



DECLARATION OF PANAMA

Tenth Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Panama, September 12 and 13, 2018

The Vice Presidencies and Ministries responsible for designing development policies oriented towards social, economic and environmental areas in Latin America and the Caribbean, and their participating delegations, gathered in the city of Panama, Republic of Panama, on the 12th and 13th of September 2018, convened at the Tenth Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean under the theme "Partnerships for the reduction of structural inequalities under the framework of the SDGs", that was organized by the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) of the Republic of Panama, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Gathered with the objective of sharing experiences on public policies in the areas of human and social development and to debate proposals to address the challenges that our countries are facing to overcome structural barriers that impede inclusive development, such as social protection systems, partnerships between development actors, including governments and the private sector; and that overwhelmingly affect women, indigenous and Afro-descendant populations; for the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Aware of the progress made by the Latin American and Caribbean region, and the multidimensional processes that have improved the living conditions of millions of citizens, structural challenges persist that prevent the consolidation of development achievements and their reaching of all sectors of society.

Considering that public policies and inclusion strategies should be focused on leaving no one behind, generating, articulating and coordinating public and private actions, taking into consideration the needs, conditions and particularities of population groups with greater levels of vulnerability, with a structure anchored in the reality of specific territories.

Recognizing the efforts made against the factors that worsen inequality, such as



the various forms of discrimination that limit opportunities, as well as the need for a multidimensional vision that responds to the reality of each country.

Recalling Resolution 2 (II) of the Regional Conference on Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, at its Second Meeting, held in Montevideo from October 25 to 27, 2017, which recognizes the negative effect of unilateral coercive economic measures on the economic and social development in the countries covered by these measures.

Asserting that the facilitation of the exchange of information, technology and lessons learned among the member countries is a prudent mechanism to innovate development policies, considering the socio-economic particularities of the Caribbean countries.

Taking into account the principle of leaving no one behind, the policies and implementation of strategies for development must take into account the diverse socioeconomic realities of the member countries, particularly the vulnerable microeconomies of the Caribbean countries, whose economies have been strongly impacted by extreme weather conditions.

Reaffirming our commitment to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda from a holistic perspective that guarantees the participation of all sectors and driving forces of society, based on the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, that incentivize inclusive, effective and transparent institutions, as well as fair and peaceful societies, under the principles of indivisibility, interdependency and complementarity of human rights associated with the SDGs.

Committed to the broad and innovative vision of sustainable development for the achievement of progressive structural changes, sustainable and anchored in a new order, which recognizes national, regional and global alliances, and the overcoming of inequality as fundamental milestones for a development generated in a balanced and comprehensive manner between the social, economic and environmental progress of our nations and the region.

WE AGREE

1. To promote a multidimensional view anchored in the territory to ensure an inclusive and sustainable development that responds to local priorities.
2. To take on the challenge of leaving no one behind to comply with the SDGs, through the generation of better statistical data, the greater collection of information from population censuses, household surveys, administrative records or other geo-referenced instruments, broken down into all the variables specified in the 2030 Agenda, by income, sex, age, race, ethnic origin, migratory status, disability, geographic location and



3. other relevant characteristics in national contexts, as well as the development of robust economic statistics that allow a full account of social investment and the distribution of income and wealth.
4. To Guarantee the participation of all the population protagonist of the social programs in the whole cycle of the policy attending to the intersection of problems as conditioning elements of said participation.

Universal Social Protection systems in the region

5. Promote policies of care as essential to ensuring the sustainability of social and indispensable achievements to reach the multidimensional progress to which societies aspire in the context of their rapid evolution and therefore, the emerging needs of family care.
6. Strengthen the Ministerial Forum for Development as a space for reflection and exchange of public policy experiences, with a focus on the life cycle and social integration, geared towards the generation and coordination of public and private actions, taking into consideration the needs, conditions and particularities of population groups with higher levels of vulnerability, with a structure anchored in the reality of specific territories, that promotes inclusion from a gender, ethnic, cultural and social equality perspective, recognizing in addition the different needs of children, youth and the elderly.
7. Encourage the development of social and state institutions that promote participatory, inclusive and responsible processes that pay special attention to the most vulnerable groups, with the purpose of identifying and analysing the inequalities that are part of the problems that require priority attention to achieve development, in order to prepare public policies aimed at correcting discriminatory practices and the unjust power relations that hinder progress.
8. Dedicate a special focus of attention on strengthening the capacities and competences of women and girls through their empowerment as rights holders, and on the conditions that generate inequalities, and which are expressed in situations of discrimination, gender violence and social exclusion.
9. Reassert the rights to full and equal participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, as members of modern and inclusive societies, based on the coexistence of cultural diversities, which must coexist with a basis of respect to human rights.



Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations, the last mile of poverty, inequality and social exclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean

10. Promote the rights, empowerment and anti-discrimination policies of the afro-descendant and indigenous peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean to face poverty and inequality, to confront the deepest causes of social exclusion, such as racism, to incorporate the intersectional perspective that allows visualizing and empowering girls and women, and to promote improvements in education and reduction of violence against them.
11. Take on the challenge of leaving no one behind for the achievement of the SDGs, by generating better statistical data, the increased collection of information from population censuses, household surveys and geo-referenced administrative records, and their breakdown by all the variables specified in the 2030 Agenda, by income, sex, age, race, ethnic origin, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other relevant characteristics in national contexts. Such as the development of robust economic statistics that allow a full account of social investments and the distribution of income and wealth.
12. Promote greater knowledge and respect for the diversity of the heritage and culture of African descents and indigenous people and their contribution to the development of societies through the encouragement of inclusive and integrative cultural activities.
13. To approve and strengthen national, regional and international legal frameworks, public policies and programs to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance faced by African descents and indigenous people, paying particular attention to the specific situation in which women, girls and boys live.

Partnerships with the private sector: innovative solutions for the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda in the region

14. Promote an integral public policy that coordinates actions among state actors, the private sector, civil society, the scientific and academic community, and the United Nations agencies, as a fundamental strategy implied in the universal scope of the 2030 Agenda, applying the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.
15. Promote partnerships with public and private productive sectors, with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as the magnetic 'North', for the



16. transformation of our societies so that no one is left behind, with special emphasis on direct work on the hard exclusions suffered by the most vulnerable populations in our countries and for a complete insertion in the world of work and social protection.
17. Impulse public policies and partnerships with the private sector that stimulate the sustainable development of the productive sector focused on balancing economic, social and environmental achievements, with the aim of driving sustainable production and consumption patterns.
18. Generate national spaces for dialogue and consultation with the public and private sectors to analyse the new challenges and demands of education, social protection, an economy of care and environmental sustainability, among other topics.
19. To recognize the substantive contributions of UNDP and ECLAC, which contributed to the successful development of the work of the Forum and we urge both organizations to continue strengthening the Forum as a space for exchange, good practices and collective construction in the social area for the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda in the region.
20. To urge UNDP to continue strengthening cooperation actions in the region to support the development priorities of each country.
21. To thank the Government of the United Mexican States for offering to host the III Regional Conference on Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC and the XI Ministerial Forum for the Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, in the year 2019.

Finally, to thank the Government of the Republic of Panama for the excellent hospitality, coordination and preparation of the Forum; and to UNDP and ECLAC for their invaluable contribution in the realization of this event.

Signed by Vice-Presidencies and Ministries of Latin America and the Caribbean responsible for social development, or their Delegates, in Panama, Republic of Panama on the thirteenth day (13) of the month of September 2018.