



Presidency Pro Tempore



Statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the Community of  
Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

**Commission on Population and Development 48<sup>th</sup> Session**

“Realizing the future we want - integrating population issues into sustainable development,  
including in the post-2015 development agenda”

13 April 2015

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Madame Chair,

1.- I have the honor to speak on behalf of the member states of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Let me congratulate you, Madame Chair on your assumption of this very important duty. We wish you and the members of the Bureau success in this session.

2.- CELAC welcomes the theme of the current session of the Commission on Population and Development, “Realizing the future we want - integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda”

3.- CELAC reiterates its support for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, and its follow-up processes and outcomes.

4.- We welcome the Special Session of the General Assembly held on 22 September 2014, on the Follow up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, which was an occasion for Governments to recommit themselves at the highest political level in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the ICPD beyond 2014. We further note resolution 2014/1 adopted at the 47 Session of the Commission on Population and Development.

5.- In that regard, CELAC countries strongly support the mandate of the ICPD beyond 2014, as well as the inclusion of population issues in the Post-2015 Development Agenda giving appropriate consideration to population dynamics and trends, as well as to international migration, in the process of definition of this new development framework.

6.- With resolution 68/309, the General Assembly consensually affirmed that the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, including its means of implementation, shall be the main basis for integrating the SDGs into the Post-2015



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Development Agenda. In that regard, CELAC countries hold the common position that the report of the OWG on SDGs should not be reopened or renegotiated.

7.- In the last two decades the Latin American and Caribbean region achieved significant progress regarding the objectives of the ICPD, thank to national efforts and UNFPA's contribution to national development strategies.

8.- Tens of millions have been lifted out of poverty in recent years, there has been progress in gender equality and in combating and reducing discrimination against women; public health programs have been influenced by a reproductive rights perspective and, instead of perceiving women's health as just related to maternal and child health, a more comprehensive perspective has been introduced.

9.- There is, however, a lot of work to be done. Gender pay inequality has not yet been resolved, while health and reproductive rights are not yet being enjoyed by many women in vulnerable situations, such as those living in poverty and in rural areas, those facing discrimination including migrant women, adolescents and youths. In this regard, it is important to highlight the need to continue working on specific programmes aimed at preventing early pregnancy, which continues to be a challenge in our region, as well as to address considerable gaps in the improvement on maternal health including for international migrants.

10.- CELAC reaffirms the importance of enhancing and strengthening women's access regardless of their migratory status to education at all levels; health care services, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, information and education and prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy; as well as employment, including elimination of barriers to equal conditions for women and men in the workplace and equal pay for equal work, social protection, and autonomy and economic empowerment.

11.- We recognize the relevance of social inclusion, among others, as a key driver to close inequalities gaps, and guarantee universal access to quality education at all levels and participation, widening opportunities for women and girls in all countries. We believe in the necessity to assure that the Post-2015 Development Agenda tackles inequalities in an efficient manner and we believed on the paramount role of education towards this achievement.

Madame Chair

12.- In our region one quarter of the population is young, and this demographic dividend offers a unique opportunity for increasing social investment in adolescents and youth, essential for promoting their development and enabling them to develop as autonomous individuals in the



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society. CELAC also considers that the empowerment of older persons is a key element in realizing their human rights and in ensuring their full participation in a development model that cannot be sustainable unless it is inclusive.

13.- We must also give priority to the incorporation of a human rights perspective in development policies, in the eradication of hunger and poverty and prioritize actions guaranteeing that all women and men have adequate food and housing, access to health care, both physical and mental health.

14.- CELAC reaffirms the urgent need to create a new development concept as the expression of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual responsibility based on full inclusion, in which people are at the center of all concerns and developmental policies and that promotes sustainable and inclusive economic growth, participatory social development, environmental protection and sustainability and human dignity.

15.- We also highlight the urgent need for the Post 2015 Development Agenda to provide solutions to the structural problems faced by developing countries and to eliminate the existing gaps at the international and regional levels as well as within our societies, in order to help countries to attain the fullest wellbeing possible for their population and guarantee the exercise of all human rights for all, particularly the right to development. In this regard, CELAC Member States acknowledge and support the concept of a structural change to attain equity and equality.

16.- CELAC reiterates its commitment with the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, outcome document of the First session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin American and the Caribbean held in Montevideo, Uruguay from 12-15 August 2013, and reaffirms that every country has the sovereign right to apply the recommendations contained in the Cairo Programme of Action and in the Montevideo Consensus, in accordance with its national laws and development priorities and in a manner consistent with internationally recognized human rights.

17.- We also urge to generate regional and national machineries to oversee the fulfillment of this regional agenda on population and development for Latin America and the Caribbean beyond 2014 and ensure its accountability

18.- CELAC welcomes the invitation of the Government of Mexico to host the 2nd Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin American and the Caribbean.

19.- CELAC requests the secretariat, within the framework of the existing linkages between population and development, to continue to give priority to the following issues from a gender perspective in a crosscutting approach: determinants and consequences of demographic



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trends; sociodemographic inequities; maternal and child mortality; sexual and reproductive health; children; youth; persons with disabilities; migrants; ageing and older persons; indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations in Latin America and the Caribbean; international migration; sources of sociodemographic information (population censuses and vital statistics), and human resources training in the fields of demography and population and development. Early childhood development policies and strategies should be supported as a way to break the cycles of poverty with the aims to eradicating poverty and hunger to achieve sustainable development

20.- CELAC also requests the secretariat to continue providing support for countries in affording and improving disaggregated data gathering and 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.

21.- CELAC further requests the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Population Fund, to promote and expand international cooperation, including South-South, triangular and extraregional cooperation and sharing of best practices and urges it to allocate funds according to the indicators of need as required in each of the priority areas of the Cairo Programme of Action

22.- We consider that international cooperation – including the developed countries' commitment to devote 0.7 per cent of their GDP to official development assistance, as well as South-South cooperation, technical cooperation by those who are able to share experiences and successful outcomes – is essential to promote development. It is also of paramount importance to introduce the necessary reforms in the global financial and economic system with a view to place the population over the capital

23.- We believe that the Post 2015 Development Agenda should be built on the foundations established by the MDGs, and reiterate that all aspects of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development must be properly integrated in the new development framework. CELAC Member States reaffirm their commitment to contribute actively and constructively in the following phases of this important process in order to define the new development agenda and achieve sustainable and inclusive development in our countries.

Thank you very much