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación
 Según Decreto N° 02, publicado en Gaceta Oficial N° 40.151 de fecha 10 de Abril de 2013.

AR





República Bolivariana de Venezuela
Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación
Despacho del Ministro

Caracas, 06 MAY 2013

DMI 0181

Señor

José Clastornik

Director Ejecutivo de la Agencia para el Desarrollo del Gobierno Electrónico y la Sociedad de la Información y el Conocimiento (AGESIC).
 Presidencia de la Mesa de coordinación de eLAC2015.
 Presente.-

Reciba un fraternal saludo en la oportunidad de transmitirle el interés y la voluntad de nuestro gobierno de adherirse a la "Declaración Montevideo", consensuada como resultado de los debates sostenidos desde el 3 hasta el 5 de abril del presente año, en el marco de la realización en la capital uruguaya de la IV Conferencia Ministerial sobre la Sociedad de la Información de América Latina y el Caribe (eLAC 2015). evento al cual lamentablemente no pudimos asistir, sin embargo, ratificamos nuestro compromiso con los esfuerzos conjuntos para ejecutar acciones coordinadas dirigidas a favorecer el acceso a los servicios de telecomunicaciones a partir de iniciativas que promuevan la expansión de las infraestructuras, la reducción de costos y el aumento de la calidad de acceso a los servicios, la conectividad internacional y el uso eficiente de las redes.

Asimismo, reiteramos nuestra disposición a seguir trabajando conjuntamente con el propósito de concertar y posibilitar acciones de cooperación multilateral que estimulen el acceso y uso de las Tecnologías de la Información y Comunicación como base de la sociedad de la información y del conocimiento en la región, impulsando el desarrollo económico sustentable y la inclusión social, con el fin de reducir las inequidades al interior de nuestras sociedades.

Sin otro asunto al cual hacer referencia y reiterándole nuestra disposición de apoyo mutuo para mantener una dinámica y provechosa relación de colaboración, hago propicia la ocasión para expresarle nuestra alta estima y distinguida consideración.

Atentamente,



MANUEL A. FERNÁNDEZ M.

Ministro del Poder Popular para Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación
 Según Decreto N° 02, publicado en Gaceta Oficial N° 40.151 de fecha 10 de Abril de 2013.

AR

Summary of the

**REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS APPOINTED BY THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE SIGNATORY COUNTRIES OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLE 10 OF THE RIO DECLARATION
ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN¹**

Santiago, 6-7 November 2012

¹ LC/L.3565, 10 January 2013.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The first Meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago on 6 and 7 November 2012.

2. The following officers were elected at the meeting of heads of delegation of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development :

Chair:	Chile
Vice-Chair:	Mexico
Rapporteur:	Dominican Republic

3. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Review of the international context and regional analysis regarding Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.
4. Presentations on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development outside the region.
5. Discussion on the theme “Towards a regional instrument”.
6. Presentation of the proposed road map for the creation of an instrument on the application of Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean, agreed upon by the signatory countries.
7. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

Road map for the formulation of an instrument on the application of Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean

4. The delegations present agreed to adopt the following road map for the creation of an instrument for the implementation of Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean:

We, the Latin American and Caribbean signatory countries to the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,²

Recalling the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation for Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the outcome document of the

² A/CONF.216/13.

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

Resolved to make commitments to ensure the full exercise of rights of access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, understanding these to be prerequisites for building a citizenry that is committed to sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) acknowledged the need to build a common space for deepening political, economic, social and cultural integration in our region and for establishing effective commitments to joint action to promote sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean in a framework of unity, democracy, full respect for human rights, solidarity, cooperation, complementarity and political coordination,³

Bearing in mind that access to information and the right to freedom of opinion and expression form the cornerstone of all free and democratic societies, and that it is essential to take active measures to bring environmental information into the public domain, doing everything possible to guarantee ready, rapid, effective and practical access to that information,

Recognizing that it is essential to promote participation by all sectors of society in furthering the issues that form the region’s environmental agenda, as an important part of the process of building and forming a collective awareness of the natural and cultural heritage of our peoples, in order to eradicate poverty and inequality and restore the balance, health and integrity of our planet,

Recalling that, as a fundamental pillar of Principle 10, constraints on and/or the lack of suitable means by which to access environmental justice deprives people of the “right to rights” by denying them and/or limiting real ways to exercise them, and that the principles underpinning the rule of law, as well as equality, accessibility and effectiveness, must be guaranteed not only at the start but all the way through the settlement process,

Recalling also that, in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, among the many provisions referring to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives acknowledged that democracy, good governance and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment, were essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and eradication of poverty and hunger; underscored that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings were essential to the promotion of sustainable development; and encouraged action at the regional, national, subnational and local levels to promote access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, as appropriate,

Recalling also that, in the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development—which was the starting point for this process—we requested that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) act as technical secretariat in this

³ Cancun Declaration, made by the Heads of State and Government of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean assembled at the Unity Summit, which consisted of the twenty-first Summit of the Rio Group and the second Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC), in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on 23 February 2010.

