

Commission on Population and Development

Fifty-second session, 1-5 April 2019

Statement from the Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Paulo Saad, Chief Population Division

Through its population division, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean serves as technical secretariat for the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the First Session of the Regional Conference, held in Montevideo in 2013, member states approved the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. It constitutes the most important intergovernmental agreement on population and development in the region and became a key instrument for the follow up of the ICPD Program of Action beyond 2014 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

But the countries of the region have gone beyond the mere approval of the Montevideo Consensus. Through widely participatory mechanisms, which included valued inputs from civil society and the academia, an Operational guide with concrete actions was prepared to support countries in the implementation of each one of the more than hundred priority measures agreed in the Montevideo Consensus.

The *Operational guide* was presented at the second session of the Regional Conference held in MX in 2015. It represented a major step forward, not only in terms of the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus at the national level, but also in the development of synergies with other international instruments, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

Following the Operational guide, a set of indicators was defined for the regional follow up of the Montevideo Consensus, again through a widely participatory mechanism. The set of indicators was further approved by the Regional Conference at the Special meeting of its Presiding Officers held in Santiago in November 2017.

At the Third Session of the Regional Conference, held in Lima, Peru in August 2018, 25 comprehensive national reports were voluntarily presented, evidencing the strong commitment of the countries of the region with the Montevideo Consensus, and consequently with the ICPD Plan of Action.

The Montevideo Consensus complements the 2030 Agenda on relevant issues that are not sufficiently reflected in the SDGs, such as those related to indigenous peoples, afro descendant populations, ageing and international migration. This is fully recognized in ECLAC's resolution that creates the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean countries on Sustainable Development,

by explicitly asking countries to take the Montevideo Consensus into consideration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In fact, the follow up process of the Montevideo Consensus has allowed countries of the region to establish important synergies between the regional population and development agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Almost one third of the 140 indicators for the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus correspond to indicators from the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is also worth mentioning that the Regional Framework of Priority Indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean includes a significant number of indicators used for the follow up of the Montevideo Consensus, clearly showing the important contribution of the Montevideo Consensus to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Inequality remains a major challenge in LAC. A much greater effort is required to face the poverty and exclusion that affect more severely the vulnerable groups of the population, such as children, adolescents and young people; older persons; women; migrants; people with disabilities; sexual minorities; indigenous peoples and afro-descendant populations.

The region still has a long way to go in all areas of the population and development agenda. As a way forward for its further implementation, I would like to emphasize the importance of four elements that remain crucial in the process:

First, institutionalization to consolidate progress and strengthen the bases for the following steps;

Second, the active participation of civil society, which has been fundamental in our region;

Third, the synergies with other global agendas, particularly the 2030 Agenda;

And finally, a strong commitment and political will from the governments.

ECLAC stands ready to continue providing support to the countries of the region in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, in close collaboration with other UN organizations, in particular the Population Fund.

Thank you!