



PERMANENT MISSION OF EL SALVADOR
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), 50th Session of the Commission on Population and Development "Changing Population age structures and sustainable development"

GENERAL DISCUSSION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 3

New York, 3rd April 2017



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Madame President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC. We would like to congratulate you Madame Chairperson in the assumption of your role. We wish you and the other members of the bureau a very fruitful and successful session.

CELAC welcomes the theme of the current session of the Commission on Population and Development, "Changing population age structures and sustainable development".

As CELAC countries, we recall the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose preamble recognizes that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest challenge the world faces, and an indispensable prerequisite for sustainable development.

We reaffirm our conviction, the pressing value and the commitment of the region, to follow up and fully implement the 2030 Agenda and the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals and its targets, which are of an integrated and indivisible nature, and which combine the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

Madame President,

Our Member States recognized that incorporating the changing age structure into sustainable development is critical for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, for this year is "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world", and the forum will feature national reviews of progress made on meeting the Sustainable Development Goals related to poverty, nutrition, health, gender equality, infrastructure and oceans. We believe changing age structure will have an impact on efforts in most of these areas.

Also, we believe that the availability of high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated demographic data is essential for planning and implementing policies and programmes to achieve the Programme of Action of the International Conference on



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Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for the measurement of progress, gaps and recurrent challenges in implementation, to ensure that no one is left behind.

In this regard, CELAC countries strongly consider that people who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, which include all children, youth, persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80% live in poverty), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons, and all migrants regardless of their migratory status.

CELAC Member States recall that in the 2030 Agenda, Member States recognized the importance of age structure for sustainable development. In target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals there is a call for all relevant population-based indicators to be disaggregated by age as a means of ensuring that the impact of development policies on persons of all ages will be monitored and that persons of all ages will have a better chance to participate in, and benefit from, development. Also in this Agenda, Member States further committed to taking account of population trends and projections in national, rural and urban development strategies and policies.

CELAC countries note that countries will be implementing the 2030 Agenda from different starting points regarding levels of fertility, mortality and urbanization, and of persons entering older age range and eventually needing support of various kinds and that national strategies should take account of these demographic realities in order to determine the resources required to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Madame President,

To fulfill the pledge of leaving no one behind, it is important to formulate policies and assess progress made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals distinguishing the population in different age groups, in particular children, youth and older persons. To document changes in population age structures and to evaluate the impacts of those changes, age-disaggregated data are essential.



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CELAC Member States recognize that boys, girls, adolescents and young people are rights-holders and stakeholders in development.

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

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 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.

Madame President,

CELAC States reaffirm the need to continue to improve the mechanisms of regulation, supervision and control of the international and regional financial system to promote an international financial environment conducive to the achievement and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Development and its SDGs, taking into account that the single mobilization of national resources is not enough to achieve the economic growth that contributes to sustainable development, promoting mechanisms of justice and social inclusion to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

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 in 2013, and the Operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo consensus on Population and Development, outcome document of the Second Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in our region held in México City in 2015.

CELAC welcomes the upcoming Third Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin American and the Caribbean that will be held in San Salvador, El Salvador in November of this year.



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Madame President,

We conclude by 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.

Thank you