process, promoting and tapping the synergies of the relevant regional and international agencies in the framework of the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism,

Having in mind that, in the Declaration on the application of Principle 10, we, the signatory countries, recognized the need for agreements to ensure the full exercise of rights of access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues, emphasizing that Latin America and the Caribbean could and should take a meaningful step forward in this regard,

1. *Decide* to adopt this road map in order to launch a process aimed at strengthening dialogue and regional cooperation and developing a regional instrument on rights of access to environmental information, participation and justice, whose main principles and objectives will be:

- (a) to reach a common vision on the importance and benefits of Principle 10 access rights and the values and principles underpinning them and their implementation, such as transparency, equality, inclusion, proactivity, collaboration, prevention and progressiveness;
- (b) to recognize the particular conditions in each signatory country in the review of legal, political, diagnostic and practical initiatives;
- (c) to promote the exchange and intensification of regional and international cooperation, considering the progress, tools, experiences and practices seen in this regard since Principle 10 was enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, such as the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters; the Guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters (Bali Guidelines); the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-Making for Sustainable Development; and the Open Government Partnership, among others;
- (d) to promote the conduct of activities for both civil society and the public sector, including education, training, information and awareness-raising, with a view to contributing to the effective application of rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters and providing people with the knowledge, capacities and understanding to enable them to participate in full implementation of these rights;
- (e) to organize and launch an inclusive process that allows all the sectors involved to make a meaningful contribution, for which specific and broad mechanisms will be established to promote and channel due participation;

2. *Reaffirm* the importance of civil society participation in and contributions to this process, for which, to the extent of each country's capacities, appropriate measures will be considered at both the national and regional level, such as providing up-to-date information on the process and conducting electronic consultations and other forms of participation, as well as ensuring dissemination at the national level and support for activities organized by civil society in the respective countries, and for which the standards, practices and mechanisms used will be those approved internationally within the framework of the United Nations and ECLAC;

3. *Reiterate* that this process is open to all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Agree* that, in order to implement this road map, a plan of action will be drafted and will be presented by the panel elected by the signatory countries, supported by ECLAC as technical secretariat and, should the panel so request, with the advice of recognized experts in the field. This plan will be submitted for adoption during the first four months of 2013 and will include:

- (a) a schedule of meetings for the focal points, who will meet at least once per year, although other meetings may be held and subgroups created as deemed necessary in order to meet the general objectives agreed upon herein;
- (b) consideration of the proposals and recommendations arising from national consultation processes, including those conducted by United Nations agencies, in the light of agreements adopted at Rio+20, with a view to contributing to development goals beyond 2015;
- (c) the preparation of a report on the current situation in terms of Principle 10 access rights in the signatory countries and identification of their requirements for technical assistance and capacity-building in this regard, on the basis of information provided by the countries and in consultation with them, as well as the contributions of civil society organizations;
- (d) the preparation of a report compiling practices regarding national and international access rights under Principle 10, including a review of means and experiences of citizen participation of civil society;
- (e) a consultation process, coordinated by the panel, the modalities of which will be agreed by the signatory countries, with a view to defining the nature and content of the regional instrument.

Summary of the

**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS APPOINTED BY THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE SIGNATORY COUNTRIES OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLE 10 OF THE RIO DECLARATION
ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN¹**

Guadalajara, Mexico, 16 and 17 April 2013

¹ LC/L.3677, 5 August 2013.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The second meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 16 and 17 April 2013.
2. At the meeting of the heads of delegation of the signatories of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Presiding Officers designated at the first meeting of the focal points were ratified:

Chair: Chile

Vice-Chairs: Mexico and Dominican Republic

3. The heads of delegation agreed that Mexico would preside over the meeting in its capacity as host country, although it could at any time delegate that function to the Chair or to the other Vice-Chair.
4. The following agenda was adopted:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Review of the current situation regarding national-level implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992).
 3. New signatories to the Declaration.
 4. Presentation of the draft plan of action to 2014 prepared by the Presiding Officers.
 5. Open discussion.
 6. Mechanism for following up on the plan of action, including the establishment of working groups.
 7. Adoption of the plan of action to 2014.

Annex 1

**PLAN OF ACTION TO 2014 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE DECLARATION ON THE APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLE 10
OF THE RIO DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN AND ITS ROAD MAP ***

Guadalajara, Mexico, 17 April 2013

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The importance of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters was confirmed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992).² On that occasion, 178 governments agreed that:

“Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided” (Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992).
2. Twenty years after the adoption of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, rights of access to information have been reaffirmed and broadened under diverse international and regional initiatives.³ At the hemispheric level, these include, in particular, the Inter-American Strategy for

* See Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (A/CONF.216/13), July 2012; and Report of the first meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3565), January 2013.

² The free exercise of the rights enshrined in Principle 10 leads to more transparent, appropriate and better grounded environmental policies. These are the rights to receive information and participate in decision-making and the right to legal redress, which were recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (arts. 7, 8, 19, 20 and 21) and more extensively developed in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in the American Convention on Human Rights.

³ One important instrument in this respect is the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which establishes, among others, the right to meet or assemble peacefully and the right to promote and protect human rights; the right to seek and obtain information about human rights, to publish information on these rights and to draw public attention to their observance or not in practice; the right to have effective access to participation in government affairs; and the right to remedy in the event of the violation of human rights, among others through the prompt review of complaints by independent and competent judicial or other authority

the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-Making for Sustainable Development and the Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), adopted in 2010. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide States which have so requested, mainly developing countries, with general orientations on promoting effective compliance with the commitments undertaken in relation to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration of 1992, in the framework of their national legislation and processes. We also draw attention to the experience of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention, 1998), the only legal binding regional document in existence to date.

3. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2012, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives acknowledged, among the various provisions related to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, that democracy, good governance and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger. They also underscored that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings are essential to the promotion of sustainable development, including proposals to reform the institutional framework for sustainable development with a view to increasing civil society participation.
4. Further, they encouraged action at the regional, national, subnational and local levels to promote access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, as appropriate.
5. In the framework of that Conference, the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development was signed. To date, the signatories to the Declaration are Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.
6. In the Declaration, the signatory Governments stated that:

“Commitments must be made to ensure the full exercise of rights of access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration of 1992. To this end, we declare our willingness to launch a process to explore the feasibility of adopting a regional instrument, ranging from guidelines, workshops and best practices to a regional convention open to all countries in the region and with the meaningful participation of all concerned citizens. Latin America and the Caribbean can and must take a meaningful step forward on this front. The above-mentioned Governments therefore commit to drafting and implementing a plan of action for 2012-2014, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as the technical secretariat, to work towards such a regional convention or other instrument. As input for that plan, our Governments

and the obtaining of redress. These rights apply to those seeking to exercise human right to protect the environment just as they apply to those seeking to protect the full enjoyment of any other human rights.

hereby request ECLAC to conduct a study of the situation, best practices and requirements concerning access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

7. Pursuant to resolution 648(XXXIII) “Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2012-2013”,⁴ ECLAC incorporated into its programme of work issues relating to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, and gave the secretariat and subprogramme 8 (sustainable development and human settlements) a mandate to carry out specific activities aimed at supporting the countries in their efforts to implement the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular, as regards access to information and participation in environmental affairs.
8. At the first meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries,⁵ the countries adopted a road map aimed at beginning a process of strengthening dialogue and regional cooperation and developing a regional instrument on rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters, whose main principles and objectives would be:
 - i) To reach a common vision on the importance and benefits of Principle 10 access rights and the values and principles underpinning them and their implementation, such as transparency, equality, inclusion, proactivity, collaboration, prevention and progressiveness;
 - ii) To recognize the particular conditions in each signatory country in the review of legal, political, diagnostic and practical initiatives;
 - iii) To promote the exchange and intensification of regional and international cooperation, considering the progress, tools, experiences and practices seen in this regard since Principle 10 was enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, such as the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters; the Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Bali Guidelines); the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-Making for Sustainable Development; and the Open Government Partnership, among others;
 - iv) To promote the conduct of activities for both civil society and the public sector, including education, training, information and awareness-raising, with a view to contributing to the effective application of rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters and providing people with the knowledge, capacities and understanding to enable them to participate in full implementation of these rights, and
 - v) To organize and launch an inclusive process that allows all the sectors involved to make a meaningful contribution, for which specific and broad mechanisms will be established to promote and channel due participation.
9. In the road map, the signatory countries also reaffirmed the importance of civil society’s participation in and contributions to this process. The principles underlying this affirmation are:

⁴ Draft programme of work of the ECLAC system, 2012-2013 (LC/G.2434(SES.33/5)/Rev.1).

⁵ The first meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held on 6 and 7 November 2012 at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago.

- (i) Public participation is essential for any initiative aimed at sustainable development. It is broadly recognized that systematic involvement of the citizenry strengthens decision-making forums because it provides the means by which other interests and perspectives may be represented in the process and therefore considered by governments and incorporated in the decisions in question;
 - (ii) Access to information is crucial in terms of Principle 10: transparency is enhanced by involving the public through access to documents and meetings and by using the capacities of participating organizations to inform others. Without access to information, there is no transparency, which means that discussions would be held and decisions would be taken on Principle 10 without the knowledge of the public;
 - (iii) Participation is essential to confer legitimacy on the process of formulating a regional instrument, all the more so one which governs the rights to information, participation and access to justice envisaged in Principle 10. In a democratic system, the public space is where citizens, individually or collectively, have the opportunity to be part of the decision-making forums that interest them. Any multilateral process is a public space and must therefore provide the channels and means for participation;
 - (iv) Participation is crucial to attract experience and knowledge on the subject in question. There are various civil society organizations which have a broad trajectory on Principle 10. They can furnish relevant information on the practices existing in this area at the national level and the main challenges needing to be tackled.
10. The countries also reiterated that this process was open to all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. They agreed that, in order to implement the road map, a plan of action would be drafted and would be presented by the panel elected by the signatory countries, supported by ECLAC as technical secretariat. Should the panel so request, the advice of recognized experts in the field would be sought in relation to the plan. This plan would be submitted for adoption during the first four months of 2013 and would include:
- (i) A schedule of meetings for the focal points, who will meet at least once per year, although other meetings may be held and subgroups created as deemed necessary in order to meet the general objectives agreed upon herein;
 - (ii) Consideration of the proposals and recommendations arising from national consultation processes, including those conducted by United Nations agencies, in the light of agreements adopted at Rio+20, with a view to contributing to development goals beyond 2015;
 - (iii) The preparation of a report on the current situation in terms of Principle 10 access rights in the signatory countries and identification of their requirements for technical assistance and capacity-building in this regard, on the basis of information provided by the countries and in consultation with them, as well as the contributions of civil society organizations;
 - (iv) The preparation of a report compiling practices regarding national and international access rights under Principle 10, including a review of means and experiences of citizen participation of civil society;
 - (v) A consultation process, coordinated by the Presiding Officers, the modalities of which will be agreed by the signatory countries, with a view to defining the nature and content of the regional instrument.

11. On the basis of the objectives, principles and actions proposed in the road map, and in conformity with the Santiago Declaration adopted at the First Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on 27 and 28 January 2013,⁶ this plan of action sets forth the tasks to be carried out up to 2014 to make progress towards the implementation of the Declaration.

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS

12. Consistently with this initiative and recognizing the need for and importance of strengthening access rights in a broad manner, the process will be open to all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
13. The process will be flexible with regard to groups, subgroups, deadlines and other aspects, as the signatory countries deem appropriate and in keeping with the objectives and principles underlying this initiative.
14. The governments of the signatory countries commit to implementing the plan of action with the support of ECLAC as technical secretariat and with the active contribution of the public.
15. The plan of action will be reviewed at each meeting of the focal points, who will meet at least once a year, with a view to improving the goals set for the process.

III. TASKS

A. PROMOTING THE DECLARATION AND INCORPORATING NEW SIGNATORIES INTO THE PROCESS

16. **Objective:** Disseminate the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and information on the corresponding process at the regional and international levels and promote the incorporation of new signatories. This is a priority task which will help to bring the greatest number of countries possible into the initiative.
17. **Actions to be taken:**
 - i) Identify possible opportunities for promotion;
 - ii) Initiate contact with non-signatory countries in the region through meetings, workshops, seminars and other events;
 - iii) Send all official outcomes of the process (including meeting reports) to all countries in the region (signatories and non-signatories);
 - iv) Respond to requests for up-to-date information on the process by members of the public who so request and who wish to contact their government in this connection;

⁶ [We] appreciate initiatives for regional implementation of the 10th Principle of the 1992 Rio Declaration, regarding the rights of access to information, participation and environmental justice, as a significant contribution to the participation of organized community committed to Sustainable Development (Santiago Declaration, par. 60).

- v) Raise awareness of the process and the activities being carried out through the Internet and in substantive cooperation with the public.
- 18. **Resources:** ECLAC will be responsible for disseminating the process via the Internet and for sending documents and official material to all of the countries in the region, as well as responding to requests for information. No additional resources are available for the dissemination of the Declaration in international forums and both the signatories and ECLAC will be entrusted with seeking synergies with other initiatives to achieve this end.
- 19. **Expected outcomes:** List of promotion opportunities and regular updates to the website on the process by ECLAC (www.cepal.org/rio20/principio10/).
- 20. **Responsible parties:** The Presiding Officers and ECLAC.
- 21. **Time frame:** The process will be promoted throughout the duration of the plan of action. The list of promotion opportunities in 2013 will be available in the first four months of 2013. For those in 2014: last four months of 2013.

B. STRENGTHENING AND HIGHLIGHTING THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE REGION ON RIGHTS OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PARTICIPATION AND JUSTICE

- 22. **Objective:** Raise awareness of the progress made and the challenges pending in terms of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in the region, with a view to contributing to the discussion on a regional instrument and demonstrating the commitment of the signatory countries.
- 23. **Actions to be taken:**
 - (i) Draft a report on the latest progress made with regard to access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in the region, using information gathered through a questionnaire sent to the governments of all of the region's countries, as well as selected civil society experts, and made available to all interested parties on the website on the process;
 - (ii) Disseminate information and hold training workshops on specific issues that are relevant to the region or replicable good practices, in substantive collaboration with the public;
 - (iii) Compile materials on the subject prepared by international organizations and civil society, such as guides and videos, and disseminate these materials via the Internet;
 - (iv) Promote the exchange of experiences among the countries of the region, with a view to recruiting new signatories;
 - (v) Identify and exchange national experiences, progress and processes regarding the implementation of access rights.
- 24. **Resources:** ECLAC will draft the report on the latest progress made with regard to access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in the region and will disseminate via the Internet the materials on the subject prepared by international organizations and civil society. The organization of workshops will be subject to the availability of resources.

25. **Expected outcomes:**

- (i) Questionnaire on the latest progress made with regard to access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in the region to be sent to the governments of all of the countries and selected civil society experts, and made available to all interested parties on the Internet;
- (ii) Regular updating of the report entitled “Access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean: Situation, outlook and examples of good practice”, prepared by ECLAC, containing a review of the legislation in force, country practices and information gathered through the questionnaire;
- (iii) List of sources of information on the topic provided on the ECLAC website;
- (iv) Provision of an opportunity at each meeting of the focal points for signatory countries to report on the actions taken regarding this task;
- (v) List of proposals for workshops in 2013.

26. **Responsible parties:** The signatory countries will report on action taken at the national level; the proposal on possible workshops will be prepared by the Presiding Officers and ECLAC; and the report on the current situation in the region will be drafted by ECLAC for the consideration of the countries.

27. **Time frame:** For the proposal on possible workshops and the regional report, the first half of 2013.

C. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

28. **Objective:** Promote public participation at the national level in the signatory countries through concrete, broad mechanisms that promote and channel due involvement in the regional process, in fulfilment of the agreements adopted in both the Declaration and the road map.

29. A number of modalities of participation may be considered for achieving this objective, taking into account each signatory country’s particular circumstances and the standards it has in place and the practices it employs. In this regard, the signatory countries may provide mutual support.

30. **Actions to be taken:** The governments may carry out actions such as the following, while seeking broad public participation:

- (i) Carry out dissemination activities for informing and involving the public interested in this regional process;
- (ii) Make the public aware of the official website, which will be coordinated and maintained by ECLAC;
- (iii) Strengthen the capacities of the public and of public sector officials with regard to access rights and their importance for sustainable development;
- (iv) Conduct virtual and other types of consultations with the stakeholders around meetings of the focal points and the working groups, making the respective documentation available in a timely manner;
- (v) To the extent of its capacities, support activities organized by the public.

- 31. **Resources:** To be determined by each country.
- 32. **Expected outcomes:** Achieve greater participation and strengthen capacities through actions at the national level and share these experiences at each meeting of the focal points.
- 33. **Responsible parties:** The governments of each country with technical support from ECLAC.
- 34. **Time frame:** Action to be initiated no later than June 2013.

D. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS FOR ADVANCING TOWARDS THE FORMULATION OF A REGIONAL INSTRUMENT

- 35. With a view to progressing towards a regional instrument, at least two working groups will be formed. Their proposals will be submitted at the meeting of the focal points of the signatory countries for their consideration.
 - (i) Working group on capacity-building and cooperation;
 - (ii) Working group on access rights, consultation and the regional instrument.
 - 36. All signatory countries may participate in the working groups, in which they may be represented by the focal points or by a representative appointed by them. Non-signatory countries of the region may participate as observers in these meetings of groups formed by signatory countries. Each group will elect at least a coordinator and an alternate coordinator from among the government representatives and the stakeholders will participate according to modalities set forth in section IV. The coordinator will be responsible for overseeing the general functioning of the working group and following up on its objectives, and for reporting progress to the Presiding Officers.
 - 37. Both groups will afford careful attention to the particular circumstances of the signatory countries and the possibilities of cooperation among them, in order to advance towards the full implementation of access rights. They will also have the option of inviting experts to participate in their meetings and may establish subgroups as they consider necessary. They must also coordinate with each other to generate synergies and avoid duplication of effort.
 - 38. At its first meeting, each group will establish a calendar and define the form of its meetings. It will specify the number of meetings to be held each year (at least two), favouring the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) and possibly meeting during regional meetings to which the signatories are convened.
- (a) Working group on capacity-building and cooperation**
- 39. **Objective:** To make a proposal to intensify regional and international cooperation with regard to training and financing needs and operations, both for the public sector and for the public in general.

40. **Actions to be taken:**

- (i) Review and analyse the ECLAC questionnaire and report;
- (ii) Identify needs;
- (iii) Compile a list of the training resources available;
- (iv) Prepare a proposal for the consideration of the focal points.

41. **Resources:** As per the general strategy of financing for the plan.

42. **Expected outcomes:** Training and cooperation proposals and a list of opportunities in this connection.

(b) Working group on access rights, consultation and the regional instrument

43. **Objective:** To deepen knowledge on access rights with a view to making a proposal on the nature and contents of the regional instrument.

44. **Actions to be taken:**

- (i) Discuss the importance, benefits, values, principles, common vision and objectives of a regional instrument on access rights;
- (ii) With the support of recognized experts in the field, review and analyse the reports of consultations carried out on the basis of this plan and the progress achieved;
- (iii) Analyse the report prepared by ECLAC on the status of Principle 10 access rights in the signatory countries, and its updates, using information provided by the countries and in consultation with them, as well as the contributions of civil society organizations;
- (iv) Examine national and international practices regarding Principle 10 access rights, including a review of the different forms that citizen participation can take and experiences in this regard;
- (v) Prepare proposals for the consideration of the focal points.

45. **Resources:** As per the general strategy of financing for the plan.

46. **Expected outcomes:** Proposals on the nature and contents of a regional instrument, taking into account the reports and outputs of the working group of capacity-building and cooperation.

III. COORDINATION OF THE PROCESS

47. The process will be coordinated by the Presiding Officers with the support of ECLAC.

A. PRESIDING OFFICERS

48. To carry forward the regional process, the representatives of the signatory countries will elect Presiding Officers comprising at least a chair and two vice-chairs (one of whom will serve as rapporteur). The Presiding Officers will serve for a term of one year.

49. The responsibilities of the Presiding Officers will be:
- (i) To provide support for the implementation of the plan of action, together with the coordinators of the working groups;
 - (ii) To convene, together with the technical secretariat, the meetings of signatory countries;
 - (iii) To chair the meetings of the signatory countries and ensure that the rules of procedure are observed;
 - (iv) To perform other functions arising from agreements adopted at meetings of the parties;
 - (v) To prepare financing options for implementing the plan of action, with the support of ECLAC and the substantive collaboration of the public.

B. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

50. In conformity with the provisions of resolution 648(XXXIII) of ECLAC and as requested by the States signatories to the Declaration, ECLAC will serve as technical secretariat for the process of formulating a regional instrument on Principle 10. The responsibilities of the technical secretariat will be to:
- (i) Implement the rules of procedure for public participation;
 - (ii) Promote and leverage synergies with relevant regional and international agencies in the framework of the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism;
 - (iii) Prepare, in consultation with the Presiding Officers, the documentation for meetings of the parties;
 - (iv) Ensure that documents for the meetings of the parties are translated, copied or printed and distributed;
 - (v) Prepare meeting reports;
 - (vi) Support participation efforts at the national level on the part of the signatory countries, by creating and maintaining a public participation mechanism (see participation modalities);
 - (vii) Create and maintain a website for the process;
 - (viii) Report at each meeting of the parties on activities carried out in the framework of the process, compiled on the basis of reports from the signatory countries;
 - (ix) Provide support in seeking financing to ensure public participation in the meetings of the parties;
 - (x) Perform other functions arising from agreements adopted at meetings of the parties.

IV. MODALITIES OF PARTICIPATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

51. The process will have modalities for the participation of the stakeholders. These modalities are intended to inform the stakeholders regularly on the process of formulating a regional instrument on Principle 10, and establish specific levels and opportunities for achieving the broadest possible participation in the regional forums created to this end, with a view to strengthening the inclusiveness and legitimacy of the process.
52. These modalities establish the right of the public —understood to be any natural or legal person or community organization— to participate in the meetings of the signatory countries and the

working groups and in meetings of the Presiding Officers held in preparation for meetings of the signatory countries. All parts of the process are open to the public unless the signatory countries, in exceptional circumstances, decide to hold closed sessions during meetings. In such cases, the signatory countries will explain the reasons for holding a closed session.

53. A regional public mechanism will be established, to which interested parties may subscribe by completing a short form available on the ECLAC website. The main objectives of this mechanism are to keep all parties interested in the process informed and facilitate their involvement, to coordinate public participation in international meetings and to contribute to the transparency of the process. The mechanism may also serve as a complement for participation actions carried out at the national level.
54. ECLAC will issue and update the calendar of meetings on its website. Meetings will be announced at least one month in advance, and an invitation will be sent by e-mail to those subscribed to the regional public mechanism. All official documents for the meeting will be available to the public on the ECLAC website and will also be announced by e-mail to those subscribed to the regional public mechanism. These documents may also be published on the websites of the governments of the signatory countries.
55. The modalities provide for three levels of participation:
 - i) Attendance: The public may attend meetings and have access to official meeting documents. Meetings may also be followed by webcast, to the extent possible;
 - ii) Reporting: The public shall have the right to share information and to make proposals on specific topics being discussed, in writing, to the government representatives, experts or representatives of international agencies in informal meetings or at side events when feasible;
 - iii) Making statements: The public will have the right to request the floor. The chair will give the floor in the order in which it is requested, regardless of whether the respective speakers are government representatives, representatives of international agencies or a member of the public (natural or legal person or community organization), aiming to ensure that everyone is heard and that the meeting is effective. In order to ensure that the meeting fulfils its objectives, the chair may propose limits on the length and number of speakers' interventions, and may request the public representatives (see paragraph 51) to organize requests for the floor. To this end, the chair will provide a reasonable amount of time for the public to come to an agreement. In no case will the participating public have the right to vote in meetings.
56. Where space is limited, the public will occupy the room in the chronological order in which they were accredited, giving priority to those with residence in any Latin American or Caribbean country. To ensure that differently abled persons who are registered can participate fully under equal conditions to everyone else, appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that they have priority access to the physical space, the information and the communications. If it is not possible to accommodate all members of the public who have requested to attend, to the extent possible, a space will be provided with audiovisual equipment to enable them to follow the meeting. A microphone will be installed in this room so that the public may participate in the meeting.
57. Participants from the public attending the meeting may, as they deem appropriate, appoint up to two persons to represent them at a preparatory meeting of the Presiding Officers, at which they may contribute proposals in aspects as:

- (i) Review the plan of action to 2014, in whole or in part;
 - (ii) Proposals for the consideration of the focal points;
 - (iii) Suggested items for the agenda of the meetings of focal points.
58. The Presiding Officers may accept the proposals made by virtue of paragraph 51 at their discretion. The person appointed will give a brief account of his or her participation at the opening session of the meeting of focal points.

Summary of the

**REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS APPOINTED BY THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE SIGNATORY COUNTRIES OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLE 10 OF THE RIO DECLARATION
ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN¹**

Lima, 30-31 October 2013

¹ LC/L.3780, February 2014.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The third Meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Lima on 30 and 31 October 2013.

Chair

2. The Presiding Officers (Chile, the Dominican Republic and Mexico) proposed that Peru should chair the meeting in its capacity as host country, which was accepted by the heads of delegation of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

Adoption of the agenda

3. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the third meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.
2. Review of the status regarding access rights and sustainable development.
3. New signatories to the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Measures taken by countries signatory to the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Measures taken and proposals for consideration and adoption by the signatory countries of the working group on capacity-building and cooperation established in the Plan of Action to 2014 for the implementation of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Measures taken and proposals for consideration and adoption by the signatory countries of the working group on access rights and the regional instrument established in the Plan of Action to 2014 for the implementation of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. International panel: access rights and international processes.
8. Review and adoption of the agreements from the third meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

Annex

**LIMA VISION FOR A REGIONAL INSTRUMENT
ON ACCESS RIGHTS RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

We recall that in the road map for the creation of an instrument on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean we decided to reach a common vision on the importance and benefits of Principle 10 access rights to information, participation and justice in environmental matters, the values and principles underpinning them and their implementation, taking into account the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Plan of Action for its implementation,

Our vision is that an instrument for Latin America and the Caribbean will contribute to ensuring effective and timely access to environmental information, participation in decisions that affect the environment and access to justice in environmental matters for all. Accordingly, we, the Latin American and Caribbean signatory countries to the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and its Plan of Action recognize:

- (a) That the process leading to the formulation of a regional instrument on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration of 1992 is open to all the Governments and peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and must take into account other current regional processes and promote and harness the synergies existing between the relevant regional and international agencies;
- (b) That everyone has the right to a healthy environment, which is essential for the full development of human beings and for the achievement of sustainable development, poverty eradication, equality, and the preservation and stewardship of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations;
- (c) That exercising rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters deepens and strengthens democracy and contributes to better protection of the environment and thus of human rights;
- (d) That, although considerable progress has been made in the region, we all face challenges in the full implementation of access rights, and that cooperation, capacity-building and political consensus-building through effective mechanisms are essential for narrowing gaps in the implementation of Principle 10;
- (e) That access rights are interrelated and interdependent, and so each should be promoted and implemented in an integrated and balanced manner;
- (f) That it is essential to promote participation by all sectors of society in furthering the issues that form the region's environmental agenda, as an important part of the process of building and forming a collective awareness of the diverse natural and cultural heritage of our peoples, in order to advance social inclusion, enhance solidarity, eradicate poverty and inequality and restore the balance and the health and integrity of our planet;

- (g) That participation is essential to confer legitimacy on the process of formulating a regional instrument, especially one designed to regulate the rights to information, participation and access to justice envisaged in Principle 10. Furthermore, participation is key to broadening experience and knowledge of access rights;
- (h) That it is necessary to promote awareness and environmental education of the public sector and the public, in order to contribute to the effective implementation of access rights to information, participation and justice in environmental matters, and provide people with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to participate in environmental decision-making;
- (i) That, regardless of the measures that we, the signatory countries, agree upon in order to strengthen the full implementation of access rights, nothing shall preclude our ability to take additional measures to ensure even broader access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters.

Importance and benefits of access rights

Recognizing that rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters are essential to the promotion of sustainable development, democracy and a healthy environment, we appreciate:

- (a) That they represent an important contribution to the formulation and implementation of informed, transparent and appropriate measures for furthering the well-being of the population and contributing to accountability and the effective rule of law;
- (b) That they contribute to greater public awareness and allow the public to express its concerns regarding environmental problems and challenges and this, duly acknowledged by the authorities, leads to greater public involvement and support for the decisions taken;
- (c) That adequate access to these rights is essential for the governance of natural resources in the region and contributes to the promotion of dialogue between authorities and citizens in natural resource management;
- (d) That the adoption of a regional instrument will contribute to:
 - (i) Facilitating concerted action and strategies that better address common challenges facing the region.
 - (ii) Promoting and strengthening dialogue, cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building and regional development in terms of access rights.
 - (iii) Boosting the implementation of access rights at the national level by stimulating cooperation mechanisms between countries in the region.
 - (iv) Fostering stronger environmental governance in the countries of the region.
 - (v) Encouraging the development of a regional agenda on access rights that takes sustainability and equality as its conceptual basis.
 - (vi) Improving the conditions of vulnerable populations in the region by facilitating and putting at their disposal mechanisms for access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters.

Values and principles

Emphasizing the importance and benefits of access rights, we agree that the regional instrument will be inspired and guided by the following values and principles:

- (a) **Equality.** Everyone must be able to exercise their access rights without experiencing any form of discrimination based on social status, gender, age, nationality, race, religion or any other factor.
- (b) **Inclusion.** Special efforts must be made to involve various sectors and to provide equal opportunities for women and vulnerable groups.
- (c) **Transparency.** Transparency in environmental matters is fundamental to ensuring that interests and objectives are explicit and that all necessary information is reliable and provided in a timely manner.
- (d) **Proactivity.** Governments and the public shall take initiatives consistent with their respective roles, exercised responsibly, to develop their full potential and enrich the decision-making process for sustainable development in an effective and timely manner.
- (e) **Collaboration.** Collaborative efforts between the various stakeholders are essential because they facilitate the achievement of common objectives, strengthen and improve the quality of dialogue, enable the exchange of experiences and knowledge, and promote prevention and dispute settlement.
- (f) **Progressive realization.** It is necessary to advance progressively towards full implementation of Principle 10 and to avoid taking any step backward, while recognizing the individual circumstances of each country with regard to access rights.
- (g) **Non-regression.** The instrument must build on the agreements already reached in the region and aim to strengthen national laws or international agreements on the full implementation of access rights, in keeping with the purpose of the Declaration.

Summary of the

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR THE
COMPREHENSIVE 10-YEAR REVIEW CONFERENCE ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALMATY PROGRAMME OF ACTION¹**

Asunción, 19 November 2013

¹ LC/L.3778, February 2014.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The regional meeting in preparation for the Comprehensive 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action took place in Asunción on 19 November 2013, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/222 of 21 December 2012.

Election of Officers

2. The officer elected to preside over the meeting was as follows:

Chair: Paraguay

B. AGENDA

3. The meeting adopted the following agenda:
 1. Election of officers and adoption of the agenda.
 2. Review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action at the global, regional and national levels.
 3. New and emerging challenges facing landlocked developing countries in Latin America and international support measures.

Annex

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Drawing on the document prepared by ECLAC, which served as the basis for our discussions, in addition to the statements made by the countries and agencies that participated in the event, I have summarized what I consider to be some of the key points made during our meeting:

- Based on the analysis of the situation in South America, on the studies carried out by ECLAC, and on the report presented by the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, landlocked developing countries have made headway since the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action, as reflected in most of the indicators considered. Nevertheless, progress has been insufficient and countries continue to be affected by the problems associated with their landlocked status, while cooperation with transit countries must be furthered;

- Both Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia have made strides in various areas of development, particularly in relation to their connectivity and their customs procedures, while social conditions have improved significantly;
- However, it is also recognized that these countries, as well as other landlocked developing countries, are extremely vulnerable because they export a limited number of products with low value added. Greater production diversification is thus needed, for which countries must have effective market access;
- Freedom of movement continues to be a major factor in the logistics and trade performance of landlocked developing countries;
- Without a coastline, it is difficult for these countries to participate fully in international trade, and their comparative advantages are accordingly diminished. There is data to suggest that economic development in landlocked developing countries is, on average, 20% lower than it would have been with a coastline;
- Thus, there is a need to enhance the special and differential treatment for landlocked developing countries in the different spheres of negotiation;
- It was reiterated that their landlocked status, together with their remoteness and isolation from major international markets, leaves these countries heavily dependent on transit countries for maritime trade and generates cost overruns in their commercial transactions. The statistics presented showed that transport costs in landlocked developing countries exceed those of a representative coastal economy by 45%;
- The role of regional integration mechanisms in trade facilitation and physical integration was thus highlighted. The meeting participants proposed to deepen the regional integration process and work towards common logistics and mobility policies, promoting forums for joint action by the public and private sectors as well as their proper subregional coordination;
- There was a need to update bilateral and regional legal instruments, with a view to improving their provisions;
- Studies also show that a considerable proportion of the cost of commercial operations relates to intangible infrastructure: cross-border procedures, policies, legislation, transit procedures, logistics and regulatory regimes;
- Another problem affecting landlocked countries is the stress placed upon their infrastructure as a result of infrastructure and services shortfalls, as shown by the infrastructure gap;
- The possibility of using public-private financing to address the shortfall of investment in physical infrastructure, by exploring the potential advantages in more detail, was another of the points raised;
- The need to place emphasis on integrating the main points of entry (airports, ports, etc.) with the hinterlands was discussed;

- The participants also proposed to work together on improving the regulations governing transit traffic to and from landlocked developing countries and improving the operational and bureaucratic practices at border crossing points;
- More effort should be made to raise awareness of logistics costs and their impact on development;
- Information could potentially be shared regarding best practices introduced by countries in their bilateral relations and which affect the import, export and transit of goods;
- The studies showed that the services sector, particularly tourism, needed to be developed as a way of diversifying the economy;
- Another aspect mentioned was connectivity, which could be boosted through greater access to information technologies and international fibre-optic networks